

SOAR 8 Virtual Business Assembly—April 1-3, 2022

The Virtual Business Assembly was called to order by Chair Susan B. at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 1, 2022. 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 the appointment of a timer and a brief Zoom review. Three OA members shared their diverse OA stories.

On Saturday, April 2 the Assembly was reconvened at 9:30 am. After the opening readings, credentials were established at 41 voting members. An emergency motion was introduced to modify the Standing Rules to remove language prohibiting virtual attendees from voting. Standing Rules were accepted as amended. Minutes from the Fall 2021 Assembly were accepted, followed by the Board and Trustee reports. The Vice-Chair announced the Fall Assembly and Convention will be hosted by the Miami-Dade Intergroup. It will be held virtually on October 21-23, 2022. Katrina, the Region 8 interim Trustee explained that she will not be running for the position and encouraged interested persons to look at the qualifications and application at oa.org. The position will be filled at the April 2022 WSBC.

After some confusion with Breakout rooms, Pam and Annie spent some time in the PIPO committee meeting listening to the praise of OACFI's TikTok initiative before finally getting to the IGOR committee. IGOR continues to sponsor their bimonthly TIPS series (see oaregion8.org) which invites members worldwide to discuss selected topics of significance to intergroups. Kathy M. was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee. The Ways and Means committee is charged with raising funds through various sales of products to increase income to Soar 8. Ways and Means are continuing to promote monthly to all IGOR members the Pens and journals for promotion and sales. Alyson attended the PIPO committee meeting. The PIPO committee will be working to create a packet for intergroups to share when reaching out to health care professionals and want to create a contact list of the region 8 intergroup PIPO chairs.

After the luncheon speaker, credentials were reestablished at 36 voting. There was a zoom refresher on voting protocol before the motions before the Assembly were considered. Motion A was withdrawn by the maker as unnecessary. Motions B and C were adopted to amend the language of the existing standing rules to allow for virtual voting in a face-to-face Assembly and added a new alternative set of Standing Rules to address future virtual Assemblies. Motions D and E were adopted to amend the listing of locations within Region 8, first in the Policies and Procedures Manual and second in the By-laws.

In New Business, nominations were accepted for the Vice-Chair and Secretary positions to be voted on at the Fall Assembly. Nominees for Vice-Chair, Gary D. and Mike S. both accepted the nominations. Nominees for Secretary included Barbara T., Barbara C., Terri M., Colleen, and Ellen. All but Colleen declined the nomination. Applications for self-nomination to both positions are on the Region 8 website.

Committee Reports were given. There are no new Committee Chairs however Ingrid from Columbia was voted to remain another two year term as chair of Ways and Means and Sarah from Memphis was voted to another two-year term as chair of IGOR.

Green dots were cheered and the Assembly adjourned!

In the afternoon of April 3, Pam and Annie attended the Intergroup Chairs meeting hosted by the Intergroup Outreach Committee (IGOR). The purpose of the meeting is to share successful tips and pose intergroup dilemmas. Major topics discussed were: abstinence requirements for intergroup service positions, merging two intergroups into one, and the need for liability insurance. The consensus in the first issue appeared to be 1) that there needs to be flexibility around abstinence requirements if you want people to do service; 2) certain positions such as Chairman and Treasurer may be sensitive and need a longer abstinence. As to the liability question, 1) one carrier was suggested and it was noted that the carrier is not OA-affiliated or recommended; and 2) there was a suggestion for people needing more information to contact the NY office of AA for potentially more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam T., Alyson T., Kathy M., Annie M.