

World Service Business Conference 2021

The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) was attended by 248 eligible voting delegates from twenty countries speaking twelve languages. There were sixty more than normal and almost one hundred new delegates! They represented the following countries:

Australia	France	Iran	Mexico	South Africa
Brazil	Germany	Israel	New Zealand	Spain
Canada	Greece	Italy	Poland	United Kingdom (England, Scotland)
Columbia	Iceland	Latvia	Russia	United States

The purpose of the conference is to elect new trustees, vote on literature changes, vote on motions that effect policy and vote on by-law changes. Let me first say that everyone takes the business of Overeaters Anonymous very seriously. Words are looked up, meanings examined, and inclusiveness is held in high regard. Staff were present to answer questions and parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules were closely followed. There is a session where proposed motions and by-laws are open for the person who made the suggestion for change to explain why and for questions to be asked and answered. There is also Reference Subcommittee that attempts to combine motions that are similar or works on motions or by-laws that receive more than two amendments. This saves time on the floor. Some motions were pulled off the agenda until next year and some were withdrawn for a number of reasons. There is also an opportunity for emergency business, that had not been sent out to the intergroups, to be heard. Only one such motion was presented and that was to require translation services including American Sign Language by next years WSBC. This was defeated I believe basically because the cost and how this would be accomplished could not be determined at the time. In addition, there was already in motion plans for an ad hoc committee to be appointed by the new Chair of the Board of Trustees to look into translation services for next year.

The Trustee position for Region 3, 6 and the Virtual Region were up for vote and all persons running for the offices were elected and ran without opposition. There are Regional Trustees and General Service Trustees position. There are two vacancies for a General Service Trustee. If anyone is interested, they should contact the World Service Office as applications need to be in by June. They are considering downsizing the Board of Trustee from seventeen to twelve but these were three of the motions that were withdrawn until next year.

Before I speak of this year, I would like to update you on last year. The best news is that World Service is doing well financially for the first time in many years. The last few years have been very lean and in 2016 and 2017 they ran a deficit. In 2020 they had a net profit of \$488,751! They stated income was up from individuals and intergroups and guessed it may have been due

to Covid and groups not being able to conduct their normal activities and having extra money. They were very grateful. The donations, \$948,957, was the highest in the history of Overeaters Anonymous (OA)! This did not include funds donated for special funds. Some of the plans for the funds include the following:

- Upgrade oa.org and bookstore.oa as needed
- Develop a new platform for sharing members stories
- Make ongoing changes to the functionality of Find a Meeting on oa.org
- Translation efforts
- Facility maintenance at the World Service Office

OA also applied for and received \$138,000 loan from the Payroll Protection Program through the government. It has since been forgiven as all the funds were used for payroll. They also received LED lights for less than \$1,000 for the job that would have cost over \$16,000 through the local utility company. This will also save monthly on their utility bill.

There are four other funds three of which are restricted meaning they can only be used for their specific purpose. A total of \$26,114 was donated to these funds in 2020. They are as follows:

- Translation Assistance: \$8,706.44
- Professional Exhibits: \$15,137.75
- Delegate Support Fund: \$36,154.84

The last fund is the Board Designated Funds which has been established by the board for projects and events such as the bookstore.oa enhancements, translations, Find a Meeting, public information/public awareness, Lifeline 2.0, WSO equipment and facilities, etc. These funds are not restricted and can be moved to general contributions when the project is over.

There is also the Automatic Recurring Contributions (ARC) program that allows individuals to make monthly or quarterly contributions. Currently there 496 accounts providing a monthly income of \$10,506.64. These contributions are very helpful in helping OA plan for regular income.

There were three new publications last year. They were The Twelve Step Workshop and Study Guide, Second Edition, and its accompanying Participant Guide, and the new book, Body Image, Relationships, and Sexuality. There was a decrease in hard book sales but an increase in digital book sales. OA receives all proceeds after publishing costs for anything purchased from the bookstore.oa. When items are purchased from outside vendors, the vendors set the price and OA only receives a royalty or percentage (about 35 percent) of the sales price. OA gets no income if the book is used and bought through an outside vendor.

