



## **REGION 5**

# **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

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Revised March 18, 2017

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## **I. REGION 5 GENERAL POLICIES**

### **A. Date and Location of Assemblies**

1. The Region 5 assembly will be held in the months of March or April and October or November where it does not conflict with a major US or Canadian holiday or scheduled Board of Trustees meeting or World Service Convention.
2. Merrillville, IN will be the central location. Assembly locations may rotate at the discretion of the Region 5 board.
3. A hosting intergroup will be solicited by the vice chair from all intergroups within the following areas for each assembly:
  - a. During even numbered years: Michigan, Ohio and Southwestern Ontario/Kentucky
  - b. During odd numbered years: Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois within Region 5.
4. The hosting intergroup will
  - a. Provide volunteers to serve at the registration table on Friday evening, and on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
  - b. Coordinate the Saturday night OA meeting.
  - c. Assist the Region 5 vice chair and/or Region 5 secretary with any other needs of the assembly.

### **B. Events at the Assembly**

1. The Intergroup Sharing Meeting will be held on Friday evening of the assembly weekend. The Region 5 Chair shall solicit volunteers and assign a leader for this meeting. (See suggested format in Article III.)
2. A presentation/discussion may be given at the assembly when time allows. The format will be the same as at WSBC if a presentation is planned. The Region 5 chair may appoint a committee to present the topic for discussion.
3. Saturday lunch at the assembly will be paid for by Region 5 for all Region representatives and alternates provided that registration fees are received by the deadline.
4. Region 5 will pay for the Region 5 trustee's lunch at the assemblies.
5. An orientation meeting will be scheduled for all new representatives and alternates prior to the start of the assembly business meeting. The Region trustee or other Region officer as determined by the Region chair will facilitate at the meeting. Parliamentary procedure pamphlets may be distributed to each new representative and alternate. The Region vice chair will be responsible for maintaining an inventory of *The Twelve Concepts of OA Service* (pamphlet). (See Instructions for Leaders of Orientation Meeting for First Time Region Representatives, Article V.)
6. The Saturday night open OA meeting will be facilitated by the hosting intergroup. (See suggested format in Article IV.)
7. Each officer is responsible to register for each Region 5 assembly but hotel reservations for officers are made by the vice chair.

## C. Elections

1. Application Procedure for Region 5 Officer:
  - a. Application forms shall be posted with each scheduled assembly agenda.
  - b. Completed application forms must be received by the Region 5 Secretary at least sixty days prior to the election assembly. Applicants are required to attend the election assembly.
  - c. In the event that no applications are received for a position, nominations from the floor will only be accepted in the morning meeting of the election assembly.
  - d. It is strongly suggested that applicants have regular access to e-mail.
2. Elections shall be held during the Sunday morning session of the last region assembly of each year.
3. At the close of the election assembly, the outgoing officers' duties transfer to the newly elected officers. However,
  - a. The outgoing Secretary completes the minutes of that assembly and coordinates with the new secretary to post Packet C before the duties of that office cease.
  - b. The outgoing Treasurer shall satisfy the requirements set in the Region 5 Policies and Procedures Article II, Section J, Paragraph 6, subparagraph f no later than December 31 of the current year.
4. Rules for Questions/Presentation of Nominees
  - a. A Region 5 representative/alternate shall ask only one question of a nominee, unless there are no other questions and time allows.
  - b. Total time for a nominee's question and answer period is five (5) minutes, in addition to a three (3) minute presentation by the nominee.
5. Voting for all officers (and Region Trustee nominees when appropriate) shall take place simultaneously on one printed ballot listing all nominees (with spaces for write-ins when nominations from the floor are necessary).
  - a. Each ballot counts as a single ballot.
  - b. Mark ballot only when instructed by the chair to do so.
  - c. If voting for a candidate, mark the ballot with an "X" next to the candidate's name.
  - d. Do not vote for more candidates than instructed.
  - e. Fold ballot once when finished voting. Give ballot to teller when instructed to do so.
  - f. All ballots collected by the tellers will be counted as votes cast.
6. If a vacancy is declared due to a lack of affirmative votes for any candidate, the executive board shall, at its next meeting or at a special meeting, appoint a member to the position. The executive board may ask each qualified member to submit an application for consideration. The member appointed will serve until the next assembly.
7. In the event that there are no applicants for Region trustee at a fall assembly where applications are needed, or if a vacancy occurs where there is no Region assembly prior to the date required for submission of applications, the following options may be taken:
  - a. The Region board will solicit applications from Region 5 intergroups and representatives.

