

# **Final Report**

## **(Online Version)**

**Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.**  
**2014 World Service Business Conference**

*Confidential—for use within OA only*



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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**Embassy Suites Albuquerque Hotel and Spa**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico USA**  
**April 28 – May 3, 2014**  
**Final Business Conference Report**  
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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**2014-2015**

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Committee Assignment (chairs)</b>
<b>Tina C.</b>	General Service Trustee	Conference-Approved Literature
<b>Karen C.</b>	General Service Trustee Second Vice Chair	BRM Review Unity with Diversity
<b>Stephanie D.</b>	Virtual Services Trustee	Region Chairs Virtual Services
<b>Bob F.</b>	General Service Trustee	Conference Bylaws
<b>Margie G.</b>	Region One Trustee	Web/Technology
<b>Barbara G.</b>	Region Seven Trustee	Internal Information
<b>Meg H.</b>	Region Two Trustee First Vice Chair	Strategic Planning
<b>Linda H.</b>	Region Eight Trustee	Twelfth-Step-Within
<b>Gerri H.</b>	General Service Trustee Treasurer	Delegate Support Fund Finance
<b>Karin H.</b>	Region Six Trustee	Conference Planning Convention 2016
<b>Linda J.</b>	Region Five Trustee	Board-Approved Literature
<b>Joe L.</b>	General Service Trustee Chair	
<b>Cyndy L.</b>	Region Four Trustee	BOT Bylaws
<b>Faith M.</b>	Region Ten Trustee	Literature Review Professional Outreach Professional Tradeshows
<b>Esti O.</b>	Region Nine Trustee	International Publications/ Translations
<b>Janice S.</b>	General Service Trustee	Young Persons'
<b>Vicki W.</b>	Region Three Trustee	Public Awareness Public Information

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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**WORLD SERVICE DELEGATE COCHAIRS**  
**2014-2015**

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<b>Conference Committee</b>	<b>Delegate Cochair</b>
<b>Bylaws</b>	<i>Karen B.</i>
<b>Conference-Approved Literature</b>	<i>Jill M.</i>
<b>Finance</b>	<i>Helen D.</i>
<b>Professional Outreach</b>	<i>Pat O.</i>
<b>Public Information</b>	<i>Wanda G.</i>
<b>Region Chairs</b>	<i>Amy L.</i>
<b>Twelfth-Step-Within</b>	<i>CJ M.</i>
<b>Unity with Diversity</b>	<i>Cristina S.</i>
<b>Web/Technology</b>	<i>Maria B.</i>
<b>Young Persons'</b>	<i>Matt S.</i>

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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**  
**53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE**  
**May 1-3, 2014**

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**EMBASSY SUITES ALBUQUERQUE HOTEL AND SPA**  
**ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

**THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 1, 2014 – BUSINESS MEETING I**

Chair Joe L. called the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Service Business Conference to order at 8:32 am. Mette T., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Danish and English. **CALL TO ORDER**

Maria B., Region Seven, read *The Twelve Steps*; Andrea C., Region Nine, read *The Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*; Cayley W., Region One, read *The Twelve Concepts of OA Service*. **READINGS**

The chair welcomed all attendees to the Conference.

**WELCOME**

The chair announced the Conference theme: “Our Primary Purpose.”

**CONFERENCE THEME**

The chair introduced Conference Planning Chair Karin H.

**CONFERENCE  
PLANNING CHAIR  
INTRODUCTION**

The chair introduced the Board of Trustees in order as seated on the dais: General Service Trustee Bob F.; Virtual Services Trustee Stephanie D.; Region Seven Trustee Barbara G.; Region Three Trustee Vicki W.; Region Nine Trustee Esti O.; General Service Trustee Janice S.; Region Ten Trustee Faith M.; Region Six Trustee Karin H.; Region Five Trustee Linda J.; General Service Trustee Tina C.; Region Eight Trustee Linda H.; General Service Trustee and Treasurer Karen C.; Region One Trustee Margie G.; Region Two Trustee Meg H.; Region Four Trustee and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Teresa K.; General Service Trustee and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Gerri H.; and General Service Trustee and Chair of the Board Joe.

**TRUSTEE  
INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair introduced Parliamentarian Jan Strand and Board Administrator/Conference Secretary Rebbie Garza.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN/  
SECRETARY  
INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair introduced the region chairs: Region One Chair Merry R.; Region Two Chair Nancy J.; Region Three Chair Andrea M.; Region Four Chair Meg M.; Region Five Chair Denise O.; Region Six Chair Diana G.; Region Seven Chair Amy L.; Region Eight Chair Gloria L.; Region Nine Chair Susan S.; and Region Ten Chair Letitia M.

**REGION CHAIRS  
INTRODUCTIONS**

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The chair introduced Managing Director/Corporate Secretary to OA, Inc. Naomi Lippel; Associate Director/Controller Sarah Armstrong; Member Services Manager/Meeting Planner Sandy Zimmerman; and Center Microphone Monitor Bonnie L.

**WSO STAFF/CENTER  
MICROPHONE  
MONITOR  
INTRODUCTIONS**

Conference Planning Committee Chair Karin H. introduced Conference Support Committee (CSC) Chair Barbara B. and Volunteer Coordinator Mary S.

**CSC INTRODUCTIONS**

The local volunteer coordinator announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting I.

**VOLUNTEER  
INTRODUCTIONS**

Karin H. called attendance by region to acknowledge delegates present at WSBC:

**REGION  
ATTENDANCE**

Region One – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming (except Torrington, Wyoming), Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Yukon

Region Two – California, Hawaii, Reno/Tahoe area of Nevada, Mexico

Region Three – Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Outstate Intergroup (which includes Scottsbluff, Nebraska and Torrington, Wyoming)

Region Four – Illinois (except Greater Chicago area and Central Illinois Intergroup), Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska (except Outstate Intergroup, which includes Scottsbluff, Nebraska), North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario, Nunavut

Region Five – Greater Chicago area and Central Illinois Intergroup, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Southwestern Ontario

Region Six – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Bermuda

Region Seven – Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Region Eight – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Aruba, Central and South America

Region Nine – Africa, Europe, Middle East, Western Asia

Region Ten – Australia, the Far East, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific Basin

Virtual Service Board – 12 Step 4 Coes VSB, OA HOW Two Hour Format Phone Meeting VSB



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The chair appointed Marilyn A., Region Five; Mike B., Region Seven; and Rita S., Region Eight, to serve as Minutes Approval Committee for the WSBC 2014 business meetings.