Manuscripts adopted at WSBC 2020 are now available for download or purchase. E-books are available from Amazon (Kindle), Barnes & Noble (Nook), and Apple Books.

- Temporary Sponsors: Newcomers' First Twelve Days available at oa.org/document-library under category "Sponsorship"
- To the Young Person: Do you have a problem with food, eating behaviors, or body image? available as e-book
- In OA, Recovery Is Possible: About Compulsive Eating and the OA Program of Recovery (#135) available at bookstore.oa.org as e-book
- A Lifetime of Abstinence: One day at a Time (#155) available at bookstore.oa.org and as e-book

The following board-approved resources were updated and/or approved for distribution:

- Meeting Transition Guidance letter (new) available at bookstore.oa.org/document-library under category "Meeting Resources"
- Public Information Resource List (updated) available at oa.org/document-library under category "Public Information"
- OA holiday workshops and materials (new) available at oa.org/document-library under Category "Twelfth Step Within: OA Holiday Workshops":
 - "Twelfth Step Within Day" workshop
 - "IDEA" workshop
 - "A Sponsor's Toolbox"
 - "Sponsorship Day" workshop
 - "Sponsorship Success" online workshop
 - "Back to Basics" workshop
 - "Unity Day Flyer How-To" guide
 - "Unity Day History" exercise
 - "Unity Day" workshop ideas
- Comedores Compulsivos Anonimos , 3rd (Overeaters Anonymous, Third edition, Spanish translation) Kindle e-book
- Voci de Recupero (Voices of Recovery, Italian translation) Kindle e-book
- Founder Recordings (now online) available at oa.org/podcasts
 - "Reflections: A Visit with OA's Founder"
 - "And Now a Word from our Founder"
- Young Persons Podcasts (new) available at oa.org/podcasts

All OA books are available on e-book; our three e-workbooks are available as PDFs at bookstore.oa.org under category "Digital Products." Four OA pamphlets are now available as e-books:

- Where do I Start? Everything a Newcomer Needs to Know
- To the Young Person: Do you have a problem with food, eating behavior, or body image?
- In OA, Recovery Is Possible: About Compulsive Eating and the OA Program of Recovery
- A Lifetime of Abstinence: One Day at a Time

There was actually an increase of sixty-eight groups in 2020. But a decrease of two service bodies.

Three pieces of literature were up for revisions and vote and passed. They were Tools of Recovery: Helping us live and work the Twelve Steps, A New Plan of Eating: A Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Journey and Voices of Recovery, Second Edition. Dignity of Choice was removed as it was felt that it was covered in the pamphlet A New Plan of Eating. Many of the changes in Voices of Recovery were due to other publications being updated therefore requiring Voices of Recovery needing to update its quotes. Two thirds vote is required for passage of literature.

The following are the motions that passed and the form in which they passed:

- Motions A and C were combined and substituted with the following:

Abstinence is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.

Spiritual, emotional and physical recovery is the result of working and living the Overeaters Anonymous 12 Steps program on a daily basis.

- Motion D clarifies that when the first weekend of the month is counted to determine celebrations date for The OA Birthday, Unity Day, Idea Day and Sponsorship Day, we will use only the first full weekend including a Friday.
- Motion F was passed to reads as follows:

When developing new and updating current literature published by World Service Overeaters Anonymous, the Literature Committee will make a concerted effort to include stories and or/quotes from under represented populations in Overeaters Anonymous.

- Motion G was passed to change OA Young Person's Conference Committee to Young Peoples' Conference Committee.

