

2016 WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE

DEBI L., GREATER SEATTLE INTERGROUP, REGION 1

THEME: RESPONSIBILITY TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

OA Responsibility pledge: Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion; for this I am responsible.

I am so grateful to have been given the chance to go to the World Service Business Conference as a delegate this year for the first time. It was quite an experience, at varying times exciting, exhilarating and educational. It was incredible to be around 199 people in recovery, from 19 countries. I was surrounded by active, vital recovery and I can't begin to explain what it was like. It was such an incredible learning experience to see the Traditions of OA in action at such a level. We did a lot of business in a very short time with grace and levity and a liberal sprinkling of the serenity prayer.

TUESDAY, MAY 3RD

I met my Green Dot Mentor (first-timers are called green dots) at the airport, and it was very nice to have a mentor to walk through the conference with me! We went to the 'All About Conference' workshop that evening. I highly recommend it to any green dot, as it was very informative and good to know what to expect in advance.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4TH

Forum - 'A Carry-on Message'. This was a fun forum with scenarios and skits for carrying the message. We all got the steps/traditions/concepts for reference and a Carrying the Message pocket card (http://bookstore.oa.org/pc_product_detail.asp?key=E37EDDDDE29E4733A83A719776563D74). A lot of people referenced the New Prospect Card (http://bookstore.oa.org/pc_product_detail.asp?key=0B62ED3971ED4216B1DE486D99729F58) which looks like a great idea, something you can have in your pocket to hand out with your number written on the back. 'Keep calm and carry on (the message)!'

Committee Meetings – Public Information. We broke into our different committees, and I was assigned to the Public Information Committee, and was elected chair of the 'Attraction Through Mass Media' subcommittee. The PI committee has the following goals this year: 1. To develop guidelines on the responsible use of social media so that members can maintain their own personal anonymity while respecting the anonymity of other OA members. 2. To collaborate responsibly between PI, Web/Tech and Virtual Services for public information. 3. Create a PI resource bank for OA PI committees at region and intergroup (what's available, how-to, resources required, funding). 4. PI Networking, idea sharing and collaboration using the email group that was established last year. (To join the PI group, just go to www.groups.google.com and search for OA PI, then sign in to view the group).

Region 1 Fellowship Meeting – This was a wonderful break and an opportunity to meet everyone from Region 1. Also, we did an 11th Step workshop/meeting, which was quite helpful.

THURSDAY, MAY 5TH

This was the first day of business meetings!

Credentials report: Trustees 17, Delegates 182, making 199 eligible voters. Representing 19 countries!

Consent Agenda (Housekeeping Motions) **ADOPTED**

Board Report Highlights – I was interested to find out that OA is not self-supporting through our own contributions. We rely on literature sales. Contributions are only 30% of OA's income. Literature is 50%. Not to worry, OA is financially sound, with a good prudent reserve. Finance committee suggests we encourage people to use the automatic recurring donation. Only \$7.50 extra per person, quarterly, would help us to be self-supporting. OA has arrangements with Kindle and Nook for literature; we get a portion of the sale (about 75%). Electronic media is the wave of the future. Reminder to everyone that if you buy a print books through 2nd hand market, OA doesn't get the revenue.

Region Report Highlights - 1 - Region 1 is the only region that has virtual sponsorship! There were a lot of people interested in how that works. 3 –Region 3 is completely paperless. They digitized their archives and are happy to talk about how to do this. 4 –Region 4 has a goal to get all of their groups affiliated, and are working hard to do so. 6 – Region 6 has been having intergroup renewal workshops, to which they have dedicated a large part of their budget. They also did a PI blitz program, which I would like to find out more about. 7 – Region 7 attended the gay pride parade. They attended a youth summit arranged by high school students. 8 – Region 8 is attempting remote voting, are still in the process of working it through. 9 – Region 9 had speakers via Skype as part of 12 step within. (Great idea!) 10 – Region 10 did a 2 hour skype workshop that was well-attended. In Beijing, there was a lady who did a blog to connect with Chinese people. She has 6,000 people on the blog right now. 400 responses in the first hour of people wanting meetings. There's a desperate need in China.