- b. All requirements set by the World Service Office must be met prior to the Region 5 board considering completed application(s).
- c. A majority vote of the Region 5 board will constitute affirmation of the applicants.
- d. Notification of affirmation process results shall be sent to Region 5 intergroups.

**D. Amendments to Standing Rules and Policies**

- 1. Standing Rules and General Policies may be amended with a majority vote with prior notice or by a two-thirds vote without prior notice.
- 2. Standing Rules and General Policies may be temporarily suspended by a two-thirds vote.
- 3. Editorial changes may be made by the Region 5 Board when correcting an oversight or typographical error in these policies. Changes cannot alter the intent or effect of the policy. Changes will be reported by the following assembly/conference call by the Region 5 Chair.

**E. Miscellaneous**

- 1. Only OA and AA Conference-approved literature may be sold at any Region 5 event.
- 2. A place shall be provided at Region 5 assemblies and conventions where intergroups can sell their goods at a time and place specified by the Region 5 board.
- 3. Only new or updated materials are to be distributed at Region 5 assemblies.
- 4. No mailing lists will be released other than for Region 5 business.
- 5. Items for discussion must be in motion form. Such motions may be made by a committee, an intergroup, a group, or a voting representative.
- 6. Registrations for assemblies are not refundable.
- 7. Registrations for conventions are not refundable after posted deadline.

**F. Region 5 Convention**

- 1. The Convention Committee is to be made up of at least one person from each state and province when possible.
- 2. Region 5 Convention expenses are paid for all current Region 5 officers. (After the election assemblies, the newly elected officers are considered the current officers.) One of the complimentary rooms negotiated with the hotel is to be used by the convention chairperson.
- 3. Only U.S. funds will be accepted.
- 4. Any profit from the convention is to be split: 25% to the hosting intergroup(s) and 75% to Region 5.
- 5. The Convention Committee will submit the registration form and the program to the board for approval. The board will review them for compliance with the Traditions and past practices.
- 6. Convention speakers must have a minimum of one (1) year of current, continuous abstinence.
- 7. The Region 5 Convention chair's assembly expenses are funded as follows: 75% by Region 5 and 25% by the hosting intergroup. This includes expenses for the two assemblies preceding a convention when the chair presides over the Region 5 Convention Committee and the assembly following a convention when the chair makes a report to the assembly. This shall apply only if the chair is not an official rep from the intergroup, and only for one chair.

## **G. Committees**

1. There shall be the following Business Committees:
  - a. Bylaws
  - b. Finance
  - c. Convention
  - d. Media
2. The Outreach Committee shall be a "Committee of the Whole" to address issues regarding
  - a. Twelfth Step Within
  - b. Public Information/Professional Outreach
  - c. Intergroup Outreach

The Outreach Committee will meet during the Saturday afternoon session at each Assembly once the Assembly has been called to order, approval of the credentials report, approval of the minutes approval committee, a 7th Tradition collection and a 3 minute Parliamentary presentation.
3. The Chair shall appoint members to the following special committees:
  - a. Nominating Committee
  - b. Minutes Approval Committee
4. Each Region 5 business committee or ad hoc committee should have a representative from each state and province when possible.
5. Each committee must meet at least once during the assembly.
6. Only Region 5 representatives, voting alternates or a Region 5 officer (when provided for) may serve as committee chair; except the chair of the Convention Committee, may be a past Region 5 rep who has one (1) year of continuous current abstinence, is practicing the 12 Steps, who has been active in OA events or workshops, and who lives near the site of the convention.
7. Each committee chair shall give a verbal report to the assembly. A written report shall be given to the secretary by the end of the assembly.
8. Committee budget requests shall be given to the Finance Committee chair by July 1.
9. Committee chairs are responsible to keep a current statement of purpose for their committee and to develop and prioritize their own agendas.
10. Committee chairs shall maintain written and/or telephone contact with committee members when appropriate.
11. Each committee may recommend to the Region 5 chair an individual to be appointed as next committee chair.
12. Committee chairs will meet with the Region 5 chair immediately following the assembly.
13. To offer consistent and efficient functioning, committee appointments will be for a one-year term.
14. The Executive Board may appoint an officer to be a board liaison to any standing or special committee.