MINUTES APPROVAL  
COMMITTEE

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 17 trustees, 180 voting delegates for a total of 197 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS  
REPORT ADOPTED

The chair declared a quorum present.

QUORUM  
ESTABLISHED

The 2014 Conference Standing Rules were **adopted** as presented.

STANDING RULES  
ADOPTED

The following items were placed on the consent agenda: New Business Motion **F** (WSBC Policy 1984d), New Business Motion **G** (WSBC Policy 1984e), New Business Motion **H** (WSBC Policy 1988a), New Business Motion **I** (WSBC Policy 2014), New Business Motion **K** (WSBC Policy 1990), New Business Motion **L** (WSBC Policy 1993c), New Business Motion **M** (WSBC Policy 1995a), New Business Motion **O** (WSBC Policy 1996a), New Business Motion **P** (WSBC Policy 2003), New Business Motion **R** (WSBC Policy 2006), New Business Motion **S** (WSBC Policy 2010b), New Business Motion **T** (WSBC Policy 2010e), New Business Motion **U** (WSBC Policy 2012d), Proposal Item **7** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IV, Section 2), Proposal Item **8** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 3), Proposal Item **9** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 3), Proposal Item **12** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 4).

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion required two-thirds vote to adopt. The consent agenda was **adopted**.

CONSENT AGENDA  
ADOPTED

By unanimous consent, the 2014 World Service Business Conference agenda was **adopted** as presented.

WSBC 2014 AGENDA  
ADOPTED

The chair reported service body voting results from the agenda questionnaire and announced that new business motions would be considered in the following order: A-a, A-b, A-c, A, B, C, D, E, J, N and Q.

NEW BUSINESS  
MOTIONS  
PRESENTED; ORDER  
OF NEW BUSINESS  
MOTIONS

New business motions that received approval and any newly submitted amendments to those motions were presented. Voting results of each new business motion were as follows:

Items A-a, A-b and A-c were procedural motions and were not included on the agenda questionnaire. Per Conference policy, amendments to these motions are not in order.

Item **A** was submitted by Region Ten, and approved by **54%** of the responding service bodies. Item **B** was submitted by the Youth in OA Committee, and approved by **91%** of the responding service bodies. Item **C** was submitted by the Board of Trustees, and approved by **91%** of the responding service bodies. Item **D** was submitted by Region Six, and approved by **88%** of the responding service

AGENDA  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
RESULTS

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bodies. Item **E** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee, and approved by **98%** of responding service bodies. Item **J** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee, and approved by **96%** of the responding service bodies. Item **N** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee, and approved by **96%** of the responding service bodies. Item **Q** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee, and approved by **95%** of the responding service bodies.

**AGENDA  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
RESULTS**

The chair asked the makers of new business motions to introduce themselves at the pro microphone.

**NBM MAKER  
INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair announced that bylaw amendment motions would be discussed in a similar fashion to discussion of new business motions.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT  
MOTIONS PRESENTED**

Voting results of each bylaw amendment motion were as follows:

**AGENDA  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
RESULTS**

Bylaws Amendment **Item 1** was submitted by the Board of Trustees, and approved by **95%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 2** was submitted by the Region Chairs Committee, and approved by **92%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 3** was submitted by the Board of Trustees, and approved by **94%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 4** was submitted by the Board of Trustees, and approved by **93%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 5** was submitted by the Board of Trustees, and approved by **93%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 6** was submitted by Region Seven, and approved by **59%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 10** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee, and approved by **93%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 11** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee, and approved by **93%** of the responding service bodies.

The Bylaw Amendments would be considered in the following order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11.

**ORDER OF BYLAW  
AMENDMENT  
MOTIONS**

The chair asked the makers of bylaw amendment proposal motions to introduce themselves at the con microphone.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT  
MAKER  
INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair referred the assembly to the officers' reports presented in the 2014 Conference binder.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

The question/answer period was limited to seven minutes per report. Questions were asked and answered.

The chair referred the assembly to the region reports presented in the 2014 Conference binder.

**REGION REPORTS**

The question/answer period was limited to three minutes per report. Questions were asked and answered.

The chair referred the assembly to the committee reports presented in the 2014 Conference binder.

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

The question/answer period was limited to three minutes per report. Questions were asked and answered.

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Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am with “I Put My Hand in Yours.”

ADJOURNMENT

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1, 2014 – BUSINESS MEETING II**

Chair Joe L. called the second business meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Miranda K., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Greek and English.

CALL TO ORDER

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 17 trustees, 180 voting delegates for a total of 197 eligible voters. The Credentials Report was **adopted** without objection as presented.

CREDENTIALS  
REPORT ADOPTED

The volunteer coordinator announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting II.

VOLUNTEER  
INTRODUCTIONS

The parliamentarian addressed the assembly regarding how motions are presented.

PARLIAMENTARY  
PRESENTATION

The regional and virtual services trustee candidates were presented, and per Bylaws B, Article IX, Section 7, each addressed the assembly for five minutes, and then answered questions from the floor for ten minutes.

REGION/VIRTUAL  
SERVICES TRUSTEE  
CANDIDATE  
ADDRESSES

The regional trustee candidates:

REGION TRUSTEE  
CANDIDATES

Region One Margie G.  
Region Four Cyndy L.  
Region Seven Barbara G.

The virtual services candidate:

VIRTUAL SERVICES  
CANDIDATE

Stephanie D.

The general service trustee candidates were presented, and per Bylaws B, Article IX, Section 7, each addressed the assembly for five minutes, and then answered questions from the floor for ten minutes.

GENERAL SERVICE  
TRUSTEE ADDRESSES

The general service trustee candidates:

GENERAL SERVICE  
TRUSTEE  
CANDIDATES

Lonna C.  
Karen C.  
Janice S.

