

2021 WSBC: April 17 -24, 2021

After an abbreviated virtual conference with little business conducted in 2020, it was again a pleasure to serve CJI as a delegate for the 2021 World Service Business Conference; held virtually on the Zoom platform. I was happy to see the amazing turnout of 248 delegates including over 90 green dot (first time) delegates. A strong international flavor was present; delegates from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom (England, Scotland) attended, 20 countries including the United States. In addition to English, the Serenity Prayer was recited in Portuguese, French, Russian, Spanish, and Greek. This year's conference was themed "Looking to the Future".

As was usual with a conference as important to the Fellowship as this one was, a lot of business was to be conducted since last year's conference was so limited with little business conducted. Beginning on Saturday April 17, the first of three mandatory workshops began. "All About Virtual Conference" was extremely important and informative since when it came to a virtual conference of this magnitude, most of us were green dots. Sunday, the "Meet the Virtual Maker" session was held, where representatives of the motion could be questioned, no opinions or arguments from the audience was permitted. Monday, the "Trustee Nominee Questions and Answers" session was held. Questions were to be emailed in advance and delegates had short videos of each nominee to view as well as the trustee nominee applications. Additionally, on Monday began morning OA meetings plus our Region 7 trustee, Karen B set up nightly Region 7 delegate meetings, which were very informative.

My committee assignment was for the third time, 12 Step Within. The committee met virtually after the conference and after introductions, sub committees with goals were formed. Currently my subcommittee is one on the OA calendar mainly forming a motion to reorganize and implement an event calendar on oa.org. There is a possibility the Board of Trustees might address this subject, and, in that case, all members will be assigned to another subcommittee. Our next Twelfth Step Within meeting will meet on the Zoom platform on July 10th.

The five business meetings were extremely productive, interesting, especially considering that to do this virtually was a huge undertaking. Some of the business conducted consisted of the re-setting of the consent agenda, Trustee voting, the granting of the conference seal-of-approval for literature and, of course, voting on policy and by-law motions. I'd also like to mention that the reference subcommittee met every day and worked diligently to handle amendments, substitute motions, combining motions plus making recommendations to the body on to approve or disapprove on certain motions.

I'd like to mention some of the new business motions that was important to both our Intergroup and our Fellowship, new Business Motions, A, B, and C. Motion A was to restore back to the abstinence and recovery statement in place before the 2019 version; B was to retain the current statement and only consider amending it in years ending in zero and C was to consider a new version of the statement. Amendments were sent and motions A and C were combined and adopted, like the original statement with a few words added. Motion B was voted on separately and soundly defeated.

Briefly motion E to change our Preamble after a substitute motion was submitted was defeated and our Preamble remains the same. Our Unity with Diversity policy was addressed in Motion H, so to use language to better express the intent of the policy and was adopted. Please note, many meeting formats have a statement about our diversity policy and is not affected by this recent change in the policy wording.

Also considered were three pieces of literature submitted for the OA Conference Seal of Approval, 2/3 vote for approval. The first, a pamphlet revision of *Tools of Recovery* and was adopted overwhelmingly. The second was a combination of pamphlets, *Dignity of Choice* and *A Plan of Eating* titled *A New Plan of Eating: A Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Journey* was considered by the body and adopted. The last piece, *Voices of Recovery, 2nd Edition* was adopted by exactly the necessary 2/3 yes votes required.

The conference ended Saturday afternoon and must add that the support staff was incredible in making this conference virtually flawless in my opinion. Our Board of Trustee chair, Bonnie L handled her duties with diplomacy and skillfully navigated through our first virtual conference.

I must mention the electronic voting available through Zoom. It was accurate, fast, and supplied votes as well as percentages, eliminating any need for re-counts and enabled us to complete all business on the agenda. There is so much more to talk about what happened and how it affects us. I encourage you to visit oa.org and begin with the 2021 WSBC wrap up report.

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 your CJI delegate for the 2021 Virtual WSBC.

Respectfully submitted, Ross M