

**Minutes of the
Overeaters Anonymous Region III Spring 2014 Assembly
Dallas, TX
March 1, 2014**

The Assembly was called to order at approximately 8:00 AM by the Chair, Andrea M. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the *Serenity Prayer*.

The Twelve Steps were read by Dexter W.

The Twelve Traditions were read by Joanne M.

The Twelve Concepts were read by Cheryl L.

The *For Today* selection was read by Marcia F.

The *Voices of Recovery* selection was read by Jill S.

The *Chair introduced the Steering Committee*: Vice Chair – Roni B.; Recording Secretary – Neva S.; Communications Secretary – Barbara R.; Treasurer – Barbara V.; Trustee – Wanda S. (in for Vicki W.); Parliamentarian – Judy K.

The Convention Vice-Chair, Kay S., welcomed the Assembly.

Barbara R. led the Assembly in a guided meditation.

The Chair appointed Kay S. to take informal notes for the Assembly.

Jill S. was appointed to be the timekeeper.

The Assembly role was called and the ***Credentials Report*** was read. 20 representatives and 5 Steering Committee members were present – for a total of 25 votes. It was moved and seconded that the Credentials Report be accepted. The Credentials Report was accepted as presented. The Report was later amended to show a total of 22 representatives and 5 Steering Committee members for *a total of 27 votes*. The *amended report was accepted*.

The ***minutes from the Fall 2013 Region III Assembly*** were presented, amended, and approved as amended. (The amendment to the last page was to state that it was the Fall 2013 Assembly that was being adjourned, not the Spring 2013 Assembly.)

The motion to approve the *Proposed Standing Rules* was made by the Recording Secretary, and seconded. The Proposed Standing Rules were *adopted as presented*.

The ***Agenda*** for the Assembly was adopted as presented with adjustments to be made as necessary.

Parliamentarian, Judy K., spoke briefly on the topic of the *Consent Agenda* which is a mechanism for dealing with motions as a group. She explained that it only takes one dissent to take a motion off of the agenda, and that in some situations, such as WSBC, there is a Reference Committee which can make recommendations about which motions will be presented in this way. She also recommended a new book for those who want to study and know more about the topic.

Representatives introduced themselves by coming to the front of the Assembly and giving their name, the Intergroup they represent, and their hopes for the Assembly experience.

Steering Committee Reports:

Chair's Report – In addition to her written report, Andrea M. asked for a volunteer from the Assembly who would also be going to WSBC to sit on the Reference Subcommittee which juries motions to be presented on the Conference floor. She spoke about the positive response of medical professionals at the CRS in Las Vegas, NV, last October. She also spoke of the forum to be presented by the Region Chairs at WSBC, a game show format entitled “Who Wants To Be Abstinent?” Andrea also mentioned the new Strategic Plan developed by the BOT which is simplified with the one goal of “promoting abstinence.” Roni passed out copies of the Strategic Plan as Andrea spoke about the intention to increase the number of Abstinence workshops presented in the coming year. And, the hope that the workshop format will be approved at WSBC and become available on the OA website. Andrea reminded the Assembly of the Spring 2015 Region III Cruise which will embark from Galveston on March 22, 2015, the day after the March 21st Spring Assembly in the Galveston area. A Cruise Planning Meeting is scheduled for today immediately following Assembly adjournment. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The Chair indicated that she may have a personal conflict with attending the Fall Assembly. Also, at the Fall Assembly, the Chair position on the Region III Steering Committee will be open – Andrea can't/won't be running again. She encouraged all reps to apply. A question was asked to which the Trustee responded that “compulsive eater” and “compulsive overeater” are interchangeable.

Vice Chair – In addition to her written report, Roni B. reported that a contract was signed for the next C&A in Phoenix, Aug. 8-10. She reminded reps that Assemblies for Spring 2015 (in TX in conjunction with the cruise), Fall 2015, and Spring 2016 are all available to potential hosting Intergroups. She passed out Assembly evaluations and asked that reps return today. The wrap up meeting for the Dallas Convention/Assembly will be held next weekend (Sunday, March 9) via conference call.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara V. reported that income since the last Assembly (Aug. '13 – Jan. '14) was \$12,515; expenses totaled \$10, 679; net income was \$1,836. Assets as of Jan. '14 are down \$463 from assets the previous year (approx. 2%). She asked representatives to check group donations for their Intergroup. She noted that some donations were hard to assign because the group number was not written on the check. She asked reps to remind their groups to please include their group number on their check so that she can correctly attribute the donation. Group numbers can be found online at the OA.org website.

The correct address for sending donations to Region III is: **Barbara V., Treasurer, Region 3 Overeaters Anonymous, P.O. Box 29903, Austin, TX 78755**. Donations may also be made via an online service at the Region III website (www.oaregion3.org). There was a question about funding the PIPO banner – the banner was donated. Question on workshop funding – WMF will discuss and come back w/recommendation to move funds from 1st time Rep and Delegate Funding. Question on audit – it was done and the report will be given later.

The Treasurer began circulation of the 7th Tradition envelope for the Assembly.

