

2022 WSBC: April 22 –30, 2022

After our first full virtual conference conducted in 2021, it was again a pleasure to again serve CJI as a delegate for the 2022 World Service Business Conference, held virtually on the Zoom platform. We were down in attendance from the 248 delegates last year to this year's 218 delegates. This decline could possibly have been due to the late change from a limited hybrid conference to a fully virtual one.

A strong international flavor was present; delegates from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom (England, Scotland) attended, 21 countries including the United States. In addition to English, the Serenity Prayer was recited in Hindi, French, Persian, Ukrainian, and Greek. For the very first time the WSBC utilized interpreters in Spanish and Portuguese.

This year's conference was themed "We Can Do Together What We Can Never Do Alone".

As was usual with a conference as important to the Fellowship as this one was, a lot of business was conducted during our 5 four-hour business meetings beginning Tuesday and ending on Saturday, April 30. On Saturday April 23, the first of 4 mandatory workshops began. "All About Virtual Conference" as usual was extremely important and informative to both a conference veteran like myself and to the first-time delegates affectionally known as green dots. Sunday, both the "Meet the Maker" and "Literature Q&A" sessions were held, both extremely important to me as will become obvious as I discuss my committee assignment and report on the OA literature proposal. The next session attended was "Trustee Nominee Speeches and Q&A", always important, especially this year as South Jersey Intergroup's Bob L was running for General Service Trustee.

My committee assignment was for the first time, the Reference Sub

Committee and throughout the year will be a member of the Bylaws Committee. We met every day and worked diligently to handle amendments, substitute motions, combining motions plus making recommendations to the body on to approve or not approve certain motions.

Reference met from Sunday, April 24 to Friday, April 30; all sessions were conducted in the afternoon and were 2 hours long except for the very challenging last session which was 3 hours long. The last meeting considered emergency motions plus Motion C, which consisted of permission to screen share and voice share. This motion was complex due to the copyright laws and the committee could not agree to an amendment and the motion presented to the body was the original motion.

The 5 business meetings as is always the case, were extremely productive and interesting. 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 am happy to report that the literature proposal, *The Twelve Traditions Workbook of Overeaters Anonymous* sponsored by this intergroup was adopted with the required 2/3 vote and should see it in a few months. I was also proud and happy to make a pro on the floor for this proposal.

Additionally, during the Friday session 2 Region Trustees and 2 General Service Trustees were elected. I am so happy to report that Bob L was elected a General Service Trustee. I have no doubt our friend will serve this position with love and dedication.

I'd like to mention some of the new business motions which require a majority as well as some by-law motions that require a 2/3 vote that are important to both our Intergroup and our Fellowship. New

Business Motion D to refund the \$134,800 received from the Paycheck Protection Program and subsequently forgiven was defeated, most likely since this was addressed last year and fairly impossible to refund.

Motion E to establish July as service month failed by fairly large margin, a little surprising to me.

Motion C to allow screen and voice sharing as mentioned before, Reference could not agree on an amendment and went to the floor as originally written, failing by a narrow margin.

By-law Motion 5 to reduce the number of trustees eventually to 12 was amended to consist of 17 trustees and whenever possible a minimum of 2 trustees shall come from outside of North America and was adopted. It is my understanding that all trustees will be General Service Trustees with some being assigned to regions. Bylaw Motions 1 and 11 were combined and concerned a schedule of types of WSBC meetings in 2023, 2024 and 2025; motion failed. I believe this decision will go back to the conference planning committee and Board of Trustees.

The conference ended Saturday afternoon and must add that the support staff was incredible as well as every member of the BOT in making this conference a success.

I must again 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 2022 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 2022 Virtual WSBC.

Respectfully submitted, Ross M