

SNI MEETING MINUTES for Saturday, June 1, 2024

The regular meeting of the Suburban North Intergroup (SNI) was held on Zoom on Saturday, June 1, 2024. Chair Wanda C. opened the meeting at 10:02 am with a minute of silent reflection followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Present Were:

Wanda

June

Maureen

Judy

Carolyn

Shari

Carolyn read the 12 steps.

Shari read the 12 traditions.

Wanda read the long version of the 6th tradition.

June read the concept of responsibility.

Agenda was approved.

Wanda read the standing rules and they were adopted.

June minutes were approved.

10:27 June gave her Downloader's report.

10:42 Wanda gave her report, including a letter for the Rainbow (LGBTQ+) Specific-Service Board.

11:00 Carolyn gave the treasurer's report.

11:44 Maureen had no report.

11:48 The basket for the Region 5 Convention was discussed - possibly a relaxation theme and if any money remaining from the budget, it could be used for a gift card.

11:57 The July meeting will be on Zoom, August will be a hybrid meeting

12:00 Meeting ended

Submitted by: Shari D. (substituting for the SNI Recording Secretary who was not present)

2024 World Service Business Conference Report

We All Belong: Welcome to OA!

In May (7-11) I attended my 4th (2nd in person) OA World Service Business Conference in Albuquerque, NM. The theme this year was “We All Belong: Welcome to OA!” There were 188 eligible voters to start the Conference but by the end we had 170 due to a few members getting sick and testing positive for Covid. Our own beloved Region 5 chair was one of them. There were 21 different countries represented and 14 languages. We took care of a great deal of business and finished it all.

Officer Reports

The Chair Meg M. encouraged us in her report to ask why we are here. For her it is Fellowship and her desire to keep OA alive for those who still suffer inside and outside the rooms. It is her 11th Conference. She also shares that her heart is heavy as she shuts down her region 4 and that she has been active for 25 years of its 45 years of history. When asked WHY? She answers that it's simple. It's because fellows didn't show up and do the recovery work of Step Twelve—carrying the message. On a personal note, I found Meg to be a grounded and authentic and humorous Chairperson and I enjoyed her leadership through all the work we had to do. She and a few other fellows I met are joining us in Region 5 and I look forward to being with her again during assemblies.

The Treasurer Bob L. reported that there are 2 main revenue streams for OA: contributions and literature sales. Our overreliance on literature sales has caused fluctuations in our budget and we need to rely on contributions to be our major source of revenue. We are encouraged to set up an ARC, automatically recurring contribution portal. This app helps us and staff to better manage the contributions. You can get a report that tracks what you give, and you can edit online how much you give, how often, the date you want your contribution to occur and if you want to spread it among four areas. As of now less than 1000 members are using ARC and they hope that more will support it.

The Managing Director Dan S was hired this year when Sarah A retired after working for WSO for 2 decades. He is asking the question “What can we do better?” as we look at our competition in the marketplace. We are cheaper and are unique in that we offer emotional as well as spiritual help. He is also looking to minimize expenses. In 2023 the number of worldwide meetings including virtual averaged 6,273 in over 75 countries with 333 service bodies.

Elections

Election of Trustees There were 10 openings and 6 were filled.

- Cindy C.
- Robert “Bob” F.
- Emilia I. (Italy)
- Cindy L.
- Susan EM. (Aust)
- Laurie O.

Bylaw Amendments and Business Proposals

Consent Agenda

Susan M's WSBC 2024 Report to Region 5

I am grateful to Region 5 for sending me as a Region 5 delegate to World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2024.

My experience

Being at WSBC is a world class experience! It is bucket list worthy, whether you are ready to be a delegate, willing to volunteer, or simply want to be a visitor. Besides experiencing the efficiency of Parliamentary Procedure and seeing so much work getting done for OA, there are wonderful workshops and OA meetings. Where else do you get to rub elbows with so many people who have decades of OA recovery? The level of honesty and vulnerability is superb. There are endless opportunities to grow and use the principles of the program. This is an experience you don't want to miss.

I was impressed with the pre-conference material and training this year. There was a secure private website for delegates with access to everything we needed to get ready. The preparation trick for me is to start early to get through all the materials and seek answers to my questions.

The theme for this year's Business Conference was "We ALL Belong: Welcome to OA!" We are indeed a diverse group of people who are bonded in special ways due to our common problems with food, the solution we find in the Twelve Steps of OA, and the principles of our program. OA is our home, our "safe place where we find and learn what love, acceptance, and forgiveness is." (Conference Planning Committee Report) This theme was evident in the workshops offered as well as throughout the business sessions.