## **H. Committee Purpose**

1. Bylaws Committee:
  - a. Keep the Region 5 Policies and Procedures, Bylaws, and the Standing Rules pertinent and current.
  - b. 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.
2. Convention Committee:  
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.
  3. Finance Committee:  
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. The Region 5 treasurer serves as chair of this committee.
  4. Media Committee:
    - a. 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*.
    - b. 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.
    - c. Perform other duties regarding technology and media as assigned by the Region 5 Board.
  5. Outreach Committee of the Whole:  
Meets during the spring assembly to determine the outreach goals of Region 5 for the following year and forms subcommittees to accomplish those goals.
  6. Nominating Committee:  
Seek out qualified members who are willing to serve as a Region 5 officer or trustee. A Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Region 5 chair at the first assembly 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, when possible.

## II. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF REGION 5

### A. General Duties

#### 1. Officer Expenses

All officers' expenses are to be paid by Region 5. It should not cost the officer to serve as an officer. Expenses shall include but not be limited to:

- a. Travel: All officers are to be reimbursed for all of their travel expenses to and from Region 5 assemblies. (If an officer is traveling with another intergroup, it is suggested they share expenses.)
- b. Personal Auto: Region 5 follows IRS guidelines for mileage reimbursement for not-for-profit volunteers plus all tolls and parking fees.
- c. Vehicle Rental: Region 5 will reimburse an officer for the use of a rental vehicle, tolls, and parking fees.
- d. Air: Region 5 will reimburse airfare for an officer to get to and from the assembly. An officer may elect to travel by air when the site of the assembly is in excess of 250 miles from the officer's home, or when a medical condition exists, or a business or personal schedule conflict occurs.
- e. Meals: Region 5 Officers shall be reimbursed for actual expenses not to exceed \$40.00 per day. The amount of \$40.00 per day shall be used for budgeting purposes.
- f. Communications: All communications required to carry on the duties of the officer are to be reimbursed by Region 5. Officers are allowed to make personal calls not to exceed ten minutes per day when traveling on OA business.
- g. Lodging: Region 5 will provide officers with individual rooms with the provision that, when possible and appropriate, the officers will share the room with another person who will be responsible for one-half the room cost and personal incidentals.
- h. Miscellaneous expenses: Postage, envelopes, printing, general office supplies, and gratuities (when and where appropriate) that are needed to fulfill the duties of the officer will be reimbursed by Region 5.

#### 2. Bills/Receipts

All bills/receipts should be sent to the Region 5 Treasurer within 30 days of expenditure with an expense form for payment.

#### 3. Bonding

All officers and Hotel Liaison will be bonded.

#### 4. Intergroup Sharing

All officers shall attend the Intergroup Sharing Meeting whenever possible.

#### 5. Service, Traditions and Concepts workshops

All officers shall be prepared to conduct Service, Traditions and Concepts workshops and any workshops for the purpose of strengthening meetings, abstinence, and sponsorship throughout the region. The officer shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred to facilitate such workshops over two (2) hours in length, or a retreat focused on these topics.

6. Board Liaisons  
An officer may be appointed to serve as a board liaison to any special or standing committee. The liaison shall be a non-voting member of the committee. During and between Assemblies, the liaison may help prepare an agenda, call and attend the committee meetings.

