

## **SOAR 8 Virtual Business Assembly—October 15-17, 2021**

The Virtual Business Assembly was called to order by Chair Katrina S. at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 15, 2021. The evening's agenda included OA readings, introduction of new ("green dot") representatives, Region 8 Board members, Funded Committee Chairs, past Board members and Trustees and Intergroup Chairs, followed by a brief Zoom review. In the Forum, entitled simply "Possibilities," was presented by Katrina who reviewed the ideas from the delegation in the spring assembly on the best ways to allocate the \$31,000 in excess of the prudent reserve in the Region 8 budget. Those ideas included: \$8,000 for Translations; \$4,000 to send Intergroup Representatives to the WSBC; \$10,000 to update the Region 8 website; \$3,000 to provide technology and/or literature grants to intergroups; \$5,000 donation to WSO; and \$5,000 to intergroups advertising special projects. These ideas would be discussed further during the Region 8 Treasurer's budget report. The final event of the evening gave the three candidates for Region 8 Chair an opportunity to share their experience, strength and hope.

Saturday, October 16 began at 8:00 am with a Green Dot orientation with the full Assembly reconvening at 9:00 am. After the opening readings, credentials were established at 40 voting members and the Standing Rules were accepted. Minutes from the Spring Assembly were accepted, followed by the Board and Trustee reports. The Chair who is stepping down and is currently interim Region 8 Trustee expressed her thanks to the Assembly and was shown our heartfelt appreciation for her leadership. She also presented the outgoing Trustee's report. The remainder of the morning was spent in committee meetings held in Zoom breakout rooms.

Pam attended the Intergroup Outreach Committee (IGOR). and Kathy M. was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee. Highlights of the IGOR meeting were to discuss the success of the "Global Intergroup Helping Intergroups" sessions held in June and September and upcoming topic meetings open to all Region 8 Intergroups.

After enjoying a luncheon speaker, credentials were reestablished at 40 voting. After the Parliamentarian gave an overview of parliamentary procedure and there was a zoom refresher on voting protocol, the motions before the Assembly were considered. After much discussion and a motion to table, Motion A was adopted to amend the Bylaws to state that past Region 8 Board members may serve in an ex-official capacity at the request of the current Board to ease the transition in positions. Motion B was withdrawn without discussion. Motion C which would have amended the list of locations covered by Region 8 to be consistent with the list on oa.org was referred back to committee after a lengthy discussion and various attempts at amendments.

Under New Business, the Budget Report was presented by Treasurer Michelle D. There ensued a circular discussion of what to do with the funds in excess of the prudent reserve with many alternatives suggested. The Chair requested an amendment which was made and further amended. The final approved budget contains a line item of \$8,000 for

Translation/Interpretation services and a "Special Projects" line item of \$15,000 with specifics to be determined as needed.

In other New Business, Ingrid A and Sarah S. were elected to represent Region 8 at WSBC in 2022; Susan B. was elected the new Region 8 Chair; Michelle D. was re-elected as Treasurer and Katrina S. was ratified as our Region 8 Trustee Candidate. New Committee Chairs were approved: PIPO, Melissa P; Tech Web, Shirley Q, TSW, Neil; and Bylaws, Gary D. The Greater Memphis IG' s bid to host the Spring Assembly and Convention was accepted. Brazil's bid for a future Assembly was also accepted.

Due to time constraints, Committee reports and Intergroup Announcements were suspended. Green dots were cheered and the Assembly adjourned!

In the afternoon of October 17th, the Intergroup Chairs meeting hosted by the Intergroup Outreach Committee (IGOR) was held. There were 43 people present at IGOR however not all of them were from separate intergroups.

Resources . Some ideas brought forth by other intergroups that might bear investigation for CFI were:

1. Soar 8 PI/PO is having a series of workshops on how to make use of the PI/PO. The workshops are scheduled to meet every other month on the third Thursdays.
2. Suggestions on how to use the excess money use were as follows for local intergroups to consider:
  - a. Literature packages for members who can't afford literature
  - b. Technology upgrades
  - c. Reserve for PI/PO for a combined health fair with other 12 step groups
  - d. Soar 8 has Banners that can be purchased for displays
  - e. Business cards for PI/PO literature packs
  - f. General mailing to healthcare professionals
3. Macarena Song and service score sheet were discussed as a great icebreaker here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cT8XP3Hx6L8>

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam T. and Kathy M.