

# World Service Business Conference 2024 Delegate Report

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Let me just say before I give my report, I feel blessed to have been part of this conference. Coming in to the conference on my first day, I was so nervous. I worried I would not fit in and that everyone was smarter than me. I was also worried that people would judge my food plan. That was so far from the truth - it was my disease talking. The next morning, I went to my first OA meeting. Members attending the meeting were at different stages of recovery and service. After the first member shared, I immediately realized I was part of a fellowship that was like-minded. I truly felt at home. Combined abstinence in that room was over 100 years. WOW! I was surrounded by members who had very strong program. Then, coming into the first business meeting, it was amazing to see all the regions represented. I was so happy to meet my mentor. She was able to explain how this business meeting operates. When I realized how many different countries were represented, I realized how big OA has become. I was touched by all their struggles.

**Credentials report:** There were 188 delegates - all eligible to vote; 95 was the quorum. There were 23 countries represented (Greece, New Zealand, Iran, Israel, Denmark, Brazil, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Australia, Spain, Canada, Ukraine, Budapest, Poland, Puerto Rico, England, Costa Rica, Mexico, Indonesia, Columbia, Wales, and United States). There were 14 languages represented (Greek, Portuguese, Swedish, Italian, German, Danish, Farsi, Ukrainian, Welsh, French, Spanish, Iranian, Israeli, and English). In 2023, the number of OA meetings worldwide, including virtual, averaged 6,273 in over seventy-five countries, with 333 service bodies.

The **strategic plan** for OA as determined by the Board for 2024-2025 is diversity, service, and sponsorship.

**Standing Rules:** The Conference Standing Rules Amendments were adopted by a majority vote. One change was made to Amendment 9. The Conference Standing Rules were adopted by a majority vote.

**Chair's Report:** There were three retirements in 2023 and a new managing director, Dan Sandweiss, was hired. An external accounting firm was hired which eliminated the position of controller. In 2023, there were 6,273 meetings worldwide including virtual. There were 333 service bodies. There is now a contribution portal where groups can contribute online and set up automatic recurring contributions (ARC). A brand-new public service announcement video story was created.

**Treasurer's Report:** 2023 contributions were ahead of 2022 slightly. A 2023 audit was conducted. A balanced budget of \$1,809,200 was adopted. There is a steep gap in the yearly budget. Fewer contributions and decreasing literature sales seem to be the problem. The over-reliance on literature sales has caused fluctuations in the budget. To have stability in the budget, a reliance on

contributions must be the major source of revenues. For 2023, unaudited contributions were \$957,000 and literature sales were \$571,000 (digital included).

General funds are used for public information, oa.org, find a meeting, translations, literature, video advertisements, staffing, equipment, and administration. Restricted funds are used only for the specified purpose, such as translation, professional exhibits, and delegate support. Board Designated funds are used for projects and events that the Board set aside, such as upgrading the OA website, but these funds may be moved back to the general fund.

**Region Reports:** Each of the chairs of the eleven regions gave reports. Region 6 has 668 Affiliated Groups, 12 Unaffiliated Groups for a total of 680 groups (this include 228 virtual groups). The total number of intergroups is 36. The 2024 convention is being planned for October 25 – 28 in Nashua, New Hampshire. The Board is working on: a. improving inclusion with our French-speaking members, b. helping intergroups and members carry OA's message to compulsive eaters via monthly intergroup forums, c. building up content on our blog, and d. attending OA meeting around the region. The Region 4 Intergroup will be shutting down. The different areas of that region will be absorbed by different Intergroups. Why because fellows did not show up and do the recovery work of Step Twelve. Members are encouraged to attend service body meetings, become a region representative and a WSBC delegate.

The Rainbow (LGBTQ+) is Specific Focus Service Board was recently created by committed members and is affiliated with the Virtual Region. Members of this group have received viscous threatening hate-mail from other OA members. When it was reported to the WSO, our lawyers had to get involved because it is considered a hate crime. If other members received any mail of this type, they should report it to WSO, but also the police should be called immediately. OA is a fellowship united.