**B. Duties of the Region 5 Chair**

1. Region Assembly, Board and Special Meetings
  - a. Requests agenda input from board members.
  - b. Establishes agenda in concert with Region 5 secretary.
  - c. Presides at Region 5 assemblies, board and special meetings as called.
  - d. Arranges for a professional parliamentarian.
  - e. May call emergency business meetings if and when necessary.
  - f. Perform duties as designated by the Region 5 Assembly.
  - g. Creates script for Assembly with input from Parliamentarian.
2. Region Committees
  - a. Serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
  - b. Either confirms or denies appointment of Region 5 committee chairs subsequent to consultation with committees or appointed region representatives.
  - c. Time permitting, visits each Region 5 committee during assemblies.
  - d. Meets with committee chairs immediately after the closing of the last general business session of the assembly and at other times as might become necessary.
3. Schedules and Chairs the Summer Board/Committee Update Conference Call.
  - a. Schedules call to be held no later than the first week of August.
  - b. Provides agenda to include (at the minimum):
    - i. Time for question of all reports
    - ii. Time for intergroup sharing
  - c. No motions or official business shall be conducted during this meeting.
  - d. Attendance shall be taken
  - e. Minutes of the call shall be made available on the Region 5 website.
4. Region Convention
  - a. Serves as liaison with Region 5 officers and Convention Committee.
  - b. Checks to ensure convention dates do not conflict with World Service Office meeting, Region 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.
  - c. Attends convention and works at walk-in registration with other R5 officers; handles money as necessary.
5. World Service Business Conference
  - a. Attends WSBC, Regional Chairs Committee meetings and represents unaffiliated groups within Region 5.
  - b. Prepares and presents a conference report to the Region 5 board and makes available to other interested members.

6. Management
  - a. Oversees the signing of all trustee applications in accordance with WSO Bylaws.
  - b. Provides leadership to region officers and committee chairs.
  - c. Assists in the planning and implementation of activities designed to achieve the objectives of the region in an effective and timely manner.
  - d. Maintains ongoing communication with the Region 5 trustee.
  - e. Keeps up to date about WSO/WSBC activities and information.
  - f. Helps with guidance and information about the application of the Twelve Traditions within the region.
  - g. Keeps a file of region correspondence and other pertinent notes and information.
7. Traditions and Concepts
  - a. Serves as guardian of the Twelve Traditions and brings attention and application of the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
  - b. Shall conduct workshops as in Section E under Responsibilities and Duties of the Officers and Representatives of Region 5.

**C. Duties of the Region 5 Vice Chair**

1. Region Assembly
  - a. Performs duties in the absence of the chair.
  - b. Act as liaison with host intergroup.
  - c. Takes roll call for Credentials Report.
  - d. Solicit a hosting intergroup per *Region 5 Policies and Procedures*, Article I, Section A, Item 3.
  - e. Performs duties as designated by chair.
2. Other Functions.
  - a. Attends Region 5 Convention.
  - b. Performs other region responsibilities in the absence of the chair, as needed.
  - c. Shall conduct workshops as in Section E under Responsibilities and Duties of the Officers and Representatives of Region 5.
  - d. Is the direct link between the Region 5 Executive Board and the Hotel Liaison.
    1. Presents hotel recommendations for Board approval
    2. Presents hotel contracts for Board approval.
  - e. Chairs the Outreach Committee of the Whole during the Spring Assembly.

**D. Duties of the Region 5 Secretary**

1. Region Assembly
  - a. Records minutes of Region 5 assemblies and executive board meetings and collects all reports.
  - b. Maintains mailing list of intergroups and region representatives with current phone numbers, postal and email addresses.
  - c. Makes above list available to region board and newsletter editor and is included in the minutes of each assembly.
  - d. Updates mailing list at Region 5 assemblies and distributes at following assembly.

- e. Assembles minutes and all reports; produces and distributes same along with the updated mailing list to all intergroups and region representatives.
  - f. Gives notice of Region 5 assemblies.
  - g. Assembles, emails or mails packet consisting of:
    - 1. Secretary letter of introduction and current information.
    - 2. Proposed Agenda.
    - 3. Minutes of previous assembly including committee reports and credentials report.
    - 4. Copy of Standing Rules.
    - 5. Updated bylaw, policy or Convention Guidelines changes, if any.
    - 6. New business motions or proposals, if any.
    - 7. Officer candidate applications, if any.
    - 8. Hotel reservation information.
    - 9. Current Region 5 board reports.
    - 10. Assembly registration form with pre-addressed envelope when email address is unavailable.
    - 11. Any other current pertinent information.
  - h. Prepares sign-in sheets, name tags, and committee member lists for registration at each assembly.
  - i. Prepares a list of new region representatives and sends to trustee.
  - j. Receives assembly registration forms with checks and forwards checks to Region 5 treasurer to deposit.
  - k. Assembles and has posted a packet for the Summer Board/Committee Update Conference Call (no fewer than 14 days prior to meeting) consisting of:
    - 1. Officer Reports,
    - 2. Trustee Report,
    - 3. Financial Reports (1/1 through 5/31),
    - 4. Business Committee Reports,
    - 5. Outreach Sub-Committee Reports,
    - 6. Day in the Life write-ups,
    - 7. Any applicable forms (support fund applications, assembly funding request, officer application forms), etc.
  - l. Perform duties as designated by chair.
2. Management
- a. Maintains legal, historical and current files:
    - 1. Bylaws.
    - 2. Minutes and reports.
    - 3. Standing Rules for Region 5 Assemblies.
    - 4. Letterhead, logo and other original forms.
    - 5. Handbooks, guidelines and other materials produced by Region 5.
    - 6. Correspondence pertinent to Region 5.
    - 7. Other pertinent records.
  - b. Keeps and maintains computer, printer, and tape recorder and other such equipment as needed.

3. Other Functions
  - a. Chairs Nominating Committee.
  - b. Answers mail, email and phone calls and initiates correspondence as needed.
  - c. Shall conduct workshops as in ***Region 5 Policies and Procedures*** Article II, Section E, Responsibilities and Duties of the Officers and Representatives of Region 5.

**E. Duties of the Region 5 Treasurer**

1. Management
  - a. Maintains custody of all funds and securities belonging to Region 5 and deposits them in the name of Region 5 in such bank or banks as the treasurer may choose, with consent of the assembly.
  - b. Keep accurate accounts of the finances of Region 5 in books provided for that purpose.
  - c. Records donations and deposits within a month of receipt.
  - d. Records and issues disbursement checks.
  - e. Schedules and manages bill payment via internet banking services.
  - f. Balances and reconciles bank and credit card accounts monthly. Bank and credit card account reconciliations and statements to be uploaded monthly for Finance Committee review. All banking and credit card information will be available for audit by the Finance Committee at each assembly.
  - g. Unscheduled payments in excess of \$200 shall be countersigned or approved by another officer of Region 5. Unscheduled payments of \$500 or more shall be countersigned by another officer of the Region.
  - h. Prepares a financial report for each Region 5 assembly following the guidelines of the treasurer's instruction manual and includes receipts, expenditures, net worth from one assembly to the next and year-to-date, and how this compares to the budget.
  - i. Presents a financial report at each Region 5 assembly.
  - j. Presents a monthly financial status report to the Region 5 officers.
  - k. Provide for the annual financial review.
  - l. Serves as chair of the Finance Committee.
  - m. Prepares the annual Region 5 budget prior to the Fall Assembly.
2. Region 5 Convention
  - a. Attends Region 5 convention
  - b. Obtains a safe deposit box at the hotel.
  - c. Has receipt book ready for walk-in registration.
  - d. Prepares financial report for the Convention Committee chair and Region 5 assembly upon receipt of all monies and/or bills.
  - e. Instructs hosting Convention Committee on recording registrations and depositing monies into the Region 5 bank account as specified in the Treasurer's Manual.
3. Mail
  - a. Maintains a post office box to receive all mail for Region 5.
  - b. Sorts mail and distributes same to appropriate people in a timely manner.
4. Finance Committee
  - a. Assists in preparing budget.

5. Equipment and Supplies
  - a. Keeps and maintains the treasurer's computer, printer, and other such equipment as needed.
  - b. Keeps the Region 5 Treasurer's Manual updated.
6. Other Functions
  - a. Prepares and submits non-profit status filing within Region 5 as applicable.
  - b. Receives funding assistance applications.
  - c. Is responsible for keeping the officers bonded by providing the appropriate forms to the officers of the board.
  - d. Shall conduct workshops as in **Region 5 Policies and Procedures** Article II Responsibilities and Duties of the Officers and Representatives of Region 5, Section E.
  - e. Submits year end financial data to accountant for tax return preparation and filing.
  - f. On expiration of the term of office after financial review, deliver all money, books and other property of Region 5 to the new treasurer or to the chair.
  - g. Maintain region financial records for the most recent 3 years.

