Delegate Report

WS Conference May 2021

Our adventure to the 1st virtual World Service Conference began at 6am Thursday, April 29th.

In order to accommodate the international fellowship, Pacific Time started the earliest and Japan's time zone stayed up the latest, up to 4am. Some days we started earlier and extended our ending time to get 53 motions and 51+ submitted amendments (not including the motions and amendments made on the floor) addressed. We had presentations from the WS Literature Committee and Finance & Budget. We participated in the elections of new members onto the Board of Trustees and a Delegate Representative. We welcomed 4 new BOT members.

Hot topics:

Our next conference is to be held in 2023. When participants were asked, most were highly in favor of holding a virtual conference.

There were up to 33 voting members comprising 27 Delegates/Alt Delegates and 6 BOT Members. We, as well as other regions, traded the voice and vote for the CCR throughout the Conference. Technology allowed us to remain side by side so as the CCR representatives we were able to keep visual and audio contact throughout the conference to support each other.

International Delegates expressed the difficulties they are experiencing in obtaining printed CAL, e.g., shipping costs and delays in receiving orders, or never receiving ordered literature. Further input from International Delegates was the desire to access electronic versions of CAL that would give them the ability to utilize at their meetings without delay.

Most regions want screen sharing. To address the subject a motion was made and approved for legal counsel to clarify the copyright information in the GWS regarding screen sharing. We will be notified of the outcome.

**The benefits of a virtual conference:**

* Delegates and Alternate Delegates from 10 countries were able to participate.
* Canada, Brazil, Iran, Argentina, Colombia, Russia, South Africa, UK, Japan and the US. The US Delegate representation was 17 Regions. The remaining 9 countries’ Delegate representation was 10 regions.
* Ballots were done through electronic voting. The conference also was able to utilize this process for items on the agenda to free up some precious time and to choose the theme of the 2023 WSC.
* Cost savings for all regions. It was reported that the funds donated from the difference between the equalized expenses amount stayed in the WSC account for funding during the conference. When completed, the remaining funds will be transferred to the general World Service account.
* We gained a sensitive awareness of the challenges of non-English speaking participants. The use of language translation technology proved helpful for at least one Delegate. Non-English and English-speaking Delegates voted for the use of such technology.
* Communication will be enhanced globally as the WSC offered a complete list of “official” Delegate’s emails.

**Disadvantages of a virtual conference:**

Many participants expressed how they truly missed the personal connections. Sharing a meal, getting acquainted through SESH and taking walks before conference.

The wheel had to be created for this first virtual conference. We are grateful to the WSCC for the willingness to have a virtual platform. This conference would not have been the success it was without The Technology Team, the secretaries, the facilitator, and other behind the scenes personnel. They did an outstanding job. The level of patience and compassion displayed by each of them was greatly appreciated.

We are deeply humbled by the privilege to serve in the capacity of Delegate and Alternate Delegate for the CCR. Thank you to all members of our region for your support and words of encouragement in the longest running World Service Conference cycle in history! We truly believe we could not have done this alone.

In loving service,

Teri & JT

A list of new CAL is provided following this report