

## 2015 WSBC – April 27 – May 2, 2015

It was again a pleasure to serve CJI as one of the two delegates sent to the 2015 World Service Business Conference. I was happy to see the wonderful turnout of 176 delegates and 17 trustees. As it was with the last two WSBC's we attended, a strong international flavor was present; delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Colombia, UK, Canada, Costa Rica, Israel, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Brazil, England, Mexico, Italy, Greece, Scotland, Venezuela, Netherlands, Austria and Sweden attended, 21 countries including the United States. In addition to English, the Serenity Prayer was recited in Spanish, French, , Dutch, Swedish, and German. This year's conference was themed "The Miracle of Abstinence".

As was usual with a conference as important to the Fellowship as this one was, a lot of business was to be conducted. Beginning on Monday, the first of several workshops began and on Tuesday there was three early bird workshops centering around this year's theme. Wednesday morning, a forum for all voting members was held and centered around the theme of living Recovery through the Twelve Steps. Later in the morning the first of two committee meeting sessions were held, close to five hours of work. Thursday was the first of five business sessions with the final business session on Saturday morning. Additionally on Wednesday night, all 10 regions, including virtual services, separated for a brief meeting. This year it was held before dinner and Region 7 elected to meet during an unscheduled dinner in the "Old Town" section of Albuquerque.

I arrived to the conference on Monday morning with my co-delegate, Ginny and immediately checked in, went food shopping and registered for the conference. I was able to attend the Monday night workshop: How the Miracle of Abstinence is Supported by the Fellowship, and all three related workshops on Tuesday: How the Miracle of Abstinence is Supported by Using the Tools; We Receive the Miracle of Abstinence by Practicing the Spiritual Principles of the Program and The Miracle of Maintenance: How Continued Abstinence & Working All Twelve Steps Keeps Recovery Fresh, also including the workshop All About Conference. On Thursday I attended one of the two workshops held, The Miracle of Abstinence Within Intergroups/ Service Boards. The workshops were a bit different in that delegates sharing were guided by two or three questions relating to that respective workshop; all questions were discussed by the speakers and also listed in the back of our binders for reference. The two-hour Wednesday morning forum, There's No Place Like OA: Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Recovery consisted of our Region Chairs and Co-chairs acting in a "Wizard of Oz" parody with much humor and important messages.

My committee assignment for the first time in two years was not Professional Outreach; I chose the Conference Approved Literature Committee (CLC). I was always interested in our literature but had an additional motivation. I proposed,

through the Region 7 Outreach Committee a pamphlet concerning OA and those who have had weight loss surgery. This committee is a very hard working and dedicated one. Some revisions and new literature can take multiple years of development before they reach the WSBC for approval. This large committee had to consider three proposals for new literature, only one received the needed 2/3 yes vote for further development. Once this committee approves a proposal within a few weeks it is submitted to the Board of Trustees (BOT) for vote. Proposals receiving a 2/3 yes vote continues to be developed and is returned to the CLC to work on a manuscript, eventually the CLC votes on the manuscript as well as the BOT. Once these steps are completed the new literature or revision literature wounds up on the WSBC agenda for approval and vote. Unfortunately the weight loss pamphlet proposal failed to receive a 2/3 yes vote for further development. It did get a majority vote however and though very disappointed, I already have different approaches on how to avoid Tradition issues and get this much needed pamphlet accepted, developed and published

The committee was broken up into several sub-committees working on various pieces of literature already submitted and accepted for development. Revised literature is cyclical and I am on a sub committee revising the “Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight” pamphlet. Each sub committee has a chair and many deadlines to adhere to; I can not wait to begin this work.

The five business meetings were extremely productive, interesting, mostly serene and respectful. Joe L., the outgoing chair of the Board of Trustees, conducted these meetings with great humor and gentle authority. Some of the business conducted consisted of the re-setting of the consent agenda, Trustee applicant Q&A session, Trustee voting, discussion of amendments, the granting of the conference seal-of-approval for literature and, of course, voting on policy and by-law motions.

I would like to briefly mention one new business motion that was important to both our Intergroup and our Fellowship. New Business Motion G was to amend Policy 1984a, our Preamble for Overeaters Anonymous last amended in 2013. The motion in a desire to be more inclusive added the words “restricting or purging” and removed references to overeating and eating. The Reference sub committee recommended an amendment which was to add four words, “and compulsive food behaviors” to the primary purpose at the end of the Preamble. This amendment was adopted and the amended motion was also adopted. This amended Preamble in my opinion makes us a welcoming Fellowship and matches the language in the current definition of abstinence. I can not say enough about the hard work and dedication displayed by the reference sub committee; a job well done.

Additionally under new business motions were three pieces of revised literature submitted for the Conference Seal of Approval, “a Program of Recovery”, “A guide for Sponsors” and “OA Handbook for Members”. All were adopted and will

soon be available from the OA Bookstore.

The conference ended Saturday morning after a round of reports. That night we enjoyed an inspirational speaker, dinner and dancing. All in all, the conference was about the Miracle of Abstinence and recovery. I cease to be amazed at the love, dedication and service so freely given by our members. Again, thank you for allowing me to be one of the two CJI delegates for the 2015 WSBC.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross M.  
WSBC Delegate