

**WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE**  
**MAY 2010**  
**Kaye W. Report**

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

Throughout the conference there was discussion about the lack of representation, not only at WSBC but also at the Intergroup level across the country. Many expressed concern that OA is being left behind in reaching the still suffering compulsive eater because they are not taking advantage of virtual opportunities – Facebook, Twitter, Utube, Webcasts, blogs, etc. OA's new Virtual Service Body, officially recognized by WSO in 2007 now reaches over 10,000 people online. Their members use Paypal to make their monthly contributions and the site offers members a wide variety of groups that focus on such things as: the 12 steps, abstinence, seniors, moms, teens, food talk, Sponsors, relapse, Big Book Step Study, abuse and recovery, chronic illness, Christian, gay, CODA, and general sharing. Online meetings are held every day at 7 am, 10:30, 2:30, 6 pm, 8:15 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am.

In order to have more people involved in the decision making process, WSO is considering use of a webcast. A demonstration was held that explained the opportunities and challenges of such a project. One question was anonymity – and another was how to ensure that only those authorized to view could participate. The cost for 2 cameras would be \$12-14000 for the week; \$6000 for 1 camera. Most home PCs would be able to access the stream but they would need to have high speed internet.

One of the workshops I enjoyed most explored the challenges of how to get more people interested in service at the Intergroup level. Among the suggestions were that IGs should take an inventory and look for ways to make service fun.

Here are some additional points raised:

For Intergroups

- Make sure that service has a fun factor
- To make it look like fun, you have to look like you're having fun
- Share the IG Rep position – a different person from the group each month
- Traveling Intergroup – goes to meetings where they don't have a rep
- Have a talent auction – live auction to raise money based on talents of members
- Use the IG buddy system – IG visit one meeting and offer to mentor the new IG Rep
- Fellowship bonds are created with the ones we've done service with
- And my favorite, "If you can't find a sponsor who has what you want...fine one that breathes.
- "Have fellowship outside of the meeting – lunches, potlucks, etc

For Groups

- In the meeting, ask the question "Who wants recovery today?"

- Don't sponsor spectators
- To have self esteem, do esteemable things
- Have fellowship outside of the meeting – lunches, potlucks, etc
- Stress that service is the foundation of recovery
- Temporary service – do it for one week or one month

Some of the things other regions are doing to reach more members:

- Region 5 has Intergroup meetings via teleconference to both virtual and outlying meetings
- The Region 6 website is bilingual
- Region 8's 12 Step within Committee conducts an online sponsoring program

Other delegates I met shared their ideas (and provided electronic copies of): – Camp Happy Destiny, with merit badges and other ideas reminiscent of childhood summer camp; how to play OA Jeopardy; a brochure from a retreat being offered entitled “GLEE”.

NOTEWORTHY: The OA radio PSA won a 4<sup>th</sup> place Freddy Award as one of the best national radio PSAs.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

- The new 7<sup>th</sup> tradition skit is now available
- 61% of total WSO income is literature sales
- 75% of WSO literature orders are coming over the internet via credit cards

#### GOALS ESTABLISHED FOR 2011 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Review and revise committee's purpose statement.
- Create a cover letter to accompany the shortened version of the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition pamphlet for a quarterly intergroup mailing
- Research liability insurance guidelines for events.
- Develop a Q&A for treasurers

And lastly, since this was my first WSBC, I wanted to write about some of my impressions – like feeling dwarfed in a room the size of three ballrooms where 165 delegates and 15 trustees from all over the world conducted the business of OA. Feeling humbled just by being in the same room with representatives from Canada, Hawaii, Mexico, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, the Virgin Islands, Columbia, Israel, United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Spain, Poland, Australia, the Far East and New Zealand. Emotionally touched listening to the Serenity Prayer spoken in different languages twice each day. And laughing when the doorman, whose job it was to yell “voting” and then close the door to the assembly during the vote, also started bellowing out ‘vote’ in a variety of different languages.