

2017 World Service Business Conference (WSBC) Report

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Note: The WSBC 2017 Wrap Up Report is available on the OA.org website if you'd like more information about any of the information in this report. <https://oa.org/files/pdf/Wrap-Up-Report-17.pdf>

General Information about the WSBC:

It was an honor to act as trusted servants in the role of NHI's WSBC Delegates for the 2017 WSBC held May 1-6 in Albuquerque, NM. We represented your input to the best of our ability, given the information we received from you, and new information we learned at the conference from questions we asked, and those asked by other delegates. Here is some general information about the conference and some of the workshops we attended.

- Number of Attendees/Total Eligible Voters: **188/186**.

There were actually 188 registered delegates. Note: There were 2 delegates that registered and 2 that turned in their credentials at the time we announced the 186 eligible voting delegates, but there was a total of 188 registered delegates

- Number of different countries represented: **20 countries represented.**

Those countries included Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, England/UK, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, USA.

- Forum Topic: *Amazing Recovery: Passport to Unity*

This “forum” (which is presented by the Region Chairs) was a 2-hour theme-based workshop that would make an excellent workshop format for an Intergroup sponsored workshop! It involved a group of people selected to be “travelers” who represented various paths and vantage points to recovery within OA. (e.g., BBSS, 90-Day Format; 100+ lb. weight loss; A Vision for You, Anorexia, Bariatric Surgery, Binging, Bulimia, LGBTQ, Men in OA, etc.)

Each traveler visited 4 tables during the workshop for 20 min. (delegates were seated around numbered tables (about 8 to a table). At the end of 20 minutes, the delegates received a passport stamp, and the travelers moved to a new table. Every 20 minutes each table heard a new vantage point of recovery. The 20 min. was broken up into the 5 min. increments – 1st, the traveler told their story in OA, then they spoke on their “vantage point” then opened it up for discussion with the delegates at the table.

It was fast-paced and exposed the participants to multiple vantage points they may not have considered. It was very well received.

- Workshops: Throughout the week, a number of workshops were conducted. There were three workshops on the first day (Tuesday, May 2) each of which covered the presenters' experience strength and hope on the workshop topic. The three topics were the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

The following two workshops which were on Thursday, offered some new information that might be of interest to our group:

- Strategic Planning – Keeping OA Strong Worldwide:

Key takeaway: Using a SWOT Analysis to look at the Successes, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats facing OA and your IG. Prioritize the opportunities and go to work! Quick and easy to do the analysis. (We did a quick one in about 20 minutes.)

- Sponsorship: Growing OA Unity Worldwide:

Key takeaway: Learned about the 12-Day Sponsorship program for newcomers used in Australia. It helps people get started with being a sponsor as well as getting a sponsor. It appears to be a format that could be used to “Get Someone Started” (which you often hear at meetings) until they can find a “permanent” sponsor.

- **Thoughts heard throughout the week in workshops, business meetings and “around”:**

1. The power greater than me is not me and that which is my head
2. Identify - don't compare
3. Use the 42 principles of the program on the committee in my head
4. Honesty without compassion is cruel - compassion without honesty can kill
5. ...always assume positive intent
6. If you can't set a good example, be a warning to others.
7. Every day is a rehearsal
8. Look at the verbs in every step
9. Sponsoring grows a strong program.
10. Success in the program: Go to meetings, work the steps and do service
11. OA - a health farm for my soul
12. I am entitled to make decisions for myself
13. It's not the fat, it's the insanity
14. ...to become a "life-managing" adult
15. If I'm still beating myself up about something, I must think I can control it.

Committee Reports:

By-laws Committee Report: (Submitted by Dorothy M.)