The chair announced that the total for the day’s Seventh Tradition was \$2,177.06.

SEVENTH TRADITION

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A-A**

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the checklist, *Unity with Diversity Checklist*.

NBM A-A  
*UNITY WITH  
DIVERSITY CHECKLIST*  
ADOPTED

Motion required two-thirds vote to adopt. New Business Motion Proposal Item A-a **adopted**.

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**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A-B**

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the manuscript, *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*.

**NBM A-B  
OVEREATERS  
ANONYMOUS, THIRD  
EDITION ADOPTED**

Motion required two-thirds vote to adopt. New Business Motion A-b **adopted**.

Following announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm with “I Put My Hand in Yours.”

**ADJOURNMENT**

**FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 2014 – BUSINESS MEETING III**

Chair Joe L. called the third business meeting to order at 8:30 am. Nelly Mary P., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Italian and English.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Robert S., Region Four, read from *For Today*.

**READING**

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 17 trustees, 180 voting delegates for a total of 197 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

**CREDENTIALS  
REPORT ADOPTED**

The volunteer coordinator announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting III.

**VOLUNTEER  
INTRODUCTIONS**

The region trustee election ballots were distributed, cast, collected, and counted.

**REGION TRUSTEE  
BALLOT**

The chair announced the ballot results for the region trustee election:

**REGION TRUSTEES’  
TELLER’S REPORT**

**Region Trustees – Three-Year Term:**

Region One – Margie G. 188 votes cast, 95 needed to elect, 181 “yes” votes

Region Four – Cyndy L. 192 votes cast, 97 needed to elect, 189 “yes” votes

Region Seven – Barbara G. 188 votes cast, 95 needed to elect, 183 “yes” votes

The chair declared Margie G. as Region One Trustee, Cyndy L. as Region Four Trustee, and Barbara G. as Region Seven Trustee.

**NEW REGION  
TRUSTEES DECLARED**

The virtual services trustee election ballots were distributed, cast, collected and counted.

**VIRTUAL SERVICES  
TRUSTEE BALLOT**

The chair announced the ballot results for the virtual services trustee election:

**VIRTUAL SERVICES  
TRUSTEE TELLER’S  
REPORT**

**Virtual Services Trustee – Three-Year Term:**

Stephanie D. 192 votes cast, 97 needed to elect, 189 “yes” votes

The chair declared Stephanie D. as Virtual Services Trustee.

**NEW VIRTUAL  
SERVICES TRUSTEE  
DECLARED**

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Updated credentials report: 17 trustees, 180 voting delegates, 197 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

UPDATED  
CREDENTIALS  
REPORT

The general service trustee election ballots were distributed, cast, collected, and counted.

GENERAL SERVICE  
TRUSTEE BALLOT

The chair announced the ballot results for the general service trustees:

GENERAL SERVICE  
TRUSTEES' TELLER'S  
REPORT

General Service Trustees

Total votes cast: 184

Illegal ballots: 1

Number of votes needed for election: 93

Lonna C.                    90 "yes" votes  
Karen C.                    139 "yes" votes  
Janice S.                    123 "yes" votes

The chair declared Karen C. and Janice S. general service trustees for three-year terms.

NEW GENERAL  
SERVICE TRUSTEES  
DECLARED

The chair asked the managing director to destroy the ballots after the adjournment of Conference.

BALLOTS  
DESTROYED

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A-C

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet, *The Promises of the OA 12&12*.

NBM A-C  
THE PROMISES OF  
THE OA 12&12  
FAILED

Motion required two-thirds vote to adopt. New Business Motion Proposal Item A-c **failed**.

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:26 am with "I Put My Hand in Yours."

ADJOURNMENT

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 2, 2014 – BUSINESS MEETING IV

Chair Joe L. called the fourth business meeting to order at 1:04 pm. Sofia H., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Icelandic and English.

CALL TO ORDER

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 17 trustees, 179 voting delegates for a total of 196 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS  
REPORT ADOPTED

The volunteer coordinator announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting IV.

VOLUNTEER  
INTRODUCTIONS

Parliamentarian Jan Strand discussed how to write a motion.

PARLIAMENTARY  
PRESENTATION

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**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM B**

The Reference Subcommittee did not consider this item.

**NBM B  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 2010d**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010d as follows:

WSBC Policy 2010d

It was adopted to:

Establish an OA Young Persons' Conference Committee.

**AMENDMENT B-1**

Guy M. moved to strike "OA Young Persons" and insert "Young People."

**AMENDMENT B-1  
FAILED**

Amendment B-1 **failed**.

**AMENDMENT B-2**

Candace O. moved to strike "OA Young Persons" and insert "Young Adults in OA."

**AMENDMENT B-2  
FAILED**

Amendment B-2 **failed**.

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

**NBM B  
ADOPTED**

The chair announced that the total for the day's Seventh Tradition was \$1,156.97.

**SEVENTH TRADITION  
TOTAL**

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM D**

The Reference Subcommittee did not consider this motion.

**NBM D  
WSBC 7<sup>TH</sup>  
TRADITION FAILED**

Move that the Seventh Tradition taken at the World Service Business Conference (WSBC) be specifically directed to the WSBC Delegate Support Fund.

Motion required majority vote to adopt. New Business Motion D **failed**.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM E**

The Reference Subcommittee did not consider this item.

**NBM E  
RESCIND WSBC  
POLICY 1962  
ADOPTED**

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 1962 as follows:

~~WSBC Policy 1962~~

~~At OA's first Business Conference, then called the National Conference, it was adopted that:~~

~~We endorse as our only basic creed the only thing that OA in general subscribes to (from headquarters), the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions. That this is the only basic program that OA (headquarters) believes as its creed. We acknowledge that these two things are the only creed OA subscribes to, basically.~~

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

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**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM F**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1984d as follows:

WSBC Policy 1984d (Amended 2013)

The following procedure for Business Conference presentation/discussions was adopted:

- 1) Items for presentations/discussions at the annual Business Conference are selected by the board from those recommended by the Conference Planning Committee. Selections for topics are made from recurring problems, topics of major interest and topics requested by the Fellowship.
- 2) Service bodies who propose presentation/discussion topics will be sent a letter stating how topics are chosen and that their recommendation has been referred to the Conference Planning Committee for consideration.

