



Great Britain

OAGB Board News - November 2009

Welcome to the Newsletter issued after each meeting of the National Service Board of OA in Great Britain, to let you know what we do and encourage communication and service

National Assembly 2009: "Relax, God's in Charge"

The National Assembly in Birmingham was a great success, with 75 voting members attending, and a good deal of work was done.

- The weekend's events started on Friday evening with a presentation and discussion on the processes of the Assembly, which seemed to be well received.
- On Saturday there was the annual Assembly, and there is more about the outcomes in the rest of this newsletter. After dinner on Saturday, there was time to let our hair down with some great skits from some of our very talented membership.
- And on Sunday, the OAGB Board held its Annual General Meeting, whilst there were also workshops on the weekend's theme.

Motions

At the Business meeting on Saturday, 3 motions to amend byelaws were discussed. The following was the final wordings as adopted by the delegates on your behalf.

Motion A -

Section 6 – Removal of Board Members

- a) The failure to perform the duties and responsibilities of a board member, as detailed in the subsections below may constitute cause for removal.
 1. Duties enumerated in the National Service Assembly Bylaws, Section 5a.
 2. Duties in the Procedures Manual, Section 1
 3. Communication with the nominating Intergroup.
- b) A failure to meet the requirements for board membership also constitutes cause for removal.
- c) Any board member may be removed for cause by a 2/3 vote of the board members attending an EGM.
- d) Any board member may be removed for cause by a 2/3 vote of the delegates attending the National Assembly.
- (e) Eight weeks prior to Assembly or EGM, by registered letter, the Chair will inform the board member concerned that a motion for his /her removal will be proposed at the Assembly or forthcoming EGM and that he /she is given 15 days to respond and explain his / her position. Four to six weeks prior to Assembly or EGM, the Chair will send the motion to Assembly or board members.
- e) The vote may be enforced immediately

Motion B

5. The National Service Board of OA (GB) will meet as required, with a minimum of four meetings a year, and one of these will be designated the Annual General Meeting of the Board. Membership of the Board will normally commence from 1 January of the year following election

by the Assembly. If a Board member should resign or cease to function before the end of his/her term of office, the Intergroup concerned *or any other Intergroup* may elect a member to replace him/her, provided that the election is confirmed by the next National Service Assembly. *The NSB may co-opt a member from another Intergroup within OAGB. The NSB will contact all Intergroup chairs inviting qualified applications to be received prior to the next board meeting. The NSB members will hold a ballot at the next NSB meeting to choose the new member.* The member then elected will serve for a maximum term of four years *plus the remainder of the co-opted year.*

MOTION C

3 Procedures

(b) The National Service Assembly will be called at least once a year. The Assembly will *always* be held in an easily accessible location *with varied transport links. The NSB will encourage at least two Intergroups to bid to host the assembly each year. Bids must have the approval of the respective Intergroup meeting. The NSB will ask the assembly to consider both the fairness of the rotation of service and cost implications when choosing the national assembly host*

Hosting National Assembly 2010

Caledonian Intergroup presented an offer to hold the 2010 National Assembly and convention, and this was gratefully accepted by the assembly. So mark your diaries now for this event!

WHEN: 8th to 10th October 2010

WHERE: Golden Jubilee Hotel, Clydebank, Glasgow, Scotland

New Board Members and Job Roles for 2009/2010

No members were due to rotate off the board at this time, and two new members were voted on to the board for the next 2 years.

As we do not have enough board members to carry out all the roles that we could potentially fulfil, feedback had been sought from delegates on the priority of covering jobs. The roles of Chair, Secretary, Company Secretary, Treasurer and Literature Liaison are required so that we can just do the basics, and for the remaining roles, the following was the ranking from the feedback scores:

- 1) Web Officer
- 2) Communications
- 3) Public Information
- 4) Professional Outreach
- 5) 12th step within
- 6) Vice Chair
- 7) Step by Step (monthly newsletter)

This year the National Service Board members are covering the following roles:

Chair:	Joanna	Secretary	Rosemary
Company Secretary	Karen	Treasurer	John
Literature	Sam	Communications	Belle
Website	Kate		

There was discussion regarding the roles of Public Information, Professional Outreach and 12th step within - 3 roles, for which we have 2 potential job holders. Rather than leave one of these un-covered, Maureen and Melanie are reviewing the job allocations, and will see if they can cover the 3 jobs between them - a final decision on this will be taken at the next Board meeting in November.

DATES FOR BOARD MEETINGS – please put in your diary, visitors are welcome

28 November 2009

23 January 2010

24 April 2010

19 June 2010 (Chairs Meeting)

Assembly Fri 8 – Sun 10 Oct 2010 in Glasgow

Overeaters Anonymous should forever remain non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

At this year's assembly, there was some discussion about the fact that the OAGB Board is currently constrained in the outreach work it can do, by the fact that many of the members of the board are needed to undertake activities such as keeping meeting records, and undertaking Company Secretary actions. These activities are necessary for the running of OAGB, which is a registered charity, and therefore constrained by both company and charity law.

OA's Eighth Tradition tells us that we may employ "special workers" to carry out work for the fellowship. Could we therefore utilise our elected Board members to better effect, if some of these activities were undertaken by "special workers". There are a number of potentials that we could consider:

- **Seek OA volunteers.** Whilst certain activities need to be undertaken by elected board members, it may be possible to seek volunteers to assist with the day to day work. For example, OAGB currently has volunteers to answer e-mails enquiries and maintain the National Meetings list. Would it be possible to seek more help in this way?
- **Employ professionals.** Are there are some activities that could be out-sourced to professionals? For example, as already mentioned OAGB needs a Company Secretary, but could we use an outside firm to do this?

There was also discussion at the Assembly about co-opting people onto the board. OAGB's constitution allows this only in limited cases, and this is mainly because we wish to maintain our status as trusted servants, answerable to the body of OA membership.

Not Sure What The Board Can Do For You? Ask Us.

The Board exists to support & promote strong recovery in our OA Fellowship through the practice of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Is there an issue or dilemma that you are struggling with in your meetings or in recovery? You can send any questions or queries to us at secretary@oagb.org.uk, and we can include it along with suggestive answers in future editions of Board News.

We hope to hear from you.