

# Growing OA Unity Worldwide

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## OA WSBC 2017 Delegate Report

Frank L

### General Observations

The Conference theme was “Growing OA Unity Worldwide”, which was evident throughout the conference. Repeatedly suggestions were made to make OA more accessible to non-English-speaking members, particularly by translating literature. Note the adoption of Item L (a special fund for translations) and Item M (establishing an ad-hoc committee to consider the implementation of a Spanish language service board (SLSB)).

The biggest news – there will be a new *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous!* Two issues initially hindered its adoption: (1) the specific uses of “compulsive overeater” vs. “compulsive eater” and (2) not including the associated principle with each step. Fortunately both concerns were addressed, resulting in its overwhelming adoption. Also approved was the revised pamphlet *Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight*.

More excitement: we have a new OA holiday! **Sponsorship Day** will be held annually on the third Saturday in August. Start thinking about how we should celebrate now! However a proposal to add a new tool of Mindfulness was defeated.

Of the three WSBCs I’ve attended, this was easily the busiest. Originally there were 25 items on the agenda (2 were withdrawn, 3 were handled via consent agenda). Even working overtime on Saturday (the other two required no business on Saturday), we didn’t consider four proposals.

The most touching moments for me were the two standing ovations for the chair and the “green dot” ceremony, each bringing a tear to my eye (and many others). The most powerful moments came from the on-site meetings I went to. Delegates have a contagious zeal that is impossible to escape – but who would want to!

A wealth of conference information is available at oa.org: <http://bit.ly/2qU576W>. The final conference report will be available there eventually. Of particular interest is the delegate binder (PDF): <http://bit.ly/2peWWpp>.

Thank you for once again allowing me to be one of your Conference delegates. While I found it exhausting, it was also a wonderfully rewarding service – I recommend it whole-heartedly!!

## Literature Agenda

Three pieces of literature were presented with the intent of receiving the “Conference Seal of Approval”.

### Proposal Item A-A

**Summary:** Approve revised pamphlet: *Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight*.

**Notes:** 1 Pro, 0 Cons (unusual)

**Outcome:** Adopted, virtually unanimous

### Proposal Item A-B

**Summary:** Approve new pocket guide, *Twelve Concepts of OA Service Pocket Guide*.

**Notes:** Everyone wants the guide; some don't think it's ready. Long... discussion. I personally felt more confused after reading it, not less.

**Outcome:** Defeated, vote was close.

### Proposal Item A-C

**Summary:** Approval to the revised manuscript, *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*.

**Notes:** Now amended to A-C-2.

**Outcome:** Adopted!!! 163 for, 11 against/180

### Amendment A-C-1

Withdrawn – was to rescind

(1991c) It was adopted that:

The terms “compulsive overeater, compulsive eater” and “compulsive eating, compulsive overeating” be used interchangeably in OA literature, as determined to be appropriate by the Literature Committee during the regular literature writing, editing, and approval process.

Vote held to “un-withdraw” by request; **Outcome:** Defeated (virtually 100%)

### Amendment A-C-2

Proviso: The final layout of the manuscript will include the spiritual Principle of the Step or Tradition at the beginning of each chapter.

**Outcome:** Adopted

### Amendment A-C-2-a

Proviso: The final layout of the manuscript will include the spiritual Principle of the Step ~~or~~ and Tradition at the beginning of each chapter.

**Notes:** Just changing “or” to “and”.

**Outcome:** Defeated

## New Business Motions

Consent agenda: New Business Motions D, E, and G

**Outcome:** Adopted

### Proposal Item A

**Summary:** Remove language that treats email groups differently than other groups.

**Notes:** When the definition of a meeting was updated in 2016, this restriction was removed and a loop may now register as a meeting. 1 Pro, 0 Cons.

**Outcome:** Adopted (essentially unanimous)

### Proposal Item B

**Summary:** The copyright of all works, created in the course of volunteer service to OA and submitted to OA shall be owned by OA.

**Notes:** Lots (and lots) of discussion. Sentiment favored spreading the word over ownership issues.

**Outcome:** Defeated

### Proposal Item C

**Summary:** Add a tenth Tool: Mindfulness.

**Notes:** Percentage to include: 54% (most are in the high 90s). My personal opinion is that the tool of "A plan of action" will make it hard to add other tools.

**Outcome:** Failed (nearly unanimous)

### Proposal Item D [consent]

**Summary:** Change wording of delegate participation on committees to match current practice.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Passed (consent)

### Proposal Item E [consent]

**Summary:** Wording correction.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Adopted (consent)

### ~~Proposal Item F~~ [withdrawn]

**Summary:** Remove "booklets" from list of AA approved literature (term no longer used by AA)

**Notes:** Turns out AA "booklets" do still exist and the term is still used.

**Outcome:** Withdrawn

### Proposal Item G [consent]

**Summary:** Literature for WSBC approval will be posted online, not mailed.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Adopted (consent)

### Proposal Item H

**Summary:** Add to "Unity with Diversity" Policy: ...meeting format should include the *OA Preamble*, and the *Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous* and mention the *Seventh Tradition* contribution.

