

November SOAR 8 Friday Night Forum

“International OA – Buying Into the Future of Region 8”

The assembly was broken into 8 groups and each group was given a question about the topic. Here is the compilation of the responses.

1. *What kind of vision or mission statement would you write about International Region 8 if you were asked to write something about it for the P and P or the Green Dot Manual?*

Group Answer:

Our Region 8 purpose is to carry the message to the COE who still suffers in every area of Region 8.

2. *Internationally, how does Region 8 go from ‘US’ and “THEM” to WE.*

Group Answer:

- Increase awareness of statistics & demographics of Region 8.
- Consider translators for assemblies for reps to better carry the message to their service bodies.
- We are united by the language of recovery, not by our tongues
- Focus on our common bond and solution
- U.S. intergroup sponsorship of under-represented service bodies
- Identify Individual countries; instead of South America list each country by name

3. *What ideas do you have to raise funds or otherwise to translate Region 8 documents into Spanish and Portuguese?*

Group Answer:

- Person should be fluent in other language first, English second.
- Translators could form an ad hoc task force to translate docs
- Fundraiser at Unity Day. Unity committee devises the proposed Unity Day fundraiser encouraged by region. Prepares flyer to let intergroups of Region 8 know about the need for translations in our region and give ideas for fundraisers.
- IGOR committee communicates the flyer and everything about fundraiser and provides support and guidance to intergroups.
- Ways and Means works with the treasurer to plan how the fundraiser funds get earmarked for international fund.
- Reward largest fundraising intergroup with a scholarship to next Region 8 assembly

4. *How can we use technology to expand Region 8 internationally?*

Group Answer:

- Form a team of translators
- Skype meetings and workshops (free), translated
- All Region 8 email distribution surveys for Spanish and Portuguese speakers and sponsors
- Work on ways of carrying sponsorship internationally – sponsorship is biggest issue

5. *How can we expand our resources to fund International travel?*

Group Answer:

- Need help from all regions. We cannot do it alone.
- Perhaps WSO needs to add an additional allotment to group, intergroup, region, World service for collecting funds.
- Make every dollar count. More use of electronics so more people can attend meetings.
- Translation service – a lot of bang for the buck

6. *Language difference is the main barrier in effective communication. How can we make an international Region 8 assembly more participatory to all?*

Group Answer:

- Consider locations for assembly to be more ‘hub’ city oriented for ease of travel
- Consider having assembly in Puerto Rico or Central America
- Translation services
- IG pen pals or adoption between nations to share grass roots experience

7. *What does the phrase “International Region 8” mean to you?*

Group Answer:

- OA members carrying the message of OA members regardless of geographical or language barriers
- Raise awareness here in the USA
- Explore ways to increase communication
- Sponsoring OA members in other countries who do share your language

8. *What does the phrase “International Region 8” mean to you?*

Group Answer:

- Unity, Recovery, Service – the program is only as strong as our service
- Can we donate literature to underserved meetings?
- Start meetings in underserved neighborhoods
- Financial support for new meetings in underserved neighborhoods
- Understanding of cultural differences
- Speak with doctors, especially bariatric surgeons
- Booths at health fairs