

World Service Business Conference 2012  
*Visions for the Fellowship*  
Delegates' Report  
Pam Tinker and Dee Pingleton

Once again this year, we were honored to be NHI's trusted servants at the World Service Business Conference. We thank you for supporting this opportunity and submit the following report in an attempt to capture this amazing experience for you!

**Not All Work and No Play!**

Although the World Service Business Conference (WSBC) handles the serious (and sometimes not so serious) business of OA, it is a total experience unlike anything you might imagine. This year the Conference moved from Old Town to the Embassy Suites Hotel so, as the name implies, we had a suite with refrigerator and microwave and sitting area! Complimentary each morning was a marvelous breakfast buffet complete with a made to order omelet station! There was also a beautiful indoor pool and hot tub with a patio for soaking up the warm Albuquerque sun which was in abundance during our stay!

Each year, the World Service Office staff organizes one or two pre-conference tours. This year we took advantage of the day trip to Santa Fe. Our tour guide on the shuttle from Albuquerque entertained us with some fascinating area history and personal anecdotes. Upon arriving in Santa Fe, we were taken into the Loretto Chapel to view the amazing Floating Staircase. After that, we shopped and enjoyed the beautiful day by having lunch out on the Plaza! The next day, we took advantage of some free time soaking in some hot springs in Jemez, followed by a sunset tram ride up to the Sandia Peak. Sunsets in the Southwest are amazing!

On Wednesday night we had our Region 6 dinner at the Flying Star, a cafeteria-style restaurant. Having an opportunity to socialize with and get to know others in our Region is always a treat! Of course we also had a chance to sample other area restaurants on Thursday and Friday evenings, including one voted to have the best seafood in Albuquerque! They get our vote for their scallops!

**Workshops (4/30 -5/3)**

In addition to business meetings, the WSBC offers many workshops and, of course, an abundance of OA meetings. This year's workshop offerings focused on topics aligned to the OA Strategic Plan. There are also workshops focused on Parliamentary Procedure and a Question and Answer Forum on the proposed Conference-Approved literature. Here is a sampling:

- *Action Plan: Bringing Structure, Balance and Manageability Into Our Lives:* Speakers and attendees discussed how they use the ninth tool. Some quotes heard during the workshop included: "without a plan, I'm like a train without a track;" "there are no rules in OA, we have the right to be as sick or as well as we wish;" and "when you are asked to do service, think long and hard before you say no."
- *Forum: Conceptualizing Principles!* : The Region Chairs presented a fun, interactive workshop on the principles embodied by the Twelve Concepts. We participated in a "Match Game" activity and a group crossword puzzle to reinforce our knowledge of the Concepts. Look forward to seeing them at the June NHI meeting!

**Committee Meetings (5/3 & 5/5)**

- Pam: This is my third and final year serving on the Conference-Approved Literature Committee (CLC). Again this year the CLC had four proposals (see Proposals A-A through A-D below) come before the Conference. In committee, the CLC took action on three new literature proposals and established subcommittees to begin or continue to revise the following: *Overeaters Anonymous (Second Edition)*, *For Today eWorkbook*, *the Overeaters Anonymous Handbook*, and *Step-Study Guide*. 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. I will be continuing to work on the *Overeaters Anonymous* revision throughout the year. It has been challenging work, but so rewarding to see work you have contributed to come forward in print! I have loved the experience and been honored to serve!
- Dee: Although I had hoped to be on another committee, when I got to World service I found I was assigned to the Unity with Diversity Committee. I was initially disappointed, mainly because I knew nothing about unity with diversity. But boy, were my eyes opened, and I later realized that God had blessed me. This committee is

all about recognizing and respecting our differences and maintaining unity in the fellowship. Whether we are different due to race, religion, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, anorexia, bulimia, compulsive overeating, or anything else that makes us feel “different” when we come through the doors of OA, we need to recognize that we all have a right to be here, and a right to be respected. This committee was subdivided into three subcommittees: the Manifestation of the Disease Subcommittee; the Diversity of Choice Committee, and the Diversity Statement and Checklist Subcommittee. My subcommittee, the Manifestations of the Disease Subcommittee will be following up on a survey that was developed last year, compiling that information, and sending it to our Committee Trustee who will bring it to the Board of Trustees for approval. If approved, it will be forwarded to regions and then to intergroups. My subcommittee also performed a skit we wrote at a noontime meeting we sponsored.

### **Business Meetings (5/3 – 5/5)**

Conference Chair Theresa Kopel (Region 4 Trustee) brought the 51<sup>st</sup> World Service Business Conference to order with a pound of her fist on the podium after informing us that the gavel she was supposed to use had been left up in her room! This set the tone for the next five Business Meeting sessions: imperfect, accepting, often humorous and mostly serene! Each morning the Serenity Prayer was spoken in another language, and then followed in English, which helped us to recognize the worldwide fellowship, and it was also requested a few times when things got stressful! It always served as a wonderful reminder of the real purpose of our service there. In the first session with 16 Trustees and 182 Delegates present, the **Standing Rules** and the **Consent Agenda** consisting of Items **A, C, D, E, G, H, 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, and 17** were adopted. Each of the Board of Trustees officers, Region Trustees and Committee Trustee Co-Chairs presented their reports.

In the second session, Proposals A-A through A-D were adopted. In turn, these proposals approved a major rewrite of the *Before You Take That First Compulsive Bite* pamphlet, the *Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps* pamphlet which has been revised to include more Big Book references, the *To the Newcomer* pamphlet which has been revised to be more informative and inclusive, and a brand new *Voices of Recovery* eWorkbook which is designed to be a computerized writing companion to the daily meditation book. Each of the nominees for the Trustee positions gave speeches and answered questions from the delegates. Proposal Item B was also adopted.

In the third Business Meeting session, with 16 Trustees and 183 Delegates in attendance, we had a presentation by the Strategic Planning Trustee Co-Chair. Then we broke into small groups to brainstorm specific actions that groups and service bodies might take to further goals and objectives in each of the four Strategic areas of Strong Meetings, Public/Professional Awareness, Committed Service Bodies and Financial Health. The following General Service and Region Trustees were elected by ballot: Region 3 Trustee – Vicki Wilcox; Region 6 Trustee – Mary Rose Dallal; Region 9 Trustee – Esti Ordan; General Service Trustees – Tina Collins and Joe Lawson for three year terms and Michael Buckley for a one year term. Action was also taken on Proposals F and I as outlined on the attached Summary. On Friday afternoon, May 4, in a very focused fourth session, the Conference took action on Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 18 as outlined on the attached Summary.

Going into the fifth and final Business Meeting on Saturday morning, there were 16 Trustees and 178 Delegates in attendance and only Proposal Item J, which had been postponed earlier, still requiring action. As with a previous Proposal, the Reference Committee recommended a substitute motion which clarified the intent and addressed potential objections. The substitute motion was discussed and adopted. Because the Proposals and Motions had been handled so efficiently, the Conference had time for Committee reports and a short workshop on bringing the conference home. As always, the conference ended with a dinner buffet, entertainment and dancing!

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