

World Service Business Conference 2013 - Region 9 Chair's Report

The 2013 World Service Business Conference (WSBC) took place from April 29 to May 4, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. This year's theme was "Searching And Fearless : A Fellowship Inventory". There were 11 of us from Region 9. Countries included were Israel, Denmark, England, Ireland, Sweden, Spain, and Poland. We got to hear the Serenity Prayer in Spanish, French, Hebrew, Danish, and Gaelic.

Like previous WSBC's, there were many OA meetings, Workshops, a Forum, Committee meetings, Business meetings, and 3 more meetings - Parliamentary Procedures; Literature Questions & Answers; and 2013: The Year of Abstinence Awareness. The week ended with a Banquet/Dinner Dance on Saturday night. As Region 9 Chair, I also attended the Region Chair's Committee meetings, and joint meetings with the Region Chairs and the Trustees. There was a Region 9 Board meeting, and Wednesday evening, over dinner, we had a casual meeting amongst the Region 9 Attendees. Region 9 sold 2 Tradition 7 Items this year - our magnet, and the new R9 Wristband. Both include many languages originating from R9.

Workshops

- 12th Step : What Message Are We Carrying? Questions included -
 1. What IS the OA message of recovery?
 2. How do we personally carry this message of recovery?
 3. What are some effective ways service bodies and the WSO can further carry OA's message of recovery?
- Shining the Light on Sponsorship. Questions included -
 1. What are we doing to ensure there are enough abstinent sponsors available to sponsor?
 2. What can service bodies do to emphasize the importance of sponsorship, as well as giving sponsors effective tools to sponsor?
 3. What ways can we introduce our sponsees to abstinent sponsorship and the various levels of service?
- Self Supporting Through Our Own Contributions? Questions included -
 1. How can we integrate virtual services into OA's financial structure to encourage contributions and service?
 2. Does your group suggest a specific donation amount and what can we do to encourage members to contribute? Why is 'service' considered an important part of the Seventh Tradition?

3. After paying group expenses, including a prudent reserve, why is it important to forward Seventh Tradition funds to region and the WSO?
- A Healthy Meeting : What Are the Characteristics? Questions included -
 1. Are we promoting or emphasizing the necessity of working OA's Twelve Steps as the way to recovery from compulsive eating?
 2. Are we promoting or emphasizing the importance of service in meetings?
 3. How do good meetings get better?
 - All About Conference
 - Strategic Planning : "Into Action" in OA
 - Forum : Searching and Fearless: A Good Look
 - Parliamentary Procedures
 - Literature Questions & Answers
 - 2013 : The Year of Abstinence Awareness ("Taking Action"). Questions included -
 1. How can we promote "The Year of Abstinence Awareness" in our service bodies?
 2. How can we promote the definition of abstinence when we hear 'choose your own abstinence'?
 3. What can members, groups, service bodies, WS and the WSO do to increase awareness of abstinence?

Forum - Searching And Fearless : A Good Look

The forum was put on by the Region Chairs, and this year it continued with the theme of the Conference. It started with a song and a skit, then table top questions for brainstorming/discussion. There had been a survey which went out over the OA Website and many of us in R9 took part in this. The survey gave us the topics for discussion and our table top questions

1. Professional Outreach : How did you first learn about OA?
2. Literature : How useful is OA conference approved literature?
3. Abstinence : Has relapse been a part of your recovery experience?
4. Members : Is your home meeting attracting and retaining members?
5. Spiritual part of the program : Is there anything more you could be doing to strengthen the recovery in your meeting?

6. WSBC : Do you think the work done at WSBC could be accomplished through a virtual conference?
7. 7th Tradition : How important to your recovery is the 7th Tradition, being self supporting in all your affairs?
8. Healthy Meetings : Which of the following do you do to ensure the health of your home meeting? I don't give advice; I take my turn reading; ...
9. Abstinence - Relapse : Has relapse been a part of your recovery experience?
10. Service : What service do you give to your home meeting:
11. Public Information : What helped you decide to stay after your first few OA meetings?
12. Virtual meeting topics/focus : How have virtual meetings helped/limited OA?
13. Literature : The WSO is our staff of special workers (14 employees) who serve the Fellowship in the following area. Please rate the importance of each area to the support of the OA Fellowship and mission. Contributions/OA Literature Orders; OA Website; ...
14. Twelve Step Within - Small Intergroups/Remote areas : Is Twelve Step Within helpful?
15. World Documents : How useful do you think the following services and publications are to carrying the message of OA? Lifeline Magazine; Strong Meeting Checklist;...
16. World Website in general : How useful do you find the OA Web site, oa.org?
17. Keeping Newcomers : How important do you think it is for members to share the following information when newcomers are present? Physical recovery; Length of abstinence; Length of time in program.
18. Sponsoring : Do you sponsor?

