

# World Service Business Conference

## 2022

The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) was attended by 218 delegates, thirty less than last year. They represented twenty-one countries up one from last year. They represented the following countries:

Australia	Germany	Iran	New Zealand	Sweden
Brazil	Greece	Israel	Russia	Ukraine
Canada	Iceland	Italy	South Africa	United Kingdom (Scotland)
Columbia	India	Mexico	Spain	United States
France				

One significant change was translation service for the non-English speaking delegates for the first time. This was a large request last year.

The purpose of the conference is to elect new trustees, vote on literature changes or new publications, vote on changes to motions that effect policy and vote on by-law changes. Staff were present to answer questions. Time was permitted for pro and cons and questions to each motion, by-law and amendment. In addition, there were “Meet the Maker” sessions where questions could be asked of the person proposing the change. There is also a Reference Subcommittee that attempts to combine similar motions or by-laws and works on motions and by-laws that receive more than two amendments. This saves time on the floor. Two by-laws were passed by consent. This means everyone in in agreement to pass the by-laws. Five items were withdrawn by the makers for a number of reasons. There were three motions’ and two by-laws’ changes. A few of the motions and bylaws were combined. There is also an opportunity for emergency business, that had not been reviewed by the intergroups prior to the convention. There were four emergency issues proposed but none were deemed to be emergency in nature, so they were not heard and voted on. There were a number of changes to the standing rules but they were mostly housekeeping in nature. They merely put into the standing rules procedures what had already been the normal practice in the past.

The trustee position for region 5, 9 and two General Service Trustees were up for a vote. All persons running were voted in without opposition. Despite the elections there will still be vacancies the Trustees will have to fill. There currently are Regional and General Services Trustees that have different roles. However, at this convention it was voted that all trustees will now be General Service Trustees who serve all. There are plans to appoint regional liaisons. It is to yet be seen if the liaisons will function like the Regional Trustees who served before.

## **Finances**

Financially 2021 was good for Overeaters Anonymous (OA). Donations amounted to \$1,144,243.09. Sales from literature totaled \$616,690. Donations were up \$195,286 over last year. They did note the donations for the last two years had surpassed significantly the donations of the past sixty years and they still planned for the Annual Fund Drive. Funds from literature in print is down but digital publications were up. There were not figures given. They had a surplus of \$235,988 at the end of the year but pointed out that the audit of the books has not been completed. They still believe that the increase in donations was due to Covid. It was felt that local intergroups and groups having less expenses because of Covid are forwarding the monies to World Service. There is an Automatic Recurring Contributions (ARC) program that allows persons to make monthly or quarterly contribution. The monthly income for this program went up slightly to \$11,000 monthly. World Service lost \$131,000 due to having to cancel the in-person part of the convention. They believe that it would have cost more for them to hold the convention as they did not believe they would have met the number of rooms required. Another large issue last year and on the agenda for this year for a vote was if World Service should return the loan that was forgiven from the Payroll Protection Program. It was voted that the monies should not be repaid. This amounted to \$138,000. Some felt it was a break of the Tradition Seven, never accepting outside contributions. Others thought it was not a donation or contribution but similar to the tax breaks they receive from the government due to being a non-profit.

There are five other funds and they are as follows:

General Funds: Contributions are used to fund items such as public information, translations, literature, video ads, oa.org and Find a Meeting, staffing, equipment and administrative needs.

Restricted Funds which include: Delegate Support, Professional Exhibits and Translation Assistance. Their balances are as follows:

Delegate Support \$37,307.84 up \$1,153 dollars from last year  
Professional Exhibits \$16,877.64 up \$1,739 dollars from last year  
Translation Assistance \$18,101.84 up \$9,395 from last year

Board Designated Funds which are used by the Board for projects, events, creating Public Service Announcements and updating the World Service Office. This fund has been possible due to a surplus the last several years.

## **Overeaters Anonymous by the Numbers**

In 2021 OA increased in groups by 367 and service bodies by three. It isn't known how many of these groups may be on-line meetings. We now have 6,566 groups and 337 service bodies.

