

“I PUT MY HAND IN YOURS “ WSBC 2009 KEY NOTES

Carla, WSO Delegate

- Region 8 SOAR Rocks! We had 22 delegates and a tremendous feeling of being part of a great region in a great fellowship. We wore sweatshirts with Region 8 SOAR Rocks to identify us and pompoms to cheer with when we were counted as Region 8 and each state rose when our state or country was called. Great fun.
- The response to 2008 consensus survey, which were translated in 26 languages and mailed it in Spanish to 73 Mexico groups, had 49% response in US and 38% outside. Based on average number of members who reported attendance we estimate there 54,000 in the fellowship. 41,000 are in the US and 12,450 outside with 8 to 9 member at a meeting. There are 6,574 OA meetings in 74 countries of the world. Telephone meeting almost doubled in one year. The fellowship's goal is “Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion-for this I am responsible.” With that in mind we would like to increase the fellowship by 20% by 2013
- The 2009 worldwide fellowship had delegates from such countries as Iceland, Poland, Costa Rico, Canada, Columbia, Whales, England, Australia, Germany, Holland, etc. Ten service bodies were given scholarships to send a delegate – but not enough funds were available for those who requested it. The delegates who are not English speaking are challenged to translate not only OA literature but also the WSO Conference literature and forms. It is an enormous tiring job.
- We have \$10,000 is in the budget to help this work. A fund for translating literature into other languages was established. **We are asking to have separate contributions taken earmarked as funds to translate OA literature into other languages.** \$1,476 was contributed by the Conference.
- It was adopted there will be a Web/Technology Conference Committee starting in 2010 WSBC.
- **There is a request for recovery stories for two pamphlets. One on *A Common Solution deals with diversity and recovery*. Especially needed are stories of recovery with people with gender issues i.e. bisexual, gay, lesbian, etc. and medical issues i.e. chronic illness, bi-polar, etc. **The other pamphlet is to youth and will replace *To the Teen***. We need stories of recovery by youth and teens. Both need to be 500 words or less, received by June 15, 2009 and can be mailed to World Service Office or emailed to info@oa.org Please see the OA.ORG website for details.**
- OA Website has been redesigned look at it at oa.org.
- Reminder we now can order medallions in years 1-20, 25, 30, 35, and 40.
- There is a meeting checklist for strong groups.
- There are new radio Public Announcement available with 60, 30, and 15-second announcements. The new TV announcements are scheduled to be released later this year.
- The Seventh Tradition pamphlet has been revised and the new slogan is **“Give as if your life depended on it.”**
- OA 50th Anniversary Convention will be celebrated August 26 to 29, 2010 in Los Angeles, California. We are all invited. Start planning now.
- The Conference adopted a new definition: Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors. Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is the result of living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program.
- My committee work was on the Literature committee. The sub committee I worked on revised the pamphlet *A Guide to the 12 Steps for You and Your Sponsor* to rewriting it as *Sponsoring through the Steps – One Approach* was well received by the majority of delegates. Still it needed 2/3 majorities to be approved and it fell short of that. We will see what the August Board of Trustees meeting decides to do with it.
- We are concerned about our magazine “Lifeline”. It is not meeting its expenses and subscriptions are down by 7.5% in 2008 and have continued to drop this year. If it continues we will be operating at a \$60K loss. Rates may need to be raised. We are also requesting people write article/recovery stories.
- OA has a quarterly periodical, Step Ahead; and it is available online.
- You can find my full report Triangle Intergroup web site.

“I PUT MY HAND IN YOURS “ WSBC 2009 REPORT

There is a great spirit in the WSB Conference. One requirement to be a delegate is to have 2 years continuous abstinence. This definitely was apparent as we hashed out different issues that were brought to the conference. Of course, there were differences of opinion and sometimes-strong feelings of how we thought things should be decided. But when the final votes were in, and the group conscious of the conference made the decisions, there was a prevailing feeling of acceptance.

Region 8, SOAR Rocks! Our chairperson, Gerri, has great ideas to help us show our team spirit. We wore sweatshirt with Region 8, SOAR Rocks! We had pompoms to cheer with when being counted at the show of what Regions were represented and in what areas.

