WSBC "Visions for the Fellowship" was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A, from April 30, to May 5, 2012. This year, Region 9 had 12 attendees coming from England, Netherlands, Sweden, Israel, Spain, Denmark, and Poland. We were a mixture of green dots (1st timers) and mentors (those who have been at WSBC before). It was a busy week with workshops, general sessions, OA meetings, a Forum, committee meetings, Region Chairs’ and Board of Trustees’ (BOT) meetings, business sessions, and a dinner/dance on Saturday evening.

On Monday, April 30, I attended the Consensus meeting of the BOT’s (this was open to all). I thought this was very interesting. The Board discussed motions – whether to be pulled or kept on the consent agenda for the Board meeting (not to be confused with motions on the consent agenda for the WSBC business meetings). As Region 9 Chair, I went to dinner with the other 9 Region Chairs. This was informal, and the first time, for me, to meet many of the Region Chairs. Something very unusual happened this time – 6 of the 10 chairs were new (including myself). And this coming November, the 4 oldtimers finish their term and 4 "newer" chairs will join us! Afterwards, we had a meeting about the Forum (the Region Chairs present this). At the same time, the 1st workshop was taking place, which was called "Action Plan: Bringing Structure, Balance & Manageability Into Our Lives". The purpose was to share the benefits of incorporating this new tool in our program of recovery. As Region Chair, my schedule was quite different that when I came as delegate of Israel, so… I missed the workshops the 1st 2 days due to meetings with the Chairs & BOT’s. In my opinion, a small price to pay in order to have the privilege of representing Region 9 as Chair!

My roommate was a lovely woman – Chair of Region 8. Day 2 – Tuesday, May 1, we started out together with breakfast in the hotel. This year we moved to another hotel. It wasn’t in Old Town Albuquerque, like the previous hotel, but the rooms were much larger and included a refrigerator & microwave, and breakfast in the hotel was included. After our meal, we joined the other Chairs for a Region Chairs’ meeting, along with the Trustee who works with us. We got to introduce ourselves and a brief share. We spoke about Region Chairs Committee (RCC) goals – Lifeline; General Information List, Financial Budget Comparison; RCC Website; Reference Manual; and Green Dot & Mentor Program (for WSBC Delegates, and for new Region Chairs – I was so happy I had a mentor!). We also discussed the Strategic Operations Plan (SOP); Tent Cards; and Podcasts, including other issues. I was amazed at how much the RCC accomplishes!

I then attended the BOT/RCC joint meeting. First, introductions of Chairs and Trustees. Then, each Region Chair was given 2 minutes to report on their region (1/2 page reports were turned in previously). We presented our goals to the BOT’s, and how each region is working on achieving these goals. The Podcast was discussed – the purpose to discuss the joys of serving at the WSBC. We spoke about WSBC Delegate Qualifications concerning abstinence and service above group level. Also, where possible, it was discussed that the WSBC Delegate would have attended at least 1 Region Assembly prior to WSBC. This meeting ended with an Ice Breaker (no more about that will be discussed here... we will do this activity at the Region 9 Assembly!).

I chose to eat my lunch during the OA meeting. It was on service – appropriate! Then, the 2nd BOT/RCC joint meeting. This was entirely devoted to the Strategic Plan. We discussed 2013 as "The Year of Abstinence Awareness". We talked about the 4 points: Strong Meetings; Public/ Professional Awareness; Committed Service Bodies; and Financial Health, and reviewed the main goals and objectives. All of what we spoke about was brought
forth in the Strategic Plan Workshop which took place during one of the Business Meetings. Also, the August meeting between the BOT & RCC will be about reviewing and setting tasks of this plan for 2013, the final year of this five-year plan. We had another RCC meeting. This included all the items we had discussed earlier the same day, but now with the purpose of discussing each point in detail. And we did! Shortly after, I had a Region 9 Board meeting over dinner. I was fortunate enough that myself, as R9 Chair, along with Region 9 Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee, were all present at WSBC. We discussed a 7th Tradition item which will be available at the Region 9 Assembly & Convention, along with other points of interest.

During this same day, the schedule was a bit different for delegates. Some took a tour. Others attended the workshops: "Commited Service Bodies: How Can the Traditions & Concepts Help" (develop the unity necessary to attract trusted servants responsible to those they serve); "Financial Health: Money Matters" (review issues and practices which impact the financial health of groups and service bodies); and "Strong Meetings: What Will It Take" (focus on the elements of strong meetings which keep members and newcomers coming back to OA). The evening workshops were: "All About Conference" (hear experienced members discuss the workings of Conference and have their questions and concerns answered) and "Public/Professional Awareness: Are We Communicating Our Message" (to encourage public and professional outreach events by service bodies).

