



A Publication of:
Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.
P.O. Box 44020
Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4020
USA
Phone: 1-505-891-2664
Fax: 1-505-891-4320
E-mail: info@oa.org
Web site: www.oa.org

A Step Ahead

Second Quarter 2009

Volume 18, Number 2

Many workshops available to delegates

Conference '09 Stresses Unity, Carrying the Message

"I Put My Hand in Yours" is the theme of this year's World Service Business Conference (WSBC), scheduled for May 4-9, 2009, in Albuquerque, New Mexico USA.

In addition to debating and voting on motions and electing new trustees, delegates will have the opportunity to attend a myriad of workshops to glean information to bring back to their intergroups and groups.

Workshops include the following topics:

- I Put My Hand in Yours: Diversity
- Together We Could Do What We Could Never Do Alone: Worldwide View of Strengthening Meetings With the Tradition Fostering Service and Sponsorship
- Reaching Out Our Hands: How the Message Is Carried to Countries Not Yet Reached
- As We Join Hands, We Find Love and Understanding: Disruptive Members

- Carrying the Message Back Home
- Raising Public Awareness: Our Fellows Are Anonymous, Our Fellowship Is Not

- Forum: The Many Languages of Recovery
 - Parliamentary Procedure
 - We Are All Together Now, No Matter What Language We Speak: Language Issues
- New delegates and those needing a refresher course



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Attention Intergroups and Service Boards:

Please inform the WSO whenever you have meeting changes to your directory.

Attention Group Secretaries:

Please make copies of this newsletter to share with your group members.

DATEMINDER

**World Service Business Conference
May 4-9,
2009**

Updated look and easier navigation

Check Out the New OA Web Site!

www.oa.org

After several months of working with a Web developer, the WSO went live with a redesigned OA Web site in early February. The site is a work in progress, and the WSO will continue to iron out bugs, especially in the shopping cart. The shopping cart is our first priority for enhancement in the coming months.

We are excited about the new features and believe you will be too. These include a new, updated look; a simpler, user-friendly structure and navigation; a better site search engine; easier-to-use registration forms; and a vastly improved meeting search function.

The meeting search engine has always been the most popular feature of our site. The improvements offer the choice of searching by zip or postal code, or by radius in miles or kilometers. Please check out the meetings in your area to see the new mapping feature, a clearer place to click for meeting details, and easy access to intergroup information and Web sites. Your search might alert you to errors, which you can then share with the WSO on the new registration/change forms. We hope to broaden the search options in the coming year.

A goal of the WSO has been to develop easier online



registration/change forms that allow fewer errors. The new online forms bring clarity and options to the registration process, and ensure the use of the correct form and the entry of necessary data. They offer more options for communicating a group's structure: whether it is open or closed and if it has a special topic, focus or other features.

The upgrades to registration/change forms will lead
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Shopping-Cart Payment Options



To meet the needs of OA's global Fellowship, the WSO has changed the payment options available for purchases made through our online shopping cart. We can now accept check payments from anywhere in the world in any currency. No longer must we require that our members own a credit card to do business with us.

The gateway for facilitating this option is PayPal. You do not need to set up a PayPal account to purchase from our Web site. Instead, you can check out your purchases using the PayPal "guest" feature. To do this, do not log into PayPal with a password. Instead, click on the link that says "Use your credit card or bank account (where available)" on the left side of the page. This link allows you to proceed with your order without establishing a PayPal account.

New Procedures and Grants for Translating OA Literature

Literature is an essential tool for working the OA program. Reading our literature on a daily basis helps us keep our abstinence, work the Steps and grow spiritually. In addition, OA literature is essential in carrying the message to those who still suffer from food obsession.

Although the translation of OA literature into many languages has brought the OA message to compulsive eaters worldwide, much is still to be done. Imagine if OA's basic literature were translated into every language in the world!