**F. Responsibilities of the Region 5 Representatives and/or Alternates**

1. Assemblies
  - a. Completes online or returns paper assembly registration by deadline.
  - b. Brings Region 5 Handbook to all assemblies.
  - c. Attends and participates at Region 5 assemblies. The Region representative shall be present during all business sessions.
  - d. When voting,
    1. Consider the group conscience of the intergroup represented.
    2. Be mindful of what is in the best interest of Region 5 and OA as a whole.
  - e. Distribute information obtained at the assembly to the intergroup.
2. Region 5 Handbook
  - a. Update the Region 5 Handbook as material is provided.
  - b. Shall transfer handbook and other materials to successor upon completion of Region 5 representative term.
3. Other Functions
  - a. To facilitate submission of information and documents to Region 5 by making the following procedure known to their intergroup:
    - i) Update intergroup information and submit intergroup minutes, newsletters, and meeting lists on the Intergroups page of region5oa.org.
    - ii) Submit event information or flyers on the Calendar page of region5oa.org.
    - iii) Submit resources on the Region 5 Resources page of region5oa.org.
  - b. Be knowledgeable of the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts and the **Region 5 Handbook**.
  - c. Keep the Region 5 secretary informed of any changes in mailing addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses.

**G. Webmaster**

The chair may appoint a webmaster to maintain the Region 5 website.

**H. Hotel Liaison**

The Chair appoints a Hotel Liaison to fulfill the following duties:

1. Serves as liaison between assembly/convention hotel and the Region 5 Board.
2. Researches and recommends hotel sites for Region 5 assemblies and conventions for R5 Board selection. Conducts personal inspections, if necessary.
3. Negotiates contract with hotel on behalf of Region 5 and co-signs contract with Region 5 Vice Chair.
4. Makes room reservations for Region 5 officers at the assembly/convention hotel and advises officers of arrangements. Makes room reservations for the Parliamentarian at Region 5 assemblies.
5. Forwards hotel floor plan, forms, reservation instructions, and/or other hotel promotional material to the Region 5 Secretary for distribution.
6. Informs the Region 5 Secretary of meeting room assignments for the events on the assembly agenda. Informs the Convention Program Committee of the meeting room assignments for the events on the convention program.
7. Notifies assembly/convention hotel of the number of participants for each meal.
8. Periodically checks with hotel to ensure no unexpected events have occurred that would interfere with holding the assembly/convention at the site.
9. Reviews hotel bill with the Region 5 Treasurer.
10. Attends Region 5 Assemblies and Conventions and serves as the Hotel Liaison.
11. Expenses of the Hotel Liaison will be paid by Region 5, including meals, hotel, and travel expenses.
12. Except as noted above, reports to the Region 5 Vice Chair.
13. May serve a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years.

**I. Duties of the Region 5 Delegate to WSBC**

1. Funding
  - a. The board will approve the number of delegates to be funded in July, contingent upon adequate Region 5 funds. Intergroups will be notified via email after the close of the current WSBC if Region 5 fell below the 40% threshold and if they may submit applications to serve as a Region 5 Delegate to the next WSBC. Intergroups will be notified once the Board has determined who will serve.
  - b. If adequate funding is available, region delegates should attend the Region 5 spring assembly.
2. Applicants
  - a. Preference will be given to intergroups, which have not sent delegates to WSBC for two years.
  - b. It is preferable that delegates come from different intergroups.
  - c. In the event an insufficient number of applications have been filed, nominations for WSBC delegate(s) will be accepted from the floor during the fall assembly.
  - d. If there is a vacancy between the time of the fall assembly and WSBC, the board may appoint members to fill the position(s).

3. Application and Selection Process
  - a. Applicants will file a written application.
  - b. Applications shall be submitted to the Region 5 board 30 days before the fall Region 5 assembly in the year(s) Region 5 is eligible to send delegates.
  - c. The board will screen applications to determine eligibility and then select delegates by a random drawing.
  - d. The term of service of the Region 5 WSBC delegate(s) shall be one year.
4. Responsibilities
  - a. Complete paperwork required of WSO to attend WSBC (including approval signatures.)
  - b. Commit to attend all sessions at WSBC.
  - c. Participate in a committee at WSBC and throughout the following year.
  - d. Submit a written and oral report to their home intergroup.
  - e. Write an article for "Freedom from Bondage" sharing their personal experiences as a delegate to WSBC. (Articles are due the first of the month preceding the assembly.)
  - f. Submit an expense report to the Region 5 treasurer complete with all receipts for reimbursement. (Region 5 will be responsible for half the room cost.)

