

World Service Business Conference 2010 | Delegate report

Attending WSBC as a delegate is the best service position in OA. It is my intent to convince you that this is an experience that you would not want to miss. It is a chance to be at the very heart of OA in the group conscience that makes decisions for OA worldwide. But even better than that, it is the chance to attend a week long OA meeting that is as strong as you could hope to imagine. When I was newer in OA I used to be quite sniffy about people equating length of time in OA to strength of recovery. I am still adamant that you can be many years in OA and not have progressed much at all (after all the steps are only a suggestion). But what I have witnessed in Albuquerque is that the people at the centre of this fellowship continue to learn and grow and due to this service I have had the opportunity to learn and grow with them. Really, what do you have to lose?

My report provides a summary of events at WSBC. This includes sections on general information, the workshops, OA finances, the strategic plan, literature and the business votes. If you have any questions about my report or would like additional details please contact me. I know that my report is much longer than most IG officer reports but I feel that everything mentioned is important or of interest. Perhaps you could read it to your groups over consecutive weeks. If you do not pass this information on how else will your members hear about it. As one workshop presenter said "WSBC is virtually invisible to the average OA member." Please help to change that.

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General Information

Worldwide seventh tradition contributions have increased 23% from last year. During conference there were three seventh traditions taken among the delegates. This year's total came to \$3,800, approximately \$20 per person attending. Approximately 30% of service bodies were represented at this year's WSBC.

Trustee elections

Every year one of the most important things that the conference does is elect trustees to the board. This year there were five candidates for two vacancies for general service trustees and one candidate for regions 2, 8 and 10 trustee. Unfortunately there were no candidates for region 1 or region 5 trustee but the board will appoint interim trustees whose appointments must be confirmed at the next WSBC. Each trustee nominee gives a five minute speech and then answers questions from the floor for ten minutes. The questions are searching and one trustee nominee withdrew his name from consideration after this session. The nominees to regions 2 and 8 were elected. Two general service trustees were elected. What is telling in this situation is that conference prefers to leave a position vacant than possible elect the wrong person.

50th birthday celebrations

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OA turns fifty this year. To celebrate many service bodies are hosting special events. However, the biggest event will be the convention in LA. It takes place from 26th to 29th August and promises to be a fantastic event. Over half of the attendees at this year's WSBC have already booked their place. Originally I was not considering going as it is such a long trek but having seen the strength of recovery that will be there I am reconsidering my position.

Ask-it-basket

Delegates have the opportunity to ask anonymous questions of the trustees. While ballots are being counted these questions are answered on the conference floor. A full transcript of these questions and answers will be in the final conference report.

Lifeline

Would you consider taking out a subscription to Lifeline? Despite radical changes Lifeline is still running at a loss; last year the expenditure was \$178,000 and income from subscriptions was \$121,000. The magazine has been restyled and given a new look. Subscribers can elect to have a hard copy or an email only issue. Why don't you take another look at it to see if it is for you?

What Next

What would you like to see debated at next year's WSBC? If you feel strongly about any OA policies you can propose a motion to our IG and see if that idea has enough support to be moved for the agenda questionnaire.

Workshops

This year due to flight delays and clashing agenda items I was only able to attend two of the workshops which was disappointing. However I did purchase audio copies of some workshops to find out what was said.

The titles for this year's workshops were:-

- Service, Traditions, Concepts
- Pass It On
- 2010: Look Where We've Been and Where We're Going
- Recovery is Contagious! 50 Years, 75 Countries and Counting
- Smiles of Service: We are Not a Glum Lot
- Youth in OA: Is Recovery Hereditary?

The **2010: Look Where We've Been** was definitely noteworthy of comment. It was the best workshop I have attended in three years of WSBC. The presenter asked service bodies to give him feedback on the state of OA in their area. He then talked about the data he received. One of the rhetorical questions he asked was "What do our members get from OA meetings?" In response to this he made the distinction between Fellowship meetings and Action meetings. In fellowship meetings people found acceptance for their disease, love and understanding. But often the meetings had few or no abstinent members and service positions went unfilled. In Action meetings the emphasis was on stepwork and abstinence. Service positions were filled and members of these meetings were likely to have a sponsor and be sponsees. In order to survive and prosper OA needs Action based meetings. I thought that this was a very thought provoking and interesting distinction.

Finances

The finances of OA have improved over the last year. Total revenue for 2009 was \$1,690,000 with expenditure at \$1,303,000. Once again literature sales accounted for the lion share of our income at 62% with contributions making up 26%. However the news from region 9 is less impressive. To see how we compare to other regions please consider the table below. Since these figures were submitted OAGB has made a large contribution to the WSO; however, even taking this into account, Region 9 per group contributions are still the lowest of any region.

Region	IG's	Groups	\$ per group
Region 1	26	402	\$49.96
Region 2	34	1144	\$71.14
Region 3	26	517	\$61.78
Region 4	20	322	\$88.92
Region 5	30	652	\$83.65
Region 6	42	1047	\$71.66
Region 7	25	602	\$121.71
Region 8	59	812	\$49.75
Region 9	55	799	\$9.49
Region 10	13	177	\$86.00

Please consider when you pass the pot in meetings that covering your rent and nothing else is not being self supporting. The OA structure that supports your meeting merits your financial and service support.

