

World Service Business Conference 2011
Celebrating Our 50th Conference – A Tribute to Service
Delegates' Report
Dee Pingleton and Pam Tinker

We both felt honored to represent NHI as your trusted servants in conducting the business of OA. We thank you for supporting this opportunity and submit the following report in an attempt to summarize our experience for you.

Workshops

- *Sponsoring: Sharing the Gifts* (4/26): Speakers and attendees discussed the purposes and gifts of sponsoring. Some gifts sponsors give: validation, empathy, accountability, and modeling. Sponsors are role models of service as they gain knowledge of the steps, traditions, and concepts and pass that along. "Service is gratitude in action."
- *Concepts: Guide for All Who Serve* (4/26): Speakers and a skit by the region chairs emphasized the importance of rotation of service. One speaker who has held "nearly every service position in OA" encouraged us to step outside our comfort zones by saying, "I've never gone into any service position knowing what I was doing."
- *Longtimers' Forum: Why We Keep Coming Back* (4/26): Two longtime OA members shared keeping their program fresh by taking on new service positions and sponsoring newcomers.
- *Virtual Recovery in OA: Upholding and Honoring Our Traditions* (4/26): A panel of speakers and attendees discussed the challenges and rewards of phone and online meetings.
- *Forum: Celebrating Recovery* (4/27) The Region Chairs presented a fun-filled, interactive celebration of the three-fold nature of recovery with song ("Three-legged Stool"), discussion, and a "game show."

Committee Meetings (4/27 & 4/30)

- Pam: I was honored to be elected Vice-Chair in this my second year on the Conference Approved Literature Committee (CLC). This year the CLC had four proposals (see Proposals A-A through A-D below) come before the delegates. In this current session, the CLC established subcommittees to begin or continue to revise pieces of literature which are up for review in the Strategic Plan: *To the Newcomer, Before You Take That First Compulsive Bite, Overeaters Anonymous (Second Edition)*, and *Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps*. Another subcommittee is completing work on a new electronic daily journal based on *Voices of Recovery*. 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.
- Dee: It was my privilege to be a part of the 12th Step Within Committee, which is working on ways to retain members and help members in relapse. The subcommittee I am on is tasked with updating the 12th Step within speaker list for all regions. We will be confirming speaker information, deleting and adding new speakers. This list hasn't been updated in several years. Other subcommittees will be developing new ways to reach members in need.

Business Meetings

- *Meeting I* (4/28): The **Standing Rules** were amended as follows: (1C) a registered alternate may be transferred to delegate status at any time during the WSBC and that if the original delegate again becomes available, these two individuals and any others from their service body will decide which of the two individuals will then be the active delegate; and (1F) delegates are expected to abstain from voting on any WSBC motions if they do not – at time of voting – have the one-year abstinence requirement. The **Consent Agenda** consisting of Bylaws amendments **Proposal Items 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, and 21** was adopted. Each of the officers, regions and committees presented their reports.
- *Meeting II* (4/28): After each of the nominees for Region and General Service Trustee positions had an opportunity to address the body and answer questions, **Proposal J**, which recommends that members adhere to the principle of anonymity while using social networking media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc) passed by majority vote, and **Proposal D**, which would have rescinded the ninth tool (Action Plan) failed.

- *Meeting III* (4/29): Region and General Service Trustees were elected by ballot. **Proposal F**, which proposed webcasting the 2012 WSBC was defeated by majority vote. **Proposal M**, which would have changed the name of the ninth tool was also defeated by a majority vote. **Proposal C**, which adds the Tools of Recovery to the OA Policy Manual was passed by majority vote.
- *Meeting IV* (4/29): **Proposal L**, which passed by a majority ballot vote, amended the WSBC definition of abstinence to read, “Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.” **Proposal E**, which would have removed the Conference Seal of Approval for all AA literature other than the Bib Book and the AA 12 & 12, was defeated by majority in a ballot vote. **Proposal K**, which bestowed the title of “founder” to Rozanne S., passed by majority ballot vote. **Proposal A**, which discontinued a matching grant program, and **Proposal B**, which allows service groups to use service titles (but not names) of speakers to promote special OA events, both passed by majority vote. **Proposal A-A**, a newly revised *Recovery Checklist*, passed by the 2/3 majority required for literature proposals. **Proposal A-B**, which would have removed the Conference Seal of Approval from the pamphlet *If God Spoke to OA*, failed to achieve a 2/3 vote and so remains approved.
- *Meeting V* (4/30): **Proposal A-C**, which added a new pamphlet entitled *A Common Solution: Diversity and Recovery*, and **Proposal A-D**, which revised the *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet to include the Action Plan tool, both passed by 2/3 majority votes. **Proposal 6**, which allowed for the formation of language-based service boards spanning more than one region, was adopted by the 2/3 majority required of Bylaws amendments. The adoption of **Proposal 7** removed an obsolete exclusion of Region Nine from the Bylaws while the adoption of **Proposal 17** acknowledges virtual service boards. **Proposals 9, 8, and 5**, requiring service boards, regions and intergroups to submit all revisions of bylaws or summaries of purpose to the WSO, were adopted by a 2/3 majority. The adoption of Proposal 19 amends the definition of an OA group to include the requirements that it be guided by the 12 Concepts of Service and be registered with the WSO.
- *Banquet/Presentations/Dance*: The WSBC culminated in a buffet dinner followed by the performance of a humorous musical skit about the formation and early days of OA written by Rozanne S.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Pingleton and Pam Tinker,
Your Trusted Servants