**Wednesday, May 2** began with the Forum – "Conceptualizing Principles". This was lead by the Region Chairs and focused on practicing these principles in all our affairs. We Region Chairs all dressed up in circus costumes (I was one of the clowns!), singing and dancing. We had puzzles, table discussion/brainstorming/presenting ideas – all in connection to the 12 Concepts of OA Service. We even got to take some things home with us from the Forum. It was truly a fun experience (can you believe we’re talking about the Concepts of Service here!).

After this, everyone broke up into their committees (Bylaws; Conference-Approved Literature; Finance; Professional Outreach; Public Information; Twelfth-Step-Within; Unity with Diversity; Youth in OA; Web/Technology; and Region Chairs. For me – RCC. We Region Chairs wrapped up and reviewed the Forum (what worked/what can we improve upon). Our Trustee Co-Chair gave her report. We spoke about other topics, and upcoming RCC meetings. We had elections of RCC Officers. All of us "newcomers" had to take on service in the Region Chairs Committee and I became the Vice Chair of the RCC (my roommate was elected as Chair of the RCC). Our meeting closed with a short share from each one of us. After lunch, all committee meetings continued.

In the evening, Region 9 Attendees met over dinner. It was a combination of fun & business. It was mentioned that our R9 May Newsletter will be devoted to WSBC 2012, so articles! A suggestion was to include delegates' articles in English and their mother tongue, so... this will be available. We announced that our R9 Tradition 7 Item will be magnets. A plug for the R9 A&C was given (October 24-28, 2012, in Poland). Delegates gave an update of their service body - talk about translations, websites, pi, and even mention of a retreat which brought in a lot of money! Good job Region 9!! Following this was the "Parliamentary Procedure" meeting – especially helpful to green dots (to facilitate an orderly Conference by reviewing parliamentary procedures with delegates), and "Literature Q&A" (to allow for questions concerning the OA literature up for Conference Seal of Approval).

**Business Meeting I began on Thursday, May 3. We heard the Serenity Prayer in Spanish. There were introductions, with 198 eligible voters (an increase from last year!). We went over the Consent Agenda, which was adopted after some changes were made. We heard reports, along with other business. Business Meeting II was held in the afternoon, beginning with the Serenity Prayer in Hebrew. There was a "fun" introduction and presentation of the 2013 World Service Convention, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio (this world convention takes place every 3 years). We were introduced to the Trustees running for R3 (Vicky), R6 (Mary Rose), and R9 (our very own Esti) Trustee. Also, 3 General Service Trustees got to speak (Michael, Tina, and Joe). We began with New Business Motions (results at end of this report). It all run so smoothly! In the evening there was a meeting - "Abstinence: The Foundation of Our Future" (to emphasize the importance of abstinence in our program of recovery).
Friday, May 4 ushered in Business Meeting III, beginning with the Serenity Prayer in Danish. Voting of Region Trustees and General Service Trustees took place – all were elected. We had a session on Strategic Planning. All the delegates broke into small groups of 4, and brainstormed. We got to hear the feedback: Strong Meetings – a lot of talk about abstinence & sponsors; Public/Professional Awareness – existing material there for our use and the importance of more tradeshows; Committed Service Bodies – use more personal contact and pass on positive experiences from WSBC; Financial Health – treasurer’s report every month and give a Tradition 7 for step 9 amends. Power Point used will be available. Then some New Business Motions were voted on.

The OA meeting during lunch had a special focus: "A Vision of Unity", which was accompanied by a cute skit. Then Business Meeting IV, with the Serenity Prayer in Swedish, and 199 eligible voters. We continued with New Business Motions. Friday night was a "Free Evening", and many of us caught the shuttle, provided by the hotel, to Old Town or ABQ Uptown. A night to enjoy a good meal, good company, good conversation.

Saturday, May 5 lead us to the final Business Meeting V, with the Serenity Prayer in Portuguese, and 194 eligible voters. We finished with the New Business Motions, and even had time for reports, not to mention a workshop on bringing back the message of WSBC. Then – the famous ceremony for the Green Dots. It was announced what was collected for Tradition 7 during the Business Meetings – over $3800! After lunch, I attended the Board of Trustees Meeting. Congratulations to the new Trustees and Region Trustees were given. New Officers were elected. Some other business was discussed. Then a final committee meeting.

The evening was the Delegates Buffet Dinner/Entertainment/Presentations to Outgoing Trustees and Introduction of New Board of Trustees/Dance. All was delightful. The week was busy, but there was always time for smiles and hugs, and even personal conversations with OA friends. How exciting and amazing WSBC is! How much to bring home and pass on! And on a personal note - what a beautiful way to strengthen my own abstinence and recovery. Thank you all for allowing me to do this service!!

