

World Service Business Conference 2010  
*Half a Century = One World of Growth*  
Delegates' Report  
Jill Meier and Pam Tinker

We both felt exceedingly honored to be entrusted to represent NHI in conducting the business of OA at the World Service Business Conference. As your trusted servants, we thank you for funding this experience and submit the following report in an attempt to recreate for you what cannot be adequately described.

#### Workshops

- *Service, Traditions & Concepts (4/26)*: Facilitators and attendees shared successes and failures in presenting service, traditions, and concepts workshops within their service bodies. One suggestion for promoting traditions included taking sponsees through the traditions as well as the steps. Some things to remember is there is no “they” only “we”; all OA members are the guardians of the traditions; rather than saying traditions are “broken” or “violated” refer to them as not being honored or upheld or that something is not in the spirit of the tradition. It was suggested that all service bodies obtain a copy of the *Service, Traditions and Concepts Workshop Manual*, which is available from the World Service Office bookstore.
- *2010: Look Where We've Been & Where We're Going (4/27)*: This workshop posed some interesting questions and suggestions for the way the OA message might be carried in an electronic world. At a time when our membership and meetings are decreasing, how do we take advantage of a multi-channel delivery system, including social networking, blogs, websites, and telecommunications, to infuse new energy into OA and get people into the program, keep them in, and get them back? Regardless of whether our meetings are face-to-face or virtual, they need to be “action” meetings where the emphasis is on working program tools and steps in order to thrive.
- *Recovery is Contagious! 50 Years, 75 Countries and Counting! (4/27)*: Two international OA members shared their experiences as they addressed the ways their personal recovery has helped others, how telling the OA history helps to attract newcomers, and ways to spread the OA message worldwide. Answers included carrying the message, modeling recovery, and living life well. Opinions expressed were that the major benefit to telling newcomers about our history might be to establish credibility for the program.
- *Smiles of Service: We Are Not a Glum Lot! (4/27)*: This workshop emphasized the importance of humor in retaining members in program. A favorite line heard in this workshop is that the back row in a meeting is the “shoe department” because it attracts the sneakers, slippers, and loafers.

#### Committee Meetings (4/28 & 5/1)

- Pam: I requested and was assigned to the Conference Approved Literature Committee (CLC). The Committee had seven pieces of literature come before the delegates this year, which were presented as Proposals A-A through A-G below. In this current session, the Committee reviewed four proposals for new literature and sent three on to

the Board of Trustees (BOT) with recommendations. The Committee also established three subcommittees to revise the three pieces of literature which are up for review in the Strategic Plan, which cycles all literature for review every seven years. Those pieces are *To the Newcomer*, *If God Spoke to OA*, and *The Recovery Checklist*. Subcommittees will do this work through e-mail over the next year. In addition, any literature-related action resulting from the Business Meeting will be sent to the CLC by the BOT at their August Board Meeting.

- Jill: I was also assigned to my first choice, the Technology/Website Committee (TechWeb for short), which was created at the end of last year's WSBC. We discussed three items that we will work on this year. The first is offering to assist the BOT in their research on making our literature available for e-book readers (e.g. Kindle). The second is looking into technology to enable electronic participation in meetings at various levels. The final item, on which I will be working, is the two sets of templates that were developed during this past year to help service bodies create and maintain websites. We will learn to use the templates ourselves, improve on the current documentation, and support the fellowship in developing their own websites.

#### Business Meetings

- Meeting I (4/29): It was announced that a copy of the new *Twelfth-Step Within Handbook* was in each delegate packet. It was also announced that the Professional Outreach Committee is currently looking for articles written by health professionals and members of the clergy for the *Courier*, a publication aimed at informing the medical profession about OA. The deadline for submissions is October for the January 2011 edition. The Conference Chair put forward a Consent Agenda to include New Business Proposal E and Bylaw Amendment Proposal Items 1 & 2, which were all of housekeeping nature. The Consent Agenda passed, adopting these three proposals. Proposal A was withdrawn from the agenda. Each of the officers, regions and committees presented their reports.
- Meeting II (4/29): After each of the nominees for Region and General Service Trustee positions had an opportunity to address the body and answer questions, Proposal A-A, a new pamphlet entitled *A Common Solution: Diversity and Recovery*, was moved and considered. This was its first presentation to the body. The pamphlet did not receive the required 2/3 majority and was sent back to the Board of Trustees (BOT) to determine further action. After much discussion, Proposal A-B, a revision of the existing *Questions and Answers* pamphlet was postponed to follow the vote on Proposal G, which recommended the gradual revision of OA documents to use the terms "compulsive eating" and "compulsive eater" in place of "compulsive overeating" and "compulsive overeater."
- Meeting III (4/30): The main order of business was the election of Region and General Service Trustees. There are a number of vacant positions, and applications for these positions need to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Meeting IV (4/30): Jan Strand, Parliamentarian, addressed the body regarding certain actions she thought might be heard during the session. In the first new business, Proposal G, which called for the gradual replacement of "compulsive overeating" and "compulsive overeater" with "compulsive eating" and "compulsive eater" as OA documents were created and revised, was withdrawn by the maker. Proposal A-B, the

revision of the current *Questions & Answers* pamphlet was then brought back for consideration and adopted. Proposals A-C (a new pamphlet called *Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps* which replaces *A Guide to the Twelve Steps for Sponsors*), A-D (a revision of the *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet), A-E (revision of the pamphlet *To the Family of the compulsive Eater*), A-F (a re-write of *To the Teen*), and A-G (a re-write of the *Welcome Back* pamphlet) were also adopted. Proposal H was adopted after being amended to indicate that the final WSBC report would be available electronically and that delegates and service bodies could request not to receive the print version. It was thought that even if only the 60 non-English speaking service bodies made that request, savings in print and mailing costs would be significant. The same rationale was behind the adoption of Proposal D and Proposal 3. The adoption of Proposal C established a Youth in OA Conference Committee.

- Meeting V (5/1): Proposal F was adopted to require that all face-to-face and virtual services bodies registering electronically with OA provide at least one e-mail contact and name on the registration in order to improve communication between the World Service Office and service bodies. Proposal B, which requires that OA groups follow the current *Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature* available at the oa.org website, was adopted. Among other things, the guidelines require that all literature on display or for sale at OA meetings, be approved by a service body beyond the group level. Proposal I was amended by the Reference Committee to read, “Move to add a ninth tool: “Action Plan,” which the motion maker stated was intended to include “actions we take in order to gain and keep abstinence.” The proposal passed by a narrow majority on a written ballot. It is expected that the BOT will send the writing of this tool to the CLC in August. Before adjourning, the Publications Manager for WSO announced that the newly revised literature should be available in 2 to 3 months with availability being announced in the “What’s New” section of the WSO website and in *A Step Ahead*.
- Banquet/Presentations/Dance: The Conference culminated in a buffet dinner followed by light-hearted presentations to promote the WS convention in Los Angeles on August 26-29 and honor retiring trustees. Then the dance floor was open for celebration!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Meier and Pam Tinker,  
Your Trusted Servants