

47th OA WSBC Delegate's Report

Jim C. and I attended the WSBC in Albuquerque, NM, which ran workshops, forums, and the business conference from May 6 to May 10. We decided Jim would report on the Business Conference and I would focus on the forums: The Map to Guide Our Way and Can We All Read the Map? A Forum on Language. They were both excellent. I personally bought the CD for both and 3 workshops. When I have finished listening to them I will lend them out and finally give them to our lending library.

I want to thank everyone for allowing me this privilege to serve at the international level. We had a wonderfully good team at WSBC this year that worked for unity and the goal to help spread the message of recovery. It was thrilling to be with people from all over the world and as close as other Intergroups in NC. We all worked to get to know each other and reach out and be friendly, kind and considerate. It was indeed a place where abstinent people were working and playing together.

WSBC also sent me back with a number of handouts. Please let me know if you would like me to make a copy for you. My phone number is 771-1393 and email is csajda@nc.rr.com. Here is the list of handouts:

- OA Literature Proposal Form – To propose literature to be approved and used by OA
- Request for permission to reprint OA copy written material
- Request for permission to reprint OA logo
- Flyer on: “A Step Ahead” – online quarterly about WSO
- Flyer on a contest for a new 7th Tradition slogan – as it take more finances to keep OA able to reach those still suffering from our disease
- Order form for WSBC CDs or cassettes from the workshops, forums and business meetings
- OA Budget Guidelines for Service Boards
- Flyer on the OA 2010 Convention in LA.

These are things that will be given the PI/PO Chair:

- Folder for PI/PO introductory pamphlets
- Flyer on online “fellowship wide discussion about PI”

These will be given to Special Events Chair

- 3 handouts to: a word puzzle; template for OA cards; and Mad Lib script
- Skit “As the Stomach Turns”

This will be given to our OA Triangle Recovery Newsletter Chairperson:

- 5 Newsletters from other areas

We want to stress that there is NOT a they at the World Service Office and Regions and we at the meetings. No, our program stresses that we have the inverted pyramid. We at the meetings send our trusted servants to represent us at the World Service Office and Region. We are sent to create service boards and committees to help reach the still suffering compulsive eater.

As our trusted servants the Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Committee created a 5 years Strategic Plan 2008-2013 with 4 sections: I. Public/Professional Awareness; II. Strong Meetings; III Committed Service Bodies; and IV. Financial Health. This was featured in the March/April Lifeline. Each section has a timeline on main goals, objectives, and tasks. We broke up into 20 groups to brainstorm on each aspect. An attachment to my report has the entire brainstorming results. These are some of the new highlights that were generated:

The Map to Guide Our Way

- Translate outreach/PI pamphlets in many languages
- Ad / articles placed in national and international magazines and electronic media. Ensure Google and Yahoo have us at the top of their search list.
- Update outreach pamphlets to make more attractive, colorful and have space for local OA meetings info to be added.
- Ask OA webmasters to promote concepts of strong meetings on websites.
- Provide 'job descriptions' for 12th Step within committee or IG Reps so they can visit local meetings and have a checklist.
- Communications – all languages need to be able to use our literature. Hire a native Spanish-speaking employee to assist in this.
- Expedite the translation of conference materials to those languages we serve
- Inform that currently less than 25% of income comes from contributions and the goal is to increase by 12% by 2010.
- Create skits/stories emphasizing contributions and where they are used. Distribute on website, in Lifeline, and in workshops.
- Support Intergroups to develop PSA signs for buses with 800 #.
- Develop workshops and present it ant Intergroup and group levels. May include skits, emphasis sponsorship/abstinence, service and traditions.
- Send reports to Intergroups who are unable to send reps and encourage them. Send people to call and talk to them.
- Encourage Abstinence First and use IDEA Day and Unity Day for special meetings.
- Break jobs/positions down to manageable tasks – perhaps co-chair a service position.
- Broadcast status and financial goals to intergroups and groups.
- Use free announcements venues to tell others about OA
- Have two reps from each meeting – if one can't go the other will be there
- Survey members – what could be improved.
- Publicize gifts are welcome up to \$5,000. On anniversaries celebrating abstinence donate one or more dollars for each year celebrating.

- Order past copies of Lifeline at no cost, put contact numbers in them and distribute.
- Be a mentor, say, “I’ll be here to help you.”
- “You don’t do service to get recovery, but to practice recovery”
- Have presentations of what each service board does
- Read Lifeline in public places and answer questions.
- Have our outreach committee interviewed by local newspaper, radio programs and call-in shows.
- “Take the mess to your sponsor; take your message to the meeting”
- If someone has a negative pitch, counter it with a positive one.
- Sponsor to promote service. Bring sponsees to Intergroup.
- Take responsibility for the strength of the meetings we go to.

I have also some wonderful impressions from the “Can We All Read the Map? A Forum on Language”. They had over a dozen members of OA from all over the world share their struggles to work our program due to lack of literature in their own language. They shared how they struggled to get our literature translated and how hard it was to communicate with our World Service Business Office. What a challenge it is to get every communication of recovery in a language that needs to be translated. They do not have the funds or recourses to do the translations. We were all touched by each of their stories. We would have like to start a fund immediately to help get the translations started. Since there was not a place to put funds for this in our budget we had to delay this. And then, the new board addressed emergency new business, to approve \$20,000 to fund translations from/to the WSO to our international members. What an honor to the delegates of WSBC! What an honor to our international members of OA.

I have purchased these two Forums and 3 other workshops on CDs. Once I have listened to them I will donate them to our library. The workshops are:

- Pedaling Together: How Sponsorship Strengthens OA as a Whole
- Recovery Through Literature: A Team Effort
- The Road Home: Carry the Message Back

Yours in service and love,

Carla Sajda
 Delegate #2 WSBC