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Background

The OA World Service Business Conference (WSBC) took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico from April 25-30 2011. The theme of WSBC was “A Tribute to Service”

I was elected by the OASEIG to represent the Intergroup at the Conference. It was my first time attending WSBC.

There were 187 people registered as able to vote on OA business at the Conference – in order to be eligible to vote you had to be elected by your Intergroup or Service Board. There was an abstinence requirement.

As Sam, the NSB Chair mentioned in her report, we were well represented at WSBC, with 4 representatives from Great Britain. There were delegates from all over the world. One of the most impressive and exciting aspects of WSBC for me was the opportunity to see how the Fellowship is truly international – there’s a big world out there and OA is strongly represented in it.

Monday 25th-Tuesday 24th were “settling in” and Workshop days where delegates could prepare for the business of the Conference. I found these days particularly helpful as a first-time delegate (a “green dot”) as I was able to get help and support to make sense of the way the Conference runs.

Workshops

There were a number of “Topic Workshops” offered. These gave delegates the opportunity to hear 20-minute shares from experienced members, and to have the chance to share back.

The themes of the workshops were:

- Abstinence: What a Great Service
- Sponsoring: Sharing the Gifts
- Concepts: A Guide for All Who Serve
- Longtimers’ Forum: Why We Keep Coming Back *
- All About Conference
- Virtual Recovery in OA *

Forum: Celebrating Recovery

The Forum was one of the most exciting aspects of the Conference for me. It was an opportunity to meet delegates from all over the world to discuss recovery in depth.

Delegates were allocated tables, and each table was given a question. Each table would then discuss the topic of the question, and feed back bullet points to the room.

Topics considered included:

- *Carrying the message through physical recovery*
- *Perception of OA's credibility through physical recovery*
- *Carrying the message through emotional recovery*
- *Carrying the message through spiritual recovery*
- *Practice of emotional recovery*
- *Practice of spiritual recovery*
- *Grateful service as a result of three legs of recovery*
- *Carrying the message through spiritual recovery to newcomers without scaring them off*
- *Abstain as though your life depends on it*

Space in this report does not allow full listing of points made, but attached to this document is a full report from OA fully detailing everything that was fed back at the Forum.

The document is an amazing resource full of ideas about how to carry the message to everyone in the fellowship.

Committee Meetings

Every delegate at the Conference has the opportunity to serve on a Committee for the next 12 months. I am part of the Web and Technology Committee. This committee has the following Mission Statement:

To assess technology and advise the OA Fellowship how to use the technology to carry the message in accordance with the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions of OA. The Web/Technology Committee serves as the hub for the exchange of technology information within OA.

I will be giving service over the next year as the Sub-Chair with responsibility of setting up the hub for groups to share their technical expertise with each other. For example, if a group wants to sell tickets for a workshop using online payment, the hub could be a place where groups who have done it before can share their experiences.

Business Preparation Meetings

On the evening before the Business Meetings began, there were preparatory sessions on:

- Parliamentary Procedure
This was a chance to find out about how the meeting will be run, what the rules were, and to ask any questions about procedure.
- Literature Q&A
There were a number of pieces of literature put forward for Conference approval – this session was an opportunity to ask any questions regarding the literature.

Business Meetings

There were five business meetings – Thursday and Friday 8.30am-11.30am and 1pm-5pm, and Saturday 8.30am-11.30am.

In total we had 17 hours to discuss and vote on a very full business agenda.

I enclose the Official OA Wrap-up report, but here are the highlights of each session:

Session 1:

- Introductions
- Roll Call by Country
- Adopting Rules
- Adopting Agenda
- Consent Agenda
 - o routine or non-controversial motions which are thought to need no debate can be placed on this agenda and voted on as one item, to save time for those items that do need debate.
 - o Bylaw Amendments 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21 were passed as the Consent Agenda.
- Questions on Reports

Session 2:

- New Business

<p><i>New Business Motion J as follows:</i> Move to adopt the following: Statement on Public Media While Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, including social media, the delegates of the 2011 World Service Business Conference recommend against any OA member, group or service body endorsing (sponsoring, creating, funding or using) <i>for OA purposes</i> any public media of communication where the personal anonymity of OA members cannot be maintained.</p>	<p><u>Adopted</u> (Majority vote)</p>
<p><i>New Business Motion D as follows:</i> Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2010b; add a ninth tool: “Action Plan.”</p>	<p><u>Defeated</u> by written ballot; 42 yes, 141 no, 1 abstention.</p>

Session 3

- Region Trustee Elections
 - o Region One – Margie G.
 - o Region Four – Teresa K.
 - o Region Five – Allen B.
 - o Region Seven – Barbara G.
 - o Region Ten – Faith M.
- General Service Trustee Elections
 - o Three-year term – Karen C.
 - o Three-year term – Janice S.
- New Business

