



**2008 World Service Business Conference  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**“The Road to Recovery – A Team Effort!”**

Dear Delegates,

This brief summary contains only voting results, which you may submit to your service bodies. The motions are printed in their final format as amended.

The minutes, all speeches, presentation/discussion items, committee reports, workshop reports, names of delegates and trustees, bylaws and the Business Conference Policy Manual will be published in the Final Conference Report. The Final Conference Report will be mailed on September 8, 2008 to all delegates and those service bodies who did not have a delegate at Conference. All workshop and committee reports are due at the World Service Office no later than May 27, 2008. To prevent delays in printing the Final Conference Report, any workshop or committee reports not received by the due date will not be published.

**Thursday, May 8, 2008 – Business Meeting I**

**Credentials Report**

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was presented as follows:

- 15 Trustees
- 181 Voting Delegates
- 1 Alternate

for a total of 196 eligible voters.

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

**Conference Standing Rules**

Move to amend WSBC Standing Rules, Section 2E as follows:

There will be no children under age twelve and no pets. Service animals assisting people with disabilities in the business meetings, committee meetings or educational workshops are allowed.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Amendment was **adopted**.

The Conference Standing Rules were **adopted** as amended.

**Consent Agenda**

There were no items placed on the consent agenda.

**Conference Agenda**

The Conference agenda was **adopted** as amended.

### **Delegate Briefing**

The chairman explained the order in which New Business Motions and Bylaw Amendments would be addressed. The items were considered according to the percentage of “yes” votes, with a minimum of 30 percent (new business motions) and 40 percent (bylaw amendment) of the number of service bodies completing and returning the ballots. Unless the chairman determined otherwise, New Business Motions were considered in the following order: A-a, A, and E, B, C, D, K, F, G, I, L, H, and J. The Bylaw Amendments were considered in the following order: 1, 3, 4, 9, 2, 5, 8, 10, 7, 11, 6, and 12.

### **Remaining Business**

The remainder of business consisted of officers’ reports, region reports, trustee nominee speeches and questions and answers of the nominees.

## **Thursday, May 8, 2008 – Business Meeting II**

### **Credentials Report**

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was presented as follows:

- 15 Trustees
- 186 Voting Delegates
- 1 Alternate

for a total of 201 eligible voters.

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

### **New Business**

#### ***New Business Motion A-a as follows:***

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised manuscript, *Treatment and Beyond*.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

#### ***New Business Motion A as follows:***

Move to delete WSBC Policies 1996b and 1998 and substitute with the following policy:

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees may discontinue printing Conference-approved literature for low-demand reasons when it is no longer cost effective to reprint and maintain in the OA literature inventory. Every August, an annual report of sales of Conference-approved literature will be provided to the Executive Committee. Discontinuation of printing does not remove the Conference Seal of Approval. Conference approved literature which is no longer printed will be made available for downloading from the OA Web site.

WSBC delegates may remove the Conference Seal of Approval by a two-thirds vote. If the motion is approved by the Conference, the designated literature will not be reprinted. If the literature is discontinued for nonobservance of Traditions, sales of that literature will cease immediately, it will be removed from inventory and will not be distributed for any reason.

Sales of literature that is discontinued for any reason other than noncompliance with Traditions will cease after the depletion of remaining inventory.

Notification to the Fellowship shall be through appropriate WSO Publications, such as *Lifeline* and *A Step Ahead*.

A copy marked “discontinued” with the date the piece was discontinued will be maintained in literature archives for duplication by the WSO in case of special requests. An appropriate amount will be charged for the time and cost of duplication, mailing, etc.

Motion required majority vote to adopt. New Business Motion A **adopted** as amended.

***New Business Motion E as follows:***

Move to create an Overeaters Anonymous media policy.

Media Policy

To raise public awareness, Overeaters Anonymous and associated service bodies may send press releases to or make use of special events/promotions in newspapers, magazines, television, radio, Web sites, billboards and other means of public media, providing personal anonymity is maintained for members of Overeaters Anonymous. Contact names on media communication can include any special worker associated with public awareness as well as the first names of individual Overeaters Anonymous members.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion E **adopted**.

