

World Service Business Conference 2015 - Region 9 Chair's Report

The 2015 World Service Business Conference (WSBC) took place from April 27 to May 2, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. This year's theme was "The Miracle of Abstinence". There were 20 of us from Region 9!! Countries included were Denmark, England, Ireland, Sweden, Italy, Greece, Germany, Israel, Scotland, Austria, France, and Netherlands. We got to hear the Serenity Prayer in Spanish, French, Dutch, German, and Swedish.

Like previous WSBC's, there were many OA meetings, Workshops, a Forum (There's No Place Like OA : Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Recovery!), Committee meetings, and Business meetings. There were also 4 more meetings - All About Conference; Strategic Planning; Literature Questions & Answers; and one to address Motions Ruled Out of Order.

The week ended with a Banquet/Dinner Dance on Saturday night, and R9 filled up 2 tables this year with our 20 Region 9 Delegates. 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 very moving, personal share. Then - dancing, and once again, region 9 stayed till the end!

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. This was really a nice time to bond with each other. Region 9 had Tradition 7 Items on sale - our luggage tag with names of many of our R9 countries listed on it, and our card case with the word serenity written in 6 different languages.

Workshops

- How the Miracle of Abstinence is Supported by the Fellowship. Questions included -
 1. How does being involved in my OA community support my abstinence?
 2. Do I understand that the Fellowship, while important, is only a part of the solution?
 3. How do I welcome others to participate and become involved in OA? What examples do I set?
- How the Miracle of Abstinence is Supported by Using the Tools. Questions included -
 1. How does using the Tools support working the Steps?
 2. Which Tools will I use today to maintain my abstinence?

- We Receive the Miracle of Abstinence by Practicing the Spiritual Principles of the Program. Questions included -
 1. How does practicing these Principles strengthen the miracle of abstinence?
 2. We've all heard "We practice these principles in all our affairs" in Step Twelve and "principles before personalities" in Tradition Twelve. Give some examples of ways you live by these principles.
 3. How do the Principles of the Twelve Concepts help us apply the Steps and Traditions in our service work?
- The Miracle of Maintenance: How Continued Abstinence and Working All Twelve Steps Keeps Recovery Fresh. Questions included -
 1. Why is the continued use of all OA Twelve Steps necessary to maintain the miracle of abstinence?
 2. How do I weave OA into the fabric of my life?
 3. What are the ways I keep my recovery fresh?
- One Abstinence, Many Food Plans That Lead to the Miracle of Abstinence. Questions included -
 1. What is the difference between a plan of eating and abstinence?
 2. How can we honor Tradition One with diversity in food plans?
 3. Is a plan of eating necessary to maintain abstinence?
- The Miracle of Abstinence Within Intergroups/Service Boards. Questions included -
 1. How important is abstinence at the intergroups/service board level? Are abstinence requirements needed?
 2. How does serving on intergroups/service boards help preserve the miracle of abstinence?
 3. What are some ways that intergroups/service boards can help members who are struggling?
 4. What are ways to increase the health of the intergroup/service board?

Forum

The forum was put on by the Region Chairs. It included a play, along with the delegates acting as Dorothy's sponsors. With a lot of fun for all, the purpose of this forum was achieved - to understand the necessity of taking all Twelve Steps in order to recover.

Business Meetings

There were 5 business meetings altogether. A total of 192 eligible voters were present. We heard reports from the Trustees and Staff; on the different Regions; Committee Reports; and Workshop Reports. Some information reported - Lifeline subscriptions are still below our goal in order to be "self-supporting". Our greatest source of income is with our OA Literature - so continue to purchase our books and pamphlets. Automatic recurring contributions are a convenient method of donating your Seventh Tradition - look in the OA Website for more information. Tradition 7 was collected and we brought in a total of \$5922. by the end of the

business meetings - an increase of almost \$1500. from last years' collection of Tradition 7. And of course, the last business meeting for 2015 closed with the green dot ceremony (R9 had 9 green dots! - good going to you all, and thanks to all you mentors!)

Elections During the Business Meetings

We voted on Trustees for Region 3, 6, and 9, and 2 positions were open for General Service Trustee. The Trustees are :

- Region 1 Trustee Margie G.
- Region 2 Trustee Meg H.
- Region 3 Trustee Vicki W. (reelected)
- Region 4 Trustee Cyndy L.
- Region 5 Trustee Linda J.
- Region 6 Trustee Karin H. (reelected)
- Region 7 Trustee Barbara G.
- Region 8 Trustee Linda H.
- Region 9 Trustee Stella C. (elected)
- Region 10 Trustee Faith M.
- Virtual Services Trustee Stephanie D.
- General Service Trustee & Chair Gerri H.
- First Vice-Chair Meg H.
- General Service Trustee & Second Vice-Chair Karen C.
- General Service Trustee & Treasurer Tina C. (reelected)
- General Service Trustee Janice S.
- General Service Trustee Bonnie L. (elected)
- 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** - A, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

- **A** - removing a policy no longer needed (refers to our founder who has passed away)
- **1 & 2** - substituting more appropriate wording, refers to deregistering an intergroup or service board
- **3** - change to "70" days before WSBC for selection of Delegates & alternates
- **4** - removing wording no longer needed (refers to our founder)
- **5** - January Service Body Information Report used when registering delegates
- **6** - remove reference to an intergroup that has closed

Those which **passed** -

- **A-A & A-B & A-C** - Granting the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlets "A Program of Recovery", "A Guide for Sponsors", and "OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies"

- **B** - amended... "Service on a committee is expected and the commitment is maintained until the following WSBC"
- **G** - substitute motion... "Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors ..."
- **I** - "The WSBC Final Conference Report be made available electronically" (delegates will no longer receive a printed version)
- **J** - amended... "World Service display the name 'Overeaters Anonymous' on all displays, banners, and other signage at its events. This does not apply to badges."

Those which **did not pass** -

- **Z** - amendments to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with at least 30 % of the registered groups responding

Those which were **withdrawn** -

- **H** - changing the limit of membership on a WSBC committee

Region Chairs and Trustees Meetings

The meetings with the region chairs included a final review for the Forum; our responsibilities in the Strategic Plan; RCC phone conferences; the green dot/mentor program at WSBC; Service Body Building; OA Website functions; Remote voting; increasing 7th tradition contributions; sharing of resources/ideas; 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 2nd Region Chair's Committee meeting. Also, each region chair gave an update of their region. The region chairs and trustees discussed other issues.

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 2016 BOT and EC meeting dates. I enjoy attending this meeting, and once again, region 9 delegates (including many green dots) were present.

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.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Region 9 Chair once again.

Susan
Region 9 Chair