Welcome to the Spring Assembly! It seems like the Fall Assembly was just a

couple of months ago – the time has flown by!

I’ll start by thanking you for putting your confidence in me; I am grateful for the

honor and privilege of serving as your new Chair. I want to thank everyone on the Board and previous Chair Carmen D. for all they’ve done to help me get off to a strong start. Carmen is a perfect mentor and has been very generous in sharing her time with me! Thanks also to everyone on the Board for their kindness, patience, and support as I have transitioned to this new role.

These first several months have been a whirlwind! In addition to focusing on my transition and working with the Board in preparing for Assembly, here are some of the things I’ve been working on:

Visiting Intergroups and OA meeting “travel”

At the recommendation of our Trustee Liaison and the outgoing Chair, one of the

first things I did was to ask our Intergroups to invite us to an Intergroup meeting. Beth and I have attended several as of this writing, and we have more on the calendar. I enjoy getting to meet so many of the people doing service for their Intergroups, hearing about the different ways our Intergroups focus on carrying out the fifth tradition, and getting a feel for the different ideas we have across the Region. I would really like to visit all our Intergroups, so please invite me at chair@oaregion6.org!

I’m also trying to get to regular OA meetings around the Region, thanks to the ability to “travel” to virtual meetings. This is a very informal thing and usually a little last minute. I’ll look at the meeting list on a random R6 Intergroup website and pick a meeting and then “zoom in.” I want to do more of this and would welcome any invitations, whether it’s to speak or just attend. Please email me at the above address.

French interpretation and translation

We have continued our focus on providing French translation and interpretation.

During my first year or so in OA, I lived in Paris and recovery was equally accessible to the minority (English speakers) as it was to the majority (French speakers). That is what drives my desire to make sure our three French speaking intergroups can more fully participate in Region 6 events and activities. Carmen D. Has taken on the role of Interpretation/Translation Coordinator, and we have begun to offer English/French interpretation at the R6 Intergroup Forum and are translating key documents from the Intergroup Forums and R6 Assemblies so that all our French-speaking members can understand what takes place at these events. We have worked hard to provide accurate translations of documents. If there is a discrepancy between the English and French versions, please consider the English version as the correct version.

Committee support/participation

• I am the Board mentor to the Region 6 Bylaws committee, and enjoy working with these tireless, detail-oriented guardians of our policies and procedures documents! Several years ago, I ended up on a WSBC Bylaws committee by mistake (it’s a long story); much to my surprise, I found out that I really like this work! Everyone on the R6 committee is dedicated to making sure we have up to date, accurate and easy to understand

documents.

• We are in the very early stages of setting up a Unity and Diversity Committee, an ad hoc group to help us better carry the OA message to diverse populations. We have started to put ideas together on first steps, and welcome participation from around Region 6. More

information to come!

• The Region Chairs Committee (RCC) acts as a channel of communication between the Regions, the OA Board of Trustees, and the members of the Fellowship to make it easier to share resources, ideas and solutions. The RCC plans and puts on the WSBC Forum workshop, meets regularly for idea sharing between Regions and is currently working with the OA Board on strategic planning ideas.

Something new I’ve learned…

Did you ever wonder what “Copyedited” means when it’s on the cover page of the Region Six Bylaws and Policy and Procedures document? “Copyediting” is the process of making “editorial” corrections to the Bylaws that do not require approval of the Body at Assembly. This often means correcting typos or other errors that don’t change the meaning of the text – such as changing “inttergroups” to “intergroups.” Sometimes, these editorial changes are made to align our Region 6 Bylaws with changes to OA’s Bylaws. For example, if changing “Regional Trustee” to “Trustee Liaison” is the only thing that changes AND doesn’t change the meaning or description of anything the Trustee does, it can be considered an editing change and does not have to be submitted for approval by the R6A. So, “copyedited” on the cover means editorial corrections have been made and might explain a new word or a corrected typo!

Other activities

Other activities include representing YOU at WSBC (May 6 – 11), helping R6 committees as needed, and sharing my excitement for recovery. At the top of the “exciting” list is the fact that we just announced the date, theme, and location of the Region 6 2024 Convention! Working on a convention is a great experience, and attending a convention to celebrate recovery is even better! I hope you’ll join us in in Nashua, NH on October 25-27!

Also a lot of fun and good discussions, the R6 Intergroup Forum is usually held the

third Sunday of every month, and includes presentations by Region 6 members on topics that were identified by the R6 Intergroup Forum questionnaire at the end of last year. Trustee Liaison Beth B. and our previous Chair Carmen D. facilitated many valuable IG Forum meetings over the last few years, and have been very generous in helping me prepare to do the same moving forward. More information can be found at R6 Intergroup Forum Documents.

I want to close by thanking all of you for your service. It’s an honor and a privilege to be Chair of our wonderful Region, to work with our fantastic R6 Board and all of you. Let’s work together in a spirit of mutual respect and kindness as we do the business of Region 6!