- The committee consisted of 28 members divided into 3 groups to continue to work on:
 1. Guidelines for Anonymity in Social Media: Because of a glitch in the process, guidelines were passed without having gone through all the appropriate channels therefore it was returned to the bylaws subcommittee group for reworking based on 2 pages of input from New Hampshire Intergroup. Following proper channels, the guidelines will be resubmitted for re-approval.
 2. Completing the Glossary of terms used in the bylaws and policies and procedure for BOT approval and inclusion in the WSBC Binder for the 2018 WSBC.
 3. The document “Bylaws for Service Bodies, An Overview” is ready for submission to the BOT. This is an updated document that can help anyone writing bylaws.
- The commitment for next year is to review the bylaws (Subpart B) and OA policies and to submit motions to WSBC 2018 as needed.

Conference Literature Committee (CLC) Report: (Submitted by Elaine T.)

I will be serving on the CLC from now until next year's WSBC (and hopefully continuing on after that WSBC as well.) I've divided this report into 3 parts:

- Literature under Development/Revision 2017-18
- Conference Approved Literature Process
- Additional Notes/Observations

Literature Under Development/Revision 2017-18

The following documents are on the list for revision this year. Those for which revisions are completed over the next few months will be presented at the 2018 WSBC for approval.

New Pamphlet: Body Image

This one has been under development and currently just needs to have the Board of Trustee (BOT) edits incorporated.

Pamphlet Revisions Needed: (Revisions are needed to update to existing info according to current OA policy and Board input (e.g., removing Abstinence as a tool, etc.)

- Welcome Back
- To the Family (Elaine is the Chair of the subcommittee working on this one)
- Dignity of Choice (10 yr. review)
- Questions & Answers

If you have interest or input you'd like to have considered on any of these documents, please let me know as soon as possible. All documents have to be submitted to the BOT by Aug. 22nd so your feedback would be needed by the end of June. I will forward it to the appropriate committees for consideration but once these docs go to the BOT, only their changes will be implemented. (See process outline following this section of the report.)

Other documents currently in the cue pending BOT approval:

- Sponsorship (New Book): The creation of this new book was approved by the CLC. It would consist mainly of Sponsorship stories that would be provided by members. A call would be put out to the membership and the stories would be collected for potential inclusion in the book. The BOT needs to approve the concept before work can begin.
- Small Meetings/Small Towns: I believe this is a new pamphlet that has been in development for some time; it is currently with the BOT.
- To the Teen: Pamphlet revision currently with the BOT.

Conference Approved Literature Creation/Revision/Approval Process:

