

## WSBC 2017 report submitted by Brenda Spielzinger

In the early morning of Monday, May 1, Ginny, Christina and I left for world service Business Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The anticipation and excitement was at a very high level. The theme of the WSBC was "Growing OA Unity Worldwide."

People from all over the world i.e., Scotland, England, Iceland, France, Spain, South Africa, Israel, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil and from all the regions in USA were in attendance.

I was a green dot (my first time at WSBC), and Ginny was my mentor. Before we reached the hotel she had indoctrinated me as best she could in the short time we had. I was so grateful to have some insight into what I was getting myself into.

There were 186 delegates that were eligible to vote along with visitors and volunteers.

Monday, Day 1: We got to the hotel, settled in and then went in search of the registration table where we got out binders and committee assignments. I was on the by-laws committee and the reference subcommittee where motions were gone over to see if they could make it to the voting floor without any problems.

There was an OA meeting which we attended. We then went for dinner and after dinner there was a workshop on *The Heart of the Program Worldwide: The OA Twelve Steps* that was quite interesting. There was another OA meeting, but by that time my brain and my body were too tired to stay awake.

Tuesday, Day 2: We got up at the crack of dawn to attend a 7 am OA meeting that was very good. There was nothing until a 2:00 pm workshop: *Carrying the Message Worldwide: The Twelve Concepts of OA Service*. I was quite intrigued as I had never read the 12 Concepts and realized that there was another part of the recovery process that included the 12 Concepts which I will begin to incorporate into my recovery program. There were 2 more workshops which covered the theme of "worldwide unity". We then went to Old Albuquerque to have dinner and then back to the hotel to a workshop on "*All About Conference*".

Wednesday, Day 3: Up again at the crack of dawn to get ready for our first day of committee meetings. We had breakfast and then started off to our respective committee meetings. We broke for lunch and continued until 4:45. I was so intrigued being on the by-laws committee as this is the nitty gritty of how OA operates. I am also on the Region 7 by-laws committee and so I did have some idea of what would be involved. I was very excited to learn how motions evolved; where they went and who voted on them. Well WSBC was the ultimate classroom.

Thursday, Day 4: Here we are again up at the crack of dawn and ready to begin Business Meeting I. The consent agenda was approved. The motions began; the pro and con began; and then the questions and comments began. And what I thought was going to be easy became

very contentious and sometimes confusing. However, it was absolutely wonderful to be a part of this process.

Friday, May 5: The business meetings continued and by the end of the conference on Saturday, May 6 history was made on the voting floor. "Maintaining a Healthy body Weight" pamphlet was adopted. The voting body also approved of the conference seal of approval to the revised OA 12 & 12. These revisions were worked on for 3 ½ years and it was a labor of love.

The theme of the WSBC was unity and by Saturday, May 6 unity was upper most in all everyone's efforts. I was so grateful to be a part of the amazing conference and can't wait to bring back to our intergroup and my meetings the idea that "service" is an important part of recovery; service definitely helps your abstinence.

The reference committee met for the last time that week (there were 4 meetings) and discussed 3 emergency motions to put before the voting floor. Two were not approved and one was put forward. That was a motion to approve a separate line in the budget for translations of OA literature in the non-English speaking countries. It was announced that the World Service office would work on this and approve it as soon as possible. This was a constant discussion throughout the entire WSBC. The non-English speaking countries feel isolated because they do not have literature in their respective languages. This was well accepted and made a great deal of OAers very happy.

Sunday, May 7 bleary eyed and exhausted (but so very grateful) we left New Mexico the better for all we learned and all the people we met.