Some of the issues dealt with at WSBC are controversial and emotions can run high. What an opportunity to practice the principles of our program! I love that in OA group conscience meetings (and WSBC is simply a worldwide GC) we get to hear everyone's voice. When we understand others' opinions, we frequently find that the minority voice actually speaks what is best for OA as a whole! It is so good to make informed decisions, especially in such important matters. When a discussion starts to get heated, it is common for someone to request we all say the Serenity Prayer, which has a calming effect. Once the vote is final, the loving relationships continue among our fellows.

Some statistics (participation and 7th tradition):

- This year we had 188 eligible voters representing 21 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United States, and Wales.
- These voters also represented 14 languages: Danish, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian, and Welsh. Sessions frequently started with the opening prayer being said in a language other than

English before the body said it in English. One workshop had the closing shared in all these languages plus Russian, in honor of the delegate who could not get a visa!

- Thirty-five states of the USA were represented: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.
- Non-delegate volunteers did service as pages, door monitors, and members of the Conference Support Committee. There were 23 such volunteers (including 5 from out of state).
- Professional participants included 4 World Service Office (WSO) staff members and our parliamentarian.
- The Seventh Tradition collection taken during the Friday afternoon Business Meeting yielded \$9411 in US dollars plus \$20 in Australian dollars.

I was asked to serve on the Minutes Review Committee, helping to verify the statistics in the final report. (This helped me pay closer attention to these details.)

Conference Committees met on Wednesday afternoon. I am a member of the Bylaws Committee and the Restructure Bylaws Subcommittee, on which I will continue to serve until the next WSBC. The Restructure Bylaws Subcommittee is working on two projects: Standing Rules for online conferences (informed by Roberts Rules, Appendix A) and indexing or restructuring the WSBC Policy Manual.

I also served on the Reference Subcommittee of the Bylaws Committee, which is where controversial or redundant motions are reimagined before going (or returning) to the conference to be voted on. We had orientation Thursday morning, met twice Thursday evening and twice on Friday. We addressed 8 proposals. There was no Emergency New Business.

There were five Business Sessions, meeting Thursday and Friday (both morning and afternoon) and Saturday morning.

Workshops, forum, information session, and meetings:

- Workshop: All About Conference (Tuesday evening)
 - This was a training/refresher about conference logistics, deadlines, and what resources are available.
- Literature Questions and Answers (Wednesday morning)
 - This was a chance to get more information about the literature to be voted on, which was the *OA Handbook*.
- Forum: Building Bridges to Recovery (Wednesday morning)
 - Eye/heart opening vulnerable sharing and discussions about a variety of situations that might be deterrents to finding recovery for someone who needs our program, how it would feel to be in those situations, and how one might overcome them. This was a wonderful boost to empathy and compassion.

- Workshop: Everything You Ever Wanted to Learn About Our Service Structure
 - Interesting historical facts about OA were shared.
 - We are currently in 79 countries.
 - We currently have:
 - 297 Intergroups
 - 15 National Service Boards
 - 11 Regions
 - 3 Language Service Boards
 - 2 Specific Focus Service Boards
 - The purpose and distinction of each type of service body was explained.
 - The distinction between affiliation and participation was also explained.
- Seventeen OA meetings were scheduled over 6 days.
 - I was able to participate in 4 of them. They were amazing.
- Workshops I missed due to scheduling conflicts:
 - Workshop: Our Uniqueness Is an Asset (Thursday evening)
 - Workshop: Tough Questions (Friday evening)

The new parliamentarian shared about meeting misconceptions:

- Meetings are not designed to pass out information. (Meetings are designed to make decisions.)
- Other common misconceptions discussed involved parliamentary procedures.

I attended the Saturday open BOT meeting. Officers were elected. Barb K, the Region 5 Trustee Liaison, was elected First Vice Chair. New Trustees were paired with Mentors.

Between dinner and dancing Saturday evening, 3 outgoing trustees shared their journeys in OA service.

Make plans now to attend the next OA World Service Convention August 21-23, 2025 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, FL, with the theme “Walking in the Sunlight Together”. This is another world class experience you don’t want to miss!

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Some highlights from pre-conference reports:

- From the Board of Trustees Chair:
 - The WSO staff has had some personnel changes this last year. Sarah Armstrong retired after 24 years of service as controller (17 years) and then managing director (7 years). Dan Sandweiss is the new Managing Director. Over 30% of our 12 professionals have served OA for more than 20 years!
 - There is a new Contribution Portal that allows us much more direct control.
 - Rising costs, fewer contributions, and decreased literature sales have contributed to gaps in the budget. Please continue to help us be self-supporting.