***New Business Motion B as follows:***

Move to create an Overeaters Anonymous public relations policy.

Public Relations Policy

If Overeaters Anonymous is to continue to exist, it must continue to grow in order to fulfill its primary purpose of carrying its message to the compulsive eater who still suffers and to reach those who are not yet aware of the existence of our Fellowship.

We fulfill this primary purpose most effectively by attraction and cooperation—not promotion or affiliation. For the guidance of our Fellowship, here are definitions of those terms:

To Attract: To draw by other than physical influence; to invite; to draw to; to encourage approach

To Promote: To push forward; to further advance, as in a business venture (implies “hard sell,” advancement for profit)

Cooperation: Joint operation or action (implies coming together of two or more people to work together for a common goal or benefit or on a common problem)

Affiliation: Association or close connection; a uniting (implies lending one’s name, endorsement, legal or financial partnership)

Overeaters Anonymous is attracting when it tells people why we are, what we are, what we do and how; we let them know that we are available if and when help is needed. We state the facts, which are communicated via the press, radio, TV, Internet and films, always stressing personal anonymity at the public level.

Overeaters Anonymous is cooperating when it works with others\*, rather than alone. Working with others broadens our scope and contacts and we reach more of those in need.

Hiring outside contractors or service companies is not considered an affiliation.

*\*Examples could include but are not limited to hospitals, doctors, nurses, clergymen, treatment centers, educators, dieticians, nutritionists, employee assistance programs and health spas.*

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion B **adopted**.

***New Business Motion C as follows:***

Move to create an Overeaters Anonymous public service announcements policy.

Public Service Announcements Policy

To raise public awareness, Overeaters Anonymous and associated service bodies may make use of public service announcements in appropriate newspapers, magazines, television, radio, Web sites, billboards and other means of public media.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion C **adopted**.

***New Business Motion D as follows:***

Move to create an Overeaters Anonymous paid ads policy.

Paid Ads Policy

To raise public awareness, Overeaters Anonymous and associated service bodies may purchase ads in appropriate newspapers, magazines, television, radio, Web sites, billboards and other public media.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion D **adopted**.

***New Business Motion K as follows:***

Move to consolidate the World Service Professional Outreach and Public Information Committees into a single World Service outreach committee.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion K **defeated**.

**Friday May 9, 2008 – Business Meeting III**

**Credentials Report**

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was presented as follows:

15 Trustees  
187 Voting Delegates  
1 Alternate

for a total of 202 eligible voters.

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Item 3***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustee, Section 6 – Election of Trustees, Part b) to read:

Article IX – Board of Trustees  
Section 6 – Election of Trustees

b) To be elected, each trustee nominee must receive a majority of the delegates present and voting at the time of the election.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

**Region Trustee Elections**

The results of the region trustee elections were as follows:

Region One – Ev A.  
Region Three – Wanda S.  
Region Four – Teresa K.  
Region Seven – Donna A.  
Region Nine – Esti O.

**General Service Trustee Elections**

The results of the general service trustee elections were as follows:

Three-year term – Bob F.  
Three-year term – Kayla W.

***New Business Motion F as follows:***

Move that the World Service Office (WSO) recognize and endorse a new initiative “Compulsive Overeaters Awareness Week” (COAW), which would take place annually in the week leading up to IDEA Day each November.

After three amendments, New Business Motion F was **referred** to the Reference Subcommittee.

***New Business Motion G as follows:***

Move that the Overeaters Anonymous World Service Office (WSO) sell recovery chips marked with years from 1 to 20.

After three amendments, New Business Motion G was **referred** to the Reference Subcommittee.

**Friday, May 9, 2008– Business Meeting IV**

**Credentials Report**

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was presented as follows:

- 15 Trustees
- 187 Voting Delegates
- 1 Alternate

for a total of 202 eligible voters.