**Notes:** Do note: 1996a “The 2014 WSBC of suggests OA’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be read at every meeting. In addition, we suggest all service bodies and the WSBC read the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.”

**Outcome:** Defeated

#### **Proposal Item I [withdrawn]**

**Summary:** Amend policy to reflect that email loops can register as meetings.

**Notes:** I’m not sure why this was withdrawn.

**Outcome:** Withdrawn

#### **Proposal Item J**

**Summary:** WSBC motions shall contain an explanation of how this motion will help carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

**Notes:** Concern about motions where it is an N/A – it’s OK to say N/A; the motion will still be considered.

**Outcome:** Adopted

#### **Proposal Item K**

**Summary:** Have BOT to review use of Robert’s Rules of Order at the WSBC and bring back motion(s) for alternatives.

**Notes:** Very divided vote. A shame this failed (I think). This is my one personal regret at the conference – I believe I had an argument that would have tipped the vote in favor, but did not present it. Drats!

**Outcome:** Failed; 84 for, 90 against

#### **Proposal Item L**

**Summary:** Establish special fund for translating literature.

**Notes:** Main issue was the limitations a limited fund imposes on the BOT and the fact that all funding requests have been met to date.

**Outcome:** Adopted 103/65

#### **Proposal Item M (amended)**

**Summary:** Establish an ad-hoc committee to consider the implementation / registration of a Spanish language service board (SLSB).

**Notes:** 3 Pros, 0 Cons

**Outcome:** Adopted.

#### **Amendment M-1**

Change “...Spanish Fellowship...” to “...Spanish-speaking Fellowship...”

**Outcome:** Adopted

#### **Proposal Item N**

**Summary:** Move that the World Service Business Conference 2017 create a Sponsorship Day to be held annually on the third Saturday in August.

**Notes:** Concern it would often conflict with BOT meetings.

**Outcome:** Adopted 102/66(?)

## Bylaws Amendments

These tend to impact the WSBC and WSO more than the general membership, though of course there are exceptions.

### Proposal Item 1

**Summary:** No candidate may run for more than one WSBC position.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Adopted

### Proposal Item 2

**Summary:** Add to definition of a group: Use of a meeting format that includes the OA Preamble and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA.

**Notes:** Had more than three amendments.

**Outcome:** Referred to committee

### Amendment 2-1

“...Suggested use of..., and a collection of the Seventh Tradition.”

**Notes:** Much discussion of both “suggested” and “seventh tradition”.

**Outcome:**

### Amendment 2-2

Strike OA Preamble

**Notes:**

**Outcome:**

### Amendment 2-3

To split amendment 2-1 into two separate amendments.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Referred to committee

### Proposal Item 3 ~~(consent)~~ (removed from consent)

**Summary:** Remove “religious” from organizations that could receive funds should OA be dissolved.

**Notes:** Discussion of what can be considered “religious”; also if we can legally change remove this.

**Outcome:** Failed.

### Amendment 3-1

Remove “education” and “scientific” as well, keeping only “charitable”.

**Outcome:** Ruled out of order.

### Proposal Item 4

**Summary:** Qualifications for trustee must be met at time of election, not application.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Overwhelmingly failed.

### Proposal Item 5 ~~{consent}~~ (removed from consent)

**Summary:** Region trustee has the authority to notify the World Service Office that the intergroup has been dissolved and to remove it from the WSO records (should the intergroup not meet certain criteria).

**Amendment:** ...region trustee in agreement with the region chair... ; authority -> responsibility

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Ran out of time.

### Proposal Item 6 ~~{consent}~~ (removed from consent)

**Summary:** As above for service boards.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Ran out of time.

### Proposal Item 7

**Summary:** In cases in which there are common needs from a virtual service board (about language) that exceed the boundaries of one country to the virtual world, the national service board may serve the groups from this virtual service board.

**Notes:**

**Outcome:** Ran out of time.

### Proposal Item 8

**Summary:** Change WSBC from annual to biennial

**Notes:** Motion to rule proposal out of order; motion denied.

**Outcome:** Ran out of time.

## Elections

### Region 4

Cyndy L 180/180

### Region 7

Karen B 165/180

### General Service Trustee

Applicant	Votes	Outcome
Diana G	88	Not elected
Joanne M	135	3 year term
Lawrie C	104	2 year term
Ron P	139	3 year term

## Officers

The Board of Trustee elects the officers:

- Chair: Cindy L
- First Vice-chair: Vicki W
- Second Vice-chair: Tina C
- Treasurer: Bonnie L

## Reports

See the delegate binder for the full reports. When I notice something I consider significant, I've noted it below.

