

2021 World Service Business Conference
“Looking to the Future: One Day at a Time”
Region 9 delegate report

This year at WSBC, history was made. For the first time ever, the worldwide Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous held its annual conference virtually. I can say that the result was very encouraging, and I have no doubt today that OA can survive anything and grow no matter what. The pandemic did not stop us from making important decisions and having eye-and-mind opening conversations that will help us be more inclusive.

A FEW FACTS:

There were 248 voting delegates and 20 countries present.
Countries present: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales), United States.

Several informal meetings happened in the days prior to the official business sessions.

MEET THE MAKER:

This is the session where you can ask questions to the makers of motions directly. I found it very interesting and useful. I could get clarification over some concerns I had, and realize I wasn't the only one. It granted me the strength that I could be a green dot* and still be able to pull a motion out of the consent agenda if I really believed it wasn't in the best interest of OA as a whole.

* “green dot” is the nickname given to a member attending the Conference for the first time.

TRUSTEE Q&A:

Every candidate had posted a presentation video on the secure delegate page (a webpage containing every document and the information we would need during the Conference) about their journey through OA and the reasons they applied to be a trustee. If we had any questions regarding these videos, we had this session to ask them directly to the candidates.

Some of the questions were:

- How can black, indigenous and people of color members be welcome to share their ES&H without being chastised with the wrong use of Tradition 10?
- What do you consider to be the most effective way the service body level can inform medical professional about OA?
- This past year has seen several minority members in the Fellowship seeking meetings where they can discuss incidents of racism as a trigger to their compulsive eating without being told that this is an outside issue. What services have you provided to the Fellowship in the areas of inclusiveness and diversity?
- How do you see WSBC in the future and how would interpretations work for non-English-speakers in that future WSBC?
- In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing OA worldwide?
- What resources do you believe need to be put into making our literature more available including digital downloads?
- How can service and positions beyond the group level be more accessible to younger members who are still working, or do not have the financial resources to put in the efforts needed for much of the work in OA?

The question of the indigenous and people of color members' experience regarding Tradition 10 came up several times during this and other sessions. I admit I was not expecting it as I had no idea this problem existed. I am truly grateful I could become more aware of what minorities go through and think about ways to increase awareness and inclusivity.

LITERATURE Q&A:

This was a written session. We were given a deadline to submit potential questions and the Q&As were posted on the secure webpage.

Once again, I was made aware of an issue I had no idea existed. One of the pieces of literature proposed was a revised version of our daily reader « *Voices of Recovery* ». Among the different changes occurring, one regarded the capitalisation of *Him*, when referring to God, which was deleted to read *him*. The debate during the official business session was very intense, and the motion passed with exactly 2/3 of pro voters.

WSBC really broadened my horizon and hopefully made me a more sensitive OA member.

CONSENT AGENDA

When motions are not likely to create much controversy, they are put in the “Consent Agenda” and voted all together without any debate. Anyone can ask for a motion to be pulled out of it if they think it needs discussion.

New Business Motion G (WSBC Policy 2010d)

Proposal Item 4 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 2)

Proposal Item 6 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 1)

Proposal Item 7 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3)

The Consent Agenda was **adopted**.

LITERATURE MOTIONS

Revised versions for 3 of the already existing pieces of literature were proposed:

- *The Tools of Recovery* pamphlet
- *A New Plan of Eating: A Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Journey* pamphlet (formerly *Dignity of choice*)
- *Voices of Recovery* daily reader

All of them met the required 2/3 of votes to pass, thus they were **adopted**.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

PROPOSAL REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	STATUS
A	To revert to a previous definition of Abstinence and Recovery in OA	Substitute motion combining A&C ADOPTED

B	Changing the definitions of Abstinence and Recovery only in years ending in zero	FAILED
C	Changing and rephrasing the definition of Recovery	Substitute motion combining A&C ADOPTED
D	Better defining dates of OA celebrations	ADOPTED as amended to include Fridays in the term “weekend”
E	Making changes in the Preamble	FAILED
F	Including more diverse voices in the OA literature	ADOPTED
G	Changing the name of the Young Person’s committee to Young People’s committee	ADOPTED On the consent agenda
H	Updating the Diversity policy	ADOPTED
I	Defining hybrid meetings	ADOPTED

AMENDMENT NUMBER	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	STATUS
1	Having the trustees voting last	WITHDRAWN
2	Limiting the total number of years a trustee can serve to 8	FAILED
3	Allowing a member to be elected as a trustee of the region they reside in, whether or not they have been living there in the last six consecutive months before trustee election	WITHDRAWN
4	Rewriting the composition of Regions	ADOPTED On the consent agenda

