

## Neil Rauch – 2009 World Service Delegate Report for May 17 Intergroup Meeting

### **World Service**

I arrived a day early – got my food in order and settled in. MY plan, get plenty of rest up front – keep things simple – attend as many things as I could during the week.

I was able to go to the 7AM meeting every day, do my morning prayer and meditation time at 5:30 each day, and was able to take a nap almost every day – first things first.

### **AM Meetings – How It Works**

Focus of the Conference – **global fellowship** – Many Languages spoken – one language of recovery – understanding the issues of other countries (experiencing it through their eyes) – realizing that we have a personal responsibility, a social responsibility and an OA responsibility to “do what we can when we can” – and WHAT THAT MEANS.

Something I read that captures the message:

“It’s not enough to WANT to help. It’s important to BE HELPFUL and to do the right thing.”

### **Important realizations:**

For this one week, WE WERE THE GROUP CONSCIENCE for all of OA. (200 people)  
There is no “us” and “them” – only us....each group had an opportunity to express itself through the agenda questionnaire and by sending a representative to intergroup...  
passing their collective opinion forward to be expressed at World Service.

### **There’s a New 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition pamphlet & Slogan – “Give as if your life depends upon it.”**

**The new pamphlet is available AT NO COST** (not including shipping costs)

OA’s 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donations account for 26% of OA’s income – in other words, we would all have to give four times as much as we do now to be “fully self-supporting through our own contributions. We had three 7th tradition collections for a total of \$2700.

### **Workshops** – Workshops I attended include:

Diversity in OA (Cross section of speakers – One American)

How to Carry the Message in Countries not being reached

Dealing With Disruptive Members

Carrying the Message back home (I co-led)

Raising Public Awareness - protecting personal anonymity while publicizing OA

Forum – The Many Languages of Recovery – issues facing non-English-speaker countries

Breakout groups -

How the U.S. can help the non-English speaking countries carry the message.

(Increased US donations and bilingual service to get them strength thru our participation)

**Translation:** Been a major issue outside of the U.S. since 1994

Licensing Options

**Financial:** OA is switching from PayPal to E-Check Net for donations and literature purchases. Implications: Easier for foreign countries / exchange rates, etc. Donations for this year, despite economics are ABOVE last year.

**Lifeline:** Changes coming / Price raise likely – Service not product

**Technology:** Using web cast technology for increased participation at WSBC.  
Had the first one delegate representing the **virtual community** at WSBC

**Committee: Finance Committee Goal:** Increase donations - Raise awareness of the cost vs value received from our OA membership (what do we get – what do we have to give?)

**Action Items** – Develop (gather) best practices for Intergroup / Region Treasurers  
Get new 7<sup>th</sup> tradition pamphlet translated into top 5 languages  
(Spanish, German, Hebrew, Portuguese and French)  
Promote attendance at 2010 WS Convention (LA) – translate docs

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**Business Sessions:**

**Sponsoring Through the 12-steps** (One Approach) – needed 2/3's (**Voted Down**) 105/71  
Issues: Was it too suggestive vs directional? Abstinence Optional? Too AA? Wishy-Washy?

**Make Public Awareness Campaign on Ongoing Line Item** (Adopted)

**Elections: New Region Trustees** (3, 6, 9) **GST's** – 4 candidates / 2 chosen (already active)

**Hire Web Firm to assist all OA** – Considered an endorsement – Fairly strenuous debate – too many issues with providing standard templates, etc. Amended to simply provide assistance to anyone seeking better understanding of website technology – (Adopted – 97/80)

**That WSO should provide financial aid to others seeking web technology** – Defeated \*\*

**12 step Within Outreach Day – 12/12:** change date/**No** (5/5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. in Dec) – Adopted

**Groups being listed as Closed/Open** – strong disagreement – currently, groups have ability to list themselves as open or closed – this was a standing system – cause confusion. (Defeated)

**Definition of Abstinence:** Initially dealt with nutritional content of foods. Went to Reference – changed substantially – **and Compulsive Food Behaviors.** And, fairly surprisingly, passes.

**Agenda Questionnaire** – Motion to eliminate the process. Most motions automatically seemed to end up on floor of WSBC anyway – Our U.S.-centric mindset was smashed as the International community voice strong dissent – “it’s the only way for some of us to express ourselves – can’t afford to send delegates” **Motion(s) withdrawn**

**Trustees Must Have Worked All Twelve Steps:** (Instead of thru step five) – Adopted

**Only significant changes in bylaws need to be sent/reported to WSO** - (Adopted)

**Raise % of affirmatives on Agenda Questionnaire for motions to make WSBC** (Adopted)

**Emergency New Business Motions**

**Establish a dedicated fund for translation** – If someone wanted to donate money specifically for such a purpose right now – they couldn’t (Only thru restricted fund – like delegate fund, former public awareness fund) - Adopted – **Then took Special Collection – Raised \$1475**

**Create a Web/Technology Conference Committee starting WSBC 2010** - Adopted