

WSBC Delegate Report 2017

Thank you for this opportunity to serve and represent PTI. The WSBC is a powerful and important experience. I would first like to extend a big thanks to the former WSBC delegate for all his hard work as this service is a great deal of challenging work.

I arrived in Albuquerque Monday and met with many fellows I have met from other service work and conventions. The theme for this WSBC is "Growing OA Unity Worldwide." I spoke with another on how the Concepts help us to achieve this goal. The talk focused on each of the principles of the Twelve Concepts, how they are applied in service work and personal life. (I'm willing to present a workshop on this topic if PTI members are interested in attending.) Tuesday night held an informational session on conference proceedings as they are different than those at intergroup or region level. There are three OA meetings held each day to allow individual to take care of their recovery. Wednesday began with a forum on unity with diversity. Everyone was divided into small groups and 4 different fellows came to share a different vantage point on recovery. I was privileged to hear and reflect on the sharing related to, HOW program, Men in OA, Bariatric Surgery, and Bulimia. It was eye opening to be able to relate to others with differences. The majority of the day was spent working in committees. Each delegate is assigned to a different working committee. (TSW, PI, PO, Unity, etc.) I worked on the TSW committee and am now participating on the Fun and Fellowship subcommittee to help OAer's to increase fun and fellowship to increase recovery and prevent relapse. Wednesday night we practiced fun and fellowship by having dinner as Region 8 together. It is a gratifying to spend time with so many people that give service to OA.

Thursday the business meetings began. Credentials of members were presented and approved with 186 voting members present. Each of the motions is introduced by those submitted. This allows delegates to speak with the makers for more information.

Chair report brought to attention the costs of the WSBC for OA as a whole. It is currently, partially funded by OA. The board is looking at any option to make this more reasonable, including shortening WSBC and board meetings, and make some board meetings virtual. The Chair also highlighted the new Twelve Step Workshop and Study Guide. It is designed for people to go thru the steps as a group over the course of four months, but the timeline may be flexible.

Treasury report showed the electronic version of Lifeline can now be translated by Google into more than 100 languages. OA contributions increased by 5% however literature sales dropped as compared to last year.

Managing Director Report: It is critical to ensure your meeting and service body information is current with the world service office so that those people requesting info for meetings from world service office can give accurate info. Strategic planning focus from 2014-2016 is to increase the Fellowship's focus on the individual's responsibility to carry the message. Strategic planning focus from 2017-2019 is to increase the Fellowship's focus on Growing Unity Worldwide. Various regional chairs, trustees, and committee chairs presented a report on the activities in their area. The full reports are available online OA.org, WSBC, delegate binder link. Here are some highlights:

- Regions 1 and 6: Held Intergroup renewal workshops.
- Region 3: Presented at the Nevada Psychopharmaceutical Association Conference.
- Region 5: Held a convention in Detroit and organized a "Take the Freeway to Recovery" chartered bus that picked up members along the route to travel together in fellowship to and from the convention.
- Region 8 : announced our regional assemblies may be observed virtually online and we are working towards members possibly being able to participate and vote in the future.
- Virtual Services Report: last year contributed 34,000.00 \$. It was recently proposed by business office that if everyone gave only 30\$ a year to world service, it would be fully self supporting.
- Board Approved Literature Committee – completed projects: Guidelines for anonymity in the Digital World, Guidelines for writing the history of you local area (updated) selected new stories reprinted from lifeline magazine included in the focus on anorexia and bulimia literature packet.
- Pending Projects: New Group Starter Kit, Guidelines for addressing Disruptive behavior (revision), Approve graphics updates on bulletin board attraction sticky notes and New Prospect business cards.
- Upcoming Projects: Guidelines for OA Events, OA CARES inmate correspondence (update), Service traditions and concepts workshop manual revise.)
- International Publications/Translations Committee Report: It is harder to find people able to translate then it appears.

OA tries to find a group of members to translate and then go to professionals.
Strategic planning Committee:

Growing Unity (2017), Growing Recovery (2018), Growing Membership (2019)

Website Committee – Is working on improving the search function.

Finance Committee Report: the Automatic Reoccurring Contributions allows members to create automatic financial contributions online to OA. Finance Committee Report: The OA 7th tradition report. It is available on OA.org which breaks down and shows exactly how your 7th tradition to WSOA is used.

Professional Outreach Committee: The courier newsletter for health professionals will no longer be renewed. They will create one handout for Professionals.

Web/Tech Committee: OA now as a Facebook information page.

