

I, Lynne T, your World Services Rep, would like to invite you all to participate in a very exciting project -

I, Lynne T, representing Valley Sierra Intergroup OA-HOW, am a member of the World Service Business Conference Public Information/ Professional Outreach (PI/PO) Committee for April 2019 to April 2021. I am serving on a subcommittee of PI/PO to develop, test out, get legal clearance, and establish an OA Welcome Room which would eventually be open 24/7. We are pitching the idea and its usefulness to WSO who we hope will like the idea. We would like to have a link on [OA.org](http://OA.org) that a newcomer or relapser could click on to go into a Zoom room with 2 experienced OA members available to talk to right now! We would be equipped with ability to join them to a currently ongoing OA Zoom meeting, or give them info on phone meetings they could join right then, info on meetings in their area, and how to find this and other info on [OA.org](http://OA.org). They could talk to us about OA right now! We could also volunteer to follow up with them, with messaging, email or phone calls, if they want. We could also refer them to their local Intergroup, and assist them in making contact with local OA members, if they want to, for example, go to their first OA meeting with someone.

The legalities of doing all this are currently being researched by our subcommittee Chair, Claire, who just worked through legalities concerning Zoom meetings for a number of different countries, including USA, and also Europe, for the recent Virtual Region's Zoom Conference. We are also communicating with WSO and the 12th Step Within WSBC Committee and Virtual Committee, Young People's Committee and Men's Committees. It is an exciting project!

We are looking for a few Intergroups who would like to do pilot projects to test out an OA Welcome Room. We have approached a number of Intergroups who would ask their members for volunteers to staff a Zoom room for a time slot, such as 2 hours a week. There would be 2 volunteers scheduled at a time. There will be training and materials to use, such as the 15 Questions if a newcomer wonders if he or she will fit in at a meeting. We are looking into it, but it looks like we can use anything from [OA.org](http://OA.org) that can be downloaded for free.

The pilot Intergroup can decide how many hours a day to have the room open, such as 6 to 8 pm, and also if they will have a bilingual time, e.g., 4 to 6 pm for Spanish speaking (or whatever language they have a lot of in their area). We plan to have 2 members staff the room at a time and everyone will have training on how to, for example, set up a break room so that 1 of the 2 members can take a newcomer or relapser into a private Zoom room to talk and ask and answer questions.

Our Intergroup is too small to be a pilot group, but if, for example, the San Francisco Intergroup decided to be a pilot group, I am thinking our Intergroup's members could be volunteers to help staff their OA Welcome Room along with their Intergroup's members. Several of our Intergroup members attend the San Mateo and San Francisco Zoom meetings, so we already know some members from those areas.

We would then take the information learned from the pilot groups and develop a Zoom OA Welcome Room to be staffed worldwide, eventually for all countries worldwide, 24/7. A newcomer would then have ability to go to an OA meeting or chat with an OA member right away! Or an OA member trying to return to OA, or trying to NOT eat off their food plan, etc., could talk to an experienced OA member right away, even if in the middle of the night!

After the initial pilot experiment, the pilot Intergroups would NOT have any further responsibilities, unless their volunteers would like to have, for example, a one-hour time slot each week in our combined Zoom OA Welcome Room. They could continue to have a link on their Intergroup webpage for their newcomers or relapsers to use.

If we participated with our volunteers in one of the pilot groups, we could also have the link and hours of the OA Zoom Welcome Room posted on our Valley Sierra Intergroup OA-HOW website. This would be a wonderful service to our members as well as newcomers who visit our Intergroup webpage! Plus it would bring new members to our meetings!

Please call or email me if you are interested in volunteering for an hour or two a week, or if you have any questions. We expect to be starting up pilot groups within the next couple months.

Thank you, Love and Wellness,

Lynne Terry

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