**BOARD UPDATES 20.8.16**

**Welcome to the latest news from the National Service Board of OAGB**

**BOARD MEETINGS THIS YEAR:** The next meeting is to be Sunday 16th October at National Assembly in Glasgow; time 9 for 9.30am-1pm. The venue of next year’s meetings will be decided on the basis of the most central location for the newly elected Board members.

**INVITATION TO MEMBERS TO ATTEND:** Come and see for yourself what goes on? If you think you might stand for the Board in future, or you are just interested, it’s a good opportunity to find out more. **And, might you be willing to take the minutes of this meeting?** If so, or for an informal chat about maybe doing so, please contact Hilary on secretary@oagb.org.uk

**BOARD BASICS UPDATED**: Emma, Temporary Chair and R9Rep: chair@oagb.org.uk

Hilary: Secretary secretary@oagb.org.uk Elena: Treasurer, Company Secretary and WSBC Rep: treasurer@oabg.org.uk Alan: Literature Liaison: literature@oagb.org.uk Communications: vacant: communications@oagb.org.uk

To publicise your event: events@oagb.org.uk For General enquiries: general@oagb.org.uk

**ESSENTIAL DIARY DATES:**

28.8.16 Pack 1 for National Assembly sent to Intergroup Chairs

**25.9.16 Applications to serve on Board** to reach Chair and Secretary now, to go in Pack 2.

**30.9.16 Pack 2** for National Assembly sent to Intergroup Chairs

30.9.16 For those attending National Assembly: this is the last day to pay for your room and any catering package for hotel lunches or drinks.

**7.10.16 The hotel payments become non-refundable**

**Friday 14th-Sunday 16th October: National Assembly and Convention Glasgow.**

NSB Meeting, Sunday 16th

**Friday 28th-Sunday 30th October: Region 9 Assembly and Convention**, near Eindhoven, Netherlands.

**Friday 30th June-Sunday 2nd July: Heart of England Convention**, Hilton Metropole Hotel, Birmingham. **Regular attenders will notice that this is a week earlier than the usual date.**

**AUGUST BUSINESS:**

**A big thank you to Naomi** who volunteered to take the minutes. **Linda** had hoped to attend but sent apologies; the meeting was chaired by **Emma, Acting Chair.**

**ME AND MY JOB: EMMA, ACTING CHAIR**

*I believe that this job is about having an eye for the broad view - hopefully being able to connect the NSB and the wider fellowship in some meaningful sense, and somehow facilitating things so that they can work together.*

*Being on the Board in 2016 is very different to when I was last the OAGB chair in 1999 as an enthusiastic youngster, making it up as I was going along! These days technology has changed the job a lot and there is so much more that goes on in between Board meetings. I love to see the big picture, and the variety of contacts that this kind of service gives you the opportunity to make.*

*As a trusted servant, it seems to be that part of the Chair's role is also to take people's suggestions and help them to manifest in this way. As a result of one suggestion there will be some committee sessions at National Assembly this year. The intention is to promote service at the national level throughout the year, and help deliver vital OA functions for the country as a whole.*

*Emma, Acting Chair*

**COMMITTEE SESSIONS AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:** This year members will find at the Registration Desk a form to fill in, asking everyone to sign up to attend the committee session of their choice on the Saturday afternoon. Following a member’s proposal last year, National Assembly is to adopt the Region 9 and World Service Business Conference practice of engaging members in committee work lasting into the following year. An hour and a half has been set aside to engage members in committee work which will set goals and make action plans for OA service they will then undertake.

This aims to channel the enthusiasm often generated by being at Assembly into specific, achievable goals.

The six committee areas are: Literature, Communications, Professional Outreach, Public information, 12th Step Within, and revitalising the publication, Step by Step.

 Members are invited to give some advance consideration to their preferred option and the needs of OA in their local area as well as nationally.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING:** This covered a range of topics including deadlines for receipt of reports and for sending out Packs 1 and 2 - actually, just the links to the pages on the website where they will be found – committee reports; a PI report; and nominations.

**NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD:** If your Higher Power is giving you a nudge about applying to serve as a Board member or subcommittee member (especially needed for Communications) it is not too late to put in an application. Board member applicant criteria were given in some detail in Board Updates of the April meeting headed May Updates in the Downloads section of NSB on the website at oagb.org.uk. Final date to receive applications is 25th September thought, so time is short.

Subcommittee volunteers, especially needed for Communications, need three months’ abstinence, to have a sponsor, be working the steps and have some knowledge of the traditions.

**BOARD ADMIN WORKER PROGRESS:** The subcommittee drawing up the job description and person specification sent a detailed interim report for discussion of some points. It is a considerably large piece of work. The finished report is to be presented at National Assembly. Many thanks to the subcommittee members for all their hard work so far.

**ME AND MY JOB: ELENA, TREASURER**

*My sponsor always remind me go to the meetings stick to food plan work steps and do service. Service always has been foundation of my recovery. It keeps me get out of my head, out of my bed in the morning and encourage to face the day. I know that I would not know all the answers but there will be always people out there who do and I always get some help.*

*As treasurer I spend some time on answering OA member’s queries and clarify issues Inter-groups might have. For each OAGB meeting I put together financial review of how OAGB is doing and if board can support all different projects. As board we decide what can be afforded or what have to be delayed, where we need to cut costs and how most effectively to use OAGB funds.*

*During the year the board receives applications for National Assembly delegate, New Meetings support and the Board reviews them all. I always happy to go back to the person who sends the application and say “Yes, it was accepted” :) But sometimes I have say for “such and such reason” it was not. Most of the time with a heavy heart. Because the OAGB funds are limited as Board we have to make hard choices.*

*During the year we work together with the OAGB Literature service team and the board looks at financial position of OAGB literature. Everyone involved is dedicated to contribute as best as we can and it "rub offs" on me as well and I carry this enthusiasm and commitment through the rest of my life.*

*Working on the board reminds me that we all have different skills and with HP will I can give just little bit back to OA for what OA gave me: new OA family, new life. Together we can do, what we can never do alone.*

*Thank you for this opportunity to serve.*

*Lots of love*

*Elena*

*OAGB NSB Treasurer*

**UPDATING THE EMAIL LOOP: REMOVING SOME SUBSCRIBERS: MIGHT YOU BE ONE OF THEM?** The email loop which brings you OA news and events, including these Updates, was originally set up free of charge for up to 2000 subscribers, and so far no subscriber has ever been deleted. At present there are many more than 2000 subscribers, and the service is costing OA £38.75 a month. Is this the best use of OA resources?

Communications subcommittee volunteers sending out the loop observed that in the months of April and May only 25-30% of members opened their messages. There is the possibility that members have subscribed more than once from different email addresses and have not unsubscribed from the accounts they no longer use. There may be all sorts of reasons. Life is busy and we all have things we intend to do that don’t quite get done.

This cost was discussed and the Board agreed to the recently non-active subscribers being deleted. If you find that you are no longer receiving the email loop, please re-subscribe!

**LAST WORD FROM SECRETARY, HILARY:** I can’t quite believe I’ve served on theBoard for getting on for a year. Time flies… Looking forward to National Assembly! Not long now!

**A FINAL WORD: HOW ARE WE DOING?** Thank you for reading Board Updates. It is part of the move towards demystification of Board processes. Your feedback, opinions and suggestions would be appreciated. Send to secretary@oagb.org.uk Thanks!