

OA 2026 World Service Business Conference Reports

Jean C-K, WSBC Delegate report

Theme: The OA Solution is for Life

The 2026 OA World Service Business Conference was held April 22-25, 2026, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were 162 eligible voters at the conference. Twenty countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Holland, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Scotland, Spain, United States, Wales), and 12 languages (Dutch, English, Farsi, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Welsh, Danish, ASL) were represented.

This was my first year as a WSBC delegate, so it has been a steep learning curve for me and very eye-opening to see how OA World Service truly serves the individual OA member regardless of where we might live on the planet.

Each delegate signs up to be on a standing committee during their tenure. I will serve on the Twelfth Step Within (TSW) Committee. The committee met during the WSBC to set goals for the year. There will be three subcommittees for the year.

- Document Review: I am on this subcommittee.
 - Goal 1 – review existing documents that focus on Strong Step work to be sure items are current and readily searchable on the new OA.org website.
 - Goal 2 – Review TSW items in the Recovery Resource Library
 - Goal 3 – Review other documents identified as needed
- Region Review – the goal of this committee is to review TSW documents available on Region websites that may be of benefit to entire fellowship and work with the Regions to get these documents linked to the OA.org website.
- Ideas and Events – the goal of this committee is to work together to host or co-host TSW events for the entire fellowship.

New/Revised Literature

- The following piece of new literature was considered and granted the Conference Seal of Approval: Healing the Mind, Body, and Spirit: Mental Health and Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous. The publication should be available at oa.org in January 2027.
- The following revised manuscript was considered and granted the Conference Seal of Approval: Unity with Diversity Checklist. The updated online checklist will be available on oa.org document library soon.

Motions Passed:

- Update to the Business Conference Policy Manual for WSBC Delegate Binders to combine reports and make the document easier to use.
- Update Business Conference Policy Manual to replace “chairmanship” with “chair” to remove gendered language.

- Update Business Conference Policy Manual to allow registered groups and service bodies to opt in to include an email address in search results on the “Find a Meeting” page on oa.org.
- Update Business Conference Policy Manual to allow registered delegates to opt in to include their email address in delegate distribution before and after the conference.
- Amended the Statement of Approved Literature to include the Plain Language Big Book
- Amend the OA Preamble from “Overeaters Anonymous is a fellowship of individuals who,...are recovering from compulsive overeating” to “Overeaters Anonymous is a fellowship of individuals who,...are recovering from compulsive eating”
- Amend the Business Conference Policy Manual from “suggest that OA meetings and events be closed with one of the following” to “suggest that OA meetings and events use any of the following” Purpose: for clarity that the items can be used at any point in a meeting.
- Add the Serenity Statement to the list of suggested meeting prayers to provide a secular option.

Motions Defeated:

- Amend the Statement of Approved Literature to include all AA published literature with an original publication date of 2026 or earlier
- Add a specific focus category titled “Ethnically Jewish”

Motions Withdrawn:

- Policy to add a virtual retreat every two years, put on by World Service. This was referred to the World Service Convention Committee
- Amend the tool of “Telephone” to “Outreach

Bylaw Amendments Passed:

- Update references to “Boards” to “Bodies” for clarity and consistency
- Remove “Bylaws” Committee and replace with “Reference” Committee to align with the actual work that needs attention

Bylaw Amendments Defeated:

- Change the wording of the Fifth Tradition from “carry its message to the compulsive overeater..” to “carry its message to the compulsive eater..”
- Remove wording in Conference Committees listing example of alternate to region chair to fill in for a region chair

Bylaw Amendments Withdrawn:

- Change the wording of the Twelfth Step from: “carry this message to compulsive overeaters..” to “carry this message to compulsive eaters..”
- Motion to change how Bylaws can be amended from vote by registered groups to vote by registered service bodies
- Motion to add a disclaimer to any verbal reading of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions that amends anything other than “alcohol and alcoholic” to “food and compulsive overeater”.

Emergency Business:

Passed: Motion to require Executive Committee to fully resume License 2 by September 1, 2026, to allow authorized language translations and publication of OA literature. Until this license is in place, non-English speaking service bodies are prevented from publishing translated literature.

