

WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2010 DELEGATE REPORT

Once again I was privileged to be a delegate from Greater Seattle Intergroup attending the OA World Service Business Conference (WSBC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico from April 26-May 1, 2010. The theme this year was Half a Century = One World of Growth.

I arrived in Albuquerque on April 27th in time to attend the evening session on Youth In OA: Is Recovery Hereditary? There are very few meetings for young people. This was a question and answer session to find out what groups worldwide are doing to increase the number of meetings for younger people with eating disorders. Few youth meetings are held worldwide. All agreed on the need for youth meetings. Later in the week the delegates voted to establish a World Service Committee for Youth in OA. This committee will research and give suggestions to further meetings for young people under the age of 18. A trustee will lead the committee.

Wednesday morning started with a wonderful 7:00 am OA meeting. It was such a joy to be in a room with OA members having 25 and 30 years of recovery. Their message was so strong and powerful: "Keep coming back". Following the OA meeting was the Forum: How Does Service Serve Us? There were 19 items that will all be listed on the oa.org website. Some of them were: How do traditions help? How can I engage fellow members to do service? Service can be great fun so how do we let people know? How does my service to OA reflect my gratitude for the life I've been given? Those are just a few of the 19. The rest of the morning and afternoon was spent in committee meetings. I am on the Conference Literature Committee. Every seven years literature is looked at for revision or complete rewrite. My sub-group will be working on the pamphlet "If God Spoke to OA". All regions met for dinner on Wednesday evening. It was great fun seeing people I had not seen since the Region 1 Assembly last October.

Thursday morning started with another incredible OA meeting. We then went to our first business meeting of the conference. I was just as emotional this year as I was last year when the Serenity Prayer was said in another language and then all the delegates said it in English. As each region is called the delegates from that region stand. It was so humbling to stand when our region was called. Two business meetings were held on Thursday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The first order of business was to amend the Standing Rules. Amendments were put up for vote although they have been in practice for years. Board reports were presented. It is too early to see if the price change for Lifeline is effective. The Lifeline committee will be looking at a price break for purchasing both printed and online access by one person. The Treasurer reported an increase of 12% in the 7th Tradition for last year. Iceland and Japan both have the 12 x 12 translated into their languages. It was a 10-year project. PSAs (Public Service Announcements) are available. They can be copied but it is best to send to radio and TV in the original jackets so no written permission needs to be granted from OA. We watched the newest PSA and it was great. I would love for our intergroup to be able to purchase the latest one. The 12th Step In Committee has a speakers list available. They would like more people to sign up as speakers. Those running for trustee positions spoke. The delegates were given the opportunity to question them on their service, strengths and reasons for wanting to be a trustee. Elections were held the next day. The revised pamphlet "A Common Solution" was not approved. The Business Meeting ended at 5:00 pm with "I Put My Hand in Yours".

Friday morning again started with an OA meeting. The business meeting began at 8:30 am with the second session ending at 5:00 pm. 15 Trustees and 165 voting delegates were present. Webcasting was discussed to allow more members to participate in World Services Business Conferences. This could be a 12-14K expense or for one camera as low as 6k. Concerns about anonymity were raised. This is something that will be looked at for future conferences. It would allow OA members world wide to participate without the expense and travel time. A discussion on having meetings where no rent is paid was next. It was agreed that if no rent is paid the group MUST make a donation to continue being self-supporting.

Elections were held for the open trustee positions. Vicki Wilcox and Barbara Bertelsen were elected as General Service Trustees. Geri Helm was elected as Region 8 Trustee. Meg Harlor was elected as Region 2 Trustee.

Questions and Answers revised pamphlet was adopted. Sponsoring Through The 12 Steps was adopted and replaces A Guide To Sponsorship. New Tools of Recovery Pamphlet was adopted. To the Family was adopted. The rewrite on To The Teen was adopted. Welcome Back rewrite was adopted. Six of the seven revised or rewrites on pamphlets submitted by the Conference Literature Committee were adopted. The new literature will be available in the next three to four months. The Business Meeting ended with "I Put My Hand In Yours."

Saturday morning was the last Business Meeting of the conference. It started at 8:30 am following an OA meeting with 15 Trustees and 160 voting delegates. The Parliamentarian spoke urging anyone interested to go to www.parliamentarians.org to take the test to be a parliamentarian.

A motion as adopted to have at least one email contact submitted for each group that is registered with World Service. It was also adopted to use the guidelines for approved literature. The sale of literature at meeting should be conference approved OA or AA literature only. There is a guideline sheet available for literature.

After much heated debate a 9th tool was adopted. It was originally called "A Plan of Moving". It will now be "An Action Plan." The Conference Literature Committee will be given the task of drafting a pamphlet to go to the Board of Trustees for approval. The action plan will include plans for getting into action working the steps as well as touching on body moving. This was a very controversial issue and debated with passion.

The 2010 World Service Business Conference ended at 11:30 am. Committees met in the afternoon and the dinner/dance was from 6:00 pm to midnight.

It is very hard to describe the experience of being a delegate to a WSBC. I loved every minute of it. I have made life long friends and will always cherish what I have been given.

In OA love and service,

Barb M
GSI Delegate