



OAGB BOARD NEWS – March 2009

Hello and welcome to the Newsletter, which is issued after each meeting of the National Service Board of OA in Great Britain to let you know more of what we do and to encourage communication and service.

Loss of Two National Service Board Members

Sadly, two NSB members (Derek and Kathleen) have resigned in the past few months, due to personal circumstances. The two intergroups from which Derek and Kathleen were nominated are currently unable to co-opt anyone on to the NSB. This means that although we celebrated the election of 6 new board members at the October 2008 National Assembly, we are now down to just 7 NSB members. This limits the amount of work that we are able to do for the fellowship as a National Service Board. At the last meeting, we decided that:

- ❖ We would maintain the NSB policy of one position per NSB member (including liaising with any sub-committees).
- ❖ We had to cover the following positions as priorities, since we cannot run the Board without them: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Company Secretary and Literature Liaison.
- ❖ No new board members should have the stress of taking on a job with which they had no familiarity after they had only just become familiar with the job which they had.
- ❖ The website was of major importance in carrying the message both inside and outside the fellowship. We currently have a Board member with web skills who could re-write the website so that in future webskills would not be a requirement (see page 2).
- ❖ The Communications role was of primary importance in ensuring communication within and outside of the fellowship. Thus, we would split aspects of this role amongst the remaining members: Maureen will take on responding to and redirecting letters from the PO Box ; Derek will continue to do the meetings list for us as a non-board member; Kate will oversee the e-mail responders via her role as Website Officer.
- ❖ As a result, with minor adjustments the current board positions are as follows: Joanna (Chair); Belle (Treasurer); Rosemary (Secretary); Maureen (Company Secretary); Sam (Literature Liaison) Kate (Website); and Melanie (Twelfth Step Within).

This means that we are without a PI Officer on the NSB. It is vital that we, as a national fellowship, encourage members with the necessary experience and qualifications to put themselves forward for nomination by their IG for election to the NSB at the National Assembly in October, so that the NSB has sufficient manpower to do the work needed by the fellowship. This was a very difficult decision for us as a board, and one which took into consideration the above factors. This means that the NSB will not be carrying out any proactive Public Information activities, nor will we be able to respond to any PI requests. All PI requests will be redirected to the IG most relevant to each request. However, the London and SE England IG have a new PI officer who will be pursuing proactive PI via the media, since the head offices of many media organisations are in London.

Contributions by Groups and IGS: Two-thirds/One-third Split

The NSB would like to remind the fellowship of OAGB of the decision made by the fellowship as a whole at the 2007 National Assembly regarding contributions to service boards. It is suggested that:

- ❖ All groups should send on 2/3 of contributions (beyond their prudent reserve) to their IG and 1/3 to the NSB.
- ❖ All IGS should send 2/3 of contributions (beyond their prudent reserve) to the NSB and 1/3 to Region 9.
- ❖ NSB sends 2/3 of contributions (beyond its prudent reserve) to Region 9 and 1/3 to World Service.

This policy is in keeping with the suggestions relating to 7th tradition from WSBC approved literature. At the January meeting, the NSB agreed to increase our regular contributions per quarter to £250 to Region 9 and £125 to WSO. We also agreed one-off contributions of £2000 to Region 9 and £1000 to WSO – based on a current surplus partly created by an extremely generous anonymous contribution from one member.

Banners to Display the Steps and Traditions

The Literature Service has investigated the cost of printing large banners for display of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, for use at conventions and PI events. It would be quite expensive for the Lit.S. to have this done (approx. £40-£50). However, in the past these have been available for sale from Region 10. Kate will investigate whether this is still possible. If any groups or IGS are interested in having a set, please contact Kate on 007kate@msn.com

Changes to Website

The NSB have changed website host companies, in order to be able to use a website format which would be simpler for a non-expert NSB officer to make changes to in the future. This format could also allow for the possibility of online literature orders in the future – *this possibility is being investigated by Kate and the Literature Service*. Whilst Kate is changing over the website from one host to the other, only basic information will be available (literature order form, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, events listings, etc.).

Posters for Public Information

There have been a number of requests for the Literature Service to produce PI posters. Several templates for PI posters are available from the WSO (contact Sandra Allen at sallen@oa.org) via e-mail. These come as PDF files and can be altered to include group and/or IG information, if one has the necessary computer programme to alter PDF files. Otherwise, group info. can be added via the old-fashioned scissors and glue method and then photocopied!

12th Step Within

The NSB 12th Step Within Officer – Melanie – is working with an enthusiastic committee to prepare a session on the Traditions at the Heart of England IG Convention in Birmingham in July. This will help to strengthen the understanding of groups and individuals about the Traditions, which could help to strengthen the message that we carry within the fellowship.

Bylaw proposals

The NSB are currently working on 2 bylaw proposals to present to the fellowship for possible adoption: one which would clarify the rotation of the location of National Assemblies, and another which would allow the NSB more flexibility about co-opting members onto the NSB when an NSB member resigns mid-term. These will be presented to the chairs of IGS at our meeting in June for their feedback and will be forwarded to chairs in advance of this meeting to discuss with their IGS.