

OA REGION 3 SPRING ASSEMBLY

Houston, Texas

March 18-19, 2011

Report by: Charlene N.

Friday is an informal meeting night. We did have a presentation from the Region III treasurer about the 7th tradition. Our pamphlet's title "Give as if our life depends on it" was the focus. So what does OA do with our contributions? At the Region level it supports assemblies, recovery events, workshops, and even supports unaffiliated groups. I had a question about how do we support unaffiliated groups? That would be answered later during our business meeting on Saturday. Region III's income mostly comes from meeting and intergroup donations. It was reported of the percentages of total number of meetings per Intergroup and percentage of contributions those intergroups make to Region. These can be seen in the Treasurer's full report. Also it was shared how Region figures their prudent reserve; \$3000 + 50% of annual travel expenses.

Representatives then had time to share questions and concerns with each other. This was a golden opportunity for us to share intergroup experiences, strengthen and hope. At first it was discussed what you would say to a meeting that is not giving to Region, intergroup and WSO. I loved the response, "Ask: Where did you find your meeting?" "It is through the web and other resources that Intergroup, Region and WSO provide. Also how can we support/reach meetings that cannot attend Intergroup? (i.e., meetings that are remote/far from the office or that do not have volunteers to commit to attending) From the responses this question is hard to answer.

There was a wonderful discussion on Bilingual meetings and the necessity to reach more of the younger generation. WSO has a Bilingual link that even includes pod casts. It was also discussed the need for PIPO and how some meetings tracked newcomers by asking them how they heard about OA. One rep shared that youth responded well with a side by side meeting where parents are in one meeting and the child in another, even though difficulty arose when the parent lost interest or no longer had the time to attend. Another great idea suggested was, that one intergroup sends a speaker to freshmen health classes to speak on our disease and getting the word out to the younger crowd.

Saturday's business meeting started with the Region Chair proposing some changes to the Standing Rules. These changes included deletion of one rule that seemed repetitive, and the addition of two rules; the possibility of a consent agenda and that debate is to only help come to a group conscience. Also there was a change in one of the rules to allow the recording of the assembly by the recording secretary. There were 20 delegates and 4 steering committee members present so there were enough to vote on the adoption of the consent agenda which usually requires 30 days' notice in order to present.

Steering committee member's reports:

Chair: The next Region Chair Committee is meeting in Region 8, in Columbia. The Region level is a great place to start if our Intergroup is struggling with questions and concerns. Please have IG and group secretaries update the WSO listing with an electronic contact ASAP. Use resources to strengthen our meetings, encourage sponsorship and invite service. (i.e., Strong meeting checklist, identify sponsors at meetings, rotation of service)

Vice Chair: Oct 7-9, 2011, assembly will be in Denver, CO. Then spring of 2012 will be held in TX, Fall 2012 will be Las Vegas. Spring of 2013 is open. ????? Fall of 2013 will be in Tucson.

Treasurer: Our Intergroup: donations from meetings totaled \$910 of a total of \$6598 approx. 14%. (Aug 2010-Jan 2011) All in all Region Three is doing well financially.

Trustee Report: Really important points in this report were:

1. Of the 26 Intergroups there are 509 meetings, 63 are unaffiliated. Region does support these unaffiliated meetings even though they do not participate in an intergroup. Our Region chair represents these meetings at WSO. 12th step within committee (region level) is contacting them and encouraging them to affiliate.
2. Upcoming workshops and retreats should be listed on the region & WSO web site. Also this is a great resource for our membership that may be traveling to attend.
3. The new television public service announcement – "Many Symptoms, the OA Solution" - is now available for purchase online at www.bookstore.oa.org. It is in Betacam for use by TV stations. It is suggested that all

intergroups purchase a copy so that we may begin asking TV stations in your area to play it. Web site hits were up 50% due to the PSA in Time Square

4. Bylaws that are amended need to be submitted for review. All bylaws which have not been amended to include the definition of virtual groups need to be amended in order to be not in conflict with Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, Section 1. We can email our trustee our amended bylaws

Bylaw and Policy Amendments: For the most part these amendments were just housekeeping in nature and that is why the Chair put them on a consent agenda. This type of agenda is voted on for approval as: one vote for all that is listed on the consent agenda. One amendment to change the name of the Communication Secretary to Communications Manager was requested to be removed. Assisting in the assembly was a Parliamentarian for England, and she suggested splitting the amendment in to two, one with the name change and one with the new job description. This was done, and eventually the name change was referred back to committee. In the end, the name "Communication Secretary" remained with the new job description passing. It was a very interesting change in the job description of the Communication Secretary, incorporating managing the website. This could possibly be something our intergroup may want to consider.

We then met with our respective Committees during lunch. I am serving on the 12th step within committee. I really enjoy this committee and it was great to meet again. We are all working hard on inviting unaffiliated groups to join intergroup, and also to get the word out to support intergroups within the Region to help members to strengthen and deepen their recovery within the OA rooms.

Committee reports:

Ways and Means: The cruise fundraiser brought in approximately \$2000

PI/PO: Has an emphasis on reaching the youth

Communication/technology: Working on getting a PayPal account to accept registration payments

New Business: The Vice chair took over the meeting to discuss sending our Region chair to Columbia for the next Region Chair meeting. A vote was taken and our Region chair will be going.

Also reported was that Region's prudent reserve was over its maximum and a motion to send \$2000 to WSO was made and approved.

All in all a great assembly....

Grateful for the opportunity to attend and be of service to my Intergroup,

Charlene N.