To aid the realization of this dream and help fulfill our primary purpose of carrying the message, the BOT has approved a new and simpler procedure for translating literature. The Translation Committee developed the procedure and has allocated \$7,000 for grants to assist needy service bodies in financing the translation process.

Translation guidelines, application form and eligibility criteria for the grants are on the OA Web site at www.oa.org. Applications for funds must arrive at the World Service Office by August 15, 2009. If you have questions regarding the process, please contact your region trustee or the OA office at info@oa.org or 505-891-2664.

No matter which way you choose to pay, PayPal is the credit-card processing service we use for orders placed through our online shopping cart; therefore, you will receive an order confirmation and receipt from PayPal. It is impossible to use our shopping cart without using PayPal.

However, unless you set up a PayPal account with a password while placing your order, you will check out as a guest, and PayPal will not store your personal information. The next time you check out, you will not find your information or a personal PayPal account.

Every online shopping cart uses some type of payment gateway between the shopping cart and the credit-card company to increase the security of your credit information. The gateway used in our previous shopping cart was Verisign. PayPal also owns this gateway. Be assured that we take every step to ensure the security of your personal information when you place an order with us. We are not endorsing PayPal; we have just found that it meets the needs of many members of our Fellowship who prefer the ease of shopping online.

Check Out the New OA Web Site!

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to a faster turnaround for group registrations, changes and cancellations. Regardless of available electronic wonders, the responsibility and challenge of keeping the WSO apprised of changes in meeting details still falls to OA groups. We continue to receive phone calls and emails from people who worked up the courage to attend a meeting only to find it has been inactive for several months. The meeting directory is one of our best means of practicing Tradition Five.

Our Web site is now the primary avenue through which people find OA, and about 75 percent of OA's literature sales come through the Internet. Our goal is to provide the best experience possible for newcomers, existing members, the media and professionals. We will continue to improve the site's functionality by using the most current technology and regularly assessing the needs of our users.



NiCodium medallions



Bronze medallions

NEW! OA Anniversary Medallions

Celebrate the milestones of your OA journey with these elegant medallions engraved with years from 1-20, 25, 30, 35 and 40. They make great gifts and awards too! All medallions are 1⁵/₁₆" in diameter and engraved with the milestone year, the OA logo, and "One Day at a Time" on one side.

NiCodium medallions marking years 2-4, 6-9, 11-14 and 16-19 have the OA promise on the reverse side. Bright silver-colored finish.

Bronze medallions marking years 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 have "Keep Coming Back!" engraved on the reverse side. Bright bronze finish.

NiCodium (item numbers correspond to year) #4802, #4803, #4804, #4806, #4807, #4808, #4809, #4811, #4812, #4813, #4814, #4816, #4817, #4818, #4819 \$2.00 each, plus shipping*

Bronze (item numbers correspond to year) #4801, #4805, #4810, #4815, #4820, #4825, #4830, #4835, #4840 \$2.00 each, plus shipping*

* US shipping rates: \$5 on orders up to \$24.99, 20% on orders of \$25 to \$59.99, 17% on orders of \$60 to \$99.99, 12% on orders of \$100 and up. Service fees apply to expedited orders, including a \$10 handling fee. Expedited orders can only be placed by telephone. For international shipping charges, please call 1-505-891-2664 or email info@oa.org.

What's New From WSO

Start Living the Life You Deserve

Coming soon! Reach out through the airwaves with a new radio PSA. Each CD includes 60-, 30- and 15-second spots, along with a script, cover letter for stations and suggestions for getting stations to air the PSA. **Item #620, US\$15 plus shipping*** Available in early May.

Literature Translation Guidelines

These new guidelines include instructions for completing the three licenses now required for service bodies translating OA literature. Also included are suggestions for how to begin translating, as well as information on copyright issues, suggestions for overcoming difficulties, and much more. Available from the WSO free by request or on the OA Web site: www.oa.org/wp-content/uploads/translation_guidelines.pdf

* US Shipping: \$5 for orders up to \$24.99, 20% of orders \$25 to \$59.99, 17% of orders \$60 to \$99.99, 12% of orders \$100 and up. Expedited orders can only be placed by phone. Email info@oa.org for shipping charges outside the US.

