

**OA San Diego Intergroup**  
**Delegate Report from Ellen L., Jerry J., & Jessica H.**  
**62nd Annual World Service Business Conference**  
***Concepts of Service: The Heart of Fellowship***  
**April 25-29, 2023**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

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The 2023 OA World Service Business Conference (WSBC) was presided over by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Judy H. She was responsible for enforcing all rules relating to debate, decorum, and order. She was assisted by a Parliamentarian. Understanding parliamentary procedure is like learning a new language. This process also requires delegates to exercise a significant amount of patience to stay present and objectively listen to all debates, Points of Order, and seemingly ongoing Requests for Information. One Point of Order request stood out: when debates would get heated, as they invariably did (we are not “a glum lot”) someone would call for the Serenity Prayer.

We were given a 379-page binder of material to read prior to the Conference, which included all proposed New Business Motions and Bylaw Amendments, Reports, Policy Manuals, Conference Information, Committee/Workshop Information, and Trustee Applications. Being prepared for the Conference is no easy task! There were a total of 176 eligible voters attending this year’s WSBC. Fourteen countries were represented: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States. Throughout the Conference, delegates from several countries represented recited the Serenity Prayer in their native languages. Hearing the Serenity Prayer from all around the globe brought tears to many eyes on more than one occasion. It was humbling to be in the same room with these delegates from so many different countries. We were quietly struck by the fact that the delegates from two of these countries, Russia, and Ukraine, that are currently at war with each other, attended in solidarity.

One of the more interesting discussions was about a controversial motion from the outset. It proposed to exclude all AA literature from the OA Conference Approved Literature list, except for the current edition of the *Big Book*. This motion was

amended to also include the *AA Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as OA Approved Literature. Despite the amendment, the proposal failed with a vote of 68 members of the Conference “pro” vs. 90 “against.”

There were two pieces of literature brought up for approval. One was a book entitled *Diverse Voices: A Common Solution*. The other was a pamphlet called *Sponsorship in OA: Guiding Others into Recovery*. *Diverse Voices* passed with more than a two-thirds majority and *Sponsorship in OA* did not pass. The Sponsorship pamphlet will likely go back to the Literature Committee for further work and editing and be presented again for approval at next year’s conference. However, OA fellows can soon look forward to reading *Diverse Voices: A Common Solution*, after finalization of edits and printing. The goal of this book is to get members to be more inclusive with our diverse population.

Another interesting proposal was to establish a digital lending library to serve new and returning members. There was support for and interest in this idea, but it was decided that it still needed more “polishing” so eventually it was referred to the Board of Trustees for further work. Another proposal of interest that was passed will change the terminology of “Special” Focus Meetings to “Specific” Focus Meetings, with the rationale that in our society, “Special” may have a negative connotation.

We did not have time to complete voting on all the Bylaw changes, which frequently occurs, as it’s at the end of a long list of tasks to accomplish during the 3-day conference. This year’s Bylaw proposals included ideas to change future WSBCs to be held either fully virtual or alternating between virtual and in-person on a yearly basis. This proposal will likely be presented again in 2024 (and we’ll see if we get to it then!). In the meantime, the 2024 WSBC will be hybrid (in-person in Albuquerque and virtual for members who cannot attend) and the 2025 WSBC will be virtual.

Delegates also service throughout the year on a committee. All three of us were assigned to the on the Public Information and Professional Outreach (PIPO) committee. One of the issues that PIPO will be working on this year is getting the military to reconsider compulsive eating to be an illness. This idea was brought forth by our very own Jerry J., who is chairing that subcommittee! Jessica H. is also on this subcommittee. Another PIPO Committee project will work on reinvigorating

*Lifeline* as an online blog. Ellen L. is serving on this subcommittee. Within this year's PIPO committee, there is a third subcommittee dedicated to Professional Outreach.

In the evenings, there are workshops. One was on encouraging service, the theme of the conference. A couple of highlights that were offered were: 1) Enthusiasm sells service; 2) We own our recoveries by giving service; and 3) The most productive way to increase service in OA is for sponsors to make a priority of guiding sponsees into service early on in sponsees' recoveries and to demonstrate the role of service in their own recoveries.

There were multiple Board of Trustee positions available and 6 applicants. Each application was given to use in advance. Each candidate speaks to the Conference and answers questions. All 6 applicants were voted in (with a majority vote) to Trustee service positions. One of the new electees, Michael K., will be our new Region 2 Trustee Liaison, replacing BJ, who will move on to be Liaison for the Region Chairs. The Board of Trustees will appoint 4 new Trustees to fill the remaining slots; they will serve until May of 2024 (next year's Conference). Applications for Trustees are due June 1 and require the Region Chair's signature. Go to [oa.org](http://oa.org) for more information.

Translation is often a hot topic at the WSBC. No exception this year! There was discussion about the efficacy and accuracy of using *Google Translate* to translate our material into languages other than English. Apparently, when Google tries to translate "compulsive overeating," it often comes back as "cannibal!!!" Laughter spread throughout the room when this was mentioned. Who says we Compulsive Overeaters don't know how to have a good laugh at ourselves!?!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the OA-San Diego Intergroup as Delegates to our WSBC and for the trust and confidence placed in us to vote our conscience to the best of our abilities with the guidance of our Higher Power(s). We are honored and humbled to have represented our Intergroup and San Diego Fellowship.

In love, gratitude, and service,  
Your OA San Diego WSBC Delegates  
Ellen L., Jerry J. Jessica H.