Business Meetings

There were 5 business meetings altogether. A total of 209 eligible voters - an increase from last year! We all know that the World Service Convention 2013 will be in Cleveland, Ohio the end of August, but it was announced that the WSC 2016 will take place in Boston, Massachusetts. We will be finishing our 5 year Strategic Plan by the end of 2013, and we will start a new Strategic Plan (2014 - 2016) on Abstinence, Working all 12 Steps, and Individual Responsibility to Carry the Message. There will be a Young Person's Packet coming out this

summer. We had time for Ask-It-Basket. Some questions included were about OA Fund Raising; Abstinent Sponsors; and those of us doing service on the board or intergroup and gaining weight. We heard reports from the Trustees and Staff; on the different Regions; Committee Reports; and Workshop Reports. Tradition 7 was collected and we brought in a total of \$4600.

Elections During the Business Meetings

We voted on some new Trustees - 3 people ran for the Region 3 Chair position, and 4 people ran for the 2 positions which were open for General Service Trustee. The Trustees are :

Region 1 Trustee	Margie G.
Region 2 Trustee	Meg H. (reelected)
Region 3 Trustee	Vicki W.
Region 4 Trustee	Teresa K.
Region 5 Trustee	Linda Jackson (elected)
Region 6 Trustee	Karin Hepburn (she had been appointed upon the resignation of Mary Rose Dallal, and elected)
Region 7 Trustee	Barbara G.
Region 8 Trustee	Linda Hartmann (elected)
Region 9 Trustee	Esti O.
Region 10 Trustee	Faith Mahony (reelected)
General Service Trustee & Chair	Joe L.
General Service Trustee & First Vice-Chair	Gerri H. (elected)
Second Vice-Chair	Teresa K.
General Service Trustee & Treasurer	Karen C.
General Service Trustee	Janis S.
General Service Trustee	Tina C.
General Service Trustee	Bob F. (elected)

New Business Motions & Proposed Amendments to Bylaws During Business Meetings

Those topics which were included and **passed** on the consent agenda -

- Changing the phrase "Service Boards" to "Service Bodies"
- Clarifying the Virtual Services Trustee position
- Other House Keeping Changes (word substitutions/changes)

Those which **passed** -

- Granting the Conference Seal of Approval to "For Today e-Workbook"
- Changing part of the wording of our Preamble to : "Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive **eating** and to carry **the** message of recovery **through the Twelve Steps of OA** to those who still suffer"

- Changing part of the wording of our Anonymity Statement to : "While OA may be publicized, we do not break our individual anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, television, and all public media of communication..."
- To put the OA Maximum Donation Policy (already established) in the WSBC Policy Manual
- Changing part of the wording of our Unity With Diversity Policy
- Changing part of the wording for Qualifications of Board of Trustees to : "Current maintenance of a healthy body weight for at least two years..."
- Clarifying the Virtual Services Trustee position

Those which **did not pass** -

- Granting the Conference Seal of Approval to "Unity with Diversity Inventory"
- Changing part of the wording of the Twelve Concepts of OA Service so as to understand the need to use the Concepts at all levels of service.
- Virtual Service Boards which span more than one region may choose to affiliate with one of the regions that it spans.
- Each intergroup, service board, and region shall update its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the WSO of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws or OA policies adopted at the WSBC that require changes to intergroup bylaws

Those which **never made it on the agenda** -

- To include Prayer and Meditation to the tools of recovery of OA
- To remove Action Plan from the tools of recovery of OA

Region Chairs and Trustees Meetings

The meetings with the region chairs included a final review for the Forum; responses to the Survey; goals for the coming year; unaffiliated groups; WSBC Delegate qualifications; green dot mentor program; region comparisons; and region chair's responsibilities for the coming year. The meetings with the trustees mainly focused on the Strategic Plan, and this will continue in August at our 2nd Region Chair's Committee meeting._

I must say - for a group this size, we had a large percentage of R9 Delegates coming to the center mike during the business meetings. We had a voice! At the Banquet Skit, we also had a presence of R9 members participating. And many R9 delegates stayed till the end of the dancing on Saturday night at the Banquet. We like to rock!!

It was another successful WSBC, with a lot to take home to our service bodies. More reports will be available, including material from the Forum, on the OA Website.

Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve Region 9.

Susan

Region 9 Chair