New Business Motion F **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM G**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1984e as follows:

WSBC Policy 1984e

After a presentation/discussion, a statement on the sale of merchandise was adopted:

It is the will of the Business Conference that sale of merchandise, per se, is not prohibited by the Traditions. With regard to sale of merchandise, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole." If you choose to sell merchandise, the following guidelines are suggested:

- 1) All sales be made by and for OA service bodies.
- 2) Each sale item be approved by group conscience.
- 3) Sales at OA events and functions should be conducted in such a manner so as not to divert or distract from our primary purpose to carry the message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.

In accordance with our Traditions, each group and OA service body may choose to sell or not sell merchandise as they determine. Overeaters Anonymous must be ever mindful of our Traditions, which warn against endorsement of outside enterprise.

New Business Motion G **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM H**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988a as follows:

WSBC Policy 1988a (Amended 1989, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2010)

It was adopted that:

**NBM F  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 1984D  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**NBM G  
WSBC POLICY  
1984E ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**NBM H  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 1988A**

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**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM H (CONTINUED)**

These matters should be considered but are not binding upon service bodies:

- 1) Functioning  
Service bodies may join together in order to help carry the message, providing they adhere to the Traditions and do not alter, print or electronically transmit any OA-approved literature unless approved in writing by the World Service Office.
- 2) Business Conference Delegates
  - a) In addition to the requirements set out in Article X, Section 3c) of the Bylaws, Subpart B, it is suggested the delegates should be selected for judgment, experience, stability, willingness and for faithful adherence to living within the concepts of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous. It is further suggested a World Service delegate be a current or past regional representative.
  - b) As participants, delegates shall not be bound by the wishes of their service bodies, but should not vote against these wishes unless situations arise at the Business Conference that make it necessary for the best interests of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.

**NBM H  
WSBC POLICY  
1988A ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

New Business Motion H **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM I**

Move that WSBC 2014 adopt the following policy:

**Meetings of Delegates**

Annual Business Conference

- a) Oral committee and workshop reports shall be made on the final day of the Business Conference when time allows. Written reports are due in the World Service Office two weeks following the close of the Business Conference.
- b) Special meetings of delegates or committees of delegates during the Business Conference for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the chair or by a majority of the trustees and/or delegates.
- c) Communications concerning the Business Conference from the trustees and the World Service Office shall be through the registered delegates and service bodies.

**NBM I  
WSBC POLICY 2014  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

New Business Motion I **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM J**

New Business Motion J **withdrawn** with no objection.

**NBM J  
WITHDRAWN**



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**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM K**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1990 as follows:

WSBC Policy 1990 (Amended 2011)

The following policy statement was adopted:

The World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous suggests that individual groups and service bodies refrain from publishing the names or non-OA titles of speakers/leaders at OA functions in any informational materials (flyers, newsletters, etc.). OA service titles (but not names) may be used when a speaker/leader is performing the service responsibility of his or her OA office.

New Business Motion K **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NBM K  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 1990  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM L**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1993c as follows:

WSBC Policy 1993c (Amended 1994, 2001, 2002 and 2012)

It was adopted that:

World Service Business Conference 2012 adopt a policy that the World Service Office shall mail an annual letter to all service bodies requesting contributions to help fund delegates to attend World Service Business Conferences. Delegates selected to receive this fund will be those from intergroups and service boards demonstrating need. Priority will be given to those intergroups and service boards that have not previously sent delegates to Conference.

New Business Motion L **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NBM L  
WSBC POLICY  
1993C ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM M**

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 1995a.

~~WSBC Policy 1995a~~

~~It was adopted that:~~

~~Overeaters Anonymous designate January as "Media Awareness Month."~~

New Business Motion M **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NBM M  
RESCIND WSBC  
POLICY 1995A  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM N**

The Reference Subcommittee did not consider this item.

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 1995b.

~~WSBC Policy 1995b (updated 2013 due to amended 1984a)~~

~~It was adopted to:~~

~~Remove abstinence as a tool and replace it with a "plan of eating" leaving abstinence as our primary purpose as outlined in the OA Preamble: "Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive eating and carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer."~~

**NBM N  
RESCIND WSBC  
POLICY 1995B**

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**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM N (CONTINUED)**

Motion required majority vote to adopt. New Business Motion N **adopted**.

**NBM N  
RESCIND WSBC  
POLICY 1995B  
ADOPTED**

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM O**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1996a as follows:

**NBM O  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 1996A  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

WSBC Policy 1996a (Amended 1999)

The following policy statement was adopted:

The 2014 WSBC of OA suggests OA's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be read at every meeting. In addition, we suggest all service bodies and the WSBC read the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.

New Business Motion O **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM P**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2003 as follows:

**NBM P  
WSBC POLICY 2003  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

WSBC Policy 2003

It was adopted that:

To ensure the personal anonymity of members, an encryption program will be maintained to allow for secure transmission of all meeting information submitted via the OA website.

New Business Motion P **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**SUBSTITUTE NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM Q**

Beverly Montgomery moved to amend WSBC Policy 2004b as follows:

**SUBSTITUTE NBM Q  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 2004B**

WSBC Policy 2004b (Amended 2009)

It was adopted that:

Appeals process for service bodies denied credentials at WSBC because they do not meet the requirements of OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3c – Qualifications/Selection.

- 1) The World Service Office shall notify the service body of any challenges to delegate credentials within seven days of receipt of delegate information by the World Service Office.
- 2) Each region will provide, at the time they submit their delegate information, a list of up to five individuals willing to serve on an Appeals Committee.
- 3) The Appeals Review Committee shall be composed of two members of the Board of Trustees, two region chairs and two representatives of the region bringing the appeal.
- 4) Service body notifies the World Service Office if it wishes to appeal denial of delegate credentials.

