Thursday afternoon: Second of five business sessions. Completion of reports, BOT candidate presentations, proposed literature motions

OA’s bylaws call for 17 trustee positions. We have 12. We heard five-minute presentations (plus time for questions for each) from six candidates: Four are up for re-election, and two would be new trustees if elected. Because one of the other trustees has reached her 6-year term limit, OA would have 13 trustees if all are elected. Questions for the candidates are varied. One was asked how she sponsors; another was asked if she thinks she has enough time to fulfill the duties. All were asked, by the same person, what have you done, or what will you do, for under-represented groups in OA.

The literature committee asked for the Conference Seal of Approval for the manuscript, “Diverse Voices: A Common Solution.” It has about 30 stories from members who answered calls for content. Sample chapter titles: Japanese American in OA, Rainbow HP, and Autistic and Thriving in OA. The three delegates who spoke against all said it is needed, but it is incomplete or contains errors. One of the pros was that we can’t wait for perfect; it is needed now. A question from the floor asked how long it would be before it could be revised, if accepted, and the answer for that is 10 years. Another question from the floor asked if there had been a call for white females, because there wasn’t a story representing them. Really.

The vote was taken by standing, as the others have been, and the chair determined that it had reached the necessary two-thirds majority. A member of the con side asked for a standing count, in which each voter counted off. One-hundred-twenty-six people voted in favor; forty-three had voted against. Almost three-quarters!

The literature committee sought the Conference Seal of Approval for the manuscript, “Sponsorship in OA: Guiding Others into Recovery.”  Two other pamphlets, “A Guide for Sponsors” and “Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps” would be retired if this passes. Objections focused on the removal of 30 questions that are in “Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps.” Speakers said that they had used those questions, and felt that many members were still using them. After another standing count, eighty-six favored the new document; seventy-eight opposed. Neither side had two-thirds, and the request was denied.

The last part of the session discussed an effort to remove, as much as possible, acronyms from official OA communications. It was originally on the consent agenda, which is where noncontroversial proposals and amendments are sent to be dispatched with a single vote, but a member asked it to be removed from that group. First there was one amendment, then a second amendment, and finally, a third. It’s final, because by rule, when any proposal receives 3 valid amendments, it is referred to the reference subcommittee automatically. So that committee will look at them tonight, and it will (may?) come back tomorrow. This proposal was a mere 29 words when it began. BTW: the impetus behind this is inclusion, since many non-English speakers don’t recognize our acronyms.