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

***New Business Motion I as follows:***

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1992a to read:

WSBC Policy 1992a  
The following policy statement was adopted:

“Special Concept Meetings” Policy

After three amendments New Business Motion I was **referred** to the Reference Subcommittee.

***New Business Motion L as follows:***

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988b to read:

WSBC Policy 1988b (amended 2002)  
The following policy statement was adopted:

Statement on Abstinence and Recovery

Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous is the action of refraining from compulsive eating by following a plan of eating that aims to reverse the damaging consequences of food obsession.

The result of abstinence and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step program is spiritual, emotional and physical recovery.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion L **defeated** as amended.

***New Business Motion H as follows:***

Move that at the conclusion of the 2008 World Service Business Conference the BOT will appoint an Ad-hoc committee to review the last 10 years of selections and appointments of trusted servants to see if a trend is evident that clearly demonstrates a lack of qualified people of color chosen to fill leadership positions. The term of the committee will expire once the findings are complete and presented by the BOT.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion H **defeated**.

New Business Motion J was divided to consider each insertion separately.

***New Business Motion J:***

Motion to divide the question to consider each insertion separately. **Adopted**.

***New Business Motion J-a as follows:***

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1994b to read:

WSBC Policy 1994b

The following policy statement was adopted:

The Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous recognizes the existence of special focus meetings, (i.e., gay and lesbian meetings, women's meeting, men's meetings, 100-pounders, maintainers, old timers, and people of various cultural backgrounds, etc.) which have been formed of persons who can more readily identify with fellow OAers with similar attributes...

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion J-a **adopted** by standing count vote. 104 yes, 86 no.

***New Business Motion J-b as follows:***

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1994b to read:

WSBC Policy 1994b

The following policy statement was adopted:

...According to the Traditions, bylaws and policies of OA, the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. We ask each person attending a meeting to respect and consider the

group conscience by not attending the special-focus meeting when a general meeting is nearby. All registered meetings shall welcome and give a voice to any person who has the desire to stop eating compulsively.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion J-b **defeated**.

## **Saturday, May 10, 2008 – Business Meeting V**

### **Credentials Report**

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was presented as follows:

- 15 Trustees
- 187 Voting Delegates
- 1 Alternate

for a total of 202 eligible voters.

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

### **Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

#### ***Proposal Item 1***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 1, - Composition, Part b, Subparts 4 and 5 to read:

Article VII – Regions  
Section 1 – Composition

- 4) Region No. 4 shall be the West Central Region composed of Illinois (except the Greater Chicago area and Central Illinois Intergroup), Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska (except Outstates Intergroup which includes Scottsbluff, NE), North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario and the territory of Nunavut.
- 5) Region No. 5 shall be the Central Region composed of the Greater Chicago area and Central Illinois Intergroup, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Southwestern Ontario.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

The reference subcommittee suggested that Proposal Items 4-9 be considered sequentially.

#### ***Proposal Item 4***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition, to read:

Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups  
Section 1 – Definition

- a) These points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:
  - 1) As a group, they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous.
  - 2) All who have the desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group.
  - 3) No member is required to practice any actions in order to remain a member or to have a voice (share at a meeting).
  - 4) As a group they have no affiliation other than Overeaters Anonymous.
  
- b) Virtual groups (groups which replicate face-to-face meetings through electronic media) may be an Overeaters Anonymous group if they:
  - 1) otherwise meet the definition of Overeaters Anonymous groups;
  - 2) are fully interactive; and
  - 3) meet in “real time.”

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**. \*

\*A discrepancy between two versions of the bylaws was discovered during discussion of this motion. One version indicated that Article V, Section 1, part (b) was already adopted into the bylaws in 2007, except for the parenthetical definition of virtual groups. The other version, which the delegates had in their binders, did not include any of part (b) in the bylaws. Thus the vote was taken only on the parenthetical definition in part (b). However, it was later found that the delegates' version was correct, and thus the original motion submitted was also correct. Since the intent of the delegates' vote was clear, i.e., to adopt the requirements for and definition of virtual groups, the entire section (b) will now be included in the bylaws.

