Report on World Service Business Conference, April 21-25, 2026

By Cathy L, UDDI WSBC Delegate 2026-27

Thank you to all our Unity with Diversity Desert Intergroup and OA members for the honor of allowing me to attend this year's in-person WSBC in Albuquerque, NM. Giving this service was such a gift, and I am still feeling the afterglow of how inspiring the experience was for me. I served on the Bylaws Committee and on the Special Subcommittee called Reference. Wednesday the Conference begins with the Region Chairs' Forum from 8:00am to 10:00am, followed by two sessions of Committee meetings. I'll give details about each session later in this report. Beginning Thursday, there are 5 individual Business meetings, morning and afternoon with the fifth meeting occurring on Saturday morning. The close of that Saturday meeting concludes the Conference.

Significant Information about the Conference

- R2 reported that no delegate from Mexico felt safe to travel to the US at this time, even though funding was available. MX is 37% of R2 membership
- There were 162 delegates in total, representing 20 countries--Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Holland, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Scotland, Spain, United States, and Wales.
- 12 languages were spoken--American Sign Language, Danish, Dutch, English, Farci, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Welsh.
- Our 7th Tradition collection totaled just under $7,400.00.
- The "boutique" at World Service differs from that of Conventions. It is only available for service bodies to sell OA themed items to support the participating service body. I believe UDDI might consider this option to raise our 7th Tradition funds in the future. Next year, however, WSBC will be virtual
- In a private conversation, I learned that a new book is under consideration by the Conference-Approved Literature Committee. The book is about OA recovery in our older years. We have a local member who is actively working toward getting this new piece of literature produced.
- Overeaters Anonymous is supported significantly through proceeds from the OA bookstore sales of our literature that we store, publish and translate at our expense; sales have declined for many reasons. We do receive a small amount from other online agreements such as with Amazon; but those do not approach

covering OA's cost. We are encouraged to purchase and to urge others to buy our materials from the bookstore at OA.org.

- The Board Treasurer's report indicated that although income from literature sales and 7th Tradition contributions were significantly below that which was in the prospective budget, the World Service Office managing director and staff used careful and conservative stewardship and were able to offset losses. There is an investment professional that works closely with the WSO to assist in the wise management of our finances.

The Forum

Escape Room with theme, "The Power of We." People are suffering from a dangerous disease, Compulsive Eating. How can we work together to help them? Table groups formed with 7-8 people.

1. We were handed a jigsaw puzzle with words that form an OA slogan. We had to work together to create a crossword. Ours was, It Only Works If You Work It.
2. Everyone received an index card with the instruction, "Write an affirmation you use." We then shared around the table. Cards were returned to the Region Chair moderating each group.
3. We received a second index card with the instruction, "Write one act of service someone else did that helped me connect to the Fellowship." Then each group was given a ball of yarn. When we shared, we were told to share what act of service WE actually did that helped us connect to the Fellowship. After each share, the person had to toss the yarn across the table, while holding on to their own length of yarn. As we shared and tossed, an intricate web was created. Of course, we recognized the symbolism—that we need one another in order to recover. It was suggested to name our web. I could only think of Charlotte's web. Someone else came up with Rozanne's Web!!!! We returned the index cards to the Chair.

Finally, with all cards turned down, we were told to pick one of each batch, and to be prepared to switch off throughout the Conference, thereby spreading the wisdom. Really a fun and illustrative activity.

The Motions and Proposals

The Consent Agenda included Motions A, C F and H, all considered to be easily agreed upon items the body would approve. With only one objection, any member may pull a motion from the Consent Agenda, which occurred with Motion H. The other three were approved with substantial unanimity. **A** simply changed the term "Chairmanship" to "Chair;" **C** updated the Business Conference Policy Manual for clarity and consistency

to have the Delegate binder include together the current budget overview and treasurer's report; and **F** which required meeting contact emails used within OA to remain unpublished unless contact has given permission.

Two new pieces of literature were adopted with substantial unanimity; they are a revised manuscript, Unity with Diversity Checklist and a new book, Healing the Mind, Body and Spirit: Mental Health and Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous.

