

To Region 5 Board Members, Representatives, and Guests

I think I can speak for Preston and myself when I say it has been a great honor to serve on this committee for the past year. Personally, as a co-chair I have had to learn about delegating responsibilities, trusting that those responsibilities will be completed (and completed in a satisfactory manner), increasing my active listening skills and deepening my understanding of what it means to “Let go and let God.”

We had a total of 15 regularly attending subcommittee members; each assisting with planning every detail of the convention. Without their continuous support this convention would not have been possible. Thank you to Deanna B, Gerri M., Marilyn A, Rose Marie G., Ree L., Darlette P, Maureen M., Christine G., Phil C., Kelly, Lori de R., Robin E., Chris B., CJ M., and Martha, D. Thank you also to Joel I. for your calming guidance and wisdom.

During the weekend we added 26 additional volunteers whose names are too many to list here. Your assistance with Zoom co-hosting, moderating, and the reading of OA materials is invaluable. It allowed the rest of us to sit back and enjoy the convention while you took the wheel for a while.

Here are a few statistics related to the Region 5 2022 Convention:

- We had a total of 284 unique registrations (several were duplicated).
- A very small number of Fellows used the mail-in registration form (3); we do not recommend using this option in the future. There are ways members can help each other register if they need help with online registration and access.
- Members linked to the Region 5 online registration form through several pathways. Those pathways include OACleveland.org (81), ChiwifOA.org (24), OAMilwaukee (22), OA.org (41), OA.org (41), and Google.com (22). It appears your websites are actively beneficial to the good of OA.
- Registrations were from Canada and the US only even though we were listed on the Virtual Region’s newsletter. English was the only language identified on our flier. We had representatives from all regions within North America with high concentrations outside Region 5 in Region 4 (Nebraska), Region 2 (San Francisco), and Region 7 (New Jersey and New York).
- Our total income was \$5,655. The hosting Intergroups (Chicago Suburban Southwest, Suburban North, Chicago West Far Out, and Turning Point) are discussing what they want to do with their portions of these proceeds.
- We reached out to 9 members that identified themselves as newcomers. All but one had received the “Where Do I Start?” pamphlet prior to the convention. The additional member received the link immediately that weekend through our Newcomer Room subcommittee.

Our exit survey was completed by 137 Fellows. Here are a few significant takeaways:

- Overwhelming amount of positive comments about the speakers. We had a total of 22 speakers sharing their recovery with us that weekend.
- Significantly greater positive comments on the ease and convenience of a virtual convention. However, should the convention need to be virtual in the future we would highly recommend a hybrid presentation. Equal percentages of the Fellowship are ready to be reunited. Given our experience with video communications a hybrid convention is a viable solution.

- We offered a lunch break reading and sharing session which was met with enthusiasm and gratitude.
- There were equal numbers of positive and negative comments on the length of the event. As a committee we thought members might be tired of virtual conventions by now and we went with an abbreviated format.
- There were significant comments on the access to the convention. (The links came too late. They wanted to see the program earlier. Or they could not find the links and/ or proof of registration because it went into their spam). As a committee we realize even with an in-person convention the Fellowship does not have access to the program prior to walking into the hotel.
- Based on comments, if the convention is virtual in the future we would recommend recording the speakers.

A new flash drive is in the process of being consolidated and will be shared with the new Convention Committee. I ask all representatives to please consult with their Intergroups and consider hosting a 2023 Region 5 Convention. I promise you will not regret it.

In conclusion, we had so much fun the weekend of Sept 16-18. We hope you did, too. Even though the talk about the convention has died down a bit, Fellows are still talking about how the Convention helped grow their recovery. It is obvious recovery is alive in Region 5!

In loving service,
Kerry M
Region 5 2022 Convention Co-chair