

WSBC 2017 report submitted by Christina Huhmann

It is with much gratitude that I sit to write my WSBC report. Brenda and I were privileged to attend the 56th Annual World Service Business Conference in Albuquerque, NM. It is a high energy meeting. There were 185 voting WSBC reps as well as visitors and volunteers.

The theme this year was Unity Worldwide. 21 countries sent representation. There were members from non-English speaking countries (i.e. Europe, South America, Israel, Africa) as well as the US, New Zealand, Australia and Canada. During the week the foreign language reps eloquently made the need known for translations of the materials we take for granted (i.e. meeting formats, pamphlets, pocket cards, etc.) The body supported this need and the Board of Trustees will work on making that process less complicated.

During the conference – there are workshops, OA meetings and the body votes on the New Business Motions and the Bylaw Amendments. The workshops were very informative. They were organized on how the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, Literature, Strategic Planning, Sponsorship can help us live in harmony and Unity Worldwide.

Several weeks before conference I was asked by the conference planning chair to be one of two presenters on the workshop on the Twelve Traditions. It was an honor to be able to participate in this workshop. I spoke about how the traditions continue the themes of love, service and humility. And how the Traditions have helped shape our intergroup principles and guide our Outreach initiative.

The body as a whole met on Wednesday morning for a 2 hour Forum called “Amazing Recovery: Passport to Recovery”. There were 10 members to a table and each table was visited by 4 different travelers who would talk about their recovery journey and the table members would share their experiences. There were 20 different categories. Our travelers included someone who had bariatric surgery, a relapse survivor, a non-English speaker and a compulsive exerciser. Everyone at the table spoke and we all got some insight into another phase of recovery. It was an excellent gathering exercise.

Besides voting on the WSBC New Business Motions and By Law Amendments every Delegate has to participate on a committee. We each get a job for that committee that we work on during the following year. I was assigned to the Conference Approved Literature Committee and I volunteered to work on the revision of the To the Family pamphlet. All our literature is revised once every 10 years. I chose this because CJI has such an active Outreach initiative and I wanted to help get this pamphlet done so we could have another tool to carry our message.

My committee is a very diverse group. Our chair is from Glasgow, Scotland and our members are in 4 different time zones. We have already scheduled 4 conference calls to discuss the work. We hope to have all the work and edits completed for the 8/22 Board of Trustees meeting so, if approved, it can be ready in 2017.

With respect to the New Business Motions, Brenda and I saw history made on the voting floor. We participated in the voting to adopt the revised "Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight" pamphlet. We also saw the body vote to give the conference seal of approval to the revised OA Twelve and Twelve. The ad hoc committee worked on the revisions for 3 ½ years on the edits and additions. In addition to reorganizing the Step 4 chapter, they removed some the English specific idioms to make translations into other languages easier. The new editions of the OA 12 and 12 should be available in 2018. A question was asked as to whether the 12 and 12 workbook would be updated with new page numbers, etc. and we were told that when time comes to reprint the supply those edits would be made.

There was so much discussion on some proposals during the voting section the body did not get to hear and vote on all the bylaw amendments. Those amendments are not held over. They will need to be resubmitted for consideration next year and go through the process again.

I have so much respect for the Chair for her strength, kindness and compassion as she conducted the voting and the Board for the work they put into this conference. I felt like collectively that was about 1,000 years of abstinence there.

I really got to observe how each vote counts. Central Jersey had 2 votes that we cast according to the group conscience of our intergroup. Your voices were heard.

Thank you for allowing me to service and I look forward to my committee work during the year.