

**The Miracle of Abstinence
World Service Business Conference,
April 27-May 2, 2015**

I wish to thank our Unity with Diversity Desert Intergroup and all meetings represented by UDDI for the opportunity to serve as our Delegate to WSBC again this year. As there is not enough time to be thorough about all that occurs at Conference, I will be hosting a gathering at my house in July to answer questions and give a more comprehensive report to anyone who wishes to attend.

Conference began with OA meetings and workshops about how the Miracle of Abstinence is supported by: The Fellowship, Using the Tools, Practicing the Spiritual Principles of the Program, and Working All Twelve Steps to keep Recovery fresh. There were also meetings about how the Conference functions, the Strategic Plan that is in progress, and open meetings of the Board of Trustees. I have purchased two CD's with several workshops recorded, and would like to share them with our Intergroup members or any workshop for which they may be useful. The workshop entitled, "The Miracle of Abstinence Within Intergroups and Service Boards," was of particular interest to me. That IG meets each January to set priorities and includes this statement at the bottom of each month's agenda, "Our Intergroup's value is measured by its usefulness to OA members and meetings." It states its strategic goals as:

1. To help members strengthen their personal recovery;
2. To increase the number of sponsors;
3. To increase the number of newcomers;
4. To increase retention of newcomers and help members experiencing relapse;
5. To inspire people to give more service

The workshop was inspiring and is featured on one CD I purchased.

Prior to the first Conference business meeting, The Region Chairs and many Trustees performed a Forum called, "There's No Place Like OA; Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Recovery." The skit was interactive requiring all delegates to participate as sponsors for Dorothy as she took the Twelve Steps. It was whimsical and poignant, and it is also on my CD. I have the handout with all the suggested obstacles to each Step and the format for the performance, if our IG wishes to use it for an event.

There are five business meetings from Wednesday through Saturday during which we discuss and vote on motions and new literature, listen to reports from the Board of Trustees, Ten Regions and Trustee Committees, and elect new Trustees. Very important, from the Chair of the BOT was the reminder that OA is suffering financially. Online meetings are NOT free, but often, people do not contribute their Seventh Tradition responsibility. He suggests we consider the AUTOMATIC RECURRING CONTRIBUTION (ARC) option on OA.org. (I already do this; it is easy and painless!) In addition, Lifeline, our journal of recovery, is desperately trying to grow to 10,000 subscriptions in order to become self-supporting. This is the 50th year of Lifeline...!! Why not consider a subscription for yourself, a friend, or your doctor's waiting room? Great suggestions from our Chair Emeritus...!!!

Following reports, we break into Committee meetings which are held before and after the business meetings. I served on the Bylaws Committee which reviews Bylaws Subpart B of OA, Inc.; these Bylaws govern the identity, rights and privileges of members; I also served on Reference Committee, which fields controversial motions for discussion, and may make a recommendation to the Delegation as to the adoption or failure of these motions.

One important order of business was to deal with Literature motions. These new pieces have been in revision process for quite a long time. Each piece of OA literature comes up for review every ten years. The delegation discussed and adopted the revised pamphlets, "A Program of Recovery," and "A Guide for Sponsors." Finally, the revised handbook, "OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Services Bodies" was adopted. I have the originals with all editing available in my Conference Manual if anyone would like to look at them. The new literature will become available for purchase soon.

The Consent Agenda items are motions sent to delegates before Conference begins. They are deemed non-controversial by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, (BOT,) and we are asked to be familiar with them in order to dispense with them quickly. Any member may pull a motion off the Consent Agenda, before voting/discussion begins. Once that Agenda is in final form, we are asked to adopt items in a single vote. They consisted of simple word revisions and items related to our Founder's expenses. As she passed away in 2014, these items were considered moot.

Both in Reference Committee and on the floor there was a lengthy discussion of a motion to amend our Preamble. It was adopted with an amendment, but not the revision initially requested. These discussions are full of insight and consideration, and sometimes become somewhat heated and energized. The amazing outcome is that group conscience prevails.

There was a failed attempt to adopt a motion making it easier to amend the Bylaws Subpart B, Article XIV procedures. The discussion here referred to the magnitude of difficulty required to alter Bylaws. The group conscience retained the current, stringent policy in place.

An important update involves the revision of the book, The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, our OA 12 and 12. An ad hoc committee has been formed, with BOT approval, consisting of nine members all of whom meet the qualifications to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees. The committee meets through SKYPE, as there are several countries represented. Members are making steady progress and are well into the review of the Traditions portions at this time. There is as yet no estimate as to when that document will be submitted to the World Service Business Conference for adoption.

I have much more to share, and enormous gratitude. There were twenty-two countries represented this year, so we said the Serenity Prayer, Steps, and Traditions in German, Portuguese, Hebrew, Dutch, Spanish, French, Swedish, and English. Come to my informal gathering this summer for additional details, and consider taking this unbelievable opportunity to see our Recovery in action. We are the lucky ones. Thank you all for allowing me to serve.

In service with gratitude and love,
Cathy L
UDDI Delegate, WSBC 2015