- Motion B to give Conference Approval to the new AA book, The Plain Language Big Book, was discussed in Reference Committee. Maker was invited but did not attend. After thorough discussion, Reference had "no recommendation" for the body. Motion was adopted by a small majority.
- Motion D was to change the wording of the tool of Telephone to Outreach. This motion was also sent to Reference. Alternative language was discussed; several countries expressed translation concerns. There was awareness that our telephones allow digital contact as well as voice-to-voice. Greece offered the thought that "telephone" is originally a Greek word. Ultimately, the motion was withdrawn.
- Motion E proposed changing the term "overeating" to "eating," in the 12 'n 12 Preamble. Discussion included recognizing that the Introduction qualifies our interchangeable use of "eating and overeating." It also appealed to our history of beginning with a limited understanding of the disease of compulsive eating. A member of our Region made a special request—could he read our founder, Rozanne's statement, from the 1991 WSBC regarding use of the term "overeater" or "eater." Timing was wrong; we were in the Q and A. A wise fellow approached the Center Mic with a question of Parliamentary Order—could the body vote to suspend the Standing Rules to give permission to hear this historical message? Our professional parliamentarian instructed Chair Bob L about how to proceed, and we were able to listen to a meaningful passage about how Rozanne approached this exact issue. When the Rules were reinstated, discussion proceeded; the motion was adopted.
- Motion G was adopted as amended—it continued the clarification of Business Conference Policy Manual updates to enable delegates and trustees to collaborate, and to codify the option for members to give permission to have their contact info included on contact lists. The amendment was made by the UK to have the statement be stated in the positive to comply with the UK's "General Data Protection Regulation," (GDPR.)
- Motion H passed with a simple majority; it was a simple change of a statement for meetings to use suggested prayers.

- Motion I proposed to adopt the Serenity Statement as one of OA's suggested prayers to close meetings. It received three amendments which automatically sent the motion to Reference. After lengthy discussion, the amended motion aligned perfectly with the Serenity Prayer with only the word "God" removed and the words, "I seek" inserted. Adopted by body with simple majority.
- Motion J proposed a specific focus category of "Ethnically Jewish." There was much discussion that included fear of this meeting focus category becoming a target for anti-Semitic activity. Two "con" speakers identified as Jewish and felt strongly opposed to this motion. It was defeated with 157 votes cast as follows: 57 yeas; 96 nays.
- Motion K proposed a bi-annual Virtual retreat; additionally, The OA World Service Convention will be scheduled at a time and place determined by the Board of Trustees. There being consensus that this was an excellent idea, this motion was referred to the incoming WSO Convention Planning Committee to determine feasibility and implement if possible.
- Motion L was ruled out of order by the Chair.
- Motion M came before the Reference Committee, but Motion Maker was unavailable. An OA member shared that she had had a personal conversation with the Maker, and the member felt that the Motion did not truly address the Maker's intention. It appeared that Maker had simply tried to get the Plain Language Big Book included as Conference-Approved Literature which was accomplished by Motion A. Reference recommended defeat of Motion M which occurred by substantial unanimity.
- **The following are Bylaws proposed changes and must receive a 2/3 majority for adoption. They must also be approved by 50% of all OA groups who respond to the worldwide call for adoption.**
- Bylaws Amendment Proposal 1—to change the word "Service Boards" to read "Service Bodies" throughout Bylaw documents, thereby keeping service structure wording clear and consistent. Motion was adopted by a required 2/3 majority.
- **The following are Bylaws proposed changes and must receive a 2/3 majority for adoption.**
- Bylaws Amendment Proposal 2—recommended that meetings read a disclaimer before reading the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions to allow groups to alter their readings aloud, while not changing any language where written or published. With three proposed amendments to the motion, Reference received it. The Maker of the Motion was present; she gave her committee's rationale and answered numerous questions. The main focus was to permit the removal of pronouns for "God." There was no unanimity or consensus on this topic. The

Maker spoke after much discussion andthanked the Committee and the gallery for giving serious consideration given to this issue; she decided to withdraw the motion when it was brought to the body. She felt there needed to be much more work to find a solution to the issue of pronouns and said the Diversity and Inclusion Committee would continue to study this and to seek a better solution.

- Bylaws Amendment Proposal 3—to amend Tradition Five by removing "over" from the word "overeating." The motion did not receive the required 2/3 majority and was defeated.
- Bylaws Amendment Proposal 4—to amend Step 12 to remove "over." This motion was withdrawn after the previous related motion failed.
- Bylaws Amendment Proposal 5 sought to change the responsibility for adopting Bylaws changes from the groups to the service bodies. This motion was withdrawn.
- Bylaws Amendment Proposal 6 was in Reference before Conference began—the suggestion was to abolish the WSBC Bylaws Standing Committee. The motion provides for the Special Standing Reference Committee, (which only serves for the duration of Conference.) to select 5 members to serve a year of service to review the Bylaws and the Conference Policy Manual on a rotating bi-annual schedule; all other Reference Committee members would serve their year on another committee, thereby increasing the size of committees whose work more directly affects the compulsive eater who still suffers. This motion passed virtually unanimously.
- Bylaws Amendment Proposal 7 removed the "such as" suggestion that the Region Chair select the Region Vice Chair to serve in her or his absence. This motion was defeated, because it did not receive a 2/3 majority.

This is the conclusion of my official report for my service at the 2026 OA WSBC. I want to express my deepest gratitude to our local membership for allowing me to be this year's delegate, and to the attendees at Conference for the inspiring and remarkable experience of witnessing the grace and beauty of how the principles of our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Service operate to keep OA strong and healthy. I look forward to being a support or mentor to the next delegate; it was truly one of the best OA events I have ever attended. I cannot wait to share it with the next "fellow."