

"Growing OA Unity Worldwide"

Here I am in Albuquerque, NM on my first trip to the World Service Convention. I arrived on Monday night at 10PM at the Embassy Suites ready to go as a "green dot" at the assembly. My mentor is from Region 8, Atlanta area and we have hit it off quite well. Every morning at 7AM there is a great meeting to start the day. Tuesday, the leader suggested to choose your favorite piece of OA literature and share on it, it was a great meeting. People from all over the world are here. I have met people from England, Ireland, Venezuela, Iceland, Sweden, Israel, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, Greece, Brazil and so many from all around the United States. We are all over this world I was put on the Bylaws Committee, as well as the Reference Subcommittee. This committee provides reference, discussion and revision on motions put before the Bylaws Committee. Interestingly enough, not all bylaw members were on the reference committee. This committee meets at 7AM on Thursday and Friday morning, Thursday evening at 7PM, then depending on the motions, we will see what happens.

Tuesday morning I chaired the 7AM meeting by using the reading in "For Today". I think it went well, great start to the day. I shopped in the Boutique and supported different Regions by purchasing some interesting items. I lunched with my mentor. In the afternoon, there was a great workshop on the Concepts of OA given by 2 fantastic members that I attended. Tuesday evening was "All About the Conference" that explained about the conference, the set up, parliamentary, Robert's Rules, room set up and procedures, very interesting.

Wednesday morning another 7Am meeting was great. At 8AM was "Passport to Unity" where we were assigned to a table and we had 4 different speakers (one at a time) come to our table and share on their diversity. It was so interesting to hear how we are all the same in so many ways. It was a great exercise. At 10:15, I had my Bylaws meeting. We discussed Social Media and Glossary Terms. I was in the Social Media group. Quite a discussion we had. We had to come up with goals, actions, and deadline. Our afternoon committee meeting consisted of being broken into subcommittees for the Bylaws and Policy & Procedures review. I was chose the Bylaws side. Then we completed our Social Media work. It was an interesting day.

Thursday morning at 7AM was my first Reference Subcommittee meeting. We discussed how our process would work and some upcoming motions. Then at 8:30, the 56th annual World Service Business Conference began. It started with the Serenity Prayer in English and Spanish, the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 112 Concepts. We had introductions of the Board of Trustees, Region Chairs, volunteers, mic assistants, time keeper, pages and group delegates. Then there was the Adoption of Credentials, Standing Rules and agenda. Of course, there was no written agenda to follow, so I found that entirely confusing. In a meeting that size, it seems to me, that an agenda to use would have been appropriate. There was the delegate briefing, directions about the Reference Committee (that's my committee) and Parade of the Bylaws where the motions presenters had to come up and introduce themselves. There was an amendment made for a motion, then an "Out of Order" request at the very beginning for one of the proposals. That caused a little bit of a stir and discussion, but it was not passed. We reviewed the Consent Agenda, dropped three items from that, two amendments were made and we passed the Consent Agenda on Motions D, E, and G. The Board members were questioned on their reports that were presented in the manual, first the Chair, Treasurer, Managing Director and each region chair. There were 186 delegates present. Committee reports followed with Twelve and Twelve Ad Hoc, Board Approval Literature, Board Reference Manual, Review, Conference Planning, Convention 2016, Convention 2020, Delegate Support Fund, Internal Information, International Publication/Translation, Literature Review, Professional Tradeshows, Public Awareness, Strategic Planning, Virtual Services Website Review, Bylaws, Conference Approved Literature, Finance, Professional Outreach, Public Information, Region Chairs, Twelve Step Within, Unity with Diversity, Virtual Services, Web/Technology and Young, all allowing a question period. It was then time to hear from the people applying for the trustee positions. Regions 4 and 7 running unopposed, four running for three General Service Trustee positions. They are all very interesting candidates.

So on Friday morning, after the Serenity Prayer in Greek and English and the credentials were done, the elections took place. Region 4 Trustee is Cyndy L, Region 7 Trustee is Karen B, the three General Service Trustees are Lawrie C, Joanne M and Ron P. A seventh tradition was taken and they collected \$1,323.68. Then the voting began with 185 delegates. First up were two amendments. The first one was withdrawn, the second passed. The process of three pros and three cons then 15 minutes of questions was adhered to, with an extension of time for questions. Approved was the pamphlet of "Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight". The "Concepts Pocket Guide" was referred back to the Literature committee. The revision of the "Twelve & Twelve" was passed. An adoption to rescind an email loop policy was adopted as it is no longer pertinent. The copyright and ownership of creative works where WSBC and WSO wanted to "own" everything we shared with them had failed. The mindfulness tool was defeated. The word booklet motion was withdrawn as it really is still being used. Placing of the requirement of the Preamble, Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Seventh Tradition inside the Unity with Diversity pamphlet failed. Another email policy was withdrawn. The proposal to add "to help carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer" to all motions was adopted. The proposal to develop ideas of different ways to conduct the business at World Service by using consensus-building failed, but it was pretty close. It was a long and tedious day in my opinion, but I certainly learned quite a bit.

On Saturday, we started with the Serenity Prayer in Swedish and English, followed by the reading of "Voices in Recovery. Credential s read again with 181 delegates. The motion to have an International Publications/Translation Committee budget was adopted. Then an emergency business order was proposed and after some discussion it was decided that the board would review the copyright laws and make all the OA materials on line available for translation purposes in any language to members. An adoption of a Spanish Language Service Board was adopted. The Sponsorship day for the third Saturday in August passed. Let's have a workshop where we collect and donate to WSO! The next motion was for the election of trustees to only take one position. The motion to have the mandatory use of the Preamble, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be read at all meetings had a first, second, and then third amendment, causing it to die because it was the last day and any motion with three amendments is supposed to go back to the Reference Committee and it was over. The motion to delete the word religious from the Dissolution Article failed and the last motion we had time for was for the trustee application qualifications time and that failed. The remaining motions just die and if the makers wish to propose them again next year, they may. We had the "Green Dot" ceremony just before noon at the closing with 61 green dots in attendance. Then there was the banquet, a wonderful outgoing speaker, Karen C, and entertainment in the evening. The new chair of World Service is Cyndy L, the Region 4 Trustee.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to do this service at this level. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to represent you all in Albuquerque at WSO and to join in unity to grow along with so many other dedicated people coming together from 21 countries. It has been a memorable experience.

In love and service,
Joan R.