Change to Quarterly Intergroup Mailings

For many years, the World Service Office (WSO) member services department has included in quarterly mailings to intergroups worldwide a printed list of their OA affiliated meetings, along with meeting details. The WSO hoped to achieve a more current meeting directory by having the intergroups review their meeting details and confirm the information with the WSO. While proving somewhat valuable, the mailing made little difference in achieving accuracy. The challenge continues.

The 2009 budget-planning discussions determined that intergroup mailings needed to be refined. The executive committee of the Board of Trustees agreed that only one of the four mailings will now include a full, printed report of affiliated meeting information. The other three mailings will contain only board, committee or WSO flyers or memos.

For the January 2009 mailing, all intergroups received their printed report of affiliated meetings. If your intergroup needs another report later in the year, please contact the group registration coordinator, Lorie Baird, at lbaird@oa.org and request a copy via email. In April, July, and October, intergroups will receive only the pertinent flyers. This new method of distribution will realize great savings for the Fellowship.

Position Open: WSO Publications Manager

Responsibilities

Manage busy publications department, including supervising small department staff for World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous. Oversee literature production including development, scheduling, budgeting, design and print-buying. Edit magazine, newsletters, Web site content and other publications. Advise staff, Board of Trustees and OA members on publications matters.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in related field and minimum five years' experience in professional editorial work and three years' proven managerial experience.
- Strong editorial and project management skills; attention to detail.
- Strong public presence and effective written and verbal communication skills to interact with individuals of different levels within and outside the organization.
- Strong computer skills and working knowledge of word processing and desktop publishing applications. Mac experience a plus.
- Independent worker, team player, ability to manage multiple priorities under pressure and meet long-term deadlines.
- Familiarity with copyright issues and requirements.

Outstanding benefits. Equal opportunity employer. Send cover letter and resume to resume@oa.org. No phone calls, please.

WEB LINKS

Discover interesting and helpful OA Web-site links.

Redesigned OA Web site—See story on page 1 www.oa.org

Translation Guidelines for OA Literature—Everything a service body needs to know about translating OA literature

www.oa.org/wp-content/uploads/translation_guidelines.pdf

Anniversary Medallions—Celebrate OA anniversaries with engraved medallions for years 1-20, 25, 30, 35 and 40

www.oa.org/store/all-products/recovery-coins/anniversary-medallions/

You Need *Lifeline*, and *Lifeline* Needs You!



For 10 months a year, *Lifeline* supports your recovery by bringing the experience, strength and hope of fellow members to your door via an individual subscription, a group subscription or back issues in a box at your meeting. Or perhaps you share your copy with many friends. How wonderful that *Lifeline* supports recovery around the world!

To carry the message of recovery, *Lifeline* needs your continued and expanded support. If you love *Lifeline* but do not subscribe to the magazine, consider investing in your recovery and in *Lifeline's* future. Remember the two-fold purpose of *Lifeline*: to support recovery and to carry the message of recovery to those still suffering. If you read the

magazine for free, donate a subscription to a friend in need, a doctor's office, a library or any place a still-suffering compulsive eater might find it. The service you perform by subscribing may save someone's life. To subscribe, go to www.oa.org. Thank you!

Conference '09 Stresses Unity, Carrying the Message

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can attend "All About Conference" to increase their understanding of parliamentary procedure and other aspects of the business sessions.

First-time delegates, called "Green Dots" because they have a green dot on their name tags indicating this is their first Conference, may also participate in the mentor program. They will be matched with experienced delegates who will support them and answer their questions during Conference. This year the agenda offers two opportunities for Green Dots and mentors to meet and discuss the Conference.