Strategic Plan

As the agenda was overloaded we were unable to discuss the strategic plan during conference time. Each year the main goals and objectives of the strategic plan are posted onto the oa.org website. The continuing goals are public and professional awareness, strong meetings, committed service bodies and financial health.

Official Conference Business

Literature

New and edited literature manuscripts are considered as procedural motions and are taken at the top of the business agenda. The conference literature committee had prepared seven manuscripts for the conference seal of approval at this years WSBC. This is a remarkable effort on their behalf. All literature must receive a 2/3 yes vote before it can be published. All approved and amended literature should be available for purchase in three to four months. Please check the oa.org website for news on when it is published and then buy it from oagb.org.uk if you so wish.

Proposal Item A-A

To Create a New Pamphlet, A Common Solution: Diversity and Recovery

This pamphlet discusses different programme, cultural and other perspectives of OA. After a good debate the motion was defeated 113 for and 64 against. As the vote was very close it is likely that the manuscript will be presented again next year after some minor editing. For every defeated literature motion all delegates are given a questionnaire to fill in with their views on the draft. The feedback is then incorporated into the document as appropriate by the literature committee. The document is then sent to the board of trustees for comment and if approved it can then be resubmitted to conference at next year's WSBC.

As some of you will remember there was a motion in this year's agenda questionnaire that proposed using the words compulsive eater and compulsive eating instead of compulsive overeater and compulsive overeating. It became clear at this time that this motion was having an unintended impact on the delegates voting for literature motions. Consequently the maker of the motion asked for it to be withdrawn and the conference agreed.

Proposal A-B

A revision of the pamphlet **Questions and Answers**

Adopted

Proposal A-C

To create a new pamphlet, **Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps**

This is a manuscript that first appeared at last year's conference. The re-edited version has more emphasis on OA literature and less emphasis on the big book. Also, the language has been made stronger and more directive. The new pamphlet was adopted by 125 for and 49 against.

Proposal A-D

A revision of the pamphlet **The Tools of Recovery**

Adopted

Proposal A-E

A revision of the pamphlet **To the Family of the Compulsive Eater**

Adopted

Proposal A-F

A complete rewriting of the pamphlet **To the Teen**
Adopted

Proposal A-G

A complete rewrite of the pamphlet **Welcome Back**
Adopted

All literature is automatically considered for revision every seven years by the conference literature committee. If there is a piece of literature that we consider to be woefully out of date, exclusive, or needing change in some other way, our IG can propose a motion asking for it to be referred to the literature committee earlier.

Consent agenda

Three non contentious items were placed on the consent agenda and adopted without debate. These were proposal E, stating that AA conference approved literature could be legitimately displayed and sold at OA meetings and other events. Bylaw amendments 2 and 3 changing the phrase service above group level to service beyond group level.

Debate and outcome of agenda questionnaire motions**Proposal H**

Move to make the final conference report available electronically. This motion was amended in reference committee to make clear that all delegates and service bodies will continue to receive the printed motion unless otherwise requested.
Adopted unanimously

Proposal C

Move to establish a Youth in OA Conference Committee.
After an engaging debate the motion was adopted by 92 for and 74 against. A Youth in OA committee used to exist at WSBC but was dissolved. It will be interesting to see what this committee is able to achieve in the year ahead.

Proposal A

Motion to change the format of workshops at WSBC.
Withdrawn. This proposal to change the format of IG workshops was proposed by our intergroup. However it became clear that it was not necessary to enact it and so it was withdrawn. It turns out that the existing policy has been applied erroneously and that current policy DOES ALREADY allow workshops at WSBC to be in different formats. In making the motion this policy was looked at again and the mistaken interpretation of it was picked up.

Proposal D

Motion to allow delegates and service bodies to opt out of mailings concerning WSBC.
Adopted unanimously

Proposal G

Proposal to use the words compulsive eater and compulsive eating instead of compulsive overeater and compulsive overeating in OA literature. As mentioned earlier this motion was withdrawn. It was the motion that elicited the most debate and reaction at this years conference. If the motion had proceeded to a vote my sense was that conference was evenly split. However, those against were adamantly against and felt, quite astonishingly, that they were being sidelined in their own fellowship.

Proposal F

Motion to require new meetings to provide an email contact when registering with the WSO. This motion was amended to only require new meetings registering electronically to provide an email address, hence relieving concerns about potential new meetings unable to provide an email address. It was passed unanimously.

Proposal B

This proposal rewrote the policy on locally produced literature to make it clearer, but did not change to policy in any way. It passed unanimously. For those interested the guidelines for locally produced literature are available at www.oa.org/docs.php under the subheading OA guidelines. It was also suggested that OA HOW may like to submit its literature to conference so that it could be of benefit to the entire fellowship.

Proposal I

Move to add a ninth tool of recovery "A Plan of Moving." This motion was amended before reaching the floor and became "An Action Plan". The intent of the motion seemed to change during the course of the conference, moving away from exercise to just doing anything. The vote was very close with 90 for and 82 against. It will now be up to the conference literature committee to put words to this new tool and they will be presented to WSBC in 2011.

Bylaw Amendment 1

Motion to allow delegates and service bodies to opt out of mailings concerning WSBC. This was considered with motion D and adopted unanimously.