

## **SOAR 8 Virtual Business Assembly—October 23-24, 2020**

The first totally Virtual Business Assembly convened at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 23, 2020. The evening's agenda included OA readings, recognitions and introductions, introduction of new ("green dot") representatives, and nominations for the positions of Secretary and Vice Chair. The current Vice Chair held a brief Green Dot and Zoom orientation for all attendees. In a departure from the typical Assembly schedule, the Intergroup Chairs meeting hosted by the Intergroup Outreach Committee (IGOR) was held on Friday evening rather than Sunday morning. The wonderful thing about the schedule change was that all attendees were included in the discussion of intergroup accomplishments and issues. Some ideas brought forth by other intergroups that might bear investigation for CFI were: hosting of step study groups, exploring ways to expand the use of the intergroup paid Zoom account, interactive updating of the Zoom meeting list, raising awareness of the concepts, and using Courier to reach out to the medical community.

Saturday, October 24 began at 9:00 am when credentials were established with 44 voting representatives. In our first experience with totally virtual voting, the Standing Rules were accepted. The Consent Agenda, which included five motions to clean up and make consistent language from the Policy and Procedure Manual, was adopted. The minutes from Fall 2019 Assembly were accepted and Seventh Tradition was collected via the Region 8 website. Board members and the Region 8 Trustee presented their reports. Highlights of the reports included these announcements: the Spring Region 8 Assembly will be hosted by the Nashville, TN intergroup; the World Service Business Conference is scheduled for April 21-24, 2020; and the World Service Convention in Orlando has been rescheduled for August 26-28, 2021. In the event that in-person events are not possible, Andi S., Region 8 Trustee, said the Board of Trustees is looking at virtual options based on the success of various region and virtual events conducted this year. She also asked the body to make groups and intergroups aware the World Service donations are down and that World Service still depends on donations to maintain operations and staff.

The remainder of the morning was spent in committee meetings held in Zoom breakout rooms. Pam attended the Intergroup Outreach Committee (IGOR). Both Dara and Alyson attended the Public Information Professional Outreach Committee (PIPO).

After lunch, nominees for Secretary (Dara K.) and Vice Chair (Melissa H.) presented their qualifications to the Assembly. After credentials were established at 47 voting representatives, the body discussed and voted on four motions which realigned Policy and Procedure Manual language with Job Descriptions. Kudos for the seamless presentation, pro/con discussion, questioning and balloting of these motions goes to the hours the Board members and the TechWeb Committee dedicated to these process, which could well serve as a model for World Service if needed next spring. A motion to reimburse the Baton Rouge, LA intergroup for expenses incurred due to the last minute

cancellation of the Spring 2020 Assembly and Convention was passed as written after some discussion, offering of amendments and amendments to amendments! The Baton Rouge intergroup was invited to submit another motion for further unrecouped loses at the Spring Assembly.

Under New Business:

Dara K. (formerly Dara S.!) was elected as the new Secretary and Melissa H. was elected Vice Chair.

The budget was presented and passed.

There was no bid to host the Fall 2021 Region 8 Assembly and Convention.

Two emergency motions were presented and adopted. The first was to approve the purchase a new laptop and sound equipment for use by the TechWeb Committee. The second approved a \$10,000 donation to World Service.

All committee chairs gave brief reports:

- Ways and Means has a journal for sale that has space for a 10<sup>th</sup> step, food, prayers, and journaling. Michael is their new chair.
- IGOR elected Sarah S. as their new chair and Elaine as vice chair (unfunded position). The new interactive IG update form available on the Region 8 website will help to keep IGOR aware of new IG issues. The recording of the IG Chairs discussion will be made available through ALLSOAR. Meetings are held on the third Monday each month.
- TSW wants to highlight the resources available at the RED recovery button on the Region 8 website. Service opportunities include the Night Owls list, Sponsor list, Speakers list, and Relapse Mentors list. Check it out! TSW meets on the first Sunday of each month.
- PIPO wants to create a manual on how to create a facebook page. They are hosting a bi-monthly infoshare on Zoom and invite intergroups to join them and share what they are doing on ask for help if needed. The next meeting is 11/15/20 @ 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam T., Dara K., and Alyson T.