### Chair

For WSBC to break even, fees would have to be \$330 (not acceptable). The board is looking for ways to cut costs, hopefully getting closer to breaking even.

### Treasurer

Seventh tradition: \$564K (budgeted) vs. \$563K + \$62K (restricted funds) combined contributions (actual). Book sales are down.

### Managing Director

It is critical ensure you keep group information current with WSO. More than 20 pieces of literature published or approved for publication.

## Region Reports

For each region, I've noted if the region has increased or decreased their meeting count relative to 2016. Note that Region 3 is one of only three regions to increase in meeting count. Only virtual meetings grew significantly.

### Region One

Groups 2017:394 2016:394

The region chairs have taken on a project of implementing intergroup renewal and the Region One board has adopted this very enthusiastically.

### Region Two

Groups 2017:**1004** 2016:997

They are using the "green book" for a series of workshops. Region convention had 400 members.

### Region Three

Groups 2017:**471** 2016:468

Upcoming Region conventions:

- Fall 2017: Denver, CO
- Spring 2018: Salt Lake City, UT
- Fall 2018: Colorado Springs, CO
- Spring 2019: San Antonio, TX
- Fall 2019: Las Vegas, NV

### **Region Four**

Groups 2017:**278** 2016:274

Had a fundraiser called “Gimme Five”, which raised \$6032.

### **Region Five**

Groups 2017:529 2016:**538**

Have a paid webmaster.

### **Region Six**

Groups 2017:858 2016:**900**

Intergroup Renewal Trainings – lost 42 groups

### **Region Seven**

Groups 2017:490 2016:**524**

Report success running workshops with the “green book” (*Twelve Step Workshop and Study Guide*).

### **Region Eight**

Groups 2017:732 2016:**748**

Region assemblies are virtual. Has been going on for 8-10 years. May add voting soon.

### **Region Nine**

Groups 2017:880 2016:**883**

Translations are a big issue (47 countries, 34 languages)

### **Region Ten**

Groups 2017:180 2016:180

Have a big professional outreach program.

### **Virtual Services**

Groups 2017:**510** 2016:469

“Talk to the Trustee” teleconference once/month.

## **Committee Reports**

### **12&12 Ad Hoc Committee**

Working on this for years. Just for re-write of 12&12.

### **Board-Approved Literature Committee Report**

3 pieces completed, 3 pending, 3 upcoming.

### **Board Reference Manual Committee**

### **Conference Planning Committee Report**

Theme: Growing OA Unity Worldwide

### **Convention 2016 Committee Report**

1126 attendees, with 17 countries represented. Total income: \$51,560.

### **Convention 2020 Committee Report**

Will be held August 20-22, 2020 in Orlando, FL

### **Delegate Support Fund**

Gave out about \$22K this year.

### **Internal Information Committee**

Has a *Lifeline* rep that announces the upcoming topics for *Lifeline* and encourages members to write articles.

### **International Publications/Translations Committee**

12&12 translated to Korean, Greek

### **Literature Review Committee**

*Dignity of Choice* is next big piece up for review.

### **Professional Tradeshows Committee**

We were one of the few intergroups to use it last year

### **Public Awareness Committee**

58 entries, 1900 votes on PI Poster competition. Happens online. Still running.

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

Sponsorship training workshop among the 2017 goals.

### **Virtual Services Committee**

Growing in numbers; 7<sup>th</sup> traditions still underperforming but improving

### **Website Review Committee**

They know search sucks.

### **Bylaws Committee**

Considering more around social media.

### **Conference-Approved Literature Committee**

Five pieces being worked on in subcommittee.

### **Finance Committee**

Info-graphic showing what happens to 7<sup>th</sup> traditions; table tent; new 7<sup>th</sup> tradition pamphlet

### **Professional Outreach Committee**

*Courier* (professional outreach flier) is being discontinued after 2017. There will be ones based on old articles still available for download.

## Public Information Committee

### Region Chairs Committee

Has a sponsorship training subcommittee.

### Twelfth Step Within Committee

Want to bring fun to recovery!

### Unity with Diversity Committee

Has a translations subcommittee.

### Virtual Services Committee

Reviewing *Guidelines for Addressing Disruptive Behavior*.

### Web/Technology Committee (my group)

If we don't produce something significant this year, the board will shut us down.

### Young Persons' Committee

We don't have support for people under 18 – just too many legal issues.

## Conference Data

### Attendance

- Thursday: 186 voting members
- Friday: 185 voting members
- Saturday: 181 voting members initially, updated to 180

### Seventh Tradition

On Friday, the only Seventh Tradition collection was taken, for approximately \$4328.