

WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2024

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Theme – “We ALL Belong”

Delegate Report

Tuesday 5-7-24

- Board of Trustees Meeting – 15 trustees, 5 staff, 1 Parliamentarian
Adopted standing rules, consent agenda & gave reports; Discussion on literature being created from Lifeline – groups can produce books for own use, but must be approved by the BOT; Trustee Gary announced that LGBTQ Rainbow Service Board has received hate emails so BOT will compose response & send out to the entire fellowship; Announcement that OA has Lifeline blog (oalifeline.org)
- “All About Conference” Session – gave preview of what delegates could expect in the next days of the conference. Explanation of formats, voting procedures, Roberts Rules of Order, etc.

Wednesday 5-8-24

- Forum “Building Bridges to Recovery” – 10 Region Chairs shared their recovery story dealing w/barriers they had (culture, age, illness, gender bias, etc). Then attendees broke into groups & wrote & shared on a certain scenario that could be barriers to recovery. My group had “Social Anxiety/Isolation.” Others barriers scenarios were: Financial, Meeting Availability, Cultural/Religious. Then 3 Region chairs shared on what activities in their regions address Diversity & Inclusivity among members.
- Committee Meetings – I was on the 12 Step Within (TSW) Committee made up of 3 subcommittees. My subcommittee (Documents Review) was tasked with reviewing 7-8 documents on oa.org to keep or discard. I took minutes & filled out goals sheet for BOT approval. Group will meet virtually to complete.

Thursday 5-9-24

- Business Session I – 188 eligibles voters attending; Introductions of all trustees & office staff, region chairs; Conference agenda & Standing Rules/Amendments were adopted; Delegates were briefed on procedures; Officer reports were read, including newly hired Managing Director Dan Sandweiss. Treasurer reported more income needed from member contributions & a new portal for easier auto contributions is on oa.org. Announcements: 1) OA is in lawsuit due to groups using Google images on flyers & websites, we need to not do this. 2) Members can sign up for new bulletin on website – “WSO News Bulletin.”
- Business Session II – Region Chairs Reports; 6 Trustee Nominees Speeches & Questions – Cindy C. (Washington), Bob F. (Ontario), Emilia I. (Italy), Cindy L. (Missouri); Susan M. (Australia), Laurie O. (VA)
New Business – 1) New “OA Handbook for Members, Groups & Service Bodies” booklet was adopted & will be available soon; 2) Proposal to clarify WSBC delegate service terms was adopted; 3) Proposal to not schedule WSBC during or around holidays was adopted with revisions.

Friday 5-10-24

- Business Session III – All 6 new trustee nominees were elected by delegates & will be assigned duties.
New Business – 1) Proposal to remove “weight” from the current Abstinence definition - Defeated;

- 2) Proposal to clarify how WSO counts meetings that meet more often/week – much discussion & 3 amendments were made, so BOT will do research & present again; 3) Proposal to clarify who can speak at Conference – Adopted; 4) Proposal to decide when/how WSBC will meet (rotate in person & hybrid every 2 years) – Adopted; 5) Proposal to add service requirements to BOT qualifications – Adopted.
- Business Session IV – Parliamentary Presentation (Roberts Rules of Order – what is allowed or not) New Business – 1) Proposal to amend bylaw re: Trustee Nominations – Adopted; 2) Proposal for BOT to call virtual attendance for WSBC as they see a need – Adopted; 3) Proposal to establish lifetime term limits for trustees- Failed; 4) Proposal to ensure trustee assignments to region affirming them-Adopted; 5) Proposal to clarify who can submit bylaws amendments at WSBC – Adopted; 6) Proposal to change % of group responses needed to ratify bylaw amendments – Failed; 7) Proposals to amend wording of Steps 3-7-11 & Tradition 2 to replace “Him” with “God” – Withdrawn by submitters w/delegates’ OK. Seventh Tradition was collected from delegates & all attendees = \$9411 (+20 Australia currency).

Saturday 5-11-24

- Business Session V – New Business – 1) Proposal to add service requirements at region levels for trustee nominees – Adopted.
- Committee Reports – 3 new pieces of literature coming out later this year.
- Letter composed by BOT to address “hate mail” sent to LGBTQ Service Board was read & will be sent to the membership soon.
- 49 “Green Dot” delegates were recognized & congratulated.
- For the Conference closing, delegates representing the 14 different languages at conference took turns saying parts of our “I Put My Hand in Yours” pledge in each of those languages.
- Attending delegates countries represented - Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Ukraine, USA, Wales.
- Languages spoken – Danish, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Ukraine, Welsh.
- States represented – 38

Delegates worked hard all week on the proposals and voting, but there was also some down time for fun & relaxing and sharing with others from around the world. Some of us made new friends from other countries and states & joined them to take in some of the local sights. And the week concluded with a banquet featuring 3 of the outgoing trustees speaking, and of course a fun dance, complete with a DJ. For me, the comradery & fellowship was really the best part of this experience. To sit at meals or in the hall & share with people different from me & talk about how we all live this 12-step recovery program is priceless. Once again, I was reminded that I am not alone in this journey and that all over the globe, my fellows are struggling & growing & learning, just like me. And as we say often....” Together We can do what we cannot do alone!”

In OA Service,
 Evelyn S.
 CHI-WIF Intergroup Chicago
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