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**SUBSTITUTE NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM Q (CONTINUED)**

- 5) The Appeals Review Committee, via electronic and/or written communications, will consider relevant information and collectively decide the final disposition of each appeal with a deadline of one month prior to the first session of the upcoming WSBC.
- 6) At the expense of the service body, a telephone conference call may be scheduled to review the findings of the committee within two weeks of notification of the Appeals Review Committee's disposition.

**SUBSTITUTE NBM Q  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 2004b**

Motion required majority vote to adopt. New Business Motion Q **adopted as substituted.**

**NBM Q  
ADOPTED**

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

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM R**

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2006.

**NBM R  
RESCIND WSBC  
POLICY 2006  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

~~WSBC Policy 2006~~

~~It was adopted to:~~

~~Change the name of the HIPM (Hospitals, Institutions, Professionals and the Military) Committee to "Professional Outreach" Committee.~~

New Business Motion R **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM S**

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2010b.

**NBM S  
RESCIND WSBC  
POLICY 2010B  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

~~WSBC Policy 2010b~~

~~It was adopted to:~~

~~Add a ninth tool: "Action Plan."~~

New Business Motion S **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM T**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010e as follows:

**NBM T  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 2010E  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

~~WSBC Policy 2010e~~

~~It was adopted to:~~

~~Require all groups and service bodies wishing to register electronically with the WSO to provide at least one email address and name when submitting their registration request. The required email address is for use within the OA organization and will not be published.~~

New Business Motion T **adopted** on the consent agenda.

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**NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM U**

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2012d as follows:

WSBC Policy 2012d

The following policy statement was adopted:

The terms of WSBC delegates from service bodies shall be limited. After completing four consecutive years, service shall not exceed an additional two years. A one year rotation out of service shall then be observed. Request for a waiver of this limitation shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees.

New Business Motion U **adopted** on the consent agenda.

NBM U  
AMEND WSBC  
POLICY 2012D  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM ONE**

The Reference Subcommittee did not consider this motion.

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates as follows:

Article X – Meetings of Delegates

Section 3 – Delegates

3) Delegates

c) Qualifications/Selection

~~6) If region, intergroup or service board bylaws are in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws, including failure to include amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted by a World Service Business Conference two or more conferences prior to the current WSBC, that region, intergroup or service board will not be permitted to register delegate(s) for the current Conference. In order to be allowed to register delegate(s), a service body has until thirty days before start of Conference to submit bylaws that are not in conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws.~~

Motion required two-thirds to adopt. Proposal Item One **adopted**.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM TWO**

The Reference Subcommittee did not consider this motion.

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 4 – Qualifications as follows:

Article IX – Board of Trustees

Section 4 – Qualifications

d) In addition, region trustees:

- 1) Are to physically reside in the region represented no less than the six months immediately prior to election.
- 2) Elected regional trustees will maintain physical residency in the regions represented for two-thirds of each year of their terms, excluding OA-related business travel.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM ONE  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
X, SECTION 3  
ADOPTED

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM TWO  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
IX, SECTION 4

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**BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM TWO (CONTINUED)**

- 3) If a change of status of physical residence of a regional trustee occurs following the election to office, said trustee will notify the Board of Trustees of the change in status immediately. The trustee will vacate the position at the next World Service Business Conference, where elections will be held to fill the incomplete term.
- 4) Additional qualifications for regional trustee may be set by each region.
  - e) In addition, general service trustees at the time of election:
    - 1) Shall have completed one full term as a member of a regional board, the term as defined by that region; or
    - 2) Shall have been a regional trustee for one full term.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM TWO  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
IX, SECTION 4  
FAILED

Motion required two-thirds to adopt. Proposal Item Two **failed**.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM THREE**

Withdrawn with no objection.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM THREE  
WITHDRAWN

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM FOUR**

Withdrawn with no objection.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM FOUR  
WITHDRAWN

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM FIVE**

Withdrawn with no objection.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM FIVE  
WITHDRAWN

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 4:59 pm with “I Put My Hand in Yours.”

ADJOURNMENT

**SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 2014 – BUSINESS MEETING V**

Chair Joe L. called the fifth business meeting to order at 8:36 am. Miranda K., Region Nine, and Maria C., Region Eight led the Serenity Prayer in Portuguese, Greek and English.

CALL TO ORDER

Frank F., Region Five, read from *Voices of Recovery*.

READING

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 17 trustees, 178 voting delegates for a total of 195 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS  
REPORT ADOPTED

The volunteer coordinator announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting V.

VOLUNTEER  
INTRODUCTIONS

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM SIX**

The Reference Subcommittee recommended defeat of any amendments and the main motion.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM SIX  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLES  
I AND II

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article I – Twelve Steps, Steps 3, 7 and 11 and Article II – Twelve Traditions, Tradition 2 as follows:

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**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM SIX (CONTINUED)**

Article I – Twelve Steps

- 3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood God*.
- 7) Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.
- 11) Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood God praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.

Article II – Twelve Traditions

- 2) For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as God may be expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Motion required two-thirds to adopt. Proposal Item Six **failed**.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM SEVEN**

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Section 2 – Registration, Part c as follows:

Article VI – Intergroups  
Section 2 – Registration

- c) Each intergroup shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the intergroup bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the registered contact for each intergroup. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 2a) 2) above.

Proposal Item Seven **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM EIGHT**

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 3 – Registration, Part c as follows:

Article VII – Regions  
Section 3 – Registration

- c) Each region shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the region bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the chair and/or secretary/coordinator representing each region. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 3a) above.

Proposal Item Eight **adopted** on the consent agenda.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM SIX  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLES  
I AND II FAILED

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM SEVEN  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
VI, SECTION 2  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM EIGHT  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
VII, SECTION 3  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA

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**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM NINE**

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 3 – Registration, Part d as follows:

Article VIII – Service Boards  
Section 3 – Registration

- d) Each service board shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the service board bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the registered contact for each service board. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 3a) 2) above.

Proposal Item Nine **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM TEN**

The Reference Subcommittee voted 17-0 to recommend adoption of this motion.