Treasures Report

Although we were over our budgeted contribution in 2008 it is still only 26% of our budget. The bulk that meets our budget is the 64% from literature sales. For the first time in 8 years we ended in the red. This was primarily due to losses of our Prudent reserve in investments. The report showed that Triangle Intergroup's contributions were up by \$200 from last year. But we are not the primary donors we once were.

Public Awareness Campaign

OA has been mentioned in magazines and newspapers both large and small. TV news segments, radio talk shows and Web sites have reported on OA.

Professional Exhibits

WSO participated in 2 major professional exhibitions: American Diabetics Association (ASA) Expo in San Francisco and National Medical Association (NMA) Expo in Atlanta. Funds were also given to 8 Intergroups or Regions for professional exhibits.

Podcast

At the OA Web site there is a link to a number of podcasts. You can subscribe to the series.

Virtual Service Board

We now have a virtual service board registered and delegates representing them at the Conference.

Board approved OA Publications

- The *Service, Traditions and Concepts Workshop Manual* received a major update.
- The *Twelfth-Step-Within Handbook* was updated.
- *OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Intergroups* was updated.
- A new pamphlet *Is Food a Problem for you?* It is helping in our outreach efforts.
- A new packet, *Focus on Anorexia and Bulimia*, was introduced in January.
- The BOT with the Finance Committee rewrote *Seventh Tradition of OA* pamphlet.
- Two documents were added to the OA Guidelines packet: “Guidelines for Addressing Disruptive Behavior in OA Meetings” and “Budget Guidelines for Service Bodies.”
- Two documents were revised “Guidelines for Local Newsletters” and “Suggested Guidelines for Development of Locally Produced Literature.”
- A Collaborative effort with the International Publications Committee produced revised *Translation Guidelines for OA Literature* that was rewritten to reflect the new licensing procedure.

Policy Motions and By Laws

- Motion C: Bermuda is now apart of Region 6
- Motion E: The Public Awareness Special Fund was discontinued, as it is a normal budget item.
- Motion F: Amended and approved that WSO provide the web site template for optional use by OA service bodies & groups in creating or revising their web site.
- Motion G: Amended but defeated that WSO work with service bodies or groups on their web sites mainly because of the expense.
- Motion A: Approved that December 12 each year will be observed as OA's International 12-Step Within Day.
- Motion D: **Defeated** that the WSO web site **not** note whether a meeting is closed or not.
- Motion H: Amended motion to change OA's definition of abstinence see my notes on first page.
- Motion B and By Laws Amendments 12 & 13: were withdrawn by the requester. They dealt with the agenda questionnaire not going out to Intergroups. It was realized that a large part of the fellowship that do not send delegates would not have a voice in these proposals if that were done.
- By Laws Amendment 1: Adopted that the qualifications of a trustee includes "worked through all 12 Steps".
- By Laws Amendment 3: Defeated that alternating virtual groups have a trustee that would make and additional trustee to the board.
- By Laws Amendment 2: Adopted that new business proposals need 50% of all responding Intergroups to be placed on the agenda.
- By Laws Amendments 9, 10 & 11: Adopted that minor changes to Intergroup & Service Board & Regions need not be distributed to the WSO.
- Housekeeping changes to keep current by-law changes correct and correct some wording: By Laws 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Elections

Region Trustees Elected: Wanda Stayton, Mary Rose Dallal, and Esti Ordan. There are vacancies in Region 1 and Region 2

General Service Trustees Elected: Cheryle Touchton, and Joe Lawson.

Strategic Planning/Operations Plan

It includes plans for Public/Professional Awareness, Strong Meetings, Committed Service Bodies, and Financial Health at all levels.

Workshop Topics

Workshop topics were related to carrying the message and importance of our literature being translated in all languages. Bear in mind that although the message must carry the message of the heart, it should also be made in the language of the reader, otherwise it offers little hope for members who speak another language.

Gratefully yours in service,
Carla S.
Delegate to WSO 2009