

**DELEGATE REPORT
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
2006 WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE
“OA WITHOUT BORDERS”**

Eileen and Beth were both honored to serve New Hampshire Intergroup as delegates to the 45th Annual World Service Business Conference (WSBC) of Overeaters Anonymous, held in Albuquerque, NM, from May 1 – 6, 2006. We were two of the 181–182 eligible and voting delegates who attended this year’s Conference. Delegates from all ten regions were in attendance. Attached is information about which countries are in each region. This year’s theme “OA Without Borders” was significant to Beth, whose eyes, ears and heart were opened to those in poorer countries suffering from the disease of compulsive overeating.

SUMMARY & OUTCOME OF MOTIONS

<u>Motion</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
<u>Policy Motions:</u>		
A	Change name of HIPM Committee to “Professional Outreach” Committee	Adopted
B	Reduce World Service Convention expenses by requesting assistance from the local intergroup where the convention will be held	Defeated as amended
C	Change the date of Unity Day to a date in January to coincide with the birthday of Overeaters Anonymous	Defeated as amended
D	Add exercise as the ninth tool	Defeated as Amended
<u>Bylaw Amendments:</u>		
1	Require intergroups to adopt & submit bylaws within one year of initial registration date	Defeated
2	Require region to adopt & submit bylaws within one year of initial registration date	Withdrawn
3	Require national/language service board to adopt & submit bylaws within one year of initial registration date	Withdrawn

STATUS OF OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Worldwide registrations: As of December 2005, there were 6498 meetings and 321 intergroups registered with the WSO. The Managing Director stated that there is incorrect information about meetings on the website and that the website should be checked regularly to make sure mailing information is correct. Zip codes and counties are needed for each meeting.

Financial Information: We ended the fiscal year in the black for the fifth year in a row. Revenues and expenses decreased over the year and total contributions were a bit higher than those received in 2004.

Literature: The pamphlet *OA Members Come In All Sizes: Welcome, Whatever Your Problem with Food* has become one of the best-selling pamphlets, with average monthly sales of 1,322. *Group Conscience Guidelines* are now available on the OA website and in the OA Guidelines packet. There are several pieces of literature in development: *Black OA Members Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope*, a book of *Lifeline* stories similar to *A New Beginning* and *Abstinence*, and a new Sponsor Education Kit.

Lifeline: Circulation has held steady since 2005 with approximately 10,196 subscriptions. *e-Lifeline* subscriptions decreased by 17 percent, however. Due to an operating loss of about \$61,000, *Lifeline* is now published only 10 times a year instead of 12. This will only reduce the operating loss by about \$13,000, not put the periodical in the black. There was some discussion about increasing the number of subscriptions. It was noted that although it is a good idea to circulate old issues, this practice may actually be hurting *Lifeline* financially. It was suggested to encourage more subscriptions. And a question was posed to those delegates at WSBC: If you don't subscribe to *Lifeline*, how can you be at WSBC?

Technology: A new server was installed in 2005 and has minimized information technology issues. OA's Website (www.oa.org) averaged over 106,200 visitors per month during 2005.

World Service Conventions 2007 and 2010: The 2007 World Service Convention will be held in Philadelphia, PA, from August 30 through September 2, 2007 and the theme is "Ring in Recovery: Declare Your Freedom from Compulsive Eating." The 2010 World Service Convention will be held in Los Angeles, CA, celebrating OA's 50th anniversary.

Public Information: A new 12-minute video, available for PI events, OA exhibits and newcomer nights, was shown and ready for sale at Conference. It is part of the American Medical Review (AMR) series and contains interviews with OA members, along with interviews with a long-time physician advocate of OA and a former Managing Director. There were several professional exhibits in 2005 that generated over 400 professional names that were added to OA's *Courier* mailing list. A professional exhibits fund was established in 2005, which is a fund restricted to financially assist service bodies wishing to participate in professional exhibits in their area. Finally, an outreach campaign was started to 45 major US publications and TV stations. Also, 59 OA members have volunteered to be included on a

media contact list of those willing to be interviewed for stories about the disease and the solution. If anyone is interested in being on the media contact list, please contact WSO.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Eileen and Beth arrived in time to attend the Committee Meetings held on Wednesday morning and afternoon. Beth attended the Finance Committee Meeting and learned that OA has a full audit every three years; one was done in 2004 and the next is scheduled for 2007. In between the audits, the financials undergo a review. At the afternoon Committee Meeting, we were given a new booklet entitled “Guidelines for Creating Budgets”, which also includes suggestions for dealing with excess funds. Several sub-committees were formed: revising the “It Takes Two” campaign; investigating liability insurance; revising the “Through Our Own Contributions” pamphlet; and designing a template for creating budgets. On Saturday afternoon, the committees met again and firmed up the sub-committee work with goal dates and objectives. It was good to meet again before we left the Conference. We were able to review the minutes of Wednesday’s meetings and exchange contact information on everyone on the Committee. Eileen attended the Professional Outreach (formerly HIPM) Committee meeting.

After the Business Meeting on Thursday afternoon, Beth attended the Reference Sub-Committee meeting on the Proposal to add exercise as the ninth tool. It was quite enlightening to hear all the different pro and con viewpoints, from the visitors and from the sub-committee members themselves. After all the discussion, the sub-committee voted to make no recommendation to the full body of delegates on this Proposal.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS RESULTS

On Thursday morning, we got down to the business of the WSBC. These five three-hour sessions are held Thursday, Friday and Saturday and follow “Robert’s Rules” quite strictly. A professional Parliamentarian assists the Chair in following these Rules. Reports were accepted from Officers, Region Trustees, Workshop Leaders and Committee Chairs. Three Region Trustees were elected and one General Service Trustee was elected. There were two positions open for General Service Trustees, but only one applicant. The results of the elections are:

Region 3	Debbie W.
Region 6	Margaret Ann B.
Region 9	Dominique B.
General Service	Michael B.

Near the end of the last business meeting, there was a green dot ceremony. All the green dots (those at WSBC for the first time) were called to the front of the room and acknowledged. Then they removed their green dots from their name badges, as they were green dots no more. Both Eileen and Beth were green dots this year. The last, but not least, activity of the

business meeting was for sharing from the delegates. One woman, from Region 8, said she came to OA at age 69 and she's been a member for 18 years. She traveled to New Mexico to do service for all of us at age 87. Amazing! We then formed a circle around the room (it was a big room), joined hands and said the OA Promise – I Put My Hand in Yours. This was a bit overwhelming when said by 181 people from all over the world.

The Board of Trustees meeting was held on Saturday afternoon after the end of the official business meetings and new officers were elected. The results are:

Chair	Dodie H.
1 st Vice Chair	Michael B.
2 nd Vice Chair	Jill H.
Treasurer	Kayla W.

Again, both of us were very honored to represent NHI this year. Now we truly know that we are not alone. There is definitely no “us” and “them”. There's only a global fellowship of compulsive overeaters recovering one day at a time. Thank you, NHI members, for letting us serve you.

Your Trusted Servants,

Eileen Callahan
Lebanon, NH

Beth Marchilena
Nashua, NH

May 31, 2006