



March 21, 2008

Dear Conference Delegates,

In order to clarify the election process for both region and general service trustees, the Board of Trustees is recommending changes to this process in our Conference Standing Rules. The board believes these recommended changes, allowing you to vote "yes" or "no" for a nominee, will also allow abstentions to not be counted in the number of votes cast, which determines the number needed to be elected. The right to abstain is a privilege of every delegate in our democratic process.

Specifically, please note item 12 (B and C) in the Conference Standing Rules. The chair will answer questions about the changes to the election process so you can make an informed decision when the vote is taken to adopt Conference Standing Rules.

In service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dodie Hawkins'.

Dodie Hawkins  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**  
**2008 WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE (WSBC) STANDING RULES**

**1) REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS REPORT**

- A) Each delegate and alternate will be registered by the Registration Committee and issued WSBC materials including an identification badge.
- B) Identification badges issued by the Registration Committee will be worn for admission to all business meetings and committee meetings and to the educational workshops. These badges will not be transferred without proper action by the Credentials Committee.
- C) A registered alternate will, upon proper certification by the Credentials Committee, be transferred to delegate status at any time during the WSBC.
- D) A Minutes Approval Committee of three delegates shall be appointed by the chairman to approve the minutes of the WSBC.
- E) Immediately following the opening ceremonies at each business meeting, and when directed by the chair, the Credentials Committee will make an oral report to the WSBC on the number of certified voting delegates and alternates registered as present with proper credentials.

**2) GENERAL AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- A) There will be designated seating in the business meetings for the Board of Trustees, delegates, alternates and observers.
- B) All communications during the business meetings will be delivered by the official pages.
- C) Announcements during the business meetings will be made by the chair. Such announcements will be written legibly, signed by the submitter, and delivered to the Conference secretary.
- D) No cameras, recording equipment, cellular phones, beeping pagers, or other forms of wireless communication will be permitted to be used in the business meetings, committee meetings, or educational workshops, other than those approved by the chair.
- E) There will be no children under the age of twelve and no pets except animals assisting handicapped people in the business meetings, committee meetings or educational workshops.
- F) There will be no smoking or eating in the business meetings, committee meetings or educational workshops, except that the Reference Subcommittee shall be free to eat meals, if necessary, during their sessions.
- G) The chair will designate a center microphone monitor who will assist the delegates in its use.
- H) Attendees are requested to minimize their use of scented toiletries.

### 3) QUORUM

The quorum for the business meetings of the WSBC will be a majority of the delegates registered.

### 4) CONSENT AGENDA

There will be a consent agenda consisting of routine or non-controversial matters. The chairman will determine the matters that will be placed on the consent agenda. Any voting member may go to the center microphone to request that an item from the consent agenda be considered separately. The consent agenda shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

### 5) PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS MOTIONS, POLICY MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO SUBPART B OF THE OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC. BYLAWS

- A) The chair will call for a report from the Reference Subcommittee prior to any debate.
- B) Initial debate will be limited to six speakers; no more than three pro (including the maker, who will speak first) and three con.
- C) Proposed amendments to the Bylaws will be considered article by article.

### 6) RECOGNITION AND DEBATE

- A) At business meetings of the WSBC, a delegate will use the public address system when speaking, and:
  - 1) must be recognized by the chair before speaking, and
  - 2) give his or her name, office/title, and intergroup/national or language service board/region as appropriate.
- B) All debate must be relevant to the question under consideration. All remarks must be addressed to the chair.
- C) Any delegate speaking in debate must use one of the two floor microphones designated "pro" and "con." The chair will call upon the delegates to speak in order, first pro (beginning with the maker), then con, alternating until all speakers have been heard. Each speaker will be limited to two minutes.
- D) If more than three delegates (two in the case of amendments) wish to speak either pro or con on a motion, they will select from among themselves those who will speak. Priority will be given to those individuals who have not spoken on the previous motion.
- E) During the initial debate period, no delegate will be standing at the center microphone.
- F) Before anyone will be recognized at the center microphone, all debate must be completed on any pending main motion or amendment with the exception of a Point of Personal Privilege (serious infraction or personal need requiring immediate attention) as determined by the center microphone monitor.

