

## World Service Business Conference 2014 - Region 9 Chair's Report

The 2014 World Service Business Conference (WSBC) took place from April 28 to May 3, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. This year's theme was "Our Primary Purpose" (Abstain from Compulsive Eating, Twelve Steps of OA, Carry the Message). There were 12 of us from Region 9. Countries included were Denmark, England, Ireland, Sweden, Iceland, Italy, Greece, and Germany. We got to hear the Serenity Prayer in Danish, Gaelic, Italian, Icelandic, Greek, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Like previous WSBC's, there were many OA meetings, Workshops, a Forum (Who Wants to Stay Abstinent? Play the Game & Stick with the Winners!), Committee meetings, and Business meetings (R9 showed our presence by addressing the center microphone often!). There were also 3 more meetings - All About Conference; New Strategic Plan 2014 - 2016 (Our Primary Purpose, which puts increased focus on Abstinence, Working all 12 Steps, and Individual's Responsibility to Carry the Message); and Literature Questions & Answers.

Thursday evening there was a Celebration of Rozanne's Legacy - Region 9 was mentioned often in this tribute to the Founder of OA. The week ended with a Banquet/Dinner Dance on Saturday night, and R9 squeezed all 12 of us at the table for 10!! The dinner was followed by an introduction of the 2014 - 2015 Board of Trustees, Region Chairs, and past Region Chairs and Trustees. We also got to hear a speaker - a trustee who was finishing up her term on the BOT. Then - dancing, and once again, region 9 rocked!

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 several Tradition 7 Items this year - our new luggage tag with names of many of our R9 countries listed on it, and our new card case with the word serenity written in 6 different languages. Also, our 30 year birthday newsletter and pi postcards were sold.

### Workshops

- Sponsorship : Its Role in Our Primary Purpose. Questions included -
  1. As a sponsor, how do you encourage your sponsees to sponsor and to do service?
  2. What are the benefits of sponsorship to each member and the Fellowship as a whole?
  3. How do you guide your sponsee through the Steps?
- Our Primary Purpose : Abstinence First. Questions included -
  1. What can we do to elevate the importance of abstinence?
  2. How can we help the member in the rooms who is still suffering?
  3. What steps did/do you take to stay abstinent during difficult times?
- Our Primary Purpose : Working All Twelve Steps. Questions included -
  1. How do you work a long-time member who hasn't worked through all the Steps?

2. How do you avoid complacency?
  3. How are we promoting/emphasizing the importance of working all OA's Twelve Steps as the way to recover from compulsive eating?
- Our Primary Purpose : Carrying the Message. Questions included -
    1. What do you see as your personal responsibility in carrying the message?
    2. How do you carry the message one-on-one, at the group level, at the intergroup/service board level, at the region level?
    3. What is the OA message of recovery that we carry?

### **Forum**

The forum was put on by the Region Chairs. It included a skit, and a game. With a lot of fun for all, the purpose - to see what our primary purpose is, as opposed to our personal preferences.

### **Business Meetings**

There were 5 business meetings altogether. A total of 197 eligible voters were present. We heard reports from the Trustees and Staff; on the different Regions; Committee Reports; and Workshop Reports. It was reported that money was not made from the 2013 World Service Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Therefore, the next WSC will take place in 2016 in Boston, Massachusetts, then in the year 2020, and then it will take place every 5 years (not every 3 years). Records show that books in paper form are more profitable than e-readers. The Courier mailing list is low - WSO would be pleased to receive more names of professionals to add to the list. Search function in OA Website to be updated next year, money permitting. Tradition 7 was collected and we brought in a total of \$4456. by the end of the business meetings. And of course, the last business meeting for 2014 closed with the green dot ceremony (R9 had 6 green dots! - good going to you all, and thanks to all you mentors!)

### **Elections During the Business Meetings**

We voted on some new Trustees for Region 1, 4, and 7, Virtual Services Trustee, and 3 people ran for the 2 positions which were open for General Service Trustee. The Trustees are :

Region 1 Trustee Margie G. (reelected)

Region 2 Trustee Meg H.

Region 3 Trustee Vicki W.

Region 4 Trustee Cyndy L. (elected)

Region 5 Trustee Linda J.

Region 6 Trustee Karin H.

Region 7 Trustee Barbara G. (reelected)

Region 8 Trustee Linda H.