Susan
Region 9 Chair

The delegates at the 2012 World Service Business Conference have approved the following:

**New And Revised Literature:**
- A rewrite of Before You Take That First Compulsive Bite, Remember...
- An updated version of To the Newcomer, which also includes updates to the Fifteen Questions
- A new item titled Voices of Recovery e-Workbook, which provides thought-provoking questions for each of the daily readings in Voices of Recovery; and
- A revision of Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps, to incorporate additional Big Book references.

**New Policy Motions/Bylaw Amendments on Consent Agenda – Adopted:**

**Proposal A** - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to include virtual service boards in the list of service bodies that will be asked to contribute to or be allowed to apply for funding assistance from the Delegate Support Fund. The amendment also clarifies that assistance is granted according to financial need.


**Proposal E** - "Statement on Group Liability Insurance..."... **Intent** - to clarify that OA, Inc. cannot provide group liability insurance coverage for OA groups or service bodies registered with the WSO.

**Proposal G** - strike and insert words... **Intent** - protect anonymity for members on the online version of the Final World Service Business Conference Report.

**Proposal H** - rescind... **Intent** - if a bylaw amendment proposal is important enough to be carried over to the next year, our rules provide for the assembly to refer it to committee.
Proposal 1 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to refer to the exact term "register" that appears in the newly updated bylaws definition of an OA group, and to clarify that nominees for regional trustee are not necessarily selected each year.

Proposal 2 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to specify how notice shall be deemed to have been given to each type of service body, including service boards.

Proposal 3 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to use the same language in Subpart A & B of OA, Inc. Bylaws.

Proposal 8 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to update the statement of purpose for the WSBC Finance Committee.

Proposal 9 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to provide the same language as used in OA, Inc. Bylaws defining an OA group (intergroups).

Proposal 10 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to provide the same language as used in OA, Inc. Bylaws defining an OA group (regions).

Proposal 11 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to provide the same language as used in OA, Inc. Bylaws defining an OA group (service boards).

Proposal 14 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to make the language of OA, Inc. Bylaws gender neutral (Board of Trustees).

Proposal 15 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to make the language of OA, Inc. Bylaws gender neutral (Meetings of Delegates).

Proposal 16 - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to make the language of OA, Inc. Bylaws gender neutral (Conference Committees).

Proposal 17 - strike words... **Intent** - to make the language of OA, Inc. Bylaws gender neutral (Bylaw Amendments).

New Policy Motions/Bylaw Amendments Voted on Separately & Adopted:

**Proposal B** - "Statement on Approved Literature", strike and insert words along with an amendment... **Intent** - to affirm that the "early" AA books are among our essential founding texts and are approved for use at OA groups, while upholding OA Traditions 6 & 10, that OA as a whole has no opinion on the ongoing or future work of AA.

**Proposal I** - rescind along with an amendment... **Intent** - to remove the WSBC directive which established a restricted fund for translations. As an international Fellowship, translations are vital and are a part of the cost of doing business. For that reason they should be supported through stable and consistent funding from general revenues, rather than depending on the fluctuating contributions to a special restricted fund.

**Proposal J** - Substitute Motion J... **Intent** - in the spirit of Tradition 2 and Concepts 12a & 12c, to encourage and allow for substantial long-term service to the Fellowship while recognizing that rotation of service is fundamental to being a trusted servant in OA.

**Proposal 4** - insert words along with an amendment... **Intent** - to ensure that intergroup bylaws are updated to reflect motions adopted at WSBC.

**Proposal 5** - insert words along with an amendment... **Intent** - to ensure that region bylaws are updated to reflect motions adopted at WSBC.

**Proposal 6** - insert words along with an amendment... **Intent** - to ensure that service board bylaws are updated to reflect motions adopted at WSBC.

**Proposal 7** - insert words along with an amendment... **Intent** - to show what happens to delegate credentials recognition if service body bylaws are in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws.

**Proposal 12** - strike and insert words... **Intent** - to create a new trustee position to support virtual groups and service boards.

**Proposal 13** - Substitute Motion 13 & insert words... **Intent** - to ensure that an intergroup cannot be deregistered without advance notification, meeting and vote.

**Proposal 18** - Substitute Motion 18 & insert words... **Intent** - to ensure that a service board cannot be deregistered without advance notification, meeting and vote.

New Policy Motions/Bylaw Amendments Voted on Separately & Referred back to the BOT:

**Proposal F** - "Statement on Core Values"... **Intent** - to provide authority to the BOT's to find that service body bylaws are in agreement or in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws depending on whether definitions in service body bylaws (What is an OA group? Who may be a WSBC delegate?) reflect the definitions as set out in OA, Inc. Bylaws or policies. (Referred back to the BOT for further development... possible revised motion for next year).