

## WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE

MAY 2017

### “Growing OA Unity Worldwide”

Although the Conference began on May 1<sup>st</sup>, I arrived late on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, in time to attend the All About Conference Workshop. In the future, I would recommend arriving the first day in order to receive the vast amount of documentation and to become acclimated to the process. The workshop was very informative and, for me, it was vital to attend in order to get a thorough overview of the procedures.

On Wednesday morning all the delegates gathered for a “forum”. We had assigned seating which was a good way to mix with people I didn’t know. The theme, Amazing Recovery: Passport to Unity featured 20 “travelers” who went from table to table telling his/her story – each with a specific focus. This icebreaker was extremely interesting, informative and fun. It emphasized how diverse our stories are and how we are unified by our disease. It is also an activity can easily encompass into one of our workshops.

Currently there were 6 openings on the Board of Trustees, including the Virtual Services Trustee whose term had expired. Six candidates were presented; 5 were appointed. The VST position remained unfilled’

I was assigned to the Virtual Services Conference Committee which was established last year. There were just 2 delegates on this Committee which will focus the next year on developing a virtual meeting speaker/sponsor list, growing the website, VSCC newsletter, and consider begin on the agenda to present a virtual meeting at next year’s conference. Being a relative newcomer and supporter of virtual meetings, I believe it was not a coincidence that I was assigned to this committee.

Three pieces of literature were presented for approval and there was much discussion on each. In the end, two were approved for the Conference Seal: the revision of “Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight” pamphlet and the revision of the Overeaters Anonymous 12 & 12 book, which passed 161 to 11.

There were 188 registered delegates at the Conference representing 20 countries, including Spain, Greece, Ireland, Brazil, Sweden, Iceland, Israel So Africa and New Zealand – to name a few. There were very compelling arguments in support of establishing a special fund to assist in translating language other than English and this motion passed overwhelmingly 103 – 65. Other motions which passed included the establishment of Sponsorship Day, to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of August.

There were 22 motions on the Agenda, plus the three pieces of literature to be considered. In summary, 18 motions were brought to the floor; 9 were adopted; 6 failed; 2 were withdrawn and 1 suspended, Four motions did not make it to the floor.

Having been to several World Conventions, this was definite a whole new ballgame, allowing me to truly appreciate how our organization is governed by we, the fellowship. Upon my return home, reflecting on the event, I was humbled and honored to participate. All in God’s time.

Sincerely,

Jo Aslan, Delegate