

2016 WSBC – May 2 – May 7, 2016

It was again a pleasure to serve CJI as one of the two delegates sent to the 2016 World Service Business Conference. I was happy to see the wonderful turnout of 182 delegates and 17 trustees; an increase of 6 voting delegates from the preceding year. As it was with the last three WSBC's attended, a strong international flavor was present; delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Colombia, Canada, Costa Rica, Israel, Ireland, Bermuda, Germany, Brazil, England, Mexico, Spain, Greece, Scotland, Venezuela, Austria and Sweden attended, 19 countries including the United States. In addition to English, the Serenity Prayer was recited in Swedish, Greek, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish and Portuguese. This year's conference was themed "Responsibility-To Carry the Message".

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 again centered around the theme of this year's conference. 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 after the committee meetings and Region 7 elected to meet during 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: Responsibility Pledge: To Extend the Hand and Heart of OA, and all three related workshops on Tuesday: Responsibility: Of Abstinence; Responsibility: Of Working All Twelve Steps and The Real Deal: Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope (Young People), and the workshop All About Conference which goes over business and parliamentary procedures. On Thursday I attended one of the two workshops held, Virtual Services: Responsibility of Carrying the Message. 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, A Carry-On Message consisted of our Region Chairs and delegates acting in several different scenarios depicting different ways of carrying the message of OA in everyday life.

My committee assignment as it was last year was the Conference Approved Literature Committee (CLC). This year two pieces of literature developed by the CLC was to be considered by the body for the Conference Seal of Approval, "The Twelve Traditions Pocket Guide" and "Twelve Step Workshop and Study Guide",

both received received the needed 2/3rd yes vote and will soon be available. We voted on CLC committee delegate co-chair and vice chair and reviewed ongoing literature sub committees including revision of the pamphlet "Maintaining a Healthy Weight:.. This was the sub committee I worked on throughout the year, work is completed but awaits final approval or suggestions from the Board of Trustees. Hopefully this revision will be ready for conference vote next year. Additionally the following pieces of literature will be continued to be worked on: "Small Meetings, Small Towns", "Promises" and "Body Image, Sexuality, and Relationships". Five new proposals were also considered for development ; two were accepted. As many know, last year I had asked the Region 7 Outreach Committee to sponsor a pamphlet welcoming and supporting those who have had weight loss surgery. It failed to receive the 2/3rd vote from the CLC due to Tradition 6 and 10 concerns. This year I asked this intergroup (CJI) to again sponsor this pamphlet. I asked and received much help from Karen B, formerly of South Jersey Intergroup. We opened up the pamphlet for those not only who had the weight loss procedures but also to those considering it. An additional support story was added as well as demonstrating how this pamphlet can be written within our Traditions. Positive support was received and I am happy to report that this proposal received the needed 2/3 rd vote for development. The BOT will consider this and a 2/3rd vote is also needed from them. The CLC is optimistic for an approval and a sub committee has already been formed to develop it, I am a member of this sub committee and can't wait to get started.

The five business meetings were extremely productive, interesting, mostly serene and respectful. Gerri H, the outgoing chair of the Board of Trustees, conducted these meetings with 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 mention one business motion, Proposal Item D which was sponsored by CJI. This of course is the motion asking for a change of date for Unity Day from February to June. Sadly it did not receive the majority vote needed and was defeated. Many people worked very hard on this proposal and could not be more appreciative for the help. I made the presentation during the the Friday Business session but in the end the Fellowship felt a change was not needed. I have never attempted anything like this before and it is an experience I will never forget. Perhaps one day a similar motion to change the date of Unity Day can again be presented but I am very happy with the process and again thank CJI for the support.

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 Responsibility Pledge To Carry the Message and how it is vital to our recovery and growth. I again am amazed but not surprised at the love, dedication and service so freely given by our members. Thank you for allowing me

to be one of the two CJI delegates for the 2016 WSBC.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross M.
WSBC Delegate