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Section 3 – Functioning as follows:

Article VI – Intergroups  
Section 3 – Functioning

- a) Intergroups may conduct the business of their groups by any method they choose.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups, intergroups shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference.
- c) An intergroup must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair and region trustee.

Motion required two-thirds to adopt. Proposal Item Ten **adopted**.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM ELEVEN**

Withdrawn with no objection.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM NINE  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
VIII, SECTION 3  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA**

**BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM TEN  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
VI, SECTION 3  
ADOPTED**

**BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM ELEVEN  
WITHDRAWN**

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**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM TWELVE**

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 4 – Functioning as follows:

Article VIII – Service Boards  
Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Service boards shall conduct business under the bylaws and policies established by their intergroups and groups.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups and intergroups, service boards shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- c) A service board must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, a service board must submit a written request to the World Service Office and either the region chair and region trustee, or the virtual services trustee as applicable.

Proposal Item Twelve **adopted** on the consent agenda.

**SUBSTITUTE NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A**

The Reference Subcommittee voted 18-0 to recommend defeat of this motion.

Move to direct the Board of Trustees to conduct a survey of the Fellowship to determine whether or not there is substantial unanimity to change the name of Overeaters Anonymous. At least seventy-five percent of all registered OA groups must vote “yes” to change the name of Overeaters Anonymous to achieve substantial unanimity.

Motion required majority to adopt. Substitute New Business Motion A **adopted** as substituted.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion A **failed**.

**SUBSTITUTE NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM C**

The Reference Subcommittee voted 18-0 to recommend adoption of this motion.

It was moved that Overeaters Anonymous email groups, commonly called loops (groups that do not meet in real time), may list their group on www.oa.org as a courtesy with the following criteria:

- 1) Email groups must comply with the definition of an Overeaters Anonymous group as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition a) 1-4 and b) 1-2.

BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ITEM TWELVE  
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE  
VIII, SECTION 4  
ADOPTED ON  
CONSENT AGENDA

SUBSTITUTE NBM A  
SURVEY TO CHANGE  
NAME OF  
OVEREATERS  
ANONYMOUS

SUBSTITUTE MOTION  
ADOPTED AS  
SUBSTITUTED

NBM A FAILED

SUBSTITUTE NBM C  
EMAIL GROUPS



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**SUBSTITUTE NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM C (CONTINUED)**

**SUBSTITUTE NBM C  
EMAIL GROUPS**

- 2) The topic and/or focus of the email group are consistent with those listed on www.oa.org for Overeaters Anonymous face-to-face and virtual groups.
- 3) New members must be informed of the loops policies, norms and practices.
- 4) Archives are to be deleted at least once a month unless the loop's policies dictate otherwise.
- 5) Email groups are moderated to stay on topic.
- 6) The format of the email groups is structured similarly to a registered OA group. Postings to email groups are limited to the topic, the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions or the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. Feedback, crosstalk and advice-giving are discouraged.
- 7) Each email group will have a coordinator who registers the loop with an email service provider and a secretary who will liaise with the OA World Service Office.

Motion required majority to adopt. Substitute New Business Motion C **adopted** as substituted.

**SUBSTITUTE NBM C  
ADOPTED AS  
SUBSTITUTED**

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

**NBM C ADOPTED**

The chair announced the last Seventh Tradition collection was \$1,121.33 making the total collected for World Service Business Conference 2014 \$4,455.36.

**SEVENTH TRADITION  
TOTALS**

The chair asked all the new WSBC delegates to stand before the assembly for recital of the ceremonial "green dot" verse, followed by removal of the green dots from their delegate badges.

**GREEN DOT  
CEREMONY**

Collective thanks were expressed to the volunteers, staff and outgoing trustees.

**COLLECTIVE THANKS**

There being no further business to come before the assembly, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Service Business Conference was adjourned at 11:30 am, with "I Put My Hand in Yours."

**ADJOURNMENT**

Submitted by: Signature on File  
Rebbie Garza  
Board Administrator and Conference Secretary

Approved by: Signature on File  
Naomi Lippel  
Managing Director and Corporate Secretary to OA, Inc.

Signature on File  
Marilyn A. – Minutes Approval Committee

Signature on File  
Mike B. – Minutes Approval Committee

Signature on File  
Rita S. – Minutes Approval Committee



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## APRIL/MAY 2014 CHAIR'S REPORT

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I am certain that by now you are all aware of the fact that our beloved founder, Rozanne, passed away. Many of us did not have the honor of meeting her personally, and yet here we are, wrapped in her legacy some fifty-plus years after the first inkling in her mind “. . . *the Steps could work for compulsive overeaters!*” On Thursday evening there will be no other sessions except the Celebration of Rozanne's Legacy session from 8:00-9:00 PM in Sandia I-V.

As I began to collect my thoughts for this report regarding 2013, I decided that I want to start out with a pat on the back for all of us. I believe that, all things considered, we did a good job in 2013! We are living through a tough economic period. But even though money is tight everywhere, the OA Fellowship maintained a consistent level of contributions and literature purchases. Eighteen months ago, in November 2012, the Executive Committee presented a very conservative and balanced budget for 2013, and it was approved by the BOT. As you might expect, there were some things during the year that went over budget for unforeseen reasons. But there were many, many departments, projects and accounts that came in under budget. The trustees and the World Service Office spent the entire year with a sincere and monumental focus on being frugal. And thanks to everyone's effort we ended 2013 in the black! Not by a very large margin but we did indeed take in more money than we spent. That is not an easy task. When we are establishing the budget, there are always exciting projects and promising plans we would like to include in the upcoming year's budget, and it is very tempting to include more of them than we can afford. But once we get an estimated income established, we work very hard to “live within our means.” Good job everyone!