I have to say, it was quite fun/intense at times watching some of these strong personalities at play. For example one delegate told a trustee she did not receive a reply to her question via the website. The trustee responded: I'm so sorry; we try to respond as quickly as possible. Please send it again. The first delegate said: "well I think that's just unacceptable. Can I email you directly?" To which the trustee responded. "Yes.... I'm in this position till Saturday." ☺

Trustees elected:

Cyndy L

Karen B

JoAnne M

Ron P

Lawrie

New Business Motions (in order as presented):

Literature Proviso Motions (cannot be edited)

A – a: Revision of Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight pamphlet –Adopted

A - b: New Pocket guide, Twelve Concepts of OA Service Pocket Guide- Failed

A- c: Revision of OA 12 and 12 Steps and Traditions- Adopted

New Business Motions Related to Policies :

A: Remove wording in bylaws related to email loops, as it is no longer used - Adopted

B: Copyright release is a standard business practice that protects OA from legal claims of ownership for creative work performed by the individual - Failed

C: Move to add a tenth Tool: Mindfulness - Failed

D: To update the WSBC policy to be in line with current practice. More inclusive language and rotation of service. Withdrawn

E: Policy on 12th Step within Day changing wording to service bodies rather than boards. – Withdrawn

F: Remove the word booklets from a policy on literature – Withdrawn

G: Changing policy to state new literature will be posted online rather than mailed – Failed

H: OA agrees it is important that meeting formats include Preamble, and the 12 Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous and of mention of seventh tradition contribution. – Adopted

I: Change in language regarding the definition of a group – withdrawn
J: All new business motions will now also require a statement on how they help carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer – Adopted

K: Motion to investigate ways other than Roberts rules of regulations to run business meeting – Failed

M: Establish an ad hoc committee to consider the implementation/registration of a Spanish Language service board - Adopted

L: To create a dedicated fund that contributions can be received into to assist with translations –Adopted Editorial:(Note only 20% of the world speaks English. Consider how difficult to it was to come to your first meeting. Imagine how much more difficult it would have been if everyone in the meeting was speaking a different language and all the literature was in English)

N: Sponsorship Day to be held annually the third Saturday in August.

New Business Motions related to Bylaws:

1. Update language in bylaws to clarify that a candidate cannot run for both a regional and general service trustee at the same time. Adopted
2. Update definition of an OA group to be defined as including a format that includes the preamble, the twelve steps, and twelve traditions of OA (Following standing rules this was referred to the bylaws reference committee as there were three amendments made to amended to include "and a collection of the seventh tradition")
3. Remove "religious" as an acceptable type of organization for receipt of funds upon dissolution of OA. Failed
4. To change the time the qualifications for trustee must be met from application date to election date. (not the application date)

The following motions and emergency motions were not heard due to a lack of time. Even after we voted to extend the time we worked in business meetings.

5. If an intergroup dissolves but does not provide world OA with form the region trustee and region chair (in agreement) may deem the intergroup dissolved.
6. If a service body dissolves but does not provide world OA with form the region trustee may deem the intergroup dissolved.
7. In countries outside the US and Canada where the language is a barrier, virtual groups could form a virtual service group to work in the virtual world, and these groups could affiliate with the national service board within the proposal of unity and attend conventions from this national service board using literature in their own language and being in unity with their country and have the same opportunity to be a virtual service board where we don't have a national service board.
8. Changing the WSBC meetings from annual and biennial.

The last night is a dinner for the members of the WSBC, a speaker and fellowship with dancing! On a more personal note there were times of great challenge during the WSBC. Many motions involved significant contention and debate. There were times when the pros and cons, and discussion moved to change my vote.

As my sponsor and I live out of state it was a pleasure to see and work with her in person. IT was also quite amazing to have 4 generations of sponsorship here in service. This is a WE program. The best thing I heard after a period of significant debate was a call for no comments from the body after decisions made or speakers as "Everyone is doing their best in their own mind for the best benefit of OA as a whole." This is the greatest thing I am taking home. I will be presenting to PTI a request for a campaign to raise money for a one time donation to WSO OA and for it to be matched by PTI funds. I would not be here today, nor do I even think I would be alive unless someone in a Professional Information gave a flyer to my psychologist, I would not be here with the OA literature, as I was initially not able to relate to the Big Book, however the OA 12 and 12 told my story, I would not be here without the strong support of WSO to promote working the steps, sponsoring and meetings. Please consider the tremendous amount of service the World Service Office gives and how this saves lives when considering the amount of your donation to such a fund. I was continually awed by the calm and poise of our Chair of WSBC Karen C, who was previously a long standing member of PTI. I experienced tremendous gratitude and humility during the "Green Dot Ceremony" when Green Dots (newcomers) are honored.