

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS  
POLICY STATEMENTS RELATED TO UNITY WITH DIVERSITY**

**1992a The following policy statement was adopted:**

“Unity with Diversity” Policy

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous recognizes the existence of individual approaches and different structured concepts to working our Twelve-Step program of recovery; that the Fellowship is united by our disease and our common purpose; and that individual differences in approach to recovery within our Fellowship need not divide us.

THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of individuals, groups and intergroups to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group, intergroup and region to also respect those rights as they extend the embracing hand of Fellowship to those who still suffer.

THE FELLOWSHIP encourages each duly registered group and intergroup and the various regions to affirm and maintain the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous by allowing any member to share his or her experience, strength and hope in meetings regardless of the individual approach or specific concept that member may follow. Duly registered is defined as being in full compliance with Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V.

— *Business Conference Policy Manual*, page 10

**1994b (Amended 2008) 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 meetings, 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. According to the Traditions, bylaws and policies of OA, the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop eating compulsively. We ask each person attending a meeting to respect and consider the group conscience. All registered meetings shall welcome and give a voice to any person who has the desire to stop eating compulsively.

— *Business Conference Policy Manual*, page 12