



OA REGION 5 TREASURER
Post Office Box 1087
Lombard, IL 60148

July, 2019

Dear Region 5 Fellowship,

Recently an Intergroup was discussing the new suggested donation of \$5.00 per person at Group meetings. During the discussions, they realized they do not know what the various service bodies do for them. I was asked to prepare something that shows what Region 5 does with the money we receive from our contributions. Having an accounting background, I must admit my first thought was read the budget. The budget, however, represents numbers but not the heart of Region 5 and our Representatives.

From the contributions, the individual Group keeps a Prudent Reserve. The Reserve amount may be determined by figuring operational expenses for a given period of time—for example, a group may select three months to calculate its Prudent Reserve funds. Expenses include such things as rent, telephone, postage, printing, and literature. The excess is then sent on to the other Service Bodies for their operation. Remember our Tradition says we are to be fully self-supporting. If the group does not send its excess funds, then it is not truly self-supporting. The suggested split uses a 60/30/10 formula, with 60% of contributions to Intergroup, 30% to WSO, and 10% to Region.

Region 5 has three Assemblies each year. People that attend the Assembly meetings are called Representatives. Your Intergroup sends Representatives to the Assemblies. The Assemblies are where business is conducted. Region 5 consists of Intergroups from part of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Every Representative is part of a Board Committee and a Committee of the Whole.

Bylaws Committee

Statement of Purpose: Keep the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Bylaws, and the Standing Rules pertinent and current. Provide a mechanism for critical new business motions to be processed at Region 5 assemblies when delay of consideration would adversely affect the operations of Region 5 or OA as a whole within Region 5.

Convention Committee

Statement of Purpose: Hold an annual Region 5 Convention to provide personal recovery opportunities for the maximum number of the fellowship and to raise funds for the region.

Finance Committee

Statement of Purpose: Prepares the annual budget for approval at the last assembly of the year and manages the investment and use of funds of the prudent reserve. This includes maintenance of bank accounts at a level to avoid transaction fees.

Media Committee

Statement of Purpose: To create, solicit, edit, and submit for approval and distribution and/or posting content pertinent for Region 5's media presence, including the newsletter Freedom from Bondage. To give guidance and suggestions regarding best use of media and technology, which may include maintaining a list of tech savvy members of the Region 5 fellowship who are willing to serve as resources for Region 5 service bodies. Perform other duties regarding technology and media as assigned by the Region 5 Board.

Nominating Committee

Statement of Purpose: Seek out qualified members who are willing to serve as Region 5 officers. A Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Region 5 chair at the first two scheduled assemblies each year. This committee shall be chaired by the Region 5 secretary and shall consist of at least one member from each state or province when available. Such members will have at least one year of active service at the Region 5 level.

Outreach Committee of the Whole

The Outreach Committee shall be a “Committee of the Whole” to address issues regarding growing OA Recovery Worldwide.

Each One Reach One – This committee developed a program that was adapted and presented at the World Service Business Conference. Their emphasis is to encourage recovery at an individual level. It promotes things you can do as an individual to help people recover.

Intergroup to Intergroup – The Intergroup to Intergroup committee developed a workshop to help Intergroups improve the services they provide to their member Groups. We are hoping to do two more workshops this year.

PI/PO – The Public Information/Professional Outreach Committee is our newest committee. Its focus is to grow OA and work with Professionals to improve awareness.

In addition to working with Intergroups, we provide a layer of service to the World Service Organization. If your Intergroup is struggling, we can provide financial assistance to send an Intergroup Representative to the Assemblies and to World Service. Through our purchase of virtual meeting software, we have been able to help Groups, Intergroups, Committees, and Board Members meet virtually without needing to be physically present. For more information on where your Region 5 money goes, please see the financial reports provided in each Assembly packet.

As of June 30, 2019, the balance in our checking account was \$35,579.31. In the savings account, we maintain \$13,707.70 as a prudent reserve. Combined, the balance was \$49,287.01.

We collected \$8,879.25 from Meeting Contributions through June 2019 compared to \$11,620.33 at this time in 2018. That is a decrease of \$2,741.08. Let your groups know how important and appreciated their contributions are. Quarterly contributions, no matter how much, keep a consistent cash flow. While OA has no dues or fees, it is not free. Contributions do more than just pay our expenses. Our committees have submitted additional budget requests in an effort to help spread this message. We also budgeted an **increase** of \$2,000 for World Service to help defray their expenses.

Our 2019 Convention’s income to date is \$13,095.00 including \$270 in scholarships. Conventions are a major source of income. Please promote the 2019 Convention in Milwaukee.

The 2018 tax returns are completed, filed and paid. In my spring report, I indicated the accounting fees would be \$375 because that was in the client agreement. That was not what they billed, however. We negotiated the price down to \$1050. We budgeted \$1,400.

Make sure to download the Contribution Form on the Region 5 website’s FORMS tab. As you can see in the Contributions Report, I get checks and do not know what groups they are for. Also, if you do not know your group’s number, please look it up on the OA.org website in the Find a Meeting section. For a mailed receipt, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Your cancelled check serves as your receipt, however, if necessary, you can request an email receipt. To speed up delivery of your contributions, please note the **Region 5 post office address is Post Office Box 1087, Lombard, IL 60148**. The Post Office is no longer in Indianapolis and they will no longer forward the mail. Also, we are now Region 5 not Region V. Please make out your checks to reflect this change.

I am indebted to the Finance Committee who work with me on the budget revisions and the Auditing Guidelines. I am so grateful to OA and my higher power for the support I receive. Please let me know if you have questions. I work for you.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri M
Region 5 Treasurer