Delegates will consider eight New Business proposals and 14 amendment proposals to OA Bylaws, Subpart B:



- New Business Proposal A: To establish December 12 as International Twelfth-Step-Within Day
- New Business Proposal B: To include on the agenda questionnaire all proposed new business motions and bylaw amendments (submitted by the deadline date)
- New Business Proposal C: To eliminate expiration dates for submission of service-body bylaws to the WSO
- New Business Proposal D: To allow groups to determine open/closed status of meetings
- New Business Proposal E: To rescind the Public Awareness Campaign (public awareness will become part of OA's operations budget)
- New Business Proposal F: To create uniform Web-site templates for service bodies
- New Business Proposal G: To hire a part-time staff member to oversee service bodies' Web sites
- New Business Proposal H: To refine the abstinence definition

Bylaw amendment proposals are as follows:

- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 1: To amend Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 4 – Qualifications to require all trustees to complete all Twelve Steps
- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 2: To amend Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section

- 8 – Business Agenda to require bylaw amendments to be approved by 50 percent of the responding service bodies
- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 3: To amend Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 1 – Composition to annually alternate a current trustee to represent virtual service boards
- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 4: To amend Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees to replace "applications" with "résumés" (house-keeping)
- Bylaw Amendment Proposals 5 through 8: To amend Article IX – Board of Trustees to correct grammatical errors (house-keeping)
- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 9 through 11: To amend Article VI – Intergroups, Article VII – Intergroups, Article VIII – Service Boards to correct grammatical errors (housekeeping)
- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 12: To amend Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 8 – Business Agenda to allow all bylaw amendments (submitted by the deadline date) to be placed on the Conference agenda
- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 13: To amend Article XIV – Bylaw Amendments, Section 1 – Procedure to eliminate the agenda questionnaire and allow all motions to be

placed on the Conference agenda

- Bylaw Amendment Proposal 14: To amend Article VII – Regions, Section 1 – Composition to relocate Bermuda from Region Eight to Region Six

Delegates will vote on whether to give the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet titled *Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps: One Approach*.

Delegates will also elect members to fill three region trustee and two general service trustee (GST) positions. All positions are for three-year terms. Nominees are:

- Region Three—Wanda S.
- Region Six—Mary Rose D.
- Region Nine—Esti O.
- GST—Ray F.
- GST—Joe L.
- GST—Roberta L.
- GST—Cheryle T.

Delegates who arrive early may wish to take advantage of one of the New Mexico tours available to either Bandelier National Monument (\$75/person) or Santa Fe Plaza (\$60/person).

All WSBC delegate mailings are available on the OA Web site at www.oa.org/world-service/conference. For Conference voting results, check the WSBC Web page after Conference and the *July A Step Ahead*.

Coming Soon!
Spread OA's message of recovery on your local radio stations with this new radio PSA.



Each tape contains 60-, 30- and 15-second spots. Includes script, cover letter for stations and suggested instructions

to assist your group in getting stations to air the PSA. Available in early May.

CD for radio #620/\$15.00 plus shipping*

* US Shipping: \$5 for orders up to \$24.99, 20% of orders \$25 to \$59.99, 17% of orders \$60 to \$99.99, 12% of orders \$100 and up. Expedited orders can only be placed by phone. Email info@oa.org for shipping charges outside the US.

REVISED!

Seventh Tradition of OA pamphlet

Give as if your life depends on it!

Formerly *It Takes Two: Through Our Own Contributions, OA Is Self-Supporting at All Levels*. The revised Seventh Tradition pamphlet

answers commonly asked questions about how to support your Fellowship, describes OA's service structure, tells how OA's finances are handled, details the vital recovery services your contributions support, and lists additional references for more information.

Look for the pamphlet in the Intergroup Starter Kit and the New Group Starter Kit. Or call the WSO to receive one by mail or order it from the online catalog. Item #802, free, plus shipping*