



Chair Report #2 – November 4, 2015

Future of the Region 5 Website

Unless there are strong feelings about this, I plan to renew the maintenance contract with our current Webmaster for another year.

(This follow-up report brings updates, thoughts, etc. after the October Region Chairs Committee (RCC) meeting followed by the Region 10 Assembly & Convention in Brisbane, Australia. It was an honor to represent our Region.)

Region Chairs Committee Meeting

The RCC continues working on “Service Body Building” by refining, standardizing, and refocusing the current “Intergroup Renewal” material. This material is not readily available to everyone; those with knowledge to train it are limited. The time commitment to study/apply the concepts is quite extensive, and it doesn’t necessarily apply to all the different OA service bodies worldwide. We are targeting a draft of the package by the end of 2016....the task is sizable.

We have 5 new Region Chairs joining us this year from Regions 1, 6, 8, 9, and 10. Plans for mentoring and transition of current work assignments were finalized. The WSBC 2016 Forum was discussed and upcoming RCC SKYPE calls were tentatively scheduled.

Region 10 Assembly

The Assembly is held over 2 full days – beginning Wednesday afternoon and concluding Friday afternoon. Their convention immediately follows – Friday late afternoon through mid-afternoon Sunday. Keep in mind Region 10 has just 1 Assembly each year, as do Region 1 and 9. Their processes are very similar to that of WSBC. The Board as well as the 4 committees meet face-to-face at Assembly; all other work is conducted via SKYPE, email, etc. Elections, budget, motions are all covered during the 2 days.

One aspect of their Assembly that I really appreciated were the workshops interspersed with business. One was presented by the Trustee on the 12 concepts, another presented by the Chair on ‘our primary purpose’. Both were structured so that the Region Rep could take the workshop back to their Intergroup and present it easily.

Another workshop given by the Trustee focused on her role - answering “curly questions”, presenting at health professional events; the Reps (and guests) were invited to help her answer those “curly questions” to get a taste for what she does.

Some exciting news for Region 10 – about 350 people have signed up for a “What is OA?” seminar to be presented in March in Beijing, China. Another 30 or so health care professionals will attend an introductory session the following day. The current Beijing fellowship is 6 OA members. What would you do if faced with the possibility of 350 newcomers.....all at one time? AND.....there is very limited OA material translated into everyday Mandarin. This was a “curly question” we brainstormed.

Region 10 asks all Intergroups to submit an Intergroup Report electronically prior to Assembly. The report is included in the Assembly package; it is verbally presented by the Rep at the Assembly with Q&A time allowed. Those IGs/Service Boards not represented also sent a report; these reports gave the Board & Assembly a good overview of the health of the Region. Included in the report:

- Service Body Name
- Number of Affiliated Groups
- Approximate # of Members in the Service Body area
- Service Body Positions (all available and any that are vacant)
- When do you meet?
- Intergroup Activities - Highlights – brief description
- Highlights around the Meetings – brief description
- Outreach Efforts – brief description
- Intergroup Activities – Issues & Problems (or challenges and strategies) – brief description

Intergroup Highlights and Issues/Problems were captured and summarized. The summaries then provided direction for the work of the committees in the upcoming year.

Region 10 Convention

It was well-attended by about 100 OA members, primarily from AUS and NZ. There is one ‘track’ throughout the weekend; entertainment is volunteered by members in attendance. We had poetry readings, we danced the samba, we had a comedian, we played a game, and the RCC (and spouses) gave an impromptu “OA members out for dinner” skit. The convention gave a boost to my personal recovery, just as our conventions do.....same stories with different accents. How lovely!

Summary

I recall the Region Chairs visit to our Assembly in November 2014 – I believe it boosted our fellowship’s recovery to hear the Chairs share their experience, strength and hope. I believe it benefited our Assembly to have them share what their Regions do/don’t do and how, and I believe the exchange of information was well-received on both sides.

In Brisbane, we shared our experience, strength and hope....not only our personal recovery (we all conducted a workshop during the Convention), but what we do/don’t do in our Regions. Ideas and information were exchanged and again it was well-received. I was impressed with the maturity of recovery in Region 10 – a huge geographic area, a small fellowship, yet they care a lot about the success

of OA, the Region, and the future....just like we care. There was much unity and gratitude expressed from all attendees.

While traveling, I read “Beyond Our Wildest Dreams” again. I found my ‘take-away’ in Chapter 17 – Language of the Heart.

Page 210 states, “Whatever way we say it, we are all speaking the same language. We care about you...our OA sisters and brothers outside the United States. Every day in thousands of meetings around the globe, words of hope, love and understanding are expressed between OA members. This is the true language of the heart.”

On page 212, you will find Rozanne’s words following the creation of Region 10: “I was overwhelmed and touched by all that had happened, and I knew that despite OA’s long years of struggle, everything was worth the effort. Lives had been changed, relationships mended, *friendships and partnerships born, bodies made healthy.*”

And finally, on page 212, Rozanne quotes from “I Put My Hand in Yours”:

The Bond of Brotherhood

“In assuming responsibility, in sharing love and strength with one another, we create a bond between each of us. It can’t be seen, but it can be felt in the heart – it’s that bond of brotherhood between one overeater and another which clearly says: “I care, I put my hand in yours....now you are not alone.”

We really aren’t alone....we are all on this journey together no matter what accent we have or what country we live in. We carried the message of recovery “down under”. I received so much more that I feel I was able to give, just as the Region Chairs expressed when they visited us last year. There is much unity in OA worldwide, and there is much gratitude for OA and for the lives saved through recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!
Denise O.