



## REGION 5 ASSEMBLY MINUTES

**March 14, 2015**

**MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA**

**Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the OA Region 5 Assembly was called to order by Chair Denise O at 8:30 AM (CST) at the Radisson at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on Saturday, March 14, 2015, with the secretary present.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The chair led the Responsibility Pledge and the Serenity Prayer, Jenny L read from *For Today*, and Cutia B read the 12 Traditions.

**Credentials Report:** Vice Chair Michael B took roll call, and the credentials report was adopted with 27 eligible voters, 5 non-voters, for a total of 32 in attendance. The report is attached.

**Standing Rules:** The standing rules were read and adopted as printed.

**Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as printed with an optional newsletter writing exercise inserted at 2:20 PM. The agenda is attached.

**Mid Meeting Ceremonies:** The chair read two responses to the 5 Minute Writing Exercise from the November assembly, followed by a Mini Countdown of length of abstinence. The chair recognized 4 new representatives or “Green Dots” (Joel I, Cathy G, Juliette R, and Jenny L), and 2 former region officers.

**Appointments:** The chair appointed Joel I and Stephanie O to the Minutes Approval Committee and appointed Jan G to be the timer.

**Reports of the Executive Committee:** The reports of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Trustee were sent out in Packet B, and the Treasurer’s report was distributed at registration and was reviewed. Members asked questions about the reports. There was a request that venue floor plans be included in a preassembly packet. All these reports are attached and will be posted on the website.

### **Special Committee Appointments:**

- The chair appointed the following to the Emergency New Business Committee: Clarissa O (IL), Kevin F (IN), Jenny L (KY), Carol D (MI), Eileen C (OH), Kim B (WI), Cathy G (ONT), with Trustee Linda J as the chair.

- The chair appointed the following to the Nominating Committee: Steve B (IL), Barb K (IN), Janet P (KY), Stephanie O (MI), Eileen C (OH), Lynn H (WI), Cathy G (ONT), with Secretary Susan M as the chair.

**Adjournment:** The morning session adjourned at 9:36 am, followed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Step Prayer.

**Call to Order:** Following committee meetings, lunch, and the optional writing exercises, the chair called the afternoon session to order at 2:32 PM, with the secretary present.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The chair led the Responsibility Pledge and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Step Prayer, the 12 Concepts were read by Juliette R and Kerry M, and the chair read two more responses from the November assembly's 5 Minute Writing Exercise.

**Credentials Report:** Vice Chair Michael B took roll call, and the credentials report was approved with 27 eligible voters, 5 non-voters, for a total of 32 in attendance. The report was adopted.

**Report of Minutes Approval Committee:** The minutes of the November 8, 2014, Region 5 Assembly were approved by the committee on November 17, 2014.

**Mid-afternoon Ceremonies:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition envelope was passed (and later it was announced to total \$145) and parliamentarian Judith Reynolds, PRP, during Time Out for Robert, presented an outline of Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised (11<sup>th</sup> ed.).

## **Reports of Committees:**

### **1. Bylaws Committee:**

- a. Committee chair Carol D reported that next assembly's plan is to work on cross referencing our Policies and Procedures with our Convention Guidelines and updating our Standing Rules as suggested by our guest parliamentarian.
- b. On behalf of the committee, the chair made 5 motions.
  - i. To amend the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Article II, Section K, on page C-10, by striking the current wording and replacing it with "The chair may appoint a webmaster to maintain the Region 5 website." This motion was adopted.
  - ii. To amend the Region 5 Bylaws, Article VI, Section A, Subsection 8 on page B-5 by adding the words "current continuous" to describe the abstinence qualification for an officer. The motion was amended to add the words "at least". The amendment was adopted. The amended motion updated the first sentence as follows: "Officers shall have at least two years of current continuous abstinence, ...". This amended motion was adopted.
  - iii. To amend the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Article I, Section A, Subsection 1, on page C-1, by striking and adding words as follows: "The Region 5 assembly will usually be held the weekend of the second Saturday of March, July, and November. If the second Saturday conflicts

with ... , the date will be moved to the weekend of the first or third weekend Saturday.” This motion was adopted.

- iv. To amend the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Article I, Section E, Subsection 5, on page C-3, by striking and adding words as follows: “Items for discussion must be in motion form. Such motions may be made by a committee, ~~or an intergroup.~~ a group, or a voting representative. This motion was adopted.
- v. To amend the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Article II, Section F, Section 3, Subsection b, on page C-6, by striking and adding words as follows: “Checks to ~~assure~~ ensure convention dates do not conflict with World Service Office meetings, Regional Chairs Committee meetings, and local, national, or religious holidays. Convention should not be scheduled within 3 weeks of the Region Assembly, if at all possible. Exceptions should be discussed and agreed upon by the Board.” This motion was adopted.

## **2. Convention Committee 2015:**

- a. Committee chair Ruth W reported that the committee
  - i. recommended that:
    - 1. the convention huggers and greeters be in a separate committee instead of part of the hospitality committee. A chair for hospitality is currently needed.
    - 2. lists of local OA meetings, restaurants, houses of worship, etc, be available in the convention hospitality room.
  - ii. decided that:
    - 1. all convention documents will be kept on a flash drive to be handed to the next convention committee.
    - 2. there will be no Convention 2015 bookmarks or pins, unless another group chooses to be responsible for them.
    - 3. they would ask Cleveland Central Intergroup to supply the literature to sale at the 2015 convention.
- b. On behalf of the committee, the chair made 2 motions:
  - i. To amend the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Article I, Section F, Subsection 2, on page C-3, by adding words as follows: “Region 5 Convention expenses are paid for the current chair, vice chair, Region treasurer, and the current convention chair.” This motion was adopted.
  - ii. To amend the Policies and Procedures, Article II, Section G, Subsection 4, on page C-7, by adding Item a. “Attends Region 5 Convention and service as Hotel Liaison.” and change the lettering of the existing items a and b to b and c. This motion was adopted.

**3. Emergency New Business:** There was no report.

## **4. Finance Committee:**

- a. Committee chair Michael B reported that:
  - i. The books were audited and entries approved.
  - ii. The decision was made to use “SquareCash” for online money payments. Other options are being explored.

**Recess:** The meeting recessed from 3:45 – 4:00 PM. After the meeting reconvened, the trustee reported that articles from Lifeline and Lifeline Weekly may be reprinted in OA newsletters. The permission is given inside the cover of the magazine and at the bottom of Lifeline Weekly.

#### **5. Intergroup Outreach Committee:**

- a. Committee chair Steve B reported that the committee
  - i. decided to release to the IGs a statement when “About Region 5” is posted on the website, so it could be used in their newsletter or other communication.
  - ii. assigned states/province to the committee members for them to contact IGs not represented at assembly.
- b. A motion made by the chair on behalf of the committee was adopted: to amend the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Article I, Section A, Subsection 2, on page C-1, So that it now reads: “Merrillville, IN will be the central location beginning with the year 2014 or sooner for the March and November assemblies. The July assembly location shall rotate to different areas of Region 5 beginning July 2015. The March and November assembly location may rotate at the discretion of the Region 5 board.”

#### **6. Newsletter Committee:**

- a. Committee chair Barb K reported that
  - i. An email will be sent to R5’s emailing list to request articles for the next issue of *Freedom from Bondage* to be sent to barb1362@me.com by March 27, 2015. The topics for this issue are the Principles of Steps 1-3: Honesty, Hope, and Faith. Publication date is April 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. The topics for the July issue are the Principles of Steps 4-9: Courage, Integrity, Willingness, Humility, Brotherly Love, and Discipline.
  - iii. The topics for the November issue are the Principles of Steps 10-12: Perseverance, Awareness, and Service.

#### **7. Nominating Committee:**

- a. The committee chair Susan M reported that the committee made a list of suggested candidates for Region 5 Vice Chair and Secretary. Members were assigned to ask these people to apply.
- b. The chair announced that interested parties should contact the Region 5 Secretary if they are interested in applying for a region office or have a candidate to recommend.

**8. Public Information/Professional Outreach Committee:**

- a. The committee chair Beverly B reported that the committee:
  - i. recommended having links on region5oa.org to go to oa.org's pages for professionals and public information.
  - ii. members will get public health department contact information for their areas, network with their groups and intergroups, and research materials to give to professionals and the public.
  - iii. will investigate the feasibility of using billboards to spread the OA message.

**9. Twelfth Step Within Committee:**

- a. The committee chair Shirley L reported that the committee:
  - i. created an R5 speaker list application to be posted at region5oa.org based on the one posted at oa.org.
  - ii. brainstormed about 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and growing groups
  - iii. made the speaker list and the audio library list available

**New Business:**

**2016 Region 5 Convention Bids:** No bids were presented.

**Mid Meeting Ceremony:** The Green Dot Ceremony was performed with the 4 new representatives.

**Adjournment:** After announcements, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM (CST).

Immediately following the meeting a skit titled "The Top Ten Reasons to Attend Region 5 Assemblies" by Joel I was performed by the Executive Board, followed by the OA Promise.

Susan M  
Region 5 Secretary

**Minutes Approval Committee:** Joel I, Stephanie O, Denise O

**Date Minutes were approved:** 4/6/15