



Region 5 Trustee Report

Submitted By: Linda J

October 20, 2018

I'm extremely excited to report that the efforts of Region 5 Representatives to reach out to and support the revival of the Madison Area Intergroup are finally paying off.

Last Saturday, Sept 29, I drove to Madison, WI, to present a three hour Traditions workshop and 10 enthusiastic members were present. They now have most of the officer positions filled and at least 6 people attended their last Intergroup meeting. This is a long way from where they were when the Region 5 Assembly traveled there in July 2016. At that time they had only a few people doing service and those people were burning out. Our open oa meeting on Saturday night must have helped plant the seeds of recovery and carrying the message. The nearby stronger Milwaukee Area intergroup pairing with Madison Intergroup also has helped.

As far back as 2011 the Region 5 Intergroup Outreach Committee looked at which intergroups attend assembly and which ones generally don't. One of the suggestions they made was to rotate the July Assembly to areas at the edge of the Region, in hopes of increasing recovery and carrying the message of the importance of doing service. In July 2015 we traveled to Louisville, KY and then to Madison 2016. After that we replaced the July face to face assembly with a conference call and the Outreach Committee of the whole so that all representatives are now working on outreach. It is really gratifying to see that sometimes the seeds we plant do grow with the consistent efforts of our members and the help from our Higher Power.

WSO Service Bodies Report – Intergroups and Groups (Affiliated/Unaffiliated) Located in Region 5

June 6, 2018		Sept 5, 2018		Increase/Decrease	
Total Intergroups	28	Total Intergroups	28	Total Intergroups	0
Affiliated Groups	491	Affiliated Groups	481	Affiliated Groups	-10
Unaffiliated Groups	24	Unaffiliated Groups	27	Unaffiliated Groups	+3
Total Groups	515	Total Groups	508	Total Groups	-7

More Intergroup and Group information

In contrast to the encouraging news from the Madison area, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Intergroup had a final vote on Sept 15 to close their doors. It was very sad to be on the conference call and hear their final vote and the discussion of how to close the doors. The Intergroup formed in 2010 and had many retreats that drew members from long distances, but with just a few strong hard working service oriented members that lived great distances apart, they eventually were not able to keep functioning. Members from Wisconsin had been supporting them and they even drove the 1118 miles round trip from UP Mich to the Region 5 Assembly in Ft Wayne one year. I emailed in January offering to come present a workshop in July and we corresponded and called, but their closing seemed inevitable with so few members and such long distances between meetings.

Be sure your meeting information is up to date on the OA website. This is how many newcomers and visitors find us. If you are aware of any discrepancies between your group records and that on the OA website, please let me know and I can help you compare the information.

New Literature

The revised pamphlet, *To the Family of the Compulsive Eater*, is now available. This bulletin was written to help families support loved ones who are seeking recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA. The pamphlet explains the OA program, how a member in recovery may be effected, and what the family can do to help.

Address Change: New PO Box for the World Service Office

The new address is:

**World Service Office
PO Box 44727
Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4727
USA**

WSBC April 23-28, 2018 in Albuquerque, NM

A new policy statement was created on bariatric surgery as follows:

“In keeping with Tradition Ten, Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on bariatric (weight-loss) surgery. In the spirit of Tradition Three, Overeaters Anonymous welcomes anyone with the desire to stop eating compulsively, including those who have had the surgery or are contemplating it.”

Download a detailed account

of every item voted on and discussed at WSBC 2018 in the [*2018 Final Conference Report*](#).

The 156-page report also includes great suggestions and feedback offered during the many workshops held to support “Growing OA Recovery Worldwide.”

WSBC will be May 6-11, 2019 in Albuquerque, NM

The Theme will be: “Growing Our Membership Worldwide”.

First e-Documents are now available and include the tentative agenda for World Service Business Conference 2019, a welcome letter from the Chair of the OA Board of Trustees, the delegate registration form and instructions, and general Conference information. You'll find these the documents on the [WSBC page](#) Apply by November 1 for WSBC *Delegate Support Funds*.

Intergroups and service boards can apply for delegate support funding for World Service Business Conference 2019! Applications and completed paperwork must be received at the World Service Office by November 1, 2018.

It is critically important for the strength of OA worldwide that the voice of OA's entire community be heard at Conference. Decisions affecting OA for years to come are made each year at WSBC, and input is needed from all service bodies so that they are truly representative of OA as a whole.

Download the 2019 [Delegate Support Fund application](#) from the [WSBC page](#) at [oa.org](#) or from the [Documents page](#) under "World Service Business Conference: Frequently Used Documents" (click the "2019 DSF Application" link).

Board of Trustees August Meeting

The following business was adopted at the August Board of Trustees meeting:

- Conduct February 2019 BOT meeting virtually.
- Ratify votes for Regions Six and Nine Trustees.
- Add "Bariatric Surgery" as a Special Focus topic for meetings.
- Approve WSBC 2019 theme and agenda.
- Establish procedures for maintaining anonymity for members of registered FaceBook groups.

Public Information:

New OA.org Web Page: "What Is OA About?"

Our website is the "front door" for the still-suffering compulsive eater, so delivering clear, understandable information about OA is a priority. With that in mind, the Board of Trustees Strategic Plan Committee has added an important new web page. [What Is OA About?](#) offers concise information about OA and how a newcomer can decide whether they belong and how they can find recovery in OA.

For longtime OA members, What Is OA About? can also serve as a **public information resource** when carrying the message, so check it out

A big list of Public Information Resources has been created by the PI/PO Committee. This comprehensive directory lists the *many* resources available to members, groups, and service bodies to help carry the message to compulsive eaters. Free and downloadable, the [Public Information \(PI\) Resource List](#) has link information for multiple resource categories, including guidelines, PI posters, podcasts, OA's social media pages, and more. Save, share, and reach out!

Trustee on the Road

I just got back from visiting the Madison Area Intergroup. My expenses are covered by WSO but partial funding by your intergroup is also appreciated. Just let me know when you would like to have me visit. My term will end May 2019 and I'm trying to schedule as many intergroup visits as I can. I would be happy to come visit your area. The Region 5 Board is also available to give this service.

On a personal note

I am now in my last year as your Trustee. My term ends May 11. Please consider running for Region 5 Trustee to be elected at WSBC 2019. Region 5 will be affirming a candidate(s) at the Fall Region 5 Assembly. Check out the "Day in the Life of the Region 5 Trustee" document. It has truly been a marvelous journey of recovery and it is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your Region 5 Trustee.

Yours in Service

Linda J

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10-2-18