

## Report on Region Six Assembly April 5, 2003

On 4/5/03, 42 delegates and five Board members convened in Albany for the Spring 2003 Assembly. (There are currently 986 Affiliated Groups, 104 Unaffiliated Groups, totaling 1090 Groups with 49 Intergroups in the Region. The total number of delegates per formula is 118. Since the Fall Assembly, there has been a loss of 53 groups in the Region.)

The morning session discussed public information in general, the PI Blitz fund set by Region Six, the proposal approved at the last Assembly ( Fall 2002), and a brainstorming session for new ideas. Referring to the OA 12 & 12, Mark Glaser, the head of the regional PI Committee, stated that we are given clear guidelines. We are encouraged to publicize OA but cannot promote it with personal appeals or celebrity endorsements. In terms of the PI Blitz, it was explained that Region Six has designated \$3,000 for each Assembly to distribute to Intergroups who submit Public Information projects. The money must be given out at the Assembly and cannot be carried over to the next Assembly.

Michael from the Bronx Intergroup gave an update on the approved proposal submitted to the Fall 2002 Assembly by the Greater New York City Intergroups, in which WUIG was able to be included. The proposal was for the WSO OA tape to be distributed to local cable television networks in the format that the networks use and with a local contact number on each tape. The Bronx is the only Intergroup which has started the project. Supposedly the glitches have been worked out and an OAer from Manhattan has volunteered to convert the tapes. All nine Intergroups involved need to proceed. Steps to be taken are: (1) contact local cable companies, explain the project, find out which format each uses, and how often and when the tape would be aired, (2) contact the OA coordinator and supply the information, and (3) follow through with the cable companies, recording data which must be presented at the Assembly and (4) attempt to document the effect of the public service announcements in terms of increased call volume or internet contact.

We then divided into smaller groups to brainstorm other ideas. While “free” or low-cost projects were discussed, the purpose of the brainstorming was to come up with ideas for the PI Blitz money. Ideas such as advertisements in movie theatres and billboards were mentioned. WUIG’s idea of placing an ad on diner placemats was favorably received and WUIG was encouraged to submit a proposal by July for the next Assembly in September.

In the afternoon, the various Region 6 committees met, such as the By-Laws, Convention, Newsletter, PI and Finance. I attended the PI Committee which consisted of representatives from over 10 Intergroups. First we shared information on our current projects. Then we reviewed the three PI Blitz proposals submitted at this Assembly.

The first proposal submitted by 7 Intergroups covering Eastern Mass involved putting an ad in 111 individual newspapers with circulation of almost 2 1/2 million people. They requested Region 6 to fund \$1500 of the \$3528.40. The second proposal submitted by the

Berkshire Intergroup reaching potentially 134,000 people is to educate the local physicians by doing a direct mailing about OA and placing an ad in the local paper once a week for a year. The total cost is close to \$900. The third proposal submitted by the Western Mass Intergroup is to provide information to family physicians and libraries about OA through direct contact and literature, with a total cost of \$850.

All three PI Blitz projects were approved by the PI Committee and later that afternoon by the Assembly in general, with some minor modification by the Eastern Mass group so that the amount of money allotted was no more than \$3,000.

By mid-afternoon the Assembly reconvened. Reports from the officers and the committees were presented as well as policy and by-law motions upon which to be voted. There was a Tradition II Discussion led by Karen S-A. The meeting ended with a ceremony for first-timers and the closing prayer.

Carol Booth  
Region 6 Delegate