

2016 Spring Region 7 Assembly

It was again a pleasure to serve as a CJI region rep. for the 2016 R7 Spring Assembly. The assembly was held at the Aspire Hotel in Gettysburg, Pa. and was a change from the usual Reading, Pa. location. Region 7, in the addition to New Jersey includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington DC. Currently Region 7 represents 517 groups, sadly down from the 533 previously represented last year at this time; 36 voting members attended and 17 of the 24 Intergroups in Region 7 were represented. Voting members also declined from the 42 that attended last year's Fall Assembly as well as the amount of intergroups represented.

At this assembly, as was the case for the last two assemblies, there was one business session on Saturday lasting 3 hours. The Saturday session consisted of board reports, announcements and new business. Again the consent agenda was used to great success and included three Policy motions; consent agenda adopted. Four Policy motions remained, one withdrawn and the rest adopted. Two Bylaw Motions were presented and discussed. Both were related and dealt with strengthening the language concerning the length of abstinence for both region representatives and alternates. A subsidiary motion to postpone was defeated and a spirited discussion took place; both motions were adopted.

The second business session scheduled for 3 ½ hours was conducted on Sunday. Committee reports were read and a question and answer session to the respective committee chairs were held. As customary, two workshops were held, one conducted by the Twelve Step Within Committee and the other consisted of a World Service Business Conference (WSBC) mock motion discussion and voting.

The "12th Step Within Ideas "Train the Trainer Workshop was very well done. An informative folder was distributed with much information to improve and support the recovery of others. Additionally all delegates present broke up into groups and came up with ideas on how to reach out to those OA's in need of recovery support.

The other workshop consisted of an informative WSBC mock motion exercise. The motion chosen was Policy Motion D which is the CJI sponsored motion changing the time of the year for Unity Day. This exercise was a great help to me since I will be presenting this motion at the 2016 WSBC. I learned that there is a mistake in the language and most likely the reference committee will recommend substituting the word "pacific" as in pacific standard time to "daylight " as in daylight standard time. Additionally I made the first pro as I will do at the conference and this served me well as far as releasing the butterflies. Happily, the

motion passed but again this was only a mock motion vote not the real thing.

On Saturday morning we conducted 2 ½ hour committee meetings. I had spent the last 6 assemblies, and the past 5 as chair on the Region 7 Outreach Committee and thought it was time to do service on another committee. I was assigned to Intergroup Renewal and though hesitant at first became to really accept this important and necessary committee. I see the purpose as supporting and strengthening our Region 7 intergroups. The committee was without returning officers and our first priority was to elect new officers, as follows: chair Stacey D. of Tidewater IG ; vice chair Adira R of Diamond State IG and secretary Ruth H of North Jersey IG, Barb G, Region 7 trustee is our new board liaison. One of our goals is to bring back to the Fall Assembly, the Friday night meet and greet and our first conference call is set for July 12th.

Lastly, I'd like to address attendance and delegate support. As stated earlier, only 17 of our 24 intergroups were representative and only 30 out of a possible 61 delegates attended. I am proud to say CJI was 1 of the 4 intergroups to send all of their authorized delegates and the only one to send 4. Region assemblies are vital to the important service of carrying the message and it is paramount to have a large group representing their intergroups so to be part of the group conscious. Another by-product of this poor delegate attendance is that the region committees not counting board liaisons only had 5 or 6 members each. Hopefully the other intergroups will work on sending as many delegates as possible and our wonderful intergroup will continue to do so.

Again, I thank the Intergroup for giving me this opportunity to perform service at this level. I look forward to serving the Intergroup as a Region 7 representative in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross M.