<p><i>New Business Motion F as follows:</i> Move that the 2012 WSBC Business Meetings I-V be simultaneously Web cast.</p>	<p><u>Defeated</u></p>
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<p><i>New Business Motion M as follows:</i> Move to change the ninth tool: “Action Plan” to “A Plan of Action.”</p>	<u>Defeated</u>
<p><i>New Business Motion C as follows:</i> Move to include the Tools of Recovery of OA in the Conference Policy Manual. The following are the Tools of Recovery of OA: A Plan of Eating, Sponsorship, Meetings, Telephone, Writing, Literature, Anonymity, Service and Action Plan.</p>	<u>Adopted</u>

Session 4

New Business

<p><i>New Business Motion L as follows:</i> Move to amend WSBC Continuing Effects Motion 1988b (Amended 2002 and 2009) as follows: WSBC Policy 1988b (Amended 2002 and 2009) Statement on Abstinence and Recovery Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous 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 the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step program.</p>	<p><u>Adopted</u> by written ballot. 118 yes, 60 no, 3 abstentions.</p>
<p><i>New Business Motion E as follows:</i> (Substitute Amendment) Move that all AA literature except <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> (the Big Book) and <i>The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> be removed from OA-approved literature.</p>	<p><u>Failed</u> as amended by written ballot. 70 yes, 111 no, 2 abstentions.</p>
<p><i>New Business Motion K as follows:</i> Move that the Overeaters Anonymous Fellowship bestow the title of founder to Rozanne S.</p>	<p><u>Adopted</u> by written ballot. 121 yes, 56 no, 4 abstentions.</p>
<p><i>New Business Motion A as follows:</i> Move to rescind WSBC Continuing Effects Motion 2005b. It was adopted that: WSBC 2005 directs the Board of Trustees (BOT) to implement a matching grant program whereby service bodies may apply for and receive funds from OA, Inc. for projects enhancing unity and the ability to carry the message both within and outside OA. Total yearly funding for grants shall not exceed 1 percent of total donations to the World Service Office (WSO) for the prior year.</p>	<u>Adopted</u>
<p><i>New Business Motion B as follows:</i> Move to amend WSBC Continuing Effects Motion 1990 as follows: WSBC Policy 1990 The following policy statement was adopted: The World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous suggests that intergroups, regions, individual groups or any other sponsoring service bodies refrain from publishing the names or non-OA titles of speakers/leaders at OA</p>	<u>Adopted</u>

functions in any informational materials (flyers, newsletters, etc.). OA service titles (but not names) may be used when a speaker/leader is performing the service responsibility of his or her OA office.	
<i>New Business Motion A-a as follows:</i> Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet, <i>Recovery Checklist</i> .	<u>Adopted</u>
<i>Substitute New Business Motion A-b</i> Move to refer Motion A-b to the Board of Trustees in order to stop publication and sales of <i>If God Spoke to OA</i> , and post the text on the OA Web site.	<u>Defeated</u>
<i>New Business Motion A-b</i> Move to remove the Conference Seal of Approval from the pamphlet <i>If God Spoke to OA</i> and discontinue its production and sales.	<u>Defeated</u>

Session 5

- New Business

<i>New Business Motion A-c as follows:</i> Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet, <i>A Common Solution: Diversity and Recovery</i> .	<u>Adopted</u>
<i>New Business Motion A-d as follows:</i> Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet, <i>The Tools of Recovery</i> .	<u>Adopted</u>

- Bylaw Amendments

The full details of the bylaw amendments can be found in the OA document "Wrap Up Report 11"	
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Key Points to be Fed Back to Groups

1. OA Statement on Abstinence and Recovery

This is the new wording:

Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous 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 the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step program.

2. Ninth Tool of Recovery: Action Plan

This Ninth Tool was overwhelmingly supported at WSBC. There is now a passage in the revised "Tools of Recovery" pamphlet, which defines the tool and suggests ways in which it can be used.

A suggestion was made that groups print out the text and place it as an insert in any remaining copies of the pamphlet they may have on sale.

The text will be enclosed at the end of this report.

3. Rozanne S. is now recognized as the Founder of OA

4. Conference Seal of Approval is retained for all currently approved AA Literature

5. Statement on Public Media

While Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, including social media, the delegates of the 2011 World Service Business Conference recommend against any OA member, group or service body endorsing (sponsoring, creating, funding or using) for OA purposes any public media of communication where the personal anonymity of OA members cannot be maintained.

Action Plan

An action plan is the process of identifying and implementing attainable actions, both daily and long-term, that are necessary to support our individual abstinence and emotional, spiritual and physical recovery. While the plan is ours, tailored to our own recovery process, most of us find it important to work with a sponsor, fellow OA member and/or appropriate professional to help us create it. This tool, like our plan of eating, may vary widely among members and may need to be adjusted as we progress in our recovery.

For example, a newcomer's action plan might focus on planning, shopping for and preparing food. Some members may need a regular fitness routine to improve strength and health, while others may need to set exercise limits in order to attain more balance. Some of us may need an action plan that includes time for meditation and relaxation or provides strategies for balancing work, personal interactions with family and friends, and our program. Others may need help to organize their homes; deal with their finances; and address medical, dental or mental health issues.

Along with working the Steps on a daily basis, an action plan may incorporate use of the other OA tools to bring structure, balance and manageability into our lives. As we use this tool, we find that we develop a feeling of serenity and continue to grow emotionally and spiritually while we make measurable progress one day at a time.