***Proposal Item 5***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Section 1 – Composition, Part a), to read:

Article VI – Intergroups  
Section 1 – Composition

- a) Two or more groups may form an intergroup for the purpose of servicing and representing the groups of which they are composed and acting as the guardian of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service. Each intergroup should be composed of groups within its region or groups within its geographical proximity, except that virtual groups may affiliate with intergroups without regard to geographic proximity.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

### ***Proposal Item 6***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 1 – Composition, Part a), to read:

- a) There shall be ten regions composed of intergroups, groups within each region and service boards that fall within regional boundaries. Virtual service boards are not included in the regional structure.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

### ***Proposal Item 7***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article VIII – National/Language Service Boards, to read:

Article VIII – Service Boards  
Section 1 – Definition

A service board shall be a duly registered service body with the purpose of dealing with issues that require a combination of membership and financial resources of intergroups and groups not otherwise served within the existing service structure. The service board shall serve and be responsible and accountable to these groups and intergroups. These service boards may be known as national service boards, language service boards or virtual service boards.

Section 2 – Composition

- a) National service boards may be registered in countries outside the US and Canada in which the intergroup serves the entire country or the groups/intergroups within a country have formed a service board to serve the entire country. In cases in which there are common needs that exceed the boundaries of one country, the national service board may serve more than one country.
- b) Language service boards may be registered to serve common needs of a language group, regardless of geographic proximity.
- c) Virtual service boards may be registered to serve the needs of virtual groups.

Section 3 – Registration

- a) Each service board shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting:
  - 1) a completed registration form;

- 2) bylaws and/or a summary of its purpose and operating procedures if bylaws have not been adopted yet, each of which shall conform to OA, Inc. Bylaws; and
  - 3) complete registration information on each of its affiliated groups and intergroups.
- b) Each service board shall submit a copy of its bylaws to the WSO whenever its bylaws are updated or revised.

#### Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Service boards shall conduct business under the bylaws and policies established by their intergroups and groups.
- b) A service board must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

#### ***Proposal Item 8***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities, Part c), Subpart 2, to read:

Article IX – Board of Trustees  
Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities

- c) Specific Duties
  - 2) The regional trustees shall be the representatives of the Board of Trustees in their respective regions and at the region assemblies. The chairman of the board will annually appoint one regional trustee to serve as representative to the Board of Trustees of virtual service boards; the appointment is to rotate through the ten regions.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

#### ***Proposal Item 9***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates, Parts a) and c), to read:

Article X – Meetings of Delegates  
Section 3 – Delegates

The delegates to the World Service Business Conference shall be as follows:

- a) Voting delegates shall consist of the following persons chosen in accordance with this Article X, Section 3.
  - 1) Delegates from intergroups.
  - 2) Delegates from service boards chosen from groups, intergroups and countries not otherwise represented.

- 3) Delegates from countries not having any geographically based service board.
- c) Qualifications/Selection
  - 1) Qualifications for selection of World Service delegates/alternates shall be set by each intergroup, region (in the case of region delegates) or service board provided that each delegate/alternate shall have at least one year of current abstinence and at least two years of service above the group level. (Permission for any exception in qualifications for valid reasons, if deemed credible by the trustees, may be received by application to the World Service Office.)
  - 2) Each intergroup or service board shall be entitled to have one qualified delegate for up to the first fifteen groups it represents and one for each additional fifteen groups or any fraction thereof, except that the service board shall not represent the same groups as intergroups represent. A group shall be recognized as registered and represented by an intergroup or service board.
  - 5) If a region, intergroup or service board does not select its delegate(s) and alternate(s) or fails to inform the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous before the annual meeting, such delegate(s) and alternate(s) may appear at the Conference with evidence of their due selection deemed credible by the trustees, and such delegate(s) shall be seated.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

