

2023 WSBC: April 25 - 29, 2023

World Service Business Conference was held “live” in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There was an amazing turnout of 176 delegates, plus volunteers and staff from the World Service Office. For many this was the first “live” meeting they attended since COVID. There were many delegates from the Virtual Intergroup as well as International Delegates from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the Ukraine. The Serenity Prayer was recited in Hebrew, Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, and Swedish. The conference was themed “Concepts of Service: The Heart of Fellowship”.

For me Conference started Tuesday morning with an OA meeting led by our Region 7 Chair. I then joined a group going to Walmart to grocery shop. Eating all of my lunches and most of my dinners in my room cut back on what turned out to be rather expensive meals. Registration and Literature pick up was open when I returned. The afternoon was spent reviewing the literature. That evening finished with a presentation “All About Conference” and a Q&A session.

Committee work started first thing Wednesday morning and continued in the afternoon. I was assigned the Twelve Step With-in Committee. It took all morning to determine what topics should be addressed by the Committee this year. We finally agreed on 3 topics: Recovery Assistance, Promoting Resources, and BroadeningTranslations. Three sub-committees were formed. I joined the Recovery Assistance sub-committee and we are working on a Power Point Presentation that includes the topics of encouraging service, recovery assistance, sponsorship and reaching out. I was assigned to work on the Reaching Out slides with another delegate and we are meeting again this month. The whole TSW Committee will be meeting monthly to continue work on the presentation. Unfortunately at the end of Conference we were told that the topic of Broadening Translation was out of bounds for this committee.

Wednesday evening was “Meet the Maker” session. Makers of the motions could be questioned. I found this to be extremely helpful in understanding the issues and background that led to the motion. In several situations additional background information and history was shared. The evening ended with a workshop on “The Spirit of Service.”

I started Thursday morning by attending another OA Meeting and a breakfast gathering of the Region 7 Delegates. Then it was straight to Business Meetings. Initially we adopted credentials, voted on Standing Rules, the Motion Consent Agenda and reviewed Officer, Region and Committee Reports, and listened to Trustee Speeches and Q&A. I attended a Lunch and Learn presented by the Trustees in order to better understand their role in the organization and to hear about their experience, backgrounds and job responsibilities. I was not on the Reference Committee but I attended all 6 of their meetings so I could better understand what happened to motions that were referred to them. Reference Subcommittee is a smaller group of delegates that are tasked with emergency motions and determining changes that can be made to motions such that the motion might be able to be adopted by the Conference.

We had two new literature proposals to debate, discuss and vote on. The first was “Diverse Voices: A Common Solution” which was approved with a 2/3 vote. The vote was close and required a standing individual count-off. The second piece of literature was a revised and consolidated version of “A Guide For Sponsors” and “Sponsoring Through the Steps.” The new literature was titled “Sponsorship in OA: Guiding Others into Recovery.” This was Not Approved. Again another close

vote that required a standing count-off. The main concern was that the 30 Questions that many sponsors use with new sponsees was removed. There were also concerns that a definition of abstinence used in the document was not the official definition and implied that weight loss and moving toward a healthy body weight were the main aspect of abstinence.

Thursday evening included a Workshop on Encouraging Service and a Power Point presentation on the Concepts, followed by a Q&A session. The Concept presentation was passed out in printed form, will be available electronically with our WSBC Wrap-Up Reports, and then will be available on oa.org.

Again, I started Friday and Saturday mornings attending the fascinating Reference Subcommittee Meetings and then going straight to the continuing Business Meetings. Trustee voting was completed. All six Delegates running as Trustees were elected. We are still looking for an additional 4 members to fill vacant positions. I was quite impressed how many, very emotionally charged issues were debated and discussed in such an orderly manner using Robert's Rules of Order. I learned so much in the debates. There are many issues in the Virtual Intergroup and Internationally that I hadn't ever conceived existed. It was impressive how the delegates were so open minded and truly tried to meet worldwide needs.

Several of the new business motions were controversial and important to our Intergroup:

- Motion E – About the definition of Open and Closed Meetings was adopted with amendments. Definitions changed to “Meeting with visitors (open)”, “Meeting without visitors (closed)”, “Specific” Focus and Topic Meetings.
- Motion S – Additional coins. Was adopted with an amendment to add coins for 45 and 50 years.
- Motion T – Removal of OA approved AA Literature. Motion defeated. Count-off required. 68 voted to adopt and 90 voted to defeat.
- Motion U – To encourage use of any and all OA approved literature. Motion adopted.

I attended the final Business Meeting on Saturday morning and the Trustee Board Meeting on Saturday afternoon. I had the pleasure of watching New Jersey's Bob L elected to the Executive Committee as Treasurer!

I am amazed and overwhelmed by the caring, dedication and service of our members. Attending WSBC did so much for my personal recovery. Thank you for allowing me to be your CJI delegate for the 2023 WSBC.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi L