

Delegates Report
Overeaters Anonymous
2004 World Service Business Conference

It was again our honor to serve New Hampshire Intergroup as delegates to the 43rd Annual World Service Business Conference (WSBC) in Albuquerque, NM. We were two of the 205 to 215 voting delegates (fluctuates daily) to attend this year's Conference, in comparison to the 185 to 188 delegates last year. It is a privilege to be part of a structure that seeks to find solutions to our common problems. No matter how often we heard the Serenity Prayer spoken in various languages, we were amazed at how far reaching this disease AND RECOVERY is...we are truly a GLOBAL fellowship.

A brief overview of the status of OA, significant motions/proposals and CONFERENCE OUTCOME are listed below. We hope you'll take the time to read about all the accomplishments and progress OA continues to make in "CARRYING THE MESSAGE".

STATUS

Worldwide meeting registration has stabilized between 6550 and 6600 in comparison to just a few years ago when our annual losses of meetings was more than 500 meetings each year.

Financial stability: We have ended in the black for the third year in a row. Our mortgage on the World Service Office building was paid off early. The anticipated losses from the World Service Convention were not realized due to the significant number of hotel rooms and meals that were purchased by the attendees.

Literature: *Voices of Recovery* is a huge hit, the most popular publication since *Abstinence* in 1994, helping increase revenues over 2002 by 18.5%. *The 12 Steps & 12 Traditions* is available in large print and in pocket edition. The Board Approved revision of the Suggested Meeting Format, which includes a new definition of cross talk and help for meeting leaders in addressing the cross-talk issue in meetings, is now available. Work continues on pamphlets addressing African Americans and Anorexic/bulimic challenges in OA.

Group Registration: Work continues to register meetings with a full street address, zip/postal code, and counties. This will enable a web-site search for meetings by zip/postal code or county for OA meetings.

World Service Convention for 2007 will be held in Philadelphia, PA

Public Information efforts: OA worked with a television production company to develop a feature in the American Medical Review series. The board determined that this series of short educational news pieces, which provide information for the general public and medical professionals, would be an effective tool for carrying the message of OA.

OA Website: a page was added called “Downloadable Files” providing a central location for all of the PDF files found throughout the Web site.

WORKSHOPS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Lisa arrived on Monday and was able to attend the Pathway to Unity: Meeting and Intergroup Concerns (by and for delegates), attend a Board of Trustees meeting and two workshops: “Hand in Hand: Together We Can” and “What is Your Role as a Conference Elder”.

Tuesday was full of workshops, and Howard’s arrival day. We attended the “Green Dot/Mentor” and “What is Your Role as a Conference Elder” workshops.

Wednesday was very busy and productive with committee meetings and workshops. Lisa facilitated the 12th Step Within committee as delegate co-chair of that committee. It is very exciting to see people working for the whole of OA in committee meetings: We are working towards making the 12 Step Within Handbook include a document on Planning a Sponsorship Workshop, creating a packet for the member in relapse or struggling, and updating speakers list to strengthen meetings for membership retention. Howard volunteered for the Hospitals, Institutions, Professionals, and Military (HIPM) committee, collecting HIPM ideas from around the world, and becoming a member of the “Military” subcommittee, which will continue to work throughout the year. Each Region holds a meeting to address any concerns. After dinner (yes there was more to do) two presentations were held “Does OA work- Service Body Image” and a Q&A on proposed literature.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS RESULTS

The “business” aspect of the WSBC was conducted in six three-hour Business Meetings held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. During these meetings the over two hundred delegates formed the OA world-wide group conscience on a variety of topics. Officer, Region, and Committee reports were accepted. Six Trustees were elected to the OA Board of Trustees. Region Trustees elected were:

Region	Trustee
2	Ann M
5	Marilyn A.
8	Charles A.
10	Jill H.

Two General Service Trustees (GSTs) were elected: Idolia H., and Karen S-A.

Perhaps the most significant action taken by the Delegates was the approval of the “Dignity of Choice” pamphlet, development of which was directed by the 2000 WSBC. The pamphlet is intended primarily for the newcomer or the OA member who needs help in deciding on a food plan, providing example plans of eating that have been successful for OA members, but not suggesting or endorsing any plan(s)¹. The pamphlet emphasizes that a food plan of some kind that provides abstinence from

¹ OA policy (WSBC Policy 2000a) is that no OA member shall be prevented from attending, sharing, leading, and/or serving as a speaker at an OA meeting due to following or not following any specific plan of eating. Groups sharing food plan information must adhere to OA’s policies on outside literature, as well as copyright law.

compulsive overeating is important for working the OA Twelve Steps, which are the foundation of our program. The pamphlet should be available by August for those groups that care to use it.

Other major Policy motions or Bylaw Amendments adopted include: (1) the official registration of on-line groups and (2) the implementation of Region-wide WSBC delegates for those regions with low attendance at the previous WSBC. Likewise, major initiatives that were defeated include: (1) adding non-OA GSTs to the Board and (2) a service structure for on-line groups. All told, seventeen Policy Motions and Bylaws Amendments were considered by WSBC 2004, disposition of which is summarized in the attachment to this report.

In closing, let us both thank you again for the honor of representing NHI. We are both truly grateful that we have a fellowship that helps us recover on all three levels; physical, emotional and spiritual. We are not alone. Welcome to Overeaters Anonymous, welcome home.

Your trusted servants,

Lisa Dumont

Howard Bigelow

Summary of Motions

Motion	Subject	Outcome
Policy Motions		
A-a	Approve “ <i>Dignity of Choice</i> ” Pamphlet	Received Conference Seal of Approval
A	WSBC motion forms available on-line	Adopted
B		Did not receive 30% vote to be placed on Agenda
C & D (combined as 9)	Establish Delegate Credential Appeal Process	Adopted
E	Post WSBC Motions on OA website	Referred to BOT for implementation
F	Officially register on-line groups	Adopted
G	Rescind WSBC Policy 2000a	Not considered (with passage of A-a)
Bylaws Amendments		
1	Alternate listing of Region 8 countries	Defeated
2	Liberalize process for Region nomination of Region Trustees	Adopted
3	Allow Region-level delegates if underrepresented at previous WSBC	Adopted
4	Move Kentucky from Region 7 to Region 5	Adopted
5	Implement non-OA General Service Trustees	Defeated
6	Non-OA GSTs	withdrawn
7	Non-OA GSTs	withdrawn
8	On-line group Service Structure	Defeated
9	On-line group representation at WSBC	withdrawn
Emergency New Business		
1	Clarify composition of the Credentials Appeals committee	Adopted