

The following is the UWD committee's progress report of January 2014.

First of all I would like to apologize for my absence. I was away on vacation and took the opportunity to attend to some personal matters.

In the previous report I explained the need to study the OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS POLICY STATEMENTS RELATED TO UNITY WITH DIVERSITY published in the OA website recently (http://www.oa.org/pdfs/Unity_Diversity_statements.pdf) to establish lines of action for the work of this committee.

In Jacksonville, I presented to you three lines of work for our committee, based on this study: 1) Working with the newcomer, 2) Different individual approaches and different structured concepts to working our twelve Step program of recovery, and 3) Special Focus Meetings.

Now I want to clarify the sense of the each line of action raised and submit for your consideration:

- **First Line of work: Working with the newcomer.** In Colombia they have successfully worked

with health professionals. This has allowed groups to be recognized and become well known. Promoting strategic alliances with public health entities, which in turn has helped with referrals. Nevertheless, the next step requires preparing the groups for those newcomers who are becoming more numerous. This is why it is so important at this point to provide the groups with support in order to help them preparing for the new arrivals.

In order to achieve this goal, in our last assembly, I proposed two ways for working with the groups the issue of hosting newcomers: 1) To encourage groups to have a welcoming committee "greeters", and 2) hold workshops for groups and IGs to prepare all members to host newcomers.

In other words, I suggest to form a subcommittee to sponsor different groups and Intergroups so as they could host more efficiently newcomers.

- **Second line of action: Different individual approaches and different structured concepts to working our twelve Step program of recovery.** To identify and share the different approaches and different structured concepts by inventorying the groups. If you agree I suggest we create a subcommittee in order to find out how the groups and IGs are working. The end result of this inventory should provide us with a clear identification on how each

individual group and or IG is working the 12 steps and 12 traditions of the OA recovery program so as to be able to share all differences.

-Third line of action: Special Focus Meetings. The idea is to propose this UWD committee, to act as the operational arm of R8 with minorities. These minorities include the following: Groups in countries whose members speak a different language, or other cultural groups in USA or in other countries of the region. I have an action plan that has proven to be very successful. However in order to be applied at regional level more people are required to sponsor the process to reach other minority groups. I suggest we create a subcommittee to work with minorities using this plan of action suiting it to the needs of each individual group or IG.

Additionally, I would like to mention that Patrick has been developing a very interesting and committed work in his IG, which could be considered a "pilot study" for this line of work. He is leading a Spanish-speaking group in North Carolina with the sponsorship of UWD committee servers (specifically me) and his IG servers who speak Spanish. If you agree I think it is worth to consider it.

Viviana G.