Having said that, I cannot mention the financial condition of OA without reciting that old axiom, “let's not let ‘good’ be the enemy of our ‘best!’” This is my sixth year as a general service trustee and member of the Executive Committee (EC). Each year in October, the EC examines the income for the previous year. We comb through all the avenues of that income searching for places where we might anticipate an increase or decrease in the coming year. Conservatively, we make our income predictions for the upcoming year. Then we examine expenditures. “Trustees want to do more workshops.” “Committees want to launch new projects.” “WSBC wants something new done to the website,” etc. Always, the list of proposed expenditures exceeds the amount of income we have predicted. Then comes the excruciating chore. We have to decide which plan/proposal/project is NOT going to happen this year, due entirely to lack of funds! We have to draw a line through projects and ideas that appear to be great. Point being, we cannot afford to let “good” be acceptable! There are still many still-suffering compulsive eaters we have not reached. “It takes two” is an obsolete Seventh Tradition slogan. Too many have gotten too comfortable with only a buck or two in the basket.

In November 2013 the EC presented a balanced budget for 2014 with very conservative estimates of income, and the BOT approved it. Very much like last year, 2014 is again a tight budget, and we fully intend to spend only what we take in!

And since we are on the subject of tight budgets and being frugal, the Executive Committee made a decision. In the interest of saving money and maybe a couple of trees, beginning now, the eighty-five pages of individual meeting and service body contributions report will no longer be included in the WSBC delegate binder. That report is available at [oa.org](http://oa.org). There is a page in your binder that gives you clear and concise directions regarding where to find it on our Website. Our thinking is that although this

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information is quite valuable when you are at home, it is not something that you need to carry around with you here at WSBC this week.

As I'm certain you are all aware, 2013 was a World Service Convention (WSC) year. Those of us who attended know that we had a great time in Cleveland. We shared a weekend of hearty fellowship, some great speakers and workshops. That's the good news. The other side of the coin is that we count on WSC for extra income. A secondary purpose of having a World Service Convention is that we hope in "a Convention year" we will have a little extra money for projects that reach out to the still-suffering compulsive eater. The cold, hard truth is we did not make any extra money from the 2013 Convention. In fact, we lost money. I know that our recovery and the opportunity to share it with each other is of utmost importance, and in that light, it was a wonderful Convention. But financially, it fell well short of our goal. Due to a trend of decreasing attendance, the BOT, after much agonizing, made a decision to extend the time between Conventions. The next World Service Convention will be in 2016 and then in 2020. After that, the cycle will be every five years, which will keep us in sync with our OA anniversaries. We hope that you will support the 2016 World Service Convention in Boston for another exciting weekend of worldwide fellowship and recovery!

OA literature is reviewed every seven years to determine whether it needs to be revised or updated. This schedule is often amended by plus or minus a year or two, to accommodate directives from WSBC or the BOT. In 2015, our beloved book, *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*, is due for review. In anticipation of this review, the trustee and delegate cochairs of the Conference-Approved Literature Committee asked the BOT for assistance. Their feeling was that since this is a keystone piece of our literature, and the review is such a large task, possibly a committee of a broader base and more singular focus would serve the Fellowship better. The BOT agreed and began the process of establishing an ad hoc committee to review the 12&12. In August of 2013 the last members of that committee were put in place, and the committee has been in process now for several months. This is an intimidating project, but the committee has met this rather daunting task head on. They have established a method of inspection and interaction that is working well. They are making steady progress, but are not yet ready to predict a completion date.

As you are probably aware, December 2013 brought to a close the Strategic Plan we have been working with for the past five years. This process has been an ongoing education for all of us. Over time, it has changed in appearance and functionality. But the goal of reaching the still-suffering compulsive eater has remained the same. You can learn more about what we did and did not accomplish with the 2008-2013 plan in the Strategic Planning Committee report or in the Managing Director's report in this binder. For the past several months the BOT has spent a considerable amount of time and energy examining what this past plan did well and what it might have done better. Generally speaking, the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan has done us a great service of accomplishing many things over the last five years and by assisting in our effort to design our strategic plans for the future. Our new 2014-2016 Strategic Plan has a central focus of "**Our Primary Purpose.**" The workshops during WSBC 2014 will emphasize the three main goals:

- Increase focus on actions required for abstinence
- Increase focus on the necessity of working all Twelve Steps
- Increase focus on each individual's responsibility to carry the message.

See your binder for time and location of the Strategic Planning session at WSBC 2014, and for further information on the wrap up of 2008-2013.

Also in 2013 the WSO conducted another census as part of our five-year plan to see if any of our strategic initiatives and activities helped to increase the number of people regularly attending weekly OA meetings. We had an excellent response rate of almost 40 percent from meetings in the US, outside the US and virtual meetings. Thank you for participating and keeping your group secretary information current so we

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can continue to gauge our progress in this way. Read more about the census results in the Managing Director's report in this binder.

In case you had not noticed, we have again set in motion another *Lifeline* subscription campaign! Our goal is to reach 10,000 subscriptions by the end of 2014. Simply put, everyone that renews or buys a subscription will be entered in a quarterly drawing to receive a free one-year subscription. You can find the details in any issue of *Lifeline* or in the first-quarter issue of *A Step Ahead*. I mention this for a couple of reasons. First, the 2012-2013 *Lifeline* campaign was a rousing success and we would like to capitalize on that momentum. In November 2012, during the last campaign we reached 8,462 subscriptions. But I feel that I must emphasize to everyone that a single surge in subscriptions does not make this a completed project. We need more new subscriptions and we need renewals. At one point in time, not too many months ago, it appeared that *Lifeline* was going to be self-supporting. But then the numbers began to drop again. In January 2008 we had 9,773 *Lifeline* subscriptions. In February 2014 we have 7,355. The current circulation numbers leave us 2,645 short of our goal.

At first glance this seems overwhelming, but is it? What would it take to reach our goal? Generally speaking, if one-third of our meetings sold one more subscription, OR if each intergroup/service board sold eight more subscriptions, OR if 5 percent (1 in 20) more OA members purchased a new subscription, we will reach our goal. I think presented in this light, it seems doable. So we each need to ask ourselves, is *Lifeline* of value to me and to the Fellowship? What can I do to support *Lifeline* magazine? What can WE do to support *Lifeline* magazine?

One last thing I would like to mention is that our "virtual community" is really picking up speed. In 2014 they are putting on monthly virtual workshops. These workshops, led by trustees and region chairs, cover topics about OA literature and our primary purpose. The workshops are recorded and are available on the podcast page of our OA website ([www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org)). The OA Datebook Calendar on the website also has information on these and other events.