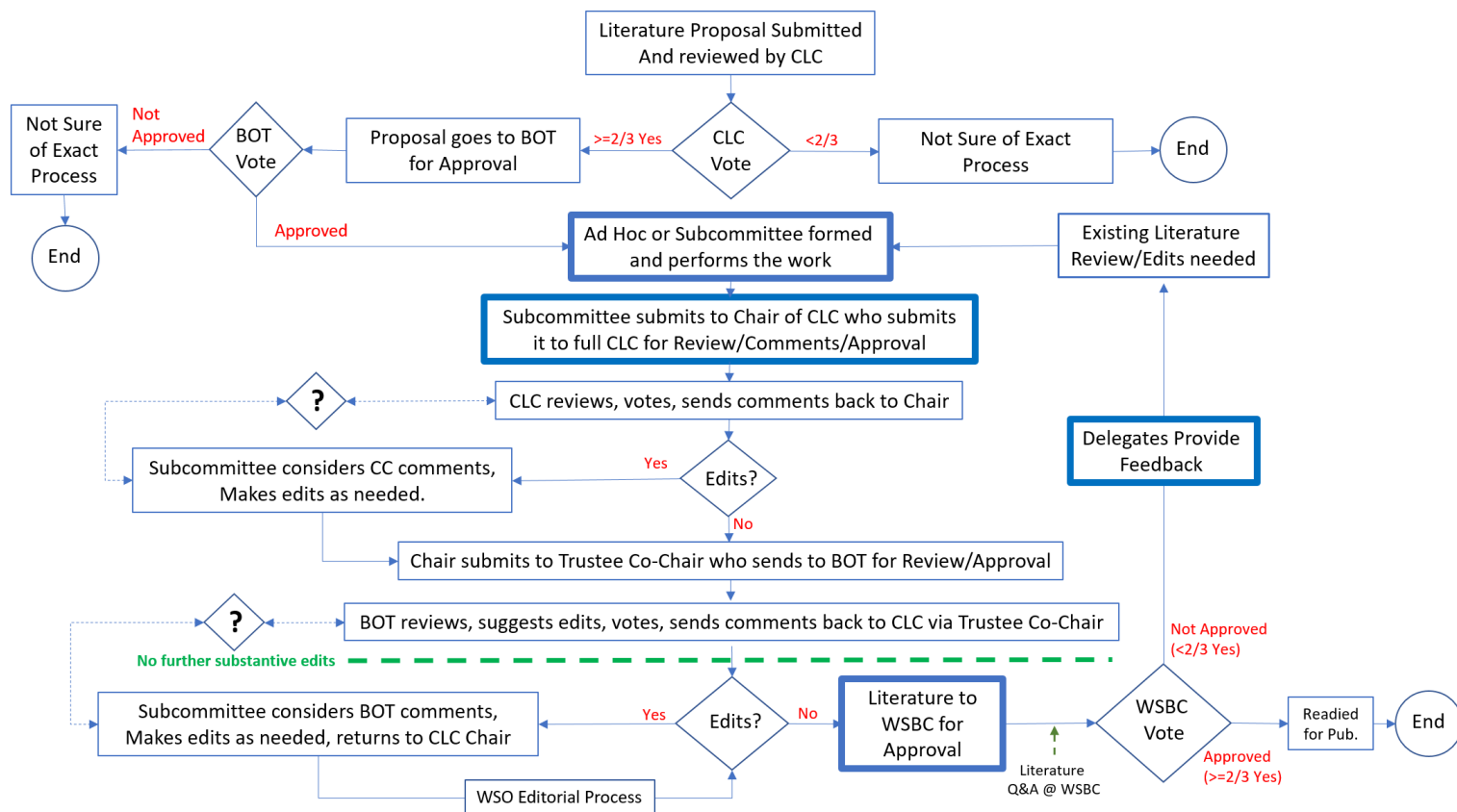
One of the main concerns expressed among NHI IG Reps/Committee Chairs prior to the WSBC, was a concern about the process OA uses to approve literature and the timeframe we're given to review things prior to the Conference. I put together a flowchart based on what I learned at the conference as well as what is currently published in the WSBC Policy Manual. (See flowchart on next page)

The starting point for creating/revising OA Literature is this:

- Proposals for **new literature** are submitted by members/groups.
- **Existing literature**
 - Regularly reviewed every 10 years
 - New or revised policies may push a review sooner than 10 years

Process Flowchart: Conference Approved Literature Development/Revision/Approval

Note: I put this flowchart together based on information I received at my CLC meeting. It is simply a visual depiction of the stages that documents go through before being brought to the WSBC for approval. I'd be happy to go through it with anyone who has further interest in it.



Additional Notes/Observations:

After the Board of Trustees reviews a piece of literature and their edits, if any, are incorporated. No other edits are made unless the literature is not adopted at the WSBC at which it comes up for approval. The WSBC vote is an up or down approval – no edits accepted on the floor.

When a piece of literature is not approved at the WSBC, Delegates can submit suggestions to be considered for incorporation prior to the next submission to WSBC, along with their reasons for why they did not vote to approve. (Note that it's always possible that a piece of literature that is not adopted at WSBC, will “die” and never be presented again, depending on the feedback received.)