## 6) RECOGNITION AND DEBATE (CONT'D)

- G) A motion to call the previous question and proceed to vote is in order no sooner than ten minutes after the requisite pro and con speakers have been heard and requires a two-thirds vote for adoption. The motion may come from the center microphone or the chairman.
- H) An automatic motion to move the previous question and proceed to vote will be stated by the chair after twenty minutes of questions. If this motion fails, the chair will automatically state the motion previous question at ten-minute intervals.

## 7) AMENDMENTS

- A) Proposed amendments will be in legible writing on the designated four-part form, sent by page to the Conference secretary, who will retain one copy, return one copy to the maker of the amendment, forward one copy to the projector operator and give one copy to the Conference chairman.
- B) Amendments will be considered proposed when received by the Conference secretary. The chair will report amendments following the pro and con debate.
- C) Upon receipt by the Conference secretary of the third amendment to any pending New Business Motion or Bylaw Amendment, the motion or amendment will automatically be referred to the Reference Subcommittee. The Reference Subcommittee will report their recommendations on the motion or amendment back to the WSBC for consideration immediately prior to the consideration of Emergency New Business. No further amendments to such motions will be considered.
- D) If there is no time remaining on the Conference agenda for a meeting of the Reference Subcommittee, a third amendment to any new business motion or bylaw amendment will be declared out of order by the chair.
- E) Initial debate will be limited to four speakers; no more than two pro (including the maker, who will speak first and begin by reading the motion) and two con.
- F) The maker of an amendment will go to the "pro" microphone only when so directed by the chair.

## 8) OTHER ACTIONS

The following motions will be made by delegates at the center microphone in the following order after consultation with the center microphone monitor and recognition by the chair:

- A) Point of Personal Privilege (serious infraction or personal need requiring immediate attention)
- B) Point of Order (violation of these standing rules or Robert's Rules of Order)
- C) Parliamentary Inquiry (interpretation of these standing rules or Robert's Rules of Order)
- D) Point of Information (questions of the chair)

**8) OTHER ACTIONS (CONT'D)**

- E) Other ranking motions (including division of the assembly which is to request a standing vote), incidental motions and motions that bring a Question again before the WSBC.

**9) SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE CHAIR**

The chair of the WSBC has the specific authority and responsibility to:

- A) Protect the WSBC from frivolous and dilatory motions not recognizing them.
- B) Enforce all rules relating to debate, decorum and order.
- C) Expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members.
- D) Decide all questions of order.
- E) Respond to all Points of Personal Privilege, Points of Order and Points of Information.

**10) EMERGENCY NEW BUSINESS**

- A) Emergency New Business will be submitted to the Conference secretary on the approved form by the deadline indicated in the approved WSBC agenda unless otherwise directed by the delegates at the Conference.
- B) A two-thirds vote is required for the adoption of Emergency New Business Motions.

**11) TRUSTEE NOMINEES' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

- A) A delegate will ask only one pertinent question of each nominee. Such questions must be related to information presented in that nominee's application or directly related to the qualifications for trustee found on the application or in the bylaws.
- B) The total time allotted to each trustee nominee's question and answer period will be ten minutes following the completion of a presentation of no more than five minutes by the trustee nominee.

**12) ELECTION**

- A) Trustees will be elected by ballot of the registered delegates present and voting at the time of the election.
- B) A majority vote will elect. In the event that a second ballot is required, the election will conform to Article IX, Section 6 of OA Bylaws, Subpart B.

## 12) ELECTION (CONT'D)

C) Elections procedure will be conducted as follows:

- i) Regional trustee ballots are provided on a single form, but the ballots are counted separately by each region. General service trustee ballots are provided on a single form and will be counted as a single ballot.
- ii) Mark ballot only when instructed by the chair to do so. If voting for a candidate, mark the ballot with an "x" next to YES. If voting against a candidate, mark the ballot with an "x" next to NO. For regional trustees vote for only one candidate per region. For general service trustees do not vote for more candidates than instructed.
- iii) Fold ballot once when finished voting.
- iv) Give ballot to teller when instructed to do so.
- v) Ballots not marked are not counted.

**PLEASE NOTE: AS REQUIRED BY PROPER PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE FIRST BUSINESS MEETING OFFICIALLY ADOPTING THESE RULES. A TWO-THIRDS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION, AND AMENDMENTS ARE IN ORDER.**