## **Literature**

One new piece of literature was created and passed this year. It is The Twelve Traditions Workbook of Overeaters Anonymous. It is expected that next year a new publication will be developed and it will be a workshop guide to the Twelve Traditions.

The following are Board-Approved Literature approved this year:

The Twelve Freedoms wallet card  
Introduction to the Twelve Steps  
OA Region Map  
OA Service Pyramid  
Affiliation and Participation Flow Chart  
Young People's Meeting Format  
Frequently Asked Questions about OA By-laws  
Contributor Guidelines for Lifeline: Stories of Recovery

### **Audiobooks**

Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition

### **E-books**

A Lifetime of Abstinence: One Day at a Time  
A New Plan of Eating: A Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Journey  
In OA, Recovery Is Possible: About Compulsive Eating and the OA Program of Recovery  
OA Handbook for Groups: Service Bodies, and Members: Recovery Opportunities  
The Tools of Recovery: Helping us live and work the Twelve Steps  
To the Young Person: Do you have a problem with food, eating behaviors, or body image?  
Where Do I Start? Everything a Newcomer Needs to Know

World Services also produces the Bulletin, A Step Ahead and the Professional Community Courier.

## **Motions and By-laws**

By-laws passed by consent are as follows:

- By-law Proposal 9 was where intergroups, national/language boards were combined and are now referred to in the by-law as service bodies.

- By-law Proposal 15 changes the date that all amendments to Subpart B By-laws must be submitted to December 1<sup>st</sup> before the WSBC instead of December 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Withdrawn Motions and By-laws are as follows:

- Motion Proposal F was a motion that provided for annual licenses for groups to screen share.
- Motion Proposal H moved that the Board of Trustees instigate a review of the role, scope, membership, distribution, function, and structure of the regions of OA worldwide. There is already an Ad hoc committee that has taken up this review.
- Motion Proposal I would provide for a literature fund and provide literature to members who may not otherwise have access to it.
- By-law Proposal 2 would limit trustees from serving more than twelve total years.
- By-law Proposal 3 would have alternated the WSBC from in-person every year to in-person even numbered years and virtually odd numbered years.

#### Motions passed and the form in which they passed:

- Motion A was to place the OA Pledge on all printed documentation except where space prohibits.
- Motion B stated that on the WSBC's committees an equal percentage of the delegates shall be placed and that it will include delegates from all regions whenever possible. This was to account for the increase in delegates instead of limiting each committee to thirty.
- Motion G proposed to make seven pamphlets into PDFs so one copy could be printed out from oa.org. The motion passed but only allows the pamphlet, "Where Do I Start" to be printed out from oa.org.

#### Motions defeated:

- Motion C was to allow OA groups to screen and voice share copyrighted material during an OA meeting. Some felt that current practices suffice.
- Motion D was to pay back the loan from the Payroll Protection Program.
- Motion E was to make July as OA Service Month

#### By-laws passed as amended:

- By-law 4 allowed for interpreters to speak at the WSBC for delegates who are non-English speaking and for delegates with special needs.

- By-law 5 proposed reducing the number of trustees to twelve instead of seventeen. It was amended to make all seventeen trustees General Service Trustees. It was felt there was too much work to reduce the number of trustees. There will also be liaisons to each region but it is not known if they will function in the same way as Region Trustees.
- By-law 6 requires that trustees have participation at the regional level as determined by the region.
- By-law 7 allows an incumbent Trustee, serving as a liaison to a region different from which they were originally nominated to run for re-election. This would be done through either the region in which they regularly attend meetings or the region they serve as a trustee liaison.
- By-law 8 changes naming the individual types of service board to the general term, service bodies.
- By-law 10 makes English the official language for all documents. This was done because the World Service Office is in the United States and all legal documents must therefore be in English.
- By-law 12 adds specifically noting the Caribbean Islands and adds US to the Virgin Islands in Region 8.
- By-law 13 adds the special-focus service boards to the bodies that may have send one delegate to the WSBC.
- By-law 14 permits unaffiliated groups to affiliate with an intergroup or national service board that produces translated OA literature in their language.

### By-laws defeated:

- By-law 1 and 11 were combined and amended to allow the next WSBC to be held in person, the following year by hybrid participation and the third year virtually. It will be up to the trustees to determine how the WSBC will be held.

