

Region 8 Business Assembly October 15-17, 2021

Hosted by Greater Atlanta OA Intergroup

Unlike other Assemblies not much packing needed to be done. There were no greeters and huggers in a hotel lobby. However, in the privacy of our own home, we Zoomed with others ready to do the service work of Region 8 OA. Keeping with our Traditions everyone's voice was heard, speakers shared, information was disseminated, motions were made, and our Traditions were followed, and Parliamentary Procedure ruled.

The Credentials report varied through the assembly but typically there were about 40 voting representatives, and ten non-voting visitors. This was a very historic assembly in that it was the first time that there were interpreters assisting our Spanish and Portuguese speaking members. World Service has not even done this yet and they will be seeking assistance from Region 8 in the future. We were asked to be patient and understanding as a few kinks needed to be worked out in real time. This service allows for full participation of our entire region. They were heard and represented from Brazil and Columbia. Virtual voting was done without a hitch thanks to a very impressive Tech-Web committee and Board. Our trusted servants did and continue to do a spectacular job displaying how program works. They displayed patience, kindness, and compassion and set a beautiful tone in which to do the business work.

The Friday evening presentation and Discussion Panel included the three candidates who were running for Chairperson of the Board. They shared experience, strength, and hope. We were grateful to have the choice between three worthy and competent candidates. All their service commitment is impressive. Our new Board Chairperson is Susan B. She was the former By Laws Committee Chair and has served other regions and has done service work at all levels.

On Saturday we listened to Board reports. The Secretary, Dara, shared an impressive list of meetings in our Region including USA, Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Cuba, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Peru. We could have had a total of 97 voting reps.

The Treasurer, Michelle, did a tremendous job explaining the proposed budget and our prudent reserve, and how our Region voted to spend what appeared to be a large sum beyond our prudent reserve. The bulk of the money is there to be used for translations and interpreters. Perhaps, Region 8 will be able to run workshops

and other recovery events using interpreters. The difference between translations and interpreters was explained by the Vice Chair as well. Translation applies to the written word while interpreters are for the spoken word. Both are expensive and necessary to reach our very large and diverse region.

The Vice Chair spoke about service and Hosting future region Recovery and Business Assemblies. The Hosting Intergroup will decide if it will be Zoom or in person. The next assembly will be hosted by Memphis Intergroup in March 2022 and Fall 2022 will be hosted by Brazil.

The Chair reported this would be her last Assembly as Chairperson. She used the metaphor of a car to describe how she did not carry the baton alone. She had a GPS, wheels, bright head lights and felt in such good hands that she could at times take her hands off the wheel. She thanked the other board members and committee chairs for their service. There was a brand-new tech web chair who was learning on the run.

All complete written reports are available for anyone who would like to see them.

Since our Region 8 Trustee resigned the Board of Trustees appointed Katrina to serve as interim Region 8 Trustee until the next election in 2022. A new Virtual Lifeline, our monthly Journal of recovery, is in the works. A Soar 8 Region journal is available for sale on our region website and is an excellent recovery tool and makes a great gift. OA Convention in Orlando was cancelled. A question arose as to whether the 2022 WSBC will accept virtual attendees since we want full participation. Bill V. was a pioneer in our region many years ago when we were pushed to have virtual attendees at our Region Assembly.

Last Assembly was in Nashville in March 2021 and Sarah gave a report. It quickly changed from an in person Assembly to Zoom which had never been done before. They established a "Service Attraction Committee" to help get more people involved in doing service. They made about \$4,000 for their Intergroup. Region 8 donated their share of the profits back to the hosting group to help with some of the fees incurred when cancelling the hotel. Many intergroups also helped by not taking back money spent on registering reps.

In midafternoon we were assigned to breakout rooms to do our committee work. I have been an active member of the Ways and Means Committee. We have journals to sell, and tee shirts. Go to region 8 .org for the Sale, both together for \$25.00 We also have recovery serenity pens which I have in my possession. They would have

sold easily had we been face to face. The pens are \$3.00 each and 2 for \$5.00. We discussed having the journals written in Spanish, but the order would have to be fulfilled by someone outside the US. The shipping from US is just not worthwhile.

Yes, we did break for lunch. There was a wonderful luncheon speaker as the Recovery Convention was going on simultaneously. Their theme was Diversity, and the speakers and leaders were very diverse. This speaker happened to be a black man and a physician in recovery. There were 100 people on the Zoom for the speaker. He was from South Carolina.

Next was our Delegate Report. Our Region sent two Delegates to represent us at the World Service Business Conference. The donations this year to World Service were \$948,957 the most in OA history. It was suggested that it is best to buy literature directly from World Service to support our organization rather than Amazon etc. Kindle eBook in Spanish and Italian and Young People eBooks and a pod cast of Rosanne, our founder is available. One motion that passed was the changing of the wording of abstinence. A full report is also in our packet of materials.

There is always a short lesson on Parliamentary Procedure. This lesson taught how to vote on motions, and how to get your voice heard during debate and Q & A times.

It was way past dinner time, we missed the dinner speaker and the Vice Chair, bless her heart, made a motion to suspend with committee reports and adjourn the meeting stating that all committee reports were in our packet and could be read on our own. Assembly closed with the Serenity Prayer at about 7:30 pm EST.
halleluiah!!