
2015 World Service Business Conference

April 27 - May 2, 2015

Connecticut Intergroup Delegate Report

Wayne

The theme of this year's World Service Business Conference was The miracle of Abstinence, the subject at the core of OA's 2014-16 Strategic Plan. The 176 delegates and 16 trustees (192 total voting members) came from 21 countries including the U.S., Canada, Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Greece, Denmark, Spain, Sweden, England, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Scotland, France and Newfoundland.

A. The 2015 WSBC consisted of:

- Five business meetings to determine worldwide group conscience on 3 Pieces of Literature, 6 New Business Motions and 7 Bylaw Amendments;
 - One 90-minute workshop on *How the Miracle of Abstinence is Supported by the Fellowship*.
- Three-50-minute workshops related to our Primary Purpose: *How the Miracle of Abstinence is Supported by using the Tools, by Practicing the Spiritual Principles of the Program and How Continued Abstinence and Working All Twelve Steps Keeps Recovery Fresh.*
- One 2 Hour workshop on *All About Conference*.
 - One 90-minute workshop on *Strategic Planing*.
 - One 60-minute workshop on *One Abstinence, Many Food Plans That Lead to the Miracle of Abstinence*.
 - One 90-minute workshop on *The Miracle of Abstinence Within Intergroups and Service Boards*.
 - One 90-minute workshop for *Literature Q&A*
 - Two Committee Meetings for a total of 5 hours.
 - A two hour forum for all attendees by the region chairs: *Theres No Place Like OA: Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Recovery! it was informative and fun.*
 - There were Twenty three OA Meetings during the week.
 - The opportunity to meet trustees and delegates from all over the world to exchange ideas.

B. Worldwide Group Conscience

1. Literature Revisions

- Adopted: *A Program of Recovery pamphlet*
- Adopted: *A Guide for Sponsors pamphlet*
- Adopted: *OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Service Bodies pamphlet*

2. New Business Motions

- Five of the six new business motions were adopted, and one was withdrawn.

3. Bylaw Amendments

- Six of the seven were adopted, one was defeated. Most fall in the “housekeeping and updating” category.

C. By the Numbers

1. **Meetings and Membership:** The number of meetings worldwide in 2014, including telephone and online, averaged 6,468 in 80 countries. This is down from 7,005 in 2012. Inside these numbers, the number of face-to-face meetings continues to decline while virtual meetings have grown from 371 to 402 in the past year.
2. **Membership:** OA surveys in 2008 estimated membership at 54,000. The 2013 survey excluding virtual meetings shows a 12.5% decrease to 47,300. Estimated virtual membership is 13,000.
3. **Financial:** OA finished 2014 with a \$76,000 surplus. Overall expenses decreased by 6.5 percent. Overall literature sales increased about 2 percent over 2013 sales. According to the auditor, OA’s financial position remains strong.

4. Contributions and literature sales

<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Literature Sales</u>
2011 - \$477,732	2011 - \$1,114,633
2012 - \$489,832	2012 - \$1,002,665
2013 - \$480,745	2013 - \$ 899,350
2014 - \$564,585	2014 - \$ 917,337

5. **Lifeline:** Lifeline continues to struggle financially. Last years’ campaign increased subscriptions, but they have now begun to fall again. We have gone from 9,773 subscriptions in 2008 to 7,355 in 2014 to 6,847 in 2015. The target of the 2015 campaign 10,000.

6. Virtual Services

- OA members attending virtual meetings: 12,900
- Virtual groups end of 2013: 371
- Virtual groups end of 2014: 402
- Average number of members at meeting: 39
- Total contributions 2013: \$7,528.13. Average per attendee: \$0.58 each per year.
- Total contributions 2014: \$14,471.24. Average per attendee: \$1.12 each per year.
- Goal: “Emphasize the 7th Tradition and virtual groups’ responsibility to make

OA financially self-supporting and do our share of service work all to help carry the OA message.

7. **Strategic Plan**

- 2014 - 2016: The three-year focus for the strategic plan has a central focus of ***Our Primary Purpose***.

The single goals for each year are:

2014 - Increase focus on actions required for **abstinence**.

2015 - Increase focus on necessity of **working all 12 Steps**.

2016 - Increase focus on each individuals responsibility to **carry the message**.

D. Other

1. **OA 12 & 12:** The process of revising the OA 12&12 began in August 2013 and is likely to continue for some time. There is no target completion date at this time.
2. **Public Information:** *Facebook* ads were run from (February - April) and (September - December), which resulted in nearly 17,00 new visitors to oa.org. WSO sent 363 betacam tapes that weren't selling out to media outlets.
3. **Literature:**
 - The three pieces of revised literature (A Program of Recovery, A Guide for Sponsors and OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Services Bodies) will be available in a few months.
 - Board-Approved literature created or updated in the past year includes: *Twelve Stepping a Problem, Taste of Lifeline (A book of collected Lifeline stories) Strong Abstinence Checklist and Writing Exercise pocket card, Abstinence Second Edition, Spanish translation (e-reader format), To Parents and Concerned Adults, Pocket Reference for OA Members, Suggest Meeting Format, Budget Guidelines for Service Bodies, Fundraising and Prudent Reserve guidelines for groups and Service Bodies and Guidelines for Public Information Events.*
 - *The following abstinence resources were published on oa.org for free download: The Strong Abstinence Checklist and Writing Exercise (new), The Abstinence Literature Resource Guide (new), The Abstinence PowerPoint Presentation (new) and The Difference Between Abstinence and A Plan of Eating Workshop (new).*
 - OA literature has been translated into twenty-nine languages in forty-two countries. The three new languages OA literature is being translated into are Korean, Lithuanian and Chinese.
4. **Elections:** Three Region Trustees (3, 6 & 9) and two General Service Trustees were elected.
5. **Seventh Tradition:** The basket was passed 1 time at WSBC. Total: \$5,921.51. It goes into OA's general fund. Last year they passed the basket 3 times Total \$4,455.36 Thank you, Connecticut Intergroup, for sending me to represent you at WSBC. It's an exciting and rewarding experience to spend so much time interacting with people in recovery

from all over the world. I would be happy to visit any of our meetings for a review of the report and answer questions.

Wayne
Connecticut Intergroup, WSBC Delegate