



58th World Service Business Conference

Dates Attended: Tuesday, May 6th - Saturday, May 11th

CFI Delegates: Pam T. (Chair, Delegate #1); Dawn K. (Delegate #2)

Total Delegates: 188

Countries Represented: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom (including Scotland), as well as delegates from around the world representing the Virtual Region.

“Growing Our Membership Worldwide” was the theme of this year’s World Service Business Conference. The theme supports our Strategic Plan goals for 2019, and conference workshops offered throughout the week emphasized and focused on the same. Workshops included: “Carrying the Message: See a Health Fair/Professional Tradeshow Booth in Action”, “How Attractive Are We to New Members?”, “Keeping Members Engaged”, “Social Media—KISS (Keep It Super Simple)”, “What Up? Attracting Young Persons” and “Multiplying Recovery—Virtual and F2F”. In addition to informative sessions “All About the Conference” giving pointers on how Roberts Rules of Order works, “Meet the Maker” allowing delegates to ask questions about proposed motions, and a “Literature Q&A Session” giving a broader perspective on both the process and planning of new and updated literature.

On Wednesday morning the Region Chairs hosted the Forum “Each One, Reach One, Every Day—Carrying the Message of Hope” focusing on building the OA Fellowship worldwide. Discovering how everyone can share and carry their message to newcomers and returnees. We don’t simply carry the message; we are the message! Doing this daily will increase OA membership worldwide.

Committee Meetings: These meetings are critical to reaching out to the still-suffering compulsive overeater. It is the delegates' responsibility to participate on a committee, not only at WSBC but throughout the following year.

- Pam T. worked with the Conference Approved Literature Committee. She is assigned to the subcommittee to create a new pamphlet which combines the content of the three existing pamphlets “*A Commitment to Abstinence*,” “*Before You Take That First Compulsive Bite, Remember*,” and “*Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight*.” There are three additional subcommittees: 1) “*First Twelve Days of OA*,” 2) a combining of three other pamphlets, and 3) updating stories for a “*To the Teen*” pamphlet.
- Dawn K. worked with the Virtual Services Conference Committee which has now merged with Virtual Region and will continue as the editor of “*OA Virtual News*.” She will continue to work with the Young Persons’ Committee by overseeing and training new Administrators for the ‘Overeaters Anonymous YP’ Facebook Page and will join either the Young Persons’ Committee or another conference committee in the coming year.

Committee Reports: It was revealed that the next WSBC is April 20-25, 2020 and the World Service Convention will be held in the Renaissance Hotel in Orlando, FL August 20-22, 2020.

Lifeline Magazine: Two motions were passed at the May Board of Trustees meeting. The first motion will terminate the publication both digital and print Lifeline Magazine at the end of 2020 due to declining subscriptions to the point where the publication is no longer self-supporting. The last date for subscriptions will be December 31, 2019. Any subscribers whose subscriptions go beyond 2020 would have the funds returned if they so choose. The second motion was to direct the staff to investigate digital platforms for members to tell their stories.

Trustee Elections at WSBC 2019:

- Region Two (3-year term) – Hanna S.
- Region Five (3-year term) – Barbara K.
- Region Six (2-year term) – Elizabeth B.
- Region Eight (3-year term) – Andrea S.
- Region Nine (2-year term) – Vasiliki T.
- Region Ten (3-year term) – Letitia M.
- General Service Trustee (3-year term) – Tina C.

Restructuring the Board of Trustees: An Ad Hoc Reorganization Committee presented a plan for restructuring the Board of Trustees. The plan calls for a reduction in the board membership from 17 to 12 by the year 2024. Their research indicated that 12 could be an optimal number for effective decision making and will result in cost savings.

Proposed Literature Motions to grant the Conference Seal of Approval:

(Literature motions require 2/3 majority to pass)

- Book *“Body Image, Relationships, and Sexuality: Personal Journeys to Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous”*—**Passed** with the proviso to add the most recently OA approved definition of abstinence.
- Pamphlet *“Dignity of Choice: Establishing a Plan of Eating”*—**Failed and has been returned to committee.**
- Pamphlet *“Welcome Back: Suggestions for Members in Relapse and for Those Who Care”*—**Passed** with the proviso: Service Bodies licensed to translate and publish *“Welcome Back”* and *“Members in Relapse”* shall be permitted to continue publication until such time that *“Welcome Back: Suggestions for Members in Relapse and for Those Who Care”* is translated and published.

Passed by Consent Agenda:

New Business Motions E, H

Bylaw Amendments 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

New Business Motions & Bylaw Amendments:

Adopted – B, C, D, F, J, 12

Amended/Replaced & Adopted – C, K (see details below)

Defeated – A, I, O, 3, 13

Withdrawn – 2, 4, 11, M

Referred to Committee – 1

Postponed Indefinitely – P

Update to OA’s definition of Abstinence & Recovery

Substitute New Business Motion C—**adopted**

The WSBC 2019 accepts the following definitions:

- 1) Abstinence: The act of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.
- 2) Recovery: Removal of the need to engage in compulsive eating behaviors.

Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is achieved through working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program.

Update to OA's Statement on Public and Social Media

Substitute New Business Motion K—**unanimously adopted**

The following policy statement was adopted:

Statement on Public and Social Media

While Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, including social media, the delegates of the 2019 World Service Business Conference recommend that any OA member, group, or service body using social media for OA public information and public awareness maintain the personal anonymity of OA members.

Members of Overeaters Anonymous are anonymous. The Fellowship is not. Members of Overeaters Anonymous are responsible for maintaining their anonymity and respecting the anonymity of other OA members. When attending an OA meeting, whether face-to-face or virtual, members are encouraged to seek appropriate means to protect their own anonymity and that of fellow members.

All registered virtual meetings shall inform members that their anonymity is not fully protected when attending a virtual meeting.

Find options for protecting anonymity at Guidelines for Anonymity in the Digital World.

<https://oa.org/files/pdf/Anonymity-Guidelines-V2-proof.pdf>

Link to 2019 Wrap Up Report: <https://oa.org/files/pdf/Wrap-Up-19.pdf>

Seventh Tradition Collected: \$6252.00

The Delegates of the WSBC 2019 express our gratitude to CFI for allowing us to be your trusted servants.

Pam T. and Dawn K.