

May 28, 2008

It's hard to begin to put into word what the week of May 5th was like. If I had to sum it up in 1 or 2 words they would be service and diversity. I am encouraging every one present to ask for this manual. Share it at meetings; see the concerns and commitment of members in other countries.

This report will mention some of the key Proposal Items and Amendments of this Session. It is important to keep in mind these changes were the result of the 2007 Session. The week in Albuquerque is the result of a years work, primarily by volunteers, trusted servants. In my humble opinion, I'd have to say the highlight of all the Conference was a presentation/discussion "Can we all read the map? A Forum on Language in OA". I will report on that at a later date. Some other reports from me through they year will include:

- Discussion on why we have WSO that only speaks English.
- Why we have an agenda questionnaire that is only in English, all 80 pages.
- There was an Ask It Basket AT Conference and I will report on some questions asked . One in particular was why our name was spelled out on these BRIGHT yellow bags!
- Members sharing weight loss surgery as a OA Tool was asked.
- Clarity on 7th Traditions breaks.
- Members unable to contribute to Lifeline because of a lack of translators.
- OA will now sell the large recovery coin we have now already engraved. Look for these later this year.

The first Proposal to pass was granting the Conference Seal of approval on the revised pamphlet Treatment and Beyond. The majority of the revision spoke to the question of long time members still over weight. Overall the new wording is clear, we are not a diet and calorie club, it ends explaining recovery is physical, emotion and spiritual. There are only 12 lines but the changes were monumental. As a member of the Conference Literature Committee, I was glad to see this adopted.

The next Proposal item was a motion to delete WSBC Policies 1996b and 1988. These read the BOT could discontinue reprinting low demand pamphlets and those no longer cost effective. After several motions and discussion the motion was adopted to read the Executive Committee and not the BOT have this authority. The discussion went from 6 members deciding this change to 16 members. All discontinued literature will be available on the website in a downloadable format. No books are in the list.

Another proposal to pass was the creation of an Overeaters Anonymous media policy. This allows OA and associated service bodies to send press releases to or make use of special events/promotions. This includes newspapers , TV, radio billboard to name a few. Contact names on communication can include any special worker associated with public awareness. The first name of Overeaters Anonymous may be included as well.

- Item B. This will allow the creation of a Public Relations Policy-passed
- Item C. Public Service Announcement Policy -passed
- Item D. Paid Ad Policy -passed

Proposal Item H was a failed Motion

This motion asked that at the end of the 2008 WSBC the BOT appoint an ad-hoc committee to review the last 10 years of selections and appointments of trusted servants. The goal, to see if a trend is evident that clearly demonstrated a lack of people of color chosen to fill leadership positions.

This was a very passionate motion, and not just from members in the U.S. Very little support. Those on the con microphone as well as questions asked from the center microphone all lead back to the same conclusion. It was not a healthy choice of money, time or service. In the U.S. it is clear the membership is predominantly European, Caucasian. We were not "acting as if" these aren't facts. The adopting of this motion it was felt, would lead to the proverbial can of worms. This year "people of color", then what next- year sexual preference, then what? Height, hair color? The goal here is to increase membership for Service. Membership from every Nationality and Sexual preference.

Proposal Item J amending WSBC Policy 1994B was adopted with a 1 line omission. This motion spoke to special focus meetings (gay, women's, maintainers, etc) . Omitted was the line and people of various cultural backgrounds. The original wording asked that a member not attend a special focus meeting when a general meeting is nearby. Nearby for one is not near by for another. We are encouraged to respect the group conscience. Is is very easy to think of our Region. We have members that commute sometimes biweekly to meetings because of distance. This lead agin to increase membership and starting as well as supporting existing meetings.

Virtual Meetings

Proposal Item 4. Spoke to defining Virtual groups, "Groups which replicate face-face meetings through electric media".

Proposal Item 5. Allows virtual groups to have an affiliation with an Intergroup. This gives them a voice at Intergroup meetings. One group uses a cell phone on speaker for participation. The members choose the Region and the region votes to accept them or not.

Proposal Item 6. Virtual service boards are not considered in regional structure.

Proposal Item 7. Service Boards will not have 3 separate definitions, National, Language and Virtual.

Proposal Item 8. In integrating virtual meetings fully into the OA structure service structure, while acknowledging their nongeographical nature, they will be represented by a BOT without having to create a new position. The position will rotate among out current 10 Trustees.

Proposal Item 9. Virtual Service Boards may have representation at the WSBC.

In summary, virtual meeting have the same "right" as face-to-face meeting. Last year this was a hot topic with much debate. Many members present attend and spoke pro on each virtual proposal. These groups have held marathons and weekend retreats. They will now have the same voice on all levels, from meetings to the WSBC. Telephone and online meetings are here to stay. Blogging and online forums are as well. Many of our young/youth , or shut in may find this an acceptable means of recovery. They are safety issues online as well as meeting a stranger in the mall. More precautions are in place than most know, especially if someone has not attended meeting of these types.

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I am again on the Conference Literature Committee. I am Chair on a Sub-Committee with a member from the United State and one from Italy. We are working on the pamphlet To The Teen. Everything and anything may change. A sure bet is the title. Our Italian member expressed an issue we face too with youth in OA. Anonymity if parents are in the rooms, legal issues because of age, members not having transportations just to name a few. We are soliciting stories from members who came into these rooms before the age of 25. WSO, who is a part of our Committee is assisting us in OA archives for stories.

Please email me questions about this Conference. It is hard to imagine service on this level until you see it up close. The availability of meeting we have locally as well as in these United States. To meet the Delegate that came here alone, never having left her country and speaking very little English. She over heard someone at Conference speaking Portuguese and she became her voice for the 2008 WSBC. There were many tear jerking moments but non just a the Conference closed and the Green Dots were called to the floor. I would estimate there were at least 30, maybe more. A Green Dot is a newcomer to region or WSBC. That was me last year. To see the men and women giving of their time and effort will leave you almost speechless. My flight was 6 hours, some of my delegate brothers and Sisters spent nearly 24 hours to make this possible. Something to think about.

Your in OA love and Service,

Wajeeha

WSBC Delegate
BAIG