A demonstration of the above mention PIPO banner was given by the maker, Joe A. The banner was assembled and displayed then disassembled and repacked to show the efficiency and ease of use. Joe shared his contact information for the benefit of Region III Intergroups that would like to purchase their own banner. Joe and the PIPO Committee were thanked by the Assembly for their work on the banner.

Recording Secretary's Report – In addition to her written report which included reminders to Intergroups to contact the RIII Rec Sec when changes in Intergroup Chair or Region Representative positions take place and instructions for Assembly business motions, Neva S. shared that she will not be running for a second term as Region III Recording Secretary in the Fall. So, that position will be open. Applications for Steering Committee nominees should be submitted to the Region III Chair by 45 days prior to the Fall Assembly (this year that due date is June 25th).

Communications Secretary's Report – Barb R. reported that several members have rotated out of service and the Comm/Tech committee is in need of new members. The committee expects to have archival documents scanned for digital storage by the Phoenix Assembly. The RIII website has the potential for blog entries. Some essays have been contributed and more are welcome following Assembly. Several audio recordings have been added, providing a new resource. The interactive form for committee reports has been discussed for the past two assemblies and the committee will discuss how to complete that project. This technology will hopefully become available for such things as multiple copies of motions for future assemblies. Input on your technology needs and solutions are welcome and appreciated. A question on the level of use (hits) on the website – had been less than 100 hits per day; since last assembly – unknown.

Trustee's Report – Wanda S. reported on behalf of Vicki W. In addition to the written report, Wanda mentioned that in response to a letter to a newspaper advice columnist promoting recovery in OA, the OA.org website received thousands of

additional hits. She spoke about the observance of Unity Day (Feb. 22nd). The WSBC Agenda Questionnaire is an important way to help guide and serve OA as a whole. Please put it on your Intergroup calendars and plan to respond as an Intergroup next year. In response to a question from the Assembly floor, Wanda explained that “compulsive eater” and “compulsive overeater” are interchangeable. She started circulation of the Lifeline Drawing envelope to the Assembly.

Approval of the Consent Agenda – the Chair presented the Consent Agenda to the Assembly. The items included on the Consent Agenda were proposed Bylaws Amendments A, C, E, F, and G. In summary:

Motion A – Article X – Trustee Nominee Selection Process. To correct the wording by replacing “50%+1” with “majority” vote of the representatives present...

Motion C – Article VII – Nomination and Election of Steering Committee. Clarifying the word of Section E, numbers 1, 2, and 3.

Motion E – Article II – Purpose. Rewording Section A, and moving the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts to a Section D.

Motion F – Article XV – Amendments to the Bylaws. Adding a letter D under Section 1 indicating that the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts as presented in Article II, Section D can only be amended as per OA Inc. Bylaws.

Motion G – Article XIII – Committees. Changes in Section A to correctly reflect the names and acronyms of the Region III committees.

(Motions were distributed in their complete form to representatives 60 days prior to this Assembly and are available in electronic form on the Region III website as well as from the Region III Recording Secretary.)

Representatives were encouraged to take a moment to review the motions and ask to remove any they thought needed to be discussed and consider separately. There were no questions. The Chair called for the vote. **The Consent Agenda was adopted.**

Proposed Bylaws Amendment Motion B – Article X – Trustee Nominee Selection Process. Under Section F, adding a statement allowing for the Secretary to cast the vote for the entire Assembly when there is only one candidate. After discussion, the vote was cast. **The motion failed.**

Proposed Bylaws Amendment Motion D – Article X – Trustee Nominee Selection Process. Separation of two parts of letter A, re-lettering of remaining sections, and changing “50%+1” to “majority” in re-lettered section E (the motion was reworded at recess during discussion to bring this last section into accord with a previous motion). Brief discussion. Call for the vote. **The motion was adopted.**

Proposed Policy Manual Amendment 2014#1 – Policy Manual Article V – Committees. The **proposed motion was amended** so that the Policy Manual reads:

V. Committees

A) Each committee will be co-chaired by:

1. A Steering Committee member as designated by Region III Bylaws, Article IX, Section C-F, or by appointment of the Region III Chairperson; and
2. A Region Representative committee member selected by member of the committee on which he/she serves.

The vote was called and **the amendment was adopted.** There was no further discussion. The vote on the amended motion was called and **the amended motion was adopted.**

The next order of business was **committee meetings**. The Chair announced that the usual Conference Call for Committee Chairs and Steering Committee members would **not** take place this summer. The Chair would prefer that Committee chairs check in with her via email by June 1st. Committee assignments were read, and chairs were asked to stand off to the side of the Assembly chamber and hold up their sign so that their committee members could find them to discuss where to have lunch and where to meet to do their business. The Chair asked that committee chairs return to meet with her by 2 PM and that the Assembly reconvene at 2:15 PM. Committee chairs were asked to bring two copies of their committee report (one for the Chair and one for the Recording Secretary). Green folders are to be returned to the Recording Secretary by the end of Assembly this afternoon.