**J. Region 5 Delegate Support Fund**

Region 5 currently provides financial assistance to intergroups wishing to attend Region 5 assemblies. A similar Region 5 fund has been established for intergroups to request financial assistance to send a delegate to WSBC. (WSBC also maintains a Delegate Support Fund; information available at oa.org.)

1. Funding
  - a. Region 5 will budget \$1000 annually to assist intergroups in sending a delegate to WSBC.
  - b. If funding is awarded, the delegate should attend the Region 5 Spring Assembly preceding WSBC.
2. Applicants
  - a. The intergroup requesting assistance should complete the Region 5 Delegate Support Fund Application (procedure and application available on the Region 5 website).
  - b. The selection process is outlined in the procedure available on the Region 5 website.
3. Responsibilities
  - a. Meet all WSBC delegate requirements as stated in OA Bylaws, Subpart B
    - Voting delegates shall consist of the following persons chosen in accordance with this Article X, Section 3(c)1.
      - i) Qualifications for selection of World Service delegates/alternates shall be set by each intergroup, region (in the case of region delegates) or service board provided that each delegate/alternate shall have at least one year current abstinence and at least two years of service beyond the group level. (Permission for any exception in qualifications for valid reasons, if deemed credible by the trustees, may be received by application to the World Service Office.)

- b. Complete paperwork required by WSO to attend WSBC (including approval signatures).

### **III. INTERGROUP SHARING MEETING SUGGESTED FORMAT**

The Region Chair is responsible for selecting a leader for the Friday night Intergroup Sharing Meeting.

- A. Leader opens with Serenity Prayer.
- B. Introduce yourself and ask attendees to introduce themselves (go around the room).
- C. The leader has the discretion to limit the time for each topic. The meeting will last for one hour.
- D. Open floor for topic, problem, concern, or success. Leader reads statement: "Please keep comments brief and to the point."
- E. Leader thanks everyone for coming and for sharing.
- F. Close with the Serenity Prayer, the Third Step prayer, the Seventh Step prayer, or the OA Promise.

### **IV. SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR OPEN OA MEETING**

The hosting intergroup is responsible for the content of the Saturday night meeting.

- A. Leader opens with the Serenity Prayer
- B. Have someone read "Our Invitation to You."
- C. Have someone read the "Twelve Traditions."
- D. Close the meeting with the Serenity Prayer or the OA Promise.
- E. Appoint a timer to limit pitches to three minutes.

### **V. INSTRUCTIONS FOR LEADER OF FIRST TIME REGION 5 REPS ORIENTATION MEETING**

#### **A. Introductions**

- 1. Go around the room and have everyone say his/her name and what intergroup he/she represents. Include city and state if not in name of intergroup.
- 2. Share about how you felt at your first assembly (briefly) and how long you have been attending Region 5 assemblies (10 minutes).

#### **B. Format of Assembly Weekends**

- 1. Go over agenda and what will happen specifically at the assembly (elections, presentations, etc).
- 2. Tell Region representatives about committees and responsibility of serving on a committee.
- 3. Remind Region representatives of the open meeting or other event in the evening after the assembly.
- 4. Suggest Region representatives get a sponsor during the assembly.
- 5. Remind Region representatives of the importance of writing and presenting a report to their intergroup when they return.

**C. Booklets available from Region 5**

1. The ***Region 5 Handbook*** includes Bylaws, General Policies, and Convention Guidelines, available from Region secretary for a minimal\* charge. (\*as determined by the board)
2. Distribute parliamentary procedure booklets and "*The Twelve Concepts of OA Service*" (pamphlet, no charge). Region vice chairperson will order copies when needed.

**D. Other Printed Sources of Information**

1. ***The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous***
2. *"OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Intergroups"*
3. *"The Twelve Traditions of OA"* (pamphlet)
4. *"The Twelve Concepts of OA Service"* (pamphlet)
5. Intergroup Starter Kit, Sample Intergroup Bylaws, OA Guidelines
6. *Twelfth-Step-Within Handbook*
7. *Public Information Service Manual*
8. *Professional Outreach Service Manual*