

Spring 2016 Region 7 Assembly Report

I had the opportunity to serve as a Region 7 Assembly representative in April, at the Aspire Hotel in Gettysburg, PA. I am proud to report that CJIOA had the most reps present from a single Intergroup. Sadly though, there wasn't a "Meet and Greet" session by the Intergroup Renewal Committee on Friday night because the committee had lost all of its officers. This was just one symptom of the underlying problem of recovery issues and service issues in our program. The Twelfth Step Within Committee had also lost all of its officers. Total attendance at assembly was down. We only had 36 reps and since 30 are required for a quorum there is the realistic concern that a future assembly will not have enough reps to conduct business.

I was assigned to the Bylaws Committee and was elected Vice Chair. Our committee was small, consisting of 4 members. We got through several motions and had the opportunity to see our work presented to the floor. It was insightful to see how something that we had seen as a simple, single-word change evoked major discussion on the assembly floor and almost timed-out.

The Twelfth Step Within Committee presented a skit to encourage the use of the telephone and to brainstorm ways that our IG, our groups, and we as individuals can support struggling members. The Board also presented an thought-provoking exercise on how to gain feedback on what should be done when we see a member claiming to be abstinent, but yet gaining weight. Answers ranged from saying nothing to various ways of offering program help.

There was also a workshop on a WSBC mock motion. The motion chosen was Policy Motion which CJIOA sponsored to change the time of the year for Unity Day. This exercise was "eye-opening" and I think we gained valuable information about what to expect at WSBC. Wording for time was changed and Cons included that it was winter in the southern hemisphere and that having events during winter helped get members out of isolation.

I am grateful for the opportunity to network with other members in the region and to grow as a member myself, applying the Steps and Traditions in my life.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi L