

Report of Region 6 Representative – Fall 2009 Assembly

I attended the Region 6 Assembly in Albany, NY as your SWCT Intergroup Representative on Saturday, October 2, 2009.

In the morning, after a welcome by Chair Karin Rhodes Hepburn of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, time was devoted to Committee meetings: By-laws, Convention, Finance, Intergroup Outreach, Newsletter, Public Information/Public Outreach, 12 Step Within and Young People.

The afternoon session opened with the representative roll call. Sixty-four (64) representatives were present from 28 Intergroups (there are 43 in our Region 6), covering the New England states, New York State and eastern Canada (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and eastern and central Ontario).

The Assembly elected Karin to another term as Region 6 Chair. Karin stated one of her goals is to reach out to Intergroups who do not send representatives to the Assembly. Laura Rizzo of Islip Terrace, New York was elected to another term as Secretary. Elected to his first term as Website/Publications Coordinator was Bruce Richardson of Ottawa, Ontario. One of Bruce's goals is to have the Region 6 website translated into French to be of service to the many French-speaking OA members in Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario. Elected as delegates from the Region to World Service Business Conference were Jeff and Ann with Deborah serving as an alternate in case one of them cannot attend (Sorry, didn't note their full names or where they are from).

A By-laws change was adopted that permits the mileage reimbursement rate for travel by personal vehicle to Region 6 Assemblies to conform to the IRS business miles rate. Another By-laws change was proposed, which had been proposed and failed at the Spring Assembly, to institute a 6-month abstinence requirement in order for a representative to be able to vote at Assembly. This proposed change failed again for lack of a 2/3 majority.

The eight Committees which meet at Assembly and do their work in between meetings via email and phone conferencing each gave reports in the afternoon. The Public Information/Public Outreach Committee reported that three Intergroups, Ottawa, Maine and New York State Capital District (Albany), were each awarded about \$2,000 to conduct a Public Information Blitz in their areas. Any Intergroup can apply for funds to conduct a PI Blitz – something for us to consider! The Convention Committee reported that 320 people were registered for the Region 6 Convention in Stamford which will be held later in October. The 2010 Convention site was selected – it will be held in Burlington, Vermont.

With the new approach to the organization of the day and skills of our Chair in keeping us on task, we had time for a workshop on the tools of the program led by the 12 Step Within Committee and a discussion of Tradition 1 led by our Region 6 Trustee, Mary Rose. These latter activities capped the day nicely as they gave us an opportunity to focus on our personal working of the program and to share with one another.

If the thought of gathering with other compulsive overeaters from all over the northeast excites you, if you are interested in how OA functions at the regional level and if you would like to give service to our Intergroup by representing us at Region 6, please step forward to be our Region 6 representative. Our Intergroup is allowed five representatives because of the number of group meetings within our area. It would be great to have at least one!

Thanks for offering me the opportunity to represent you at the Region 6 Fall Assembly. Charlotte W