

Dear OA family -

I just returned from the World Service Business Conference, and all I can say is WOW !!

I can safely report that it was an idyllic haven of fellowship in every sense of the word. Fellowship, information, spiritual enrichment, self-government, entertainment.

Never is it so clear that our tradition of governance through the Group Conscience is a spiritual principle than at the WSBC. There is intelligently channeled passion within a formal procedural environment, and we all get to have their voices heard.

The theme of this year's conference was "I put my hand in yours". This is a phrase lifted from Rozanne's Prayer. Rozanne founded OA in 1960.

The focus of the conference was **OA as an international fellowship**, with many languages, but a universal language of recovery. We are a family, and this week, it showed

It was a humble lesson that we in the United States have the vast majority of OA's resources at our disposal, (though many of us use only a fraction of them) while the rest of the world has to work a great deal harder than we do simply to have get basic literature translated for what, in many cases, are fledgling OA groups.

Imagine if you were struggling desperately with the food, and you managed, with G-d's help, to find an OA meeting....only to find that all of the literature was in a foreign language, and the language being spoken at the meeting was unfamiliar to you. Even the most basic instructions on how to communicate with OA were in English – as was their website. What would you do?

Yet we heard again and again from delegates from Spain, Poland, Costa Rica, Sweden, Israel, and other outposts of OA recovery trying to close the gap between OA USA and the rest of the OA world that this was their situation.

It was a clear and humbling message that we could all stand to look squarely at our OA responsibility pledge ("Always to extend the hand and heart to all who share my recovery...for this I am responsible")...and ask ourselves whether we are "doing what we can, when we can" with to help OA extend its reach to the fullest extent.

I will try to chronicle my week's activities over the course of the next week.

Where I originally thought it might be best to put it all together (it could be a ten-page report), I now feel that trying to capture the emotional essence of the week, and to make it available to you all in shorter, easier to absorb doses might make it easier to retain the experience, even as I am now attempting to hold onto as much of it as I can – since it was very powerful and moving, and important.

So, happy Monday – more will be revealed...stay tuned.

Respectfully –

Neil Rauch – BAIG Secretary and WSBC (World Service Business Conference Delegate)