

**2019 WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE
GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA INTERGROUP DELEGATE REPORT
Submitted May 18, 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to once again represent the Kansas City area's Overeaters Anonymous Intergroup at the 2019 World Service Business Conference (WSBC), held May 6-11 in Albuquerque, NM. It was inspiring to meet members from around the world and represent Kansas City's "group conscience" at workshops and business meetings held throughout the week.

Following is a report highlighting business and workshops I participated in on behalf of our fellowship.

– Barb Pruitt

THEME

"Growing OA Recovery Worldwide" was played out throughout the conference. This is important because membership has been declining in recent years:

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Groups	6,209	6,276	6,344	6,435	6,468
Service Bodies	338	337	337	337	339

Workshops and many business and bylaw proposals focused on how to carry the message to more people, especially through virtual means, since this continues to be the largest growing meeting format. There currently are **595 virtual groups, up from 569 in 2018.**

ATTENDEES

188 voting members from these 19 countries attended the conference:

Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, New Zealand, Scotland, South America, Spain, Sweden and the USA.

In addition to my attendance, **Region 4 was represented by delegates** from St. Louis (3), Omaha (1), Rapid City (1), Wichita (1), Minneapolis (2) and Canada (1). (I do not know the city name for all the delegates from Canada.)

WORKSHOPS

I attended these workshops:

- **How to Attract New Members and Keep them Engaged.** Ideas for the Intergroup include:
 - Offer a wide range of meetings (in-person; hybrid via Zoom, WhatsApp and online, etc.)
 - Increase engagement through **one-on-one requests to volunteer/participate**; do not rely on broad announcements only.
- Forum topic: "Each one, reach one, every day"
If **each** member **reached** one person **every day**, we would grow membership. I have buttons to share!

BUDGET

Finances for OA, Inc. are stronger than past years. A brief history of OA's real profits are as follows:

- 2015 ended in the black, largely due to sizable bequests
- 2016 ended in the red
- 2017 ended in the red with \$36,508 in the red
- 2018 ended with a positive cash flow of \$350,089.80

Last year's strong financing is **due to the following influxes of funding**:

- Exceeding sales expectations of about \$182,000 for the second edition of *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions*, *The Twelve Steps Workbook* and digital literature.
- Exceeding expected Tradition Seven contributions by almost \$100,000.
- Collecting \$23,241.11 from last year's first Annual Appeal letter.

This year is not expected to end on as high of a note but the treasurer projects a balanced budget. The board of Trustees are taking **several steps to reduce expenses**, including:

- **Eliminating *Lifeline***, which has been operating in the red. The last issue will be published Dec. 31, 2019; alternative options will be digital.
- **Restructuring the board**, reducing numbers from 17 to 12 by 2024. The WSBC will vote on the plan in 2020.
- **Shortening the WSBC** in 2020 to begin on Wednesday instead of Saturday; **WSBC dates are April 20-25, 2020.**

7th TRADITION

The basket was passed on the last day of the conference, raising **\$6,252.**

ELECTIONS

Seven delegates were elected to serve on the board of trustees:

- Hannah — Region 2
- Barb K. — Region 5
- Beth B. — Region 6
- Andrea S. — Region 8
- Vasiliki — Region 9
- Letitia — Region 10
- Tina — General Service

MY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

- Public Information/Public Outreach (PI/PO).
 - This was the first meeting for this combined committee; the WSBC voted to join PI and PO in 2018
 - Each committee member was asked to commit to “**one brave thing.**” Mine: to volunteer to serve as our IG PI/PO Chair and do, at minimum:
 - Tap ideas in the [PI/PO](#) manuals
 - [Build a committee](#) to assist all IG meetings to reach out to professionals
 - Create “what to say to your health professional” handout
 - Create a professional outreach packet that includes materials such as [professional outreach](#) pamphlets, Introducing [Overeaters Anonymous](#) several the 15 Questions card and give out at meetings
 - Create stickers with the KC website for adhering to pamphlets
 - Other PI/PO activities in 2019 considered, time and volunteers permitting:
 - Speak to docs at KU Medical School and other pro organizations
 - Print “[Is food a problem for you...](#)” and our website and give to group

BUSINESS OF NOTE

The Convention 2020

August 20-22, 2020 at the Renaissance Hotel, Orlando, Florida

A New Message to Carry

What was a “statement on abstinence and recovery” was changed to a definition:

Abstinence: The action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working toward or maintaining a healthy body weight.

Recovery: Removal of the need to engage in compulsive eating behaviors achieved through working the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous.

The former statement was:

Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working toward or maintaining a healthy body weight.

Spiritual, emotional and physical recovery is the result of living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step program.

Literature

- A new book was approved; no date on when it will be published:
Body Image, Relationships, and Sexuality: Personal Journeys to Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous
- To reduce redundancies and costs, the literature committee combined the *Dignity of Choice* and *A Plan of Eating* pamphlets into one and the WSBC voted on the content. The new title is *Dignity of Choice: Establishing a Plan of Eating*. The manuscript failed due to the eating plans contained in the pamphlet. This is expected to come back for a vote in the future with more revisions.
- Other combined pamphlets in the editing process are:
 - *A Program of Recovery, Questions and Answers* and *Compulsive Overeating and Inside View*
 - *Welcome Back* and *Members in Relapse*

Website

- OA.org is now using Google search engine
The site has abundant resources. Could the IG consider a workshop on what's on the website?

Fun Fact

OA was an answer on a recent *Jeopardy*. Traffic to OA.org increased the next day by 50 percent!