Where we can be involved:

- **Literature to WSBC for Approval:** This is where the document is made available in manuscript form, on the WSBC area of OA.org.
- **Delegates provide Feedback:** After a piece of literature is not approved, Delegates can complete a form they are provided, and can make suggestions for ways to improve the literature. (If a group provided input to the WSBC Delegate prior to the conference, that input could be shared at this point.)
- **Prior to the submission of a piece of literature to the BOT by the CLC.** This appears to be the only time group input could be received. Groups would have to review the documents at the time it goes to the full CLC for review and input could be gathered at that time. I'm not sure this is what happens now. *Perhaps this could be a New Business Motion for next year?*

Results of Voting on Literature Proposals:

A: Literature:			NHI Delegates		
Item	Motion: To grant the Conference Seal of Approval to:	Result	Elaine	Dorothy	Comments
A-a	The revised pamphlet, <i>Maintaining A Healthy Body Weight</i>	Adopted (Hand vote)	Y	Y	Adopted; Conferenced Seal of Approval Granted.
A-b	The pocket guide, <i>Twelve Concepts of OA Service Pocket Guide</i>	Failed (Hand vote)	N	N	Not adopted. Everyone seemed to like the idea and felt it a great tool, but there was concern about the focus of some of the questions relative to the concept they represented. (for example, Elaine voted no because she wanted to see the inclusion of the notion that the word “trust” in “Trusted Servants” goes two ways – and that the questions for Concept 3 focus on that aspect of trust.)
A-c	The revised manuscript, <i>The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous</i> .	Adopted (Counted Vote) Yes - 161 No - 11 Abstain – 13	Abstain	Y	Adopted; Conference Seal of Approval granted, with the proviso that the spiritual principle of the relevant Step or Tradition will be added to the title page of each chapter. Another concern was the application of 50/50 use of the terms “compulsive overeating,” and “compulsive eating;” (as interpreted by WSBC Policy 1991c). This policy was set aside based on the expressed concerns and they’ll go back and reconsider the changes they made there while finalizing the document.

Results of Voting on New Business Proposals:

New Business Proposals			NHI Delegates		
Item	Motion:	Result	Elaine	Dorothy	Comments
A	To rescind WSBC Policy 2014a (email loops)	Adopted (Hand vote)	Y	Y	Adopted; Housekeeping change.
B	To establish the following policy statement (Statement on Copyright and Ownership of Creative Works)	Failed (Hand vote)	N	N	The general sense was that it was too encompassing and people were concerned that their “stories” would become the property of OA;
C	To add a Tenth tool: Mindfulness	Failed (Hand vote)	N	Y	Failed. The name seemed to be the biggest concern. Mindfulness is a meditative practice lifestyle and Mindful Eating is a copyrighted approach to eating behaviors. The group appeared to be somewhat on board with the idea that many of us are still struggling with eating behaviors (eating too fast, eating while distracted, etc.) but there was also a confusion around whether this tool was broader than that, and was focused on mindfulness as a daily approach to life.