## Committees

### By-laws

The By-laws committee developed a Sample Policy and Procedure Manual. It was sent to the Materials Approval Committee (MAC). It was reviewed by the MAC and sent back to the committee with comments. Next year's committee will revise and send back to MAC for approval. All proposals must be sent to the MAC for approval.

The committee developed a visual presentation on how to submit a motion. It was sent to MAC and returned asking for clarification. Clarification was done and it was resubmitted to MAC.

The committee developed a Frequently Asked Question and it was approved by MAC. They have been posted on oa.org.

## Unity with Diversity

This committee made recommendations on what needs to be included in a delegate scholarship. It included a computer device and internet access. They recommended that if a computer was purchased it should become the property of the intergroup/service board.

They made a motion to allow double the time to speak for non-native English speakers and those with medically confirmed cognitive, speech or hearing disabilities. This was not approved but those people where English is not their first language were given three minutes to speak instead of two.

The committee updated the tri-fold, Uniting with Diversity, as requested by the World Service Office (WSO). It was sent to MAC for approval.

## Twelfth Step Within

This committee sent out a sponsorship survey. The results stated the following

- 79% of responders have a sponsor and 73% were found at a meeting
- 55% stated they were looking for a sponsor but couldn't find one
- 53% responded they were afraid to ask
- 57% said that they don't sponsor because they don't feel qualified or ready

This subcommittee made recommendations for follow up to the survey.

There was a subcommittee that reviewed PDFs that were given to the committee. They were sent to MAC.

The Still-Struggling Subcommittee developed two documents but didn't state what they were. They were sent to MAC and returned for continued work.

## Young People

One committee accomplished the following:

- Developed a list of recommendations to make oa.org more accessible to young people
- Made revision to the Young People's meeting format
- Updated the Young People's letter to intergroups/service boards and regions
- Prepared a document title " How to Attract and Retain Young People in OA" It was submitted to MAC

Another subcommittee worked on the formation of the Young People's Virtual Intergroup and planned the retreat. The retreat was held February 26 and 27, 2022.

## Public Information/Professional Outreach

One of the subcommittees sent a video to worldwide ad executives at two top news organizations to request running the PSA. However, none have run as of this time.

Another subcommittee developed an ad targeted to the medical profession on OA for World Service. Recent required changes regarding "fat shaming" on Facebook, has caused them to take a second look at the written ad to make any necessary changes.

There was the desire of one subcommittee to see how many intergroups have a website and if they had a link to oa.org. Only 24% had a social media page. Of these, slightly more than one fourth had a link to World Service.

Another subcommittee took on the project to review, revise and combine the Public Information Service Manual and the Professional Outreach Manual. This was completed and is ready to be sent to the PIPO full committee for approval.

The last committee was committed to creating a Welcome Room for World Service where anyone could call anytime and speak to an OA member. A great deal of work had been done the previous year and was sent to MAC. It came back requesting clarification, with questions and requesting additional information. This was done and resubmitted to MAC and came back with requirements, questions and a request for more data. The committee decided to downsize the project so it could become a useful tool for groups, intergroups or regional bodies to use and thus provide more of the requested data. This has been done and a few of the regions have used this tool at their conventions to attract newcomers. They advertise on Facebook and Instagram the Welcome Center and the upcoming convention. People are able to enter the Welcome Center, talk to an OA member and then attend the convention for free if they wish. They are doing follow up to see if the people who came to the Welcome Center attend future OA meetings. They feel that it is a very useful tool to attract newcomers and resource to attract people.

I served on the PIPO committee this year and worked on the Welcome Room. Next year I will be on the Twelve Steps Within Committee. I hope to gain some ideas that we can use here.

Thank you for allowing me to represent SpaceCoast Intergroup at the WSBC. I was honored to serve and learned a great deal about many aspects of Overeaters Anonymous. I was impressed on how worldwide OA has become. It has been a good experience that I would encourage everyone try at some point in their recovery.

I know this is a lot of information to digest. I have only prepared the highlights and would be happy to entertain anyone wishing additional information on any subject or anyone who has questions.

In Service,

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