

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS  
CONFERENCE, MAY 2012  
DELEGATE REPORT – Pasha M.

The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) is defined as “the annual business meeting which ensures the OA process is maintained through the group conscience represented” (2012 Conf. Manual)

I was one of the members elected to serve as a delegate from the Greater Seattle Intergroup (GSI). The WSBC is held in Albuquerque, New Mexico and lasts for about 6 days.

One of the first things I needed was to understand the BASIC structure of OA. I was pretty confused. For those that might be like me, here are the basics:

Individual member

Meeting/group

Intergroup (cluster of meetings/groups)

Region (geographical area of many intergroups)

World Service Office (serves OA world wide)

This is a VERY GENERAL outline and does not represent the hundreds of threads that connect all these elements together, but, for my purposes, I had to keep it simple inside my head. There are 10 Regions in the OA world, and Washington State is in Region One, which also includes Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, British

Columbia, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and the Yukon!

The worldwide fellowship of OA was represented by almost 200 delegates. In addition to members from across the USA, we also included delegates from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela and for the first time, The Netherlands!

This was my first time as a delegate (we were called "Green Dots") and it was pretty overwhelming at times. The length and intensity of the business sessions, the dedication and countless hours spent by so many members, and the true love and concern for the good of the fellowship really struck me with a sense of awe. We truly are "not alone anymore"!

At the time of registration each delegate was assigned a committee on which to serve. Mine was "12<sup>th</sup> Step Within". The committee work is in addition to attending the regular business sessions and will continue throughout the upcoming year, with committee reports due at the NEXT conference.

WSBC is most definitely a BUSINESS conference. Months of work are done to prepare for this conference and to determine the issues that will be voted on by those delegates whom, from all over the world, represent the "group conscience" of OA. Here are some of the highlights from the business sessions:

-voted to grant Conference Seal of Approval to:  
"Before you Take That First Compulsive Bite"(rewritten)  
"Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps" (revised)  
"To the Newcomer" (revised)  
"Voices of Recovery e-Workbook"

-voted to uphold our Traditions by using, selling and displaying only OA Conference and board-approved literature. AA Conference approved books and booklets that are considered foundational and can be used are:

A.A. Comes of Age  
Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book)  
As Bill Sees It  
Daily Reflections  
Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers  
Experience, Strength and Hope  
Pass it On  
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions  
A.A. In Prison: Inmate to Inmate  
Came to Believe  
Living Sober

-voted to limit delegate service time to no more than 6 continuous years before requiring a minimum of one-year rotation out of service.

-voted to create a new position of Virtual Service Trustee. This position would deal with the growing world of online and telephone meetings.

There were also a number of by-law revisions and other motions that we discussed in a spirit of respect, openness and unity, following strict parliamentary procedure. All the decisions made by the 2012 WSBC will be posted on the oa.org website by June 2012.

One thing that I thought was particularly exciting was the Strategic Plan developed by the OA Board of Trustees that reflects the group conscience of OA as a whole. These are stated GOALS that each individual member, group, intergroup and region can creatively work on to help carry the message to the still suffering compulsive overeater:

1. STRONG MEETINGS – filled with abstinent members; all service positions filled; active rotation of service; Meeting is growing; newcomers stay and become abstinent; sufficient sponsors; operates in the spirit of all 12 Traditions.
2. PUBLIC/PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS – All members, groups and service bodies working at carrying the message so that the possibility of recovery is offered to the still-suffering compulsive overeater.
3. COMMITTED SERVICE BODIES – All service positions filled; active rotation of service; operates within the spirit of the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts; involved

in carrying the message locally, regionally, internationally.

4. FINANCIAL HEALTH - Sufficient contributions to enable OA to grow; sufficient contributions to do outreach to the public and professionals; all levels of service structure are fully self-supported; and sufficient contributions to decrease the reliance on literature sales for income.

One of the sessions was a skit about the "12 Concepts of Service". This was to emphasize the importance of familiarizing ourselves, and our meetings, with the Concepts and their importance when we are in any type of service to the individual member, group, intergroup or region. It was encouraged that the Concepts be studied at meetings as part of a regular format.

I am available to talk about my experience and the happenings at WSBC to any and all meetings in the hope that it might inform and encourage other members to consider this type of service. Please feel free to contact me at [primalpoint@comcast.net](mailto:primalpoint@comcast.net).

Again, all WSBC decisions will be posted on the absolutely AWESOME oa.org website. This site is a fantastic resource for individuals and groups on almost every OA related topic. Check it out and pass the word about oa.org!

Our seventh tradition contributions make sending delegates to WSBC possible. To be a delegate requires one year of abstinence and two years of service beyond the group (meeting) level. The opportunity to be a delegate is available to any member of the fellowship that meets the criteria. I am grateful to have had this chance to be of service for the good of OA.

Respectfully submitted,

Pasha Mohajerjasbi  
2012 Delegate