New Business Proposals			NHI Delegates		
Item	Motion:	Result	Elaine	Dorothy	Comments
D	To amend Policy 1991a by striking and inserting language to update the policy (the structure of WSBC Conference Committees) according to current practice.	Adopted on Consent Agenda	Y	Y	Items on the consent agenda are voted as a group. There were 3 New Business Proposals on the consent agenda (D, E and G). Note about Consent Agendas: The Board of Trustees (BOT) recommends proposals to include on the Consent Agenda. We consider the items and then determine if we agree with the inclusion of the identified articles on the consent agenda. If any delegate wishes to remove any items from the Consent Agenda, all it takes is one person saying they want an item removed, and it is removed automatically, no questions asked. Once the final list is settled, we vote on the agenda. By virtue of agreeing to the proposals to be included, the items are automatically approved. There is no debate, and no questions. (So, if you want to debate or ask questions about any item on the consent agenda, you'd have to remove it from the agenda.)
E	To amend WSBC policy 2009b (change "service boards" to "service bodies")	Adopted on Consent Agenda	Y	Y	Correction of terminology.
F	To amend WSBC Policy 2010a (Amended 20112)	Withdrawn	---	---	The amendment to the policy was to strike the word "booklets." This motion was withdrawn because apparently, AA still lists "booklets" on its ordering website!
G	To amend WSBC Policy 1985 by striking and inserting wording about the format in which literature will be made available to delegates prior to the WSBC	Adopted on Consent Agenda	Y	Y	This was housekeeping to reflect current practice.
H	To amend WSBC Policy 1992a (Unity with Diversity Policy) by adding a 5 th paragraph that addresses meeting format	Failed (Hand vote)	N	N	This was further amended at the start to include the collection of a 7 th Tradition in addition to the other items. Delegates were concerned that this seemed an odd place to put a reference to the format; also concerned that this would limit group autonomy.
I	Move to amend WSBC Policy 2014a to specify that email loops my register as meetings.	Withdrawn	---	---	Withdrawn because email loops can already register as meetings.
J	Move to amend WSBC Policy 2005c by striking and inserting the following paragraph requiring an explanation of how a proposed motion or bylaw will help carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.	Adopted (Hand vote)	Y	Y	The main function and purpose of OA is to carry the message. This amendment forces the maker to make the main thing the main thing. Some delegates were concerned that this would be difficult in cases of housekeeping amendments, and proposals to improve or change the way business is conducted. Other questions involved whether a proposed motion MUST carry the message in order to be included on the agenda (the answer is No – this is just additional information on those motions where it is relevant.)
K	To move that the BOT investigate	Failed	Y	Y	Viewed as a desire to adopt an alternative to Robert's Rules, many people were

New Business Proposals			NHI Delegates		
Item	Motion:	Result	Elaine	Dorothy	Comments
	and develop proposals for submission to the WSBC no later than WSBC 2010, that would encourage WSBC to conduct its business in accordance with Concept 12 (c – reach decisions by substantial unanimity).	(counted vote) No – 90 Yes – 84 Abstain – 11			concerned that Roberts Rules would go away completely and very little agreement would be reached in large business meetings.
L	Move to adopt a policy to establish a special fund to assist in translating OA literature, forms, correspondence, and other materials to languages other than English	Adopted (counted vote) Yes = 103 No = 65 Abstain = 13	Y	Y	A concern was expressed about having a “restricted” special fund where the funds could only be used for the purpose stated. The point was made that no funds had ever been denied due to budgetary constraints and the BOT Treasurer made the point that at the time last year’s budget was proposed, only a small amount of the previous year’s translation budget had been used, so they decreased this year’s budget by \$2500; the translation fund did end up using all but just a few dollars by the end of the budget year, so the decrease was disappointing. It was very clear at this conference that non-English speaking countries need more funding to continue translating materials for use by their members, in addition to the line item in the budget. The WSO Donation forms will be revised to include a Translation Fund, in addition to the other funds members can donate to.
M	Move to establish an ad hoc committee to consider the implementation of a Spanish Language Service Board.	Adopted (Hand vote)	Y	Y	This would be a committee formed purely for the purpose to investigate how a Spanish Language Service Board (SLSB) that spans regions would work. (There are other Language Boards but they are generally for a specific country in a specified region. The SLSB would have members from many different countries around the world, and currently a service board can only associate with one region. This motion will seek to change that.
N	Move to create a Sponsorship Day to be held annually on the third Saturday in August	Adopted (counted vote) Yes = 102 No = 65 Abstain – 14	Y	Y	The BOT stated that they sometimes meet during this week, but the WSBC felt that once adopted, the BOT could be more flexible with the scheduling of their meeting. (In fact, in 2017 the BOT is meeting the 4 th week in August, not the third. People generally felt that this would bring attention to the need for Sponsors and present opportunities for service boards to hold special events. It will take effect August of 2018.