5	Deleting the sentences referring to the groups obligation to be recognized as registered and represented by an intergroup or service board	WITHDRAWN
6	Authorizing WSBC to be held virtually	ADOPTED On the consent agenda
7	Clarifying the fact that Regions choose their delegate and not the WSBC	ADOPTED On the consent agenda
8	Reducing the total number of trustees from 17 to 12	WITHDRAWN
9	Housekeeping motion depending on motion 8	WITHDRAWN
10	Housekeeping motion depending on motion 8	WITHDRAWN
11	Redefining the whole structure of service bodies	RULED OUT OF ORDER
12	Inserting “hybrid” in the composition of groups	ADOPTED
15	Limiting the number of delegates a LSB* can send to WSBC	ADOPTED
16	Redefining the whole structure of service bodies, including special-focus service boards	ADOPTED
17	Creating special-focus service boards	RULED OUT OF ORDER

*LSB: Language Service Board

— Motions 13 and 14 did not get the percentage of votes from IGs and NSBs required to be debated during the Conference.

— An emergency motion was considered on the last business session stating that WSBC would have to provide live translations starting in 2022 so that non-English-speaking and hearing-impaired members could take part in it. Seeing the Brazilian Fellowship work together on live translations during the Conference was a great inspiration. Although this motion didn't pass, it allowed very important discussions to take place and awareness to happen. The WSBC organizational committee will work on this issue nonetheless.

— As the substitute motion A&C has been adopted, I am including here **the revised definition of Abstinence and Recovery:**

“Abstinence is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.”

“Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is the result of living and working the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.”

— For more details on the motions, please consult the Wrap-Up report on <https://oa.org/app/uploads/2021/05/wrap-up-report-21.pdf>

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

3-year terms

Region 3: Neva S.

Region 6: Beth B.

Virtual Region (VR): Dora P.

General Service Trustee (GST) CJ M. and Judy H

- New officers for the BOT:

Chair: Judy H (USA)

Vice-Chair 1: Karen B (USA)

Vice-chair 2: CJ M. (USA)

Treasurer: Meg M. (USA)

COMMITTEES

We could express preferences for six different committees:

Young people's

Unity with diversity

Twelfth Step within

Conference-approved literature

Public information/Professional outreach

Bylaws

The bylaws had an active sub-committee during the Conference, called the Reference subcommittee, where motions were discussed and amendments considered, before being debated in business sessions. R9 was present at these meetings through dedicated members.

I chose to work on the Young people's committee throughout this year, knowing what it is like to start program before your 30th birthday and the challenges that go along with it. I hope to put my experience to good use and help attract and retain our youngest members.

DAILY RECOVERY MEETINGS:

Having a daily recovery meeting before the business sessions was a gift. I could enter the Conference room grounded and serene.

Some members offered themselves as interpreters for the non-English speakers in need. It was beautiful to see this solidarity.

ABOUT REGION 9:

Region 9 had 26 delegates (approximately 10% of the 248 WSBC delegates) from 13 countries (75% of the 20 countries represented).

The R9 SBs could send 112 delegates. As we only sent 23% of this number, Region 9 may send up to five additional delegates next year.

R9 countries, number of delegates per country, and service bodies:

Germany	1	LSB
---------	---	-----

Iceland	1	NSB
Iran	1	NSB
Latvia	1	NSB
Poland	1	NSB
South Africa	1	NSB

France	2	NSB + R9 Del
Italy	2	NSB + IG
Russia	2	NSB + IG
Spain	2	NSB + IG

Israel	3	NSB + IG
Greece	4	NSB + IG + R9 trustee
UK	5	NSB + IG + R9 chair

Thanks to our trustee Vasiliki, we had daily morning meetings to ask any questions we could have on the business of the Conference. On the morning after the last session, we enjoyed a recovery meeting all together.

We also had a WhatsApp group we could use at any time. As this was a virtual assembly, I found this group particularly helpful during the business sessions. We could chat with each other, and I never felt alone, like I might have dreaded.

I was really honored to serve you as WSBC representative. This experience taught me a lot and opened my mind. Above all, I believe the bonds between all of us serving Region 9 were strengthened. I felt part of a big supportive, joyful and loving family, and cannot wait to see you again. Thank you for this amazing opportunity.

I leave you with this saying I heard during the Conference:

“Faith is not jumping from point A to point B.
Faith is jumping from point A.”

I definitely jumped on that service position, and I am truly grateful for it.

Yours in Fellowship,
Prune