Cathy G, WSBC Delegate report

This was my third year as a delegate, and each year, I find that the Conference experience strengthens and deepens my recovery. Since 2023, I've been on the Conference-approved Literature Committee (CLC), helping to develop a new piece of literature, *Healing the Mind, Body, and Spirit: Mental Health and Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous*, which will be published in January 2027. I'm now part of the Secular Daily Reader CLC subcommittee and have also taken on the role of CLC vice delegate co-chair.

Conference Workshops

- **“Keeping the Lights On”** (finances)
7th Tradition contributions are down: fewer meetings/fewer members; more virtual than face-to-face, hence no passed-hat-related social pressure; expenses are up (staff health insurance up by 24%, HVAC system in OUR building is ancient and needs to be replaced; translation services for global community); literature sales are down, in part due to a number of factors: fewer in-person meetings, more purchases on third-party sites (note: Amazon sets price, takes a large cut).
- **“How & Why We Give it Away to Keep It”** (public information/professional outreach, a.k.a., PIPO)
New *Public Information and Professional Outreach Service Manual* available for \$20 at oa.org; workshop focused on how to engage attendees at PIPO events and talk about OA, but not how to compel OA members to actively participate in PIPO.
- **“Attraction Rather than Promotion”** (using media to raise awareness of OA)
As a 501c3, Intergroup is eligible for \$10,000 in free Google ads/year; OA Footsteps partnered with media placement company to install OA posters (“Is Food a Problem for You?”) above hand dryers in fuel plaza bathrooms across the UK during a peak travel period (3-week campaign); learned that millennials and Gen Z respond to analog messaging, not just digital (social, TikTok, etc.)

Literature

New literature unanimously approved by the delegates!

- *Healing the Mind, Body, and Spirit: Mental Health and Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous*: Subcommittee began work in 2023, ultimately developing a book of 55 stories by OA members to be published and sold on oa.org in January 2027.
- *Unity with Diversity Checklist*: online checklist available soon on OA.org in the recovery resource library.

New literature now available at OA.org (audio versions through third-party vendors, including Audible and Amazon)

- *Sponsorship in OA*: 32 pp. of new topics, testimonials, and 30 questions to ask the newcomer (\$12)
- *To the Man Who Wants to Stop Eating Compulsively, Welcome*: pamphlet updated and expanded with additional stories
- *Public Information and Professional Outreach Service Manual*: chapters include working with media partners, navigating social media & the Traditions, holding meetings in institutions, exhibiting at tradeshow (\$20)

Ongoing literature projects

- *Secular Daily Reader*: for all OA members, believers and non-believers; still accepting submissions!
- *Tools of Recovery*: pamphlet update
- *12 Traditions Workshop and Study Guide*: based on 12 Steps Workshop/Study Guide
- *Accommodations*: resource guide to support members with diverse needs
- *Concepts of Service*: on hold until 2027 pending vote on amendment

Additional Notes

- Unity with Diversity committee projects: Accessibility and inclusion; Communication with all service bodies; Relocation of WSBC
- Young Adults committee projects: Create toolkit of resources for 18–30-year-olds; Recruit stories from young adults for Lifeline; Brand messaging of OA for young adults
- Rich, OA's new managing director, brings great energy, deep experience in technology, and launching and growing businesses, and has ideas to use digital and AI tools to benefit OA
- Pam, Region 5 chair, is a strong leader with a passion for OA
- Holding the Biz Conference in the U.S. is a serious barrier to international participation. In addition to the expense and time commitment, delegates from many countries fear traveling to the U.S.
- On how to attract/retain newcomers and especially younger people, one trustee commented, "AA meetings are a lot of fun. OA meetings are like someone died. If you're happy, joyous and free, tell that to your face!"
- Find a Meeting on oa.org is vastly improved. In addition, the homepage now features stock photos of actual people (models) to better connect with visitors and improve stickiness. (Note: we're working with our developer to overhaul Find a Meeting on overeaters.org.)

Final thoughts: OA's future depends on the service we give and on our 7th Tradition contributions. I hope you'll consider serving at Intergroup, Region and/or World Service!!