### ***Proposal Item 2***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 4 – Qualifications, Part a)4(i), to read:

Article IX – Board of Trustees  
Section 4 – Qualifications

- a) Qualifications for trustee shall be
  - 4) five years of continuous recovery in Overeaters Anonymous as evidenced by
    - (i) five years of current continuous abstinence;

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

### ***Proposal Item 10***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article VIII –Service Boards, Section 3 – Registration, Part a), to read:

Article VIII –Service Boards  
Section 3 – Registration

- a) Each service board shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting:
  - 1) a completed registration form;
  - 2) bylaws and/or a summary of its purpose and operating procedures either of which shall not be in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. At a minimum, such bylaws or summary of purpose shall include a statement indicating that its primary purpose is to aid those with the problems of compulsive eating through the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service of Overeaters Anonymous, and to serve and represent the OA groups from which it is formed; and
  - 3) complete registration information on each of its affiliated groups and intergroups.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

### ***Proposal Item 11***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Section 2 – Registration, Part a), to read:

Article VI – Intergroups  
Section 2 – Registration

- a) Each intergroup shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting:
  - 1) a completed intergroup registration form;
  - 2) bylaws and/or a summary of its purpose and operating procedures either of which shall not be in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. At a minimum, such bylaws or summary or purpose shall include a statement indicating that its primary purpose is to aid those with the problems of compulsive eating through the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service of Overeaters Anonymous, and to serve and represent the OA groups from which it is formed; and
  - 3) complete registration information on each of its affiliated groups.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

### ***Proposal Item 12***

Move to amend OA, Inc., Bylaws Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 3 – Registration, Part a), to read:

Article VII – Regions  
Section 3 – Registration

- a) Each region shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting bylaws and/or a summary of its purpose and operating procedures either of

which shall not be in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. At a minimum, such bylaws or summary of purpose shall include a statement indicating that its primary purpose is to aid those with the problems of compulsive eating through the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service of Overeaters Anonymous, and to serve and represent the OA groups from which it is formed.

Motion required 2/3 to adopt. Motion **adopted**.

***New Business Motion F amended as follows:***

Move that the World Service Office (WSO) recognize and endorse a new initiative “Overeaters Anonymous Awareness Week” (OAAW), which would take place annually in the week leading up to IDEA Day each November.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion F **defeated** as amended.

***New Business Motion G amended as follows:***

Move that the Overeaters Anonymous World Service Office (WSO) sell recovery chips marked with years from 1 to 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion G **adopted** as amended.

Due to a lack of time, Proposal Item I was not reconsidered.

**Remaining Business**

The remaining business consisted of the green dot ceremony and acknowledgements.

**Three day total for Seventh Tradition - \$2,993.62**

**World Service Business Conference 2008**

**Service Body Representation**

Per the November 2004 BOT meeting, a motion was passed that states “On the final morning of the Conference, a count of those represented intergroups and national/language service boards shall be made.” Therefore, the counts below are based on the final morning (5/10/08) of WSBC 2008.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Total # of Service Bodies (as of 5/10/08)</b>	<b>Total # of Service Bodies Represented at WSBC 2008</b>	<b>Percentage of Service Bodies Represented at WSBC 2008</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	26	12	<b>46%</b>
<b>Region 2</b>	36	16	<b>44%</b>
<b>Region 3</b>	26	15	<b>58%</b>
<b>Region 4</b>	22	7	<b>32%</b>
<b>Region 5</b>	32	13	<b>41%</b>

<b>Region 6</b>	45	23	<b>51%</b>
<b>Region 7</b>	26	16	<b>62%</b>
<b>Region 8</b>	56	15	<b>27%</b>
<b>Region 9</b>	56	9	<b>16%</b>
<b>Region 10</b>	13	2	<b>15%</b>

Per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3, Part a) 5: Where the region is represented by fewer than forty percent of its intergroups and other eligible service bodies, the region may send up to five additional delegates. Preference shall be given to delegates selected from intergroups and service bodies which would otherwise not be represented by delegates.

Therefore, Regions Four, Eight, Nine and Ten are eligible to send five additional delegates to WSBC 2009.