**Committee Reports:** New Literature: The OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies received the Conference Seal of Approval. Diverse Voices: A Common Solution is being finalized and will be sent to the printer. There was an infringement of copyrighted material. One of the service bodies was contacted by a lawyer regarding an image that was used with permission. The service body had to pay \$2,500 in damages. **All unauthorized images should be taken down from the WMI web page immediately. This includes any images taken from Lifeline.** The next WSBC is in Orlando, FL, August 20 – 24, 2025.

**Trustee Election:** There are seventeen trustee positions. Six people ran and all were elected. The new Trustees elected for a three-year term are Bob F., Cindy C., Cindy L., Emelia I., Laurie O., and Susan M. We are not sure which one will replace Beth B.

**Consent Agenda: New Business Proposal B:** Adopted. The fellowship will be invited to attend and observe the open Board of Trustees meeting held at World Service Business Conference and World Service Convention.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 1:** Was combined with Proposal 14. Adopted with amendments. Conference will be held on such dates as the Board may determine. There will be a two-year rotation – in person one year and virtually the next.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 2:** Adopted. Was referred to Reference Committee, brought back and adopted.

**Bylaw Amendments Proposal 3:** Defeated. Amendments to the Bylaws will remain at 55 percent requirement for passage.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 4:** Withdrawn. It was combined with amendment 5. The twelve steps will remain God as we understood Him...

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 5:** Withdrawn. It was combined with amendment 4. The twelve traditions will remain a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 6:** Adopted. iv) specific focus service boards – each participating group and intergroup.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 7:** Adopted. In reference to Article VIII. To designate a manner or method for holding meetings of the delegates or any other meeting as required. It does not have to be in US.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 8:** Adopted. Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees. B} was removed. Regions can choose from nominees that submitted applications up to 3.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 9:** Referred to Committee. Amended. Defeated. Trustees shall serve no more than eight years...

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 10:** Adopted. Those who may address the World Service Business Conference are: 1. Delegates, 2. Nondelegates: Officers ....., the managerial staff of the World Service Office and interpreters.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 11:** Adopted. Delegates and alternates should be selected at least fifty days before the annual conference.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 12:** Adopted. Notice of annual conference/special meetings shall be given to registered service bodies no less than sixty days prior to meeting.

**Bylaw Amendment Proposal 13:** Adopted. Amendments to Subpart B of these Bylaws may be proposed by any registered service body....submitted by December 1 before the Conference.

**New Business Proposal A:** Defeated. Abstinence will remain defined: Abstinence is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards a healthy body weight.

**New Business Proposal C:** Adopted. Delegate service is limited to no more than six continuous years before requiring a minimum of one year rotation out of service.

**New Business Proposal D:** Adopted with amendments. The Board of Trustees shall not arrange meetings during major holidays whenever possible during the three days before or after the holidays. This was very controversial and feelings were strong. The meeting was paused to say the Serenity Prayer, there was a motion to delay voting which did not carry, there was a motion to refer motion to reference commit which did not carry. There was a vote to call the question and the proposal was Defeated. Then a member requested a count on calling the question. That produced 95 for and 81 against and the motion was Adopted. Later in the day a motion to refer proposal D to the Board of

Trustees which was defeated. The motion was amended to take out the word religious and change it to “major holidays.” The Proposal was adopted.

**New Business Proposal E:** Referred to the Board, then to the Reference Committee. Then a motion was made to refer the proposal back to the Board to seek legal advice. That motion was adopted.

On Friday, May 10, 2024, a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket was passed. \$9,411.00 US dollars and \$20 Australian dollars was collected.

The chair asked all the green dots to come to the front of the room. I got very emotional from the applauding and thanks we received. I graduated from a green dot at 11:20 a.m. May 11, 2024.

YAHOO!