- There is a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) Video Story “OA Has Your Back”.
- From the Managing Director:
 - Two Audio books are distributed via Audible, Amazon, and Apple Books: *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition* and *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition*
 - E-books:
 - All OA books, except workbooks, are available as e-books via Amazon (Kindle), Barnes & Noble (Nook), and Apple Books.
 - The four e-workbooks are available as downloadable PDFs from the OA bookstore.
 - One manual and 10 pamphlets are available as e-books, the newest releases are *When Should I Refer Someone to Overeaters Anonymous?* and *Public Information and Professional Outreach Service Manual*.
 - Print on Demand books sold via Amazon are *A New Beginning: Stories of Recovery from Relapse, OA Twelve and Twelve, Second Edition Large Print*, and *Lifeline Sampler*.
 - No OA literature is available in all formats. To purchase OA literature, go to bookstore.oa.org. Links to third-party vendors authorized to sell OA literature (from whom OA receives royalties) are on the product pages.
 - OA trademarks may be used by registered OA groups and service bodies with written permission. The registration mark must be shown, and the group number must be printed directly beneath the OA trademark to distinguish the material from that originating from OA, Inc. For information, go to the Logo Request form in the oa.org Document Library.
 - There are specific guidelines for sharing OA copyrighted materials. Information may be found in the oa.org Document Library: Board of Trustees’ letter, Sharing OA-Copyright Material Electronically, dated February 26, 2022, and the Reprint Request form.
 - If you see infringements of OA copyrights, contact the WSO at info@oa.org with the subject line “Infringement”.
- From the Regions:
 - Region One’s board positions include 2 vice chairs and 2 Members at Large (who assist other board members, besides specific limited duties). The intergroup chairs meet via videoconferencing monthly. The region has offered intergroup funds for targeted Facebook ads.
 - Region Two’s board includes a Publications Coordinator and an Events Coordinator.
 - Region Three’s board includes a Digital Content Coordinator.
 - Region Four is closing, effective June 1, 2024. (At least 7 of Region 4’s 13 intergroups will be joining Region 5. These new-to-us intergroups are in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and North Dakota.)
 - Region Six’s board includes a Coordinator and a Web and Publications Coordinator. This region has regular video forums (10 each year) with intergroup

chairs and other trusted servants. (I have participated in 2 of these so far and have found them very helpful.)

- Region Seven’s board has a Recording Secretary and a Corresponding Secretary. They host Region Seven Roundtable Discussions on various topics every third Tuesday at 7 pm ET.
- Region Eight’s board positions include a Parliamentarian.
- Region Nine’s board includes a Communication Officer.
- Region Ten’s board includes a Minute/Note-Taker (the secretary position is vacant), and the past Chair.
- The Virtual Region’s board includes a Data Coordinator and a Digital Coordinator. Among other events, the virtual region has been offering fifteen-week Step-study workshops, plus Steps One, Two, and Three workshops based on the thirty questions in *A Guide for Sponsors*.
- The Delegate Support Fund Committee administers funds that are available to help service bodies that otherwise could not send delegates to WSBC.
- The Digital Download Ad Hoc Committee came to the conclusion that a digital lending library is beyond OA’s resources, financial and human, and does not seem to be a viable option to carry the message.
- From the Internal Information Committee:
 - The “Suggested *Lifeline* Meeting Format” has been updated.
 - Voice recordings of the *Overeaters Anonymous* appendices have been added to lifeline.oa.org, along with various submissions including written audio and visual creations by members
 - The *A Step Ahead* publication was changed from a quarterly PDF to an online multiple-post format.
- The International Publications/Translations Committee is doing amazing work to help spread the message worldwide.
- From the Public Awareness/Professional Tradeshows Committee
 - Check out the PIPO Resource page on oa.org!
 - There is a new Press Kit in the works, to be available soon.
 - There are GIFs available to service bodies on the PIPO page of oa.org.
 - There is a fund available to defray the cost for Service Bodies to participate in professional tradeshows.
- The Strategic Planning Committee is focusing on the three most pressing topics: Diversity, Service, and Sponsorship.
- From the Public Information/Professional Outreach Committee
 - There are new posters with QR codes available for purchase in the OA bookstore.
 - A letter to Medical Professionals-in-Training is now available from oa.org.
 - The new *Public Information and Professional Outreach Service Manual* is now available for sale in the OA Bookstore.
 - Other exciting projects are in the works!
- The Twelfth Step Within (TSW) Committee has created a project that is awaiting approval. It includes 4 slideshow presentations with embedded links that take the user directly to various workshops, checklists, fliers, and other tools on oa.org to assist with

encouraging service, preventing relapse, reaching out, and sponsoring. The product also includes a video demonstrating how to search for TSW resources on oa.org.