After a Lunch Break, Assembly was reconvened at approximately 2:15 PM. The Lifeline Drawing envelope was explained by Wanda and circulated through the Assembly.

Committee Reports:

Twelfth Step Within (TSW) – Roni B., Mary S., Joan B., Gina C. Joan B. reported as chair of the committee. The committee will continue to contact unaffiliated meetings in our region. They want to reinstitute monthly TSW reminders on the 12th of every month. The Region III Speaker's List was circulated for updates and there are applications for those wishing to be added to the list. The committee will maintain contacts with non-attending Intergroups. They will continue work on the "Stuck in Recovery" workshop.

Public Information/Professional Outreach (PIPO) – Andrea, Dexter W., Terri M., Jill S., Theresia O., Brenda Q. Brenda Q. reported as chair of the committee. They have received approval from WSO for use of the logo on bookmarks for WSBC. The CRS in Las Vegas was a successful opportunity to spread the OA message to medical professionals. She mentioned the demonstration of the new Region III display banner by the maker, Joe A. Intergroups can order their own 24" display for about \$125. LVIG will house the display banner and manage shipping. Request forms will be available on the RIII website by mid-May. PIPO Committee members will research the need for OA members to carry the message into high schools.

Communications/Technology (CommTech) – Barb R., Cheryl L., Sally D., Mikie G. Mikie G. reported as chair of the committee. Archives are being photographed/digitized – the project continues. They want to spread resources to website coordinators of Intergroups in the Region. They encourage submission of content to the website (oaregion3.org). Work is ongoing to get the fillable committee report form online. Barb R. and Mikie G. would like feedback on the fillable committee report form.

Unity With Diversity (UWD) – Wanda S. (acting Trustee for Vicki W.), Teri G., Widdgett C., Joanne M., Dorothy B. Widdgett C. reported as chair of the committee. They are putting together a workshop format. Developing a skeletal outline they agree on and then looking at available resources. During the interval between Assemblies each member wrote and submitted individual articles to Lifeline and to the Region III website.

Bylaws (Bylaws) – Neva S., Michael K., Bobbi S., Kay S., (Judy K. ex-officio). Mike K. reported as chair of the committee. The committee's work was done before this Assembly convened with the motions presented today. The goal for the next Assembly is to work on the next of four blocks of the Bylaws and Policy Manual. The blocks initially outlined for us by Judy K. according to related functions are being taken out of order to accommodate issues that have arisen. One new section that we will address is the suggestion of a "maximum individual donation" to Region III.

Ways, Means, and Finance (WMF) – Barbara V., Marcia F., Kelly P., Kayla W. Marcia F. reported as secretary for the committee. The committee is investigating a cruise specific fundraiser. A cruise drawing was approved. The committee will work on the process for the drawing. They will be looking at Audit procedures – addressing the Treasurer's requirements. There will be ongoing review and updating of the committee handbook. They have prepared *a motion to present to the Assembly*.

Motion: To transfer budgeted amounts from WSBC funding (\$500.00) and first time representative funding (\$250.00) to Speakers IG Event funding. (Rationale: To transfer unused budgeted amounts to where there is an identified need.) **The motion was adopted.**

Lifeline Drawing - Enough money was collected for one hard copy and two e-subscriptions. The winners were Gina C. (e), Bobbi S. (hard), and Theresia O. (e).

The 7th Tradition brought in \$169 (the \$230 reported included the proceeds of the Lifeline drawing – in error).

Audit Report – Mike K. reported that everything was within normal parameters. Minor discrepancies included a bank error and arithmetic being off due to late interest reporting. The committee discussed the need to update Audit procedures including a monthly reconciliation of the PayPal account. The committee consisted of Roni B., Kayla W., Kim, Mike K. Barbara V. was on hand.

Friday Workshop/Forum Report – Roni B. reported that attending representatives and Steering Committee members reviewed OA literature #120 – "OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Service Bodies: Recovery Opportunities." This included and was followed by a problem solving session.

New Business:

The Assembly was asked for approval to send the R3 Chair to the Region Chairs Committee meeting in Brisbane, Australia in October 2015. Approval was given.

There was no further business.

Announcements:

- GBA, March 29 – Clearlake area. Abstinence Workshop led by Andrea.
- ASDI – **Fall Assembly, August 8-10, Phoenix/Tempe, AZ** – flyers available.
- LVIG – Abstinence Workshop, April 12, Andrea @ Serenity Club.
- GBA – Houston HOW, Galveston, October 3-5, “Happy, Joyous, and Beachy.”
- H of TX – Austin, April 12, “Working through Fear”, also June 13-15, annual Slumber Falls retreat.
- ASDI – Teri G. the ASDI “Fork Pen” fundraiser.
- Barbara V. presented the RIII fundraiser, a flashlight/keychain w/ “Let the Steps Light Your Way” on the side. \$3 each, 6 for \$15. Please email the Treasurer through the Region III website to order more.

The Green Dots were acknowledged.

It was announced that the *Cruise Planning committee will meet at 3:35 PM today.*

The *OA Region III Spring 2014 Assembly was adjourned sine die @3:22 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Neva S., Region III Recording Secretary