

The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) started on Monday, May 6th with OA meetings and a workshop. I registered for the conference on Tuesday morning and started meeting people from all over the world: Perth, Australia, Scotland, Israel, Greece, Spain, Canada, Italy, Mexico and Italy- Louisiana, Texas, NY, Colorado, Mass,. - oh I could just keep going on!

Tuesday afternoon involved 3 workshops: How Attractive Are We to Newcomers?; Keeping Members Engaged; Social Media - KISS(Keep it Super Simple). Tuesday evening was a workshop especially for Green Dots (ME)! A practical overview of how the business conference works.

Each attendee had a committee meeting all day on Wednesday. I have been assigned to the Bylaws Committee and the Reference Subcommittee. There are 9 committees at WSBC - By-Laws, Conference Literature, PI/PO, Region Chairs, Twelfth Step Within, Unity with Diversity, Virtual Services, Web/Technology, Young Persons'.

I worked on the Bylaws sub-committee - Service Body Bylaws - carrying the message to all service bodies (intergroups, language boards, ....). The Q&A about new literature and literature changes was held on Wednesday evening - lots of questions about how the literature was developed and the content.

The business meetings started on Thursday. There are 188 eligible voters (delegates) at WSBC. 18 different countries were represented... Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, U.S.

## Board Reports

**Chair:** World Service (WS) has set into motion four projects: improving the navigating and search function of [oa.org](http://oa.org); additional funding for International Publications/Translations Committee; additional funding for Public Awareness/Professional Tradeshow Committee; and hiring a professional to meet the legal requirements for General Data Protection Regulation(GDPR) which impacts exchange of info with Region 9(Africa, Europe, Middle East, Western Asia)

**Treasurer:** After the publication of the new 12&12 book and 12 Step Workbook, sales were very strong, as is expected after a major piece of literature is made available. OA had a positive cash flow of \$350,089 in 2018. This came from sales of literature, both hard copy and digital copies. Tradition 7 contributions exceeded budget by almost \$100,000. The first OA annual appeal letter received \$23,341.11 in response from OA members. Automatic Recurring Contributions (ARC) allow members to contribute monthly or quarterly to OA-currently 350 members participate (a receipt is automatically provided!) You can make this happen by going to **OA.org** and clicking on contribute in the Menu dropdown. In general, when new literature is produced OA income increases substantially, expect a lower income next year.

**Managing Director:** In 2018, OA has 6,209 meetings, in 80 countries with 338 service bodies. (65 fewer meetings than last year). The “Find a Meeting” page on **OA.org** was expanded to include Virtual Region meetings. Lifeline magazine subscriptions continue to decline in 2018. There was an 8% increase in “hits” on website in 2018 (377,484 hits). There was a 14% increase in OA contributions in 2018. Four projects for 2019 are: translation of *Where Do I Start?* Into foreign languages; redesign of **oa.org** to be more user-friendly; completing GDPR compliance; additional outreach resources.

Next year’s WSBC will shorten in length - arrival Tuesday and ends Saturday night, - arrive 4/21/20, depart 4/26/20(Sunday) - reduction of 1 day to reduce costs to WSBC/service bodies - intergroups.

**Lifeline** - Lifeline lost \$81,000 in revenue in 2018. There is a motion to stop publication of Lifeline on 12/31/20. OA staff looking into other digital platforms for members to tell their stories.

**World Service Conference** - August 20-22, 2020 Renaissance Hotel in Orlando, Florida. WS is expecting 1200 attendees.

## **NEW BUSINESS MOTIONS:**

**Motion A-a:** **Approved** - granting the Conference Seal of Approval to the manuscript *Body Image, Relationships, and Sexuality: Personal Journeys to Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous* (**possibly published end of 2019, early 2020**)

**Motion A-b:** **Did not Approve** - granting the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet *Dignity of Choice: Establishing a Plan of Eating* and remove Conference Seal of Approval shall be removed from *Dignity of Choice* and *A Plan of Eating* once the new pamphlet is published

**Motion A-c:** **Approved** - granting the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet *Welcome Back: Suggestions for Members in Relapse and for Those Who Care* and remove the Conference Seal of Approval will be removed from *Welcome Back* and *Members in Relapse* once the new pamphlet is published.