Region 9 Trustee Esti O.

Region 10 Trustee Faith M.

Virtual Services Trustee Stephanie D. (reelected)

General Service Trustee & Chair Joe L.

First Vice-Chair Meg H.

General Service Trustee & Second Vice-Chair Karen C. (reelected)

General Service Trustee & Treasurer Gerri H.

General Service Trustee Janice S. (reelected)

General Service Trustee Tina C.

General Service Trustee Bob F.

### **New Business Motions & Proposed Amendments to Bylaws During Business Meetings**

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

- **F** - Changing the procedure for Business Conference presentations/discussions (informs delegates and service bodies how topics are selected)
- **G & K & L & O & T & U** - Using the phrase "service body/bodies"
- **H** - Reducing the language that instructs service bodies on how to conduct business at their level (keeping to the policies pertaining to Business Conference delegates)
- **I** - Move the statement of Meetings of Delegates/Annual Business Conference... to its own policy (easier to locate)
- **M** - Remove the policy of "Media Awareness Month" in January
- **P** - Update policy of meeting information via the OA Web site
- **R** - Remove policy no longer needed (refers to HIPM committee)
- **S** - Remove reference to "Action Plan" as 9<sup>th</sup> tool (already adopted)
- **7 & 8 & 9** - Allowing intergroup/regions/service boards to determine need to update bylaws in conformity with OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B
- **12** - To include the election instructions in the bylaws for service boards

Those which **passed** -

- **A-A** - Granting the Conference Seal of Approval to the checklist "Unity with Diversity Checklist"
- **A-B** - Granting the Conference Seal of Approval to the manuscript, "Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition"
- **B** - Change "Youth in OA" to "OA Young Persons" Conference Committee
- **C** - Loops may list their group on oa.org as a courtesy (motion amended, referred to committee, substitute motion presented)
- **N** - Remove abstinence as a tool and replace it with a plan of eating (already adopted)
- **Q** - Change appeals process for service bodies denied delegates credentials at WSBC (motion amended, substitute motion presented)
- **1** - deleting section on service bodies' bylaws in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws (connected to service bodies' delegate registering for WSBC)
- **10** - To include the election instructions in the bylaws for intergroups

Those which **did not pass** -

- **A-C** - Granting the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet "The Promises of the OA 12&12"

- **A** - To conduct a survey of the Fellowship about changing the name of Overeaters Anonymous (motion amended, referred to committee, and substitute motion presented)
- **D** - 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collected at WSBC be specifically directed to the WSBC Delegate Support Fund
- **2** - Adding more qualifications to take on service for general service trustees
- **6** - Replace the word Him to God in the Twelve Steps (amended)

Those which were **withdrawn** -

- **J** - policy statement of relationship between OA and O Anon
- **3 & 4 & 5** - updating bylaws within a specific time frame at the intergroup, service board, and region level
- **11** - To include the election instructions in the bylaws for regions

### **Region Chairs and Trustees Meetings**

The meetings with the region chairs included a final review for the Forum; discussion on the Region Chairs Committee (RCC) motion; the Abstinence Power Point; our responsibilities in the Strategic Plan; the virtual workshops the region chairs are presenting each month in the year 2014; presentation by a past region chair/trustee on supporting other regions; RCC phone conferences; group inventory; dropbox updates; the green dot/mentor program at WSBC; updates in the RCC Manual; elections of service positions within the RCC; goals for the coming year; 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Region Chair's Committee meeting. Also, each region chair gave an update of their region (women's prison meeting; skype meetings; remote voting; funding representatives to region assembly). The region chairs and trustees discussed other issues such as how best to work together in subcommittees for the Strategic Plan, the Strong Abstinence Checklist, support for each other, and the importance of increasing the number of representatives at region assemblies and delegates at WSBC.

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

On Saturday, the last day of the conference, this meeting, which is open to all, held elections for the coming year (BOT Chair, Vice Chair,...). Some other things were discussed, such as the 2015 BOT and EC meeting dates. I always enjoy attending this meeting, and it's so nice to see green dots coming so they can understand the process.

### **In closing**

Once again, another successful WSBC, with a lot to take home to our service bodies. For more information and specifics on WSBC, reports will be available, including material from the Forum, on the OA Website.

I truly thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Region 9 Chair once again.

Susan - Region 9 Chair