- Motion H was to amend the Unity with Diversity Policy. This amounted to changing a few words and adding the sentence “Everyone with the desire to stop eating compulsively is welcome in Overeaters Anonymous.”
- The Motion I was passed and amended the description of hybrid meetings to as follows:

The term hybrid is used to describe a group that is composed of members attending in person and by electronic device (virtual). All can see, hear and participate but do not have to be in the same location (face-to-face).

A hybrid group will only register once and be given one group number but be listed on both the face-to-face meeting list and the virtual list and noted as a hybrid meeting.

By-law Amendments

These are the by-laws that passed. I should note that there were motions and by-laws that were pulled by the maker, pulled for next year and some were combined. And of course, some simply did not pass. Out of the original twenty-seven, fourteen passed.

- By-law Four passed that clarifies the regions.
- By-law Six passed allowing the Board of Trustees, in the case of an emergency, to call a conference, or any part of a conference, by virtual means.
- By-law Seven passed regarding giving preference to delegates from intergroups and service bodies who would not otherwise be represented.
- By-law Twelve passed to ensure that hybrid meetings would only be registered once.
- By-law Fifteen passed clarifying selection of delegates from language service boards. Each language board will have only one delegate.
- By-law Sixteen passed combining three Articles- Intergroups, Regions and Service Boards to define the service structure with a single consolidated section that covers all levels of service. It also includes a new service body-special focus service boards.

Committees

Literature Committee

Last year they reviewed and updated for approval by the delegates the following:

Dignity of Choice and A Plan of Eating

The Tools of Recovery
Voices of Recovery

For WSBC 2022

OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies and Small Meetings: Help and Hope

Public Information/Professional Outreach (PIPO) Committee Report

This Committee took on three robust issues. They were as follows:

One was to start a 24/7 virtual Welcome OA room within the OA website. Many actions have been taken and they are currently waiting approval from the MAC committee where approval has to be obtained for any OA project. This site will have volunteer OAers to answer questions, guide visitors, offer sponsor lists, virtual meeting lists, etc.

The next one was to reach out to medical and mental health professionals. They created materials for when speaking to professionals, talking points, a video on how to talk to a professional and a survey to the service body for feedback.

They created a survey for young people that was sent out on guidelines on attracting and retaining young people. A similar one was developed for men and has been submitted to the MAC committee.

I volunteered for the Public Information/Professional Outreach Committee and signed up for the Welcome Room Subcommittee and will keep you posted.

This committee will also be working on updating the Public Information and Public Outreach Manuals and combining them. There is a subcommittee devoted to working on public service announcements and learning how to actually get them on radio and television.

Twelve Step Within Committee

This committee developed a sponsorship survey. They also went through material on the OA website and cleaned up material. They posted fourteen workshops on oa.org. So, there are resources! They tried to record workshops on Zoom but lost half of their members. Two thirds of the membership on this committee were brand-new! What a challenge!

Unity with Diversity

This committee focused its efforts on in reach, how to make underserved populations feel more welcomed in OA. And then outreach, how to attract more underserved population to OA. They developed three motions concerning diversity for the 2021 agenda. They contacted other fellowships and found a "Welcoming Action Plan Quiz" developed by Greater NY OA Metro

Intergroup. They also felt PIPO could use their activities to reach out to underserved populations.

Young Persons' Committee

The Young Persons' Committee held a retreat as many of you know. They have also developed five podcasts that have been put on oa.org. They have twenty in total. They also have a Facebook page/Instagram with 2,000 followers. They are in the process of updating it weekly. They have a College and University Subcommittee that is working on SMART goals and worked with the PIPO committee on the Young Persons' survey.

I know friends that this report is very long and for that I am sorry. There were bits and pieces I knew different ones of you would be interested in so I included them. If all this information seems overwhelming, I found it to be as well! I found the World Service Business Conference to be very interesting and learned quite a lot. I will be happy to try to answer any of your questions if I can but quite frankly, I think it takes a few times at the WSBC to really understand it all.

Thank you for letting me attend on your behalf. I was proud to serve.

In Service,

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