

WSBC (World Service Business Conference) Report - 2024

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I arrived in Albuquerque on a sunny Tuesday, ready to get started. I met my sponsor and we had dinner while discussing the activities for the next day. We had Literature Questions and Answers (OA Handbook for Members & Groups, later granted Conference seal of approval) at 8am, followed by a very interesting Forum (put on by the Region Chairs). In the Forum we broke into groups and were each assigned an experience to discuss as a group. The challenge of the Forum was to increase our empathy for people faced with difficult life experiences; not to develop solutions, but rather develop our own sense of connection to one another. A great way to start Conference.

That afternoon we met in our assigned Committees. I was on the Bylaws Committee and also assigned to the Reference Subcommittee (RS) of Bylaws. Two people from each Region serve on Reference, and I had previously served on RS (during 2020 WSBC which was held virtually). RS is sent any motion that receives 3 or more amendments on the floor, as well as certain other cases as determined in the Business Meetings. RS works as a smaller group with focused discussion, trying to arrive at a reworked motion that can be considered for re-vote. Reference completes its work and the resulting Motion(s) are brought back to the main floor in a subsequent Business Meeting.

Wednesday night was an enjoyable dinner out with members of Region 7.

The 5 Business meetings began on Thursday when there were morning and afternoon sessions (Business Meetings I and II). Reference met early on Thursday (7am) to prepare for upcoming work then an additional 2 times to consider motions that had already been brought for our consideration. The first consideration was combining Motions 1 and 14, on scheduling of WSBC. Motions 4 & 5 were also to be combined since if the pronoun for God were to be removed from the Steps, the same action should be taken for the Traditions. (Merged Motions 4&5 were then withdrawn by their makers.) A number of other Motions were sent to RS and we spent quite a while in Reference on Friday (along with Business Meetings III & IV) learning about OA National Service Boards (NSBs), outside the US, related to Motion E. We also worked on Motion D (WSBC and holiday calendar), Motion 2 (Trustee Liaison qualifications, and service rotation), Motion 9 (Trustee term limit), and one Emergency New Business Motion about the OA.org Find a Meeting database. We ended on Saturday morning, (Business Meeting V) having dealt with all the Motions referred to RS and bringing them back for a vote.

Service at WSBC stretches me spiritually, emotionally and physically. I was challenged to maintain an open mind and respectful attitude at all times and make time for enough sleep and self-care, especially given the extra hours on RS. At WSBC I am amazed and grateful over and over that the depth and diversity of our Fellowship has so much to teach me and I always learn so much. I appreciate the growth and opportunity to serve and look forward to serving again.

[Please note that this isn't intended to be a full recap of everything that occurred; for detailed line-by-line summaries of the 5 business meetings held, please refer to the **[WSBC Wrap-Up Report](#)** at: **[Wrap-Up Report: World Service Business Conference 2024](#)**]