- The Unity with Diversity Committee
 - Their Diversity Workshops using “Tough Questions” were very well-received and are being submitted to be made available at oa.org.
 - They distributed a “welcome quiz”, a group inventory to determine how welcoming a group is (or isn’t).
 - Ideas were shared for strategically placing OA ads to target underrepresented communities.
- The Young People’s Committee has created a letter (which is also a great PIPO tool): “Assisting Staff Responsible for Student Well-being at Higher Education Institutions”.

Business Sessions I-V

- The Standing Rules were adopted with eleven amendments.
- Trustee elections were held.
 - All 6 nominees were elected.
 - Cindy C from Region 1
 - Robert (Bob) F from Region 6
 - Emilia I from Region 9
 - Cyndy L from Region 4
 - Susan M from Region 10
 - Laurie O from Region 3
 - There are 4 more openings. Applications for trustee appointees are being accepted until June 14.
- The *OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies* was granted the Conference Seal of Approval.
- Using the lettering/numbering system from the Agenda Questionnaire, here is the outcome of each proposal: (The new wording for each adopted motion will be included in the Minutes which will be posted in September.)
 - (A) Removing “weight” from the definition of abstinence (Defeated)
 - (B) Changing how the Fellowship is invited to open BOT meetings during WSBC (Adopted on the Consent Agenda)
 - (C) Simplifying the term limits of delegates (Adopted)
 - (D) Avoid scheduling WSBC and other meeting during major holidays (Reworded and amended to be more generic (not just religious) holidays (Adopted as amended)
 - (E) Allow meetings that meet multiple times per week to register under one meeting number. (Referred to the BOT)
 - (1 & 14) Two-year rotation for how to hold WSBC—in person vs virtually (Elements of these motions were combined and the new motion was adopted)
 - (2) Updating qualifications for Trustee nominees (“within the last seven years” was struck, and the motion was adopted as amended)
 - (3) Lowering the requirements for changing the Steps and Traditions (Defeated)
 - (4) Removing gender pronouns for God in the Steps (Withdrawn)

- (5) Removing gender pronouns for God in Tradition 2 (Withdrawn)
- (6) Updating service body registration (Adopted on the Consent Agenda)
- (7) Allowing the BOT to designate a manner or method for holding WSBC (Adopted on the Consent Agenda)
- (8) Updating the process for nomination of trustees (Adopted)
- (9) Setting a lifetime term limit on trustees (Defeated)
- (10) Updating who may speak at WSBC (Adopted)
- (11) Changing the time constraints for selecting delegates and alternates (Adopted on the Consent Agenda)
- (12) Updating how service bodies are given notice of WSBC (Adopted on the Consent Agenda)
- (13) Updating who may submit proposals (Adopted)
- (15) Allowing the BOT to hold WSBC virtually besides in emergencies (Adopted)
- (16) Updating how Trustees Liaisons are assigned to Regions (Adopted)
- The Conference unanimously endorsed a statement to be distributed to the fellowship in support of the Rainbow (LGBTQ+) Specific-Focus Service Board, which had received vicious emails from individual OA members—behavior not reflecting the love and tolerance of recovery. If you or your group has not yet seen it, you can find it at <https://oa.org/news/statement-of-support-for-the-rainbow-lgbtq-specific-focus-service-board-endorsed-by-188-trusted-servants/?news-category=0&page=0>.

For more information

There is a summary of WSBC 2024 business at <https://oa.org/news/delegates-get-the-job-done-at-world-service-business-conference-2024/?news-category=0&page=0>, and the WSBC Wrap-up Report can be found at <https://media.oa.org/app/uploads/2024/05/05162328/wrap-up-report-wsbc-2024-1.pdf>.

The WSBC 2024 Final Conference Report will be posted on oa.org in September.

There is so much more that I could write about! Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours in recovery,

Susan M :-)

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New Business Motions B and Bylaw Amendments 6,7,11,12

New Business Motions Adopted

- Proposal C Clarifies the limits of a delegate's term of service
- Proposal D Considers religious holidays when planning the WSBC. This was defeated then brought back with different wording and was adopted.
- Proposal 1 and 14 determines if the WSBC meets alternating in person and virtually. 2025 is virtual and 2026 is in person.
- Proposal 2 specifies region level service requirements for trustees.
- Proposal 8 Considerations for trustees' position and to remove wording.
- Proposal 10 Interpreters are allowed to speak for a member.
- Proposal 13 Removes the option for an individual to submit a motion.
- Proposal 15 Allows the BOT to call for WSBC virtually or in person without it being an emergency.
- Proposal 17 ensures assignment of trustee to the region that affirmed them.

Defeated

- Proposal A Remove the word "weight" in the abstinence statement. this went to the reference committee.
- Proposal 3 percentage needed to change a bylaw regarding the Steps or Traditions

Withdrawn/ Out of Order

- Proposal E to revise the meeting registration process on OA website. This was sent to the Board of Trustees to discuss.
- Proposal 4 and 5 use of masculine pronouns in the Steps and Traditions. Withdrawn.
- Proposal 9 term limits for trustees. Referred to reference and defeated.

Emergency New Business

- none

Literature

There was only one piece of Literature to consider this year. A revised manuscript OA HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS, GROUPS, AND SERVICE BODIES was voted on and approved. It is a combination of several pamphlets and will be a thick pamphlet or a small booklet.

7th Tradition was taken, and \$9,411 US plus \$20 Australian was collected.

Thank You so much for allowing me to serve you at WSBC. It was a fabulous and rewarding experience again this year. I am humbled at all the work and dedication of so many people to make this community work as well as it does. The week wrapped up with a banquet and dancing. It was a good time and I learned that if your leg hurts and you have to stop dancing, sitting in a chair does allow you to continue dancing. I think I will try chair yoga and chair exercises!!!!

For greater detail and accuracy please see the document Wrap-Up Report when it becomes available on www.oa.org.

With Love and in Service,

Wanda C., Chairperson and Delegate from SNI

SNI Vice Chair Report June 1, 2024

- I am not available to attend the June 1st meeting.
- Being at WSBC is a world class experience! It is bucket list worthy, whether you are ready to be a delegate, willing to volunteer, or simply want to be a visitor. Besides experiencing the efficiency of Parliamentary Procedure and seeing so much work getting done for OA, there are wonderful workshops and OA meetings. Where else do you get to rub elbows with so many people who have decades of OA recovery? The level of honesty and vulnerability is superb. This is an experience you don't want to miss.
- Judy W from Milwaukee Area Intergroup (MAI) is putting together a coach (bus) to go to the Region 5 Convention in Independence, OH (near Cleveland) Sept 6-8. This is a great carefree way to get to and from the convention—having fellowship with other OAs during the trip, or napping, or crafting, etc. on the way, and saving money! Please pass this opportunity on to your meetings. Anyone interested can contact me at susan.m.oe@gmail.com.
- Reminder: The early bird pricing for the Region 5 Convention ends June 7th. (Some of the flyers that have been circulated say June 9th under Early Bird Registration, but June 7th under the Preliminary Agenda. The current form on the Region's website says June 7 in both places. Just to be sure, get your registration postmarked by June 7.
- Beware: There is a man with a Milwaukee area code (414) who has been texting meeting contacts with "I would like to know more about Overeaters". He claims to be unable to talk on the phone and offers to send a link to a Zoom meeting. He seems to be sincerely interested in recovery, but after a while he goes into shenanigans, either with lewd or scamming behaviors. He has used at least 3 different 414 numbers in the last 3 months, but he seems to always use those words, or if he is making a follow up contact, he texts "Are you available now to talk about Overeaters". Notice the lack of the word Anonymous. I just heard from our trustee liaison that he has been targeting members of all regions. If you get such a text, it is suggested that you simply block that number. If asked to meet via Zoom, refuse and block the number.
 - I am in the process of calling all our meeting contacts to make them aware of the situation.
 - So far, I have connected with 14 and am waiting for the remaining 8 to return my call. This includes 3 former meeting contacts who are still listed as contacts on oa.org.
 - I and almost half of the contacts I have connected with had already received such texts.
 - Region 5 has just sent out a memo instructing us to block the number of someone asking to meet via Zoom.
- I will be working on updating the SNI Handbook Glossary. Please feel free to explore the Handbook! If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about anything in the handbook, please let me know (susan.m.oe@gmail.com, 847-710-8823). In July, we will discuss what you found regarding the duties and responsibilities of your position, as well as the glossary and anything else you have questions or comments on.