Committee report highlights –Internal Information – They redid the back cover of Lifeline to try to increase readership/subscriptions. The back cover now has the 15 questions (Is Food a Problem for You?) You can put Lifeline in a magazine rack with the back cover showing to help attract new individuals. Reminder: leave new copies of Lifeline in waiting rooms, not old issues. **Professional Tradeshow** – reiterated that people manning booths need to demonstrate visible recovery – as regardless of recovery level, people will make judgements quickly. **Public Awareness** –OA does advertise. Advertising is getting the name out. It is different from promotion. Advertising says we're here, we exist. People can't find us if they don't know about us. OA is not a secret society. **Strategic Planning** – Focus for next few years: 2017 - Unity, 2018 - Recovery, 2019 - Growing membership. **Website Redesign** – designed to help people immediately connect. People are staying on the site longer since the new site went up! **Finance** – OA is not free. Finance tries to come up with ways to increase 7th tradition. At only 30% we aren't self-supporting. 50% and increasing coming from books. If every member did \$7.50 extra per quarter, we could be self-sufficient. **Professional Outreach** – can do an interview with your doctor/therapist/nutritionist/physical therapist/trainer for the Courier; you can find the script through oa.org. **Web/Technology** – if a committee wants to see a change to oa.org, the Trustee co-chair of committee brings it before the board of trustees.

FRIDAY, MAY 6TH

Trustee Elections

Region 2: Hannah Schwamborn, Region 5: Linda Jackson, Region 8: Linda Hartmann, Region 10: Letitia McLaughlan, General service: Gloria Lockridge and Steven Mayer

Proposed Literature – 2 new pieces of literature were approved

Twelve Traditions Pocket Guide – you can keep this with you, and if, in a meeting or at any time you feel uncomfortable (get that icky feeling), it's a quick and easy reference.

Twelve Step Workshop and Study Guide – Can be used to walk a sponsee through the steps, can use at meetings, etc. There was a motion to have it be tested and then updated and voted on at next conference. However, that was voted down, as a lot of people want the literature available as soon as possible!

New Business Motions

Move Unity day to first Saturday in June. February hard due to weather in many parts of the world.

DEFEATED

Motion to allow using social media, as long as we maintain the personal anonymity of OA members and that people are responsible for maintaining their own personal anonymity. (Amendment to add 'respecting the anonymity of other OA members' **ADOPTED**). **MOTION ADOPTED!** I was surprised that there weren't any con arguments and there was only one Nay vote.

Motion to establish an OA Virtual Services Conference Committee to Focus on virtual groups and assist in forming new virtual service boards. Help build infrastructure and support for VSB's and virtual groups. (Vst4oa@hotmail.com is the email address for Virtual Services trustee, who does a newsletter if you want to subscribe.) **ADOPTED**.

Motion to rescind policy 1999, since virtual groups are in the bylaws now, and aren't needed as a policy. (housekeeping) **ADOPTED**

Motion to have the Region Chairs Committee meet only in North America. Went to a written vote.

DEFEATED

Amendment for process of changing regions: should provinces/countries/territories within a region or intergroup wish to transfer to a region that is geographically more convenient, the body notifies their current region, the region they would like to join, and the Board of Trustees. The BOT then submits a motion to WSBC to amend. **ADOPTED**

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

Motion to include Virtual Groups in the overall definition of a group in the bylaws, with no special restrictions or requirements for a virtual group. **ADOPTED**

Committee Reports – Goals for this year (Highlights)

Conference literature – Small meetings literature being developed, workshop in body image and sexuality being done, revision to the teen pamphlet. Maintaining a healthy body weight brochure in the works.

Finance – Tent cards for the goal of increasing 7th tradition for meetings. Increasing automatic donation function and a FAQ for the website. Documents to raise awareness of need for donations, alternate donation methods.

Professional Outreach – WSO email bulletin email blasts, produce 4 or 6 new articles for the annual courier. Increase info on site.

Public Information – Digital media, social media, and aligning with web tech for the new ability to use social. How-to Resource Bank, PI Networking group (online forum). Develop guidelines for responsible use of social media.

Region Chairs – Beverly (Region 1) new chair!! Strengthen the community. What's out there for help? Workshop for people to take on the road for this. Strategic planning.

12th Step within – relapse intervention video available on website. Encourage fun/fellowship/retention ideas on website.

Unity with Diversity –Workshop on tradition 3. Letter to chairs to remind them to promote the UWD checklist.

Young Persons – consistent article in lifeline, help review literature, young person speaker list, panel at the convention, work with other committees, workshop for empowering young people, retention, etc.

Virtual – reminder that it is possible to recover without face-to-face meetings, you can get and stay abstinent that way. Face-to-face may not provide what you need (if you have small groups with low recovery in your area).

Then we had the **Green Dot Ceremony**, where we newbies got to take off our green dots. Then it was the end of the business conference, which included lots of love and tears, which just reminded me how much I love OA.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Again, thank you to the Greater Seattle Intergroup for allowing me to attend the WSBC. What an incredible experience. I am grateful and humbled, and I came away with a new respect and appreciation for OA, for recovery and for my fellows. I suggest that we encourage as many people as possible to start getting service experience above the meeting level, so that they can attend WSBC.