Results of Voting on Bylaws Proposals:

Bylaw Proposals			NHI Delegates		Comments
Item	Motion:	Result	Elaine	Dorothy	
1	To amend OA Bylaws Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 6 – Election of Trustees by stipulating that no candidate may run for more than one position.	Adopted	Y	Y	This motion was presented as an attempt to streamline the voting process so that when voting for trustees, a person has to specify whether they are trying for a General Trustee or Region Trustee position; and if they lose one, can't be considered for the other at the same conference. This allows the voting process to be nailed down prior to any voting taking place; where under the previous policy, if a person lost the first election, and they met the qualifications for the other open trustee position, they could run for that one. This created issues and confusion for ballots, voting, etc. and took a lot of time.
2	To amend OA Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition to include certain items in the format.	Referred to committee	---	---	<p>The desire was to include a section that requires the use of a meeting format that includes the OA Preamble, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, and include collection of 7th tradition</p> <p>This item was hotly debated and ended up with 3 amendments to change wording, split the amendment, etc. Once a motion has 3 amendments, it is automatically referred to the Reference Committee to see what can be done with the motion before bringing it to the WSBC again.</p>
3	Move to amend OA Bylaws Subpart A, Article X – Dissolution, by striking the word “religious”	Failed (Hand vote)	N	N	Another hotly debated topic; some people felt they didn't want any money going to anything religious; others stated that most of our meetings take place in churches and why wouldn't we want to help organizations that have opened their arms to us; the main point however was that OA is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology, or religious doctrine. Charities focusing on education or scientific purposes could be outside issues as well, and therefore if we remove one, we should remove all, or we should remove none.
4	Move to amend OA Bylaws Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 4 – Qualifications by changing the time by which the qualifications for Trustees must be met, from “the time the application is submitted to WSO” to “at the time of election.”	Failed (Hand vote)	N	Y	Some delegates and BOT members felt that making this change would water down the qualifications. It was stated that this is not a “what if” program – it is a one-day-at-a-time program and the requirements should not be waived just because a person doesn't meet the timeframe at the time the application is submitted. The current WSBC is one such example. We have 2 Region Trustee positions that did not have applicants because the two applicants did not meet the qualifications at the time the applications had to be submitted, though they both met them by the time of the WSBC election. No other qualified candidates came forward. The mechanism to fill the trustee slots will be to appoint the candidates (who now qualify) to a 1 year term; and they can reapply and run next year. This seemed to me to be a good

Bylaw Proposals			NHI Delegates		
Item	Motion:	Result	Elaine	Dorothy	Comments
					approach and if we have a mechanism to handle this, we shouldn't change the qualifications.
5	Move to amend OA Bylaws Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Section 4 – Functioning, by clarifying how an intergroup that disbands can be deregistered by the Region Trustee	No Vote taken			We ran out of time.
6	Move to amend OA Bylaws Subpart B, Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 4 – Functioning, by clarifying how a Service Board that disbands can be deregistered by the Region or Virtual Trustee	No Vote Taken			We ran out of time
7	Move to amend OA Bylaws Subpart B, Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 2 – Composition, to allow Service Boards to associate with more than one country.	No vote taken			Ran out of time
8	Move to amend OA Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference by changing the timing of the meeting from Annual to Biennial.	No vote taken			Ran out of time.

Note: There was also an **emergency motion** that dealt with Translations and the desire to be able to translate the free downloadable materials from OA.org, without requiring a license for the privilege of translating the free documents. (This is seen as a barrier to worldwide unity because it takes about 2-3 months for a license to be approved, etc. The argument is that English Speaking groups can just download and use the materials with no other steps required; the fact that Non-English-speaking groups have to obtain a license to download and translate makes it unfair.) Emergency motions are generally presented only after all other business is completed, but a request was made to consider this one prior to the remaining items to be voted on. It was voted not to push the emergency motion ahead of the remaining bylaw motions because a BOT member explained that the BOT is currently working on a solution for this very issue and it could be that something has already been put in place.