**Motion A:** **Disapproved** - All OA members and service bodies consider ease of translation when developing written material

**Motion B:** **Approved** - process to discontinue, remove, or change OA literature - low demand literature moved to digital form, tradition non-compliant, etc...

**Motion C:** **Approved** - language adding a definition of Recovery - "Recovery: Removal of the desire to eat compulsively achieved through working the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous."

**Changing:** Spiritual, Emotional & Physical recovery is achieved through working and living the Overeaters Anonymous 12 step program.

**Motion D:** **Approved** - language allowing hybrid meetings to register as a meeting in one category (face to face, phone, online, non-real-time). A Hybrid meeting is land-based and virtual meeting occurring at same time.

**Motion E:** **Approved** - disband Web/Technology Conference Committee reducing duplication of effort.

**Motion F:** **Approved** - application for nonprofit status from Google to gain custom search feature at no cost.

Motion H: **Approved** - established the following annual events - OA Birthday(3rd weekend of January); Unity Day (last Sat. in February in even years-last Sun. in Feb in odd years; Sponsorship Day (3rd weekend in August); and International Day of Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA) (3rd weekend in Nov.)

Motion I: **Disapproved** - making all BOT meetings and BOT committee meetings virtual meetings with the exception of WSBC.

Motion J: **Approved** - eliminate the Virtual Services Conference Committee into the Virtual Region.

Motion K: **Approved** - language for Statement on Public and Social Media, that a virtual meeting needs to accept and agree to inform all members that their anonymity is not fully protected when attending a virtual meeting and in any meeting F2F or virtual, members seek appropriate means to protect their own and fellow members anonymity.

Motion M: **Withdrawn**- language that members maintain their own individual anonymity, while respecting the anonymity of other OA members - emphasis focused on virtual meetings.

Motion O: **Disapproved** - language providing a meeting closing with an additional option - The Step Twelve Affirmation from *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, 2nd Ed.*

Motion P: **Postponed Indefinitely** - BOT consider alternative ways to make the newcomer packet information available online. (Staff is already working on this.)

Bylaw Amendment #1 - **Referred back to committee** - language service boards shall affiliate with one region.

Bylaw Amendment #2 - **Motion withdrawn** - language not allowing a land-based meeting to affiliate with a virtual intergroup and vis a versa.

Bylaw Amendment #3 - **Disapproved** - language allowing a trustee applicant who has served as a delegate to only one WSBC at the time of application.

Bylaw Amendment #4 - **Disapproved** - language permitting virtual intergroups to participate in the activities/voting of another region with the region's permission.

Bylaw Amendment #5, #6, #7 - **Approved** striking "mail" and permitting electronic transmission for communication for WSO to intergroups.

Bylaw Amendment #8 - **Approved** language making Region Chairs Committee the channel of communication between BOT and members of the region - sharing resources and solutions.

Bylaw Amendment #9 - **Approved** removal of language about a potential virtual trustee - not relevant since there is now a virtual region.

Bylaw Amendment #10 - **Approved** addition of language describing non-delegates who may address the WSBC.

Bylaw Amendment #11 - **Withdrawn** - language removing redundant language re: the number of delegates for each Service Body.

Bylaw Amendment #12 - **Approved** - language giving BOT power to disband a non-working committee who has not met *for more* than 1 year.

Bylaw Amendment #13 - **Disapproved** - language regarding the application of the 12 Concepts to all levels of service: BOT, Region, and Service Bodies.

### **Report re: Restructuring the OA Board of Trustees -**

Currently there are 17 Trustees - Region trustees and general service trustees - proposing reducing to 12 Board Members. Reasons to change: effective decision making, right-sizing, improved accountability and cost. Each (Trustee) Board member would serve the entire Fellowship. Each Region would be assigned a liaison Trustee. Region Boards would assume increased hands-on interaction with members and meetings. A minimum of 2 Board positions would be reserved for candidates outside of North America. Reduction to 12 trustees would take place over 5 years (2024). Motion to come before the 2020 WSBC with this proposal.

Region 2 Trustee - Hanna S. - 3 year term