In closing I would just like to mention what an incredible year this has been for me. Never in my recovery journey did I dream of being on the OA Board of Trustees. And even after that happened, I certainly never dreamed of being an officer, much less chair. Serving as chair of the BOT has truly been "beyond my wildest dreams." I have grown in so many ways; I can't possibly mention them all. My OA friends, my "OA family" and God placed me in this position and I will be eternally grateful. I could never have envisioned this for myself. And a big part of what I might not have been able to envision was that in this position, I would be so completely supported by such a profoundly amazing World Service Office staff and so totally embraced by a board full of nurturing and supportive fellow trustees.

In humble gratitude,  
Joe L.  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
February 2014

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## APRIL/MAY 2014 TREASURER'S REPORT

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### **2013 OVERVIEW**

The good news for 2013 is there is a total net increase of \$11,419.00. This is due to a concerted effort by the Board of Trustees and the World Service Office staff to make the difficult decisions to cut expenses, produce new literature, awareness of Seventh Tradition contributions, and *Lifeline* promotions. It was critical that expenses be conservative as well as the projection of contributions. The investment gains were welcome, but unpredictable.

The 2013 net loss on activities is \$-26,878.00 or -1.4 percent of the budget. The 2013 investment gains were \$38,297.00 or 2 percent of the budget. It is important to note that without the investments doing as well as they did, OA would have a net loss for 2013. The investment manager has recommended to stay the course of investing for 2014.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

<b>2012 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>
\$489,832.00	\$467,500.00	\$480,745.00

Contributions were 26 percent of the revenue. While we exceeded our 2013 budget, we were -\$9,000 from our actual for 2012.

### **LITERATURE SALES**

<b>2012 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>
\$1,002,665.00	\$925,000.00	\$899,350.00

Literature sales were 49 percent of the revenue. We did not meet our 2013 budget nor did we meet 2012 actual sales. There were two new publications this year: *Abstinence, Second Edition* and *For Today Workbook*. The digital sales did not respond as per the budget and Spanish literature, both print and digital, were slow in sales.

### **OA, INC. BUDGET FY 2014**

At the November 2013 Board of Trustees meeting, the Executive Committee presented a proposed balanced budget for 2014 that was approved. For 2014 we have new literature: the print version of *Voices of Recovery e-Workbook* and *Abstinence, Second Edition* (Spanish). The WSO managers, staff, and Board of Trustees continue to look for ways to reach the fellow sufferer and meet our budget guidelines.

### **2013 OA AUDIT**

The auditors' responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

As per state law requirements, OA, Inc. provided all necessary documents for the 2013 audit. This was conducted in mid-January and the results of that audit presented to the Executive Committee at the February Executive Committee meeting. The accounting firm states, "We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion." That opinion stated, "The financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of OA as of December 31, 2013."

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**PRUDENT RESERVE**

At the end of 2013, OA had \$672,456.00 in our prudent reserve. This represents four months of our operating expenses. There have been several opinions over the years as to how much prudent reserve is needed and our guidelines are “not to exceed one year’s operation budget, plus outstanding liabilities plus one time capital expenditures.”

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE**

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as treasurer these past two years. I have the greatest respect for the WSO managers: Naomi, Sarah, Sandy, Terry, and the WSO staff. I am blessed to serve on the Executive Committee with a group of people who come together for the financial health of OA. I am honored to serve on the Board of Trustees with a group of men and women who are as diverse as any can be but with the common welfare of OA at the heart of all decisions. Thank you for this opportunity.

In service to OA,  
Karen C.  
Treasurer and General Service Trustee  
February 2014

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## APRIL/MAY 2014 MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Welcome to the 2014 World Service Business Conference, this year with the theme “Our Primary Purpose.” It has been an energetic and productive year for the staff and the board; read on...

### FINANCIAL

As mentioned in the other officers' reports, OA ended 2013 in the black, with revenue exceeding expenses by \$11,419. After two years of finishing in the red, this comes as especially good news! *Abstinence, Second Edition* yielded strong sales throughout the year, as did our new daily reader workbooks. Compared to the 2013 budget, our income was about \$100,000 less than we projected, primarily due to disappointing Convention attendance.

As a result of a 10 percent loss in sales revenue in 2012, in large part due to the popularity of lower-priced e-books, the Executive Committee made some modest increases to literature prices, which took effect in January 2014. We are already seeing positive results from this action.

Contributions increased slightly over the prior year, and expenses increased only 4 percent. Also good news is that our general and administrative expenses are only about 23 percent of our total expenses, well below the standard average of 30 percent for non-profit organizations.

According to our auditor, OA's financial position remains strong.

### LIFELINE

While our subscription drive in 2012 increased our base by 20 percent, we did not see those numbers maintain through 2013. The renewal campaign did not yield the success we had hoped—we began 2013 with a subscription base of 8,224, and ended at 7,709, with a further drop in 2014 down to 7,390 in March, a 10 percent loss. We challenge the Fellowship to support *Lifeline* by participating in this year's drive to help us get to a subscription base of 10,000 by the end of 2014. This is your magazine and could be a lifeline for so many more in OA—please help keep it afloat.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

The board's five-year strategic plan came to a close at the end of 2013 with mixed results. The final results on the five-year goals were as follows:

#### **1) Strong Meetings**

*Goal: By 2013, the member base of Overeaters Anonymous will increase by at least 20%.*

In 2008 our census indicated that we had approximately 54,000 members attending weekly meetings worldwide. Virtual meetings were not included in the count at that time. In 2013, the census showed an increase to about 60,200 (+11.5 percent), including virtual meetings. Without the virtual meetings, the total decreased by 12.5 percent, to about 47,300.

#### **2) Committed Service Bodies**

*Goal: By the end of 2013, at least 50% of registered service bodies will be represented at WSBC and region assemblies.*

The registered service bodies represented at WSBC in 2008 was 40 percent, and this number remained steady in 2013, with a five-year average of 38.5 percent. Region assembly representation averaged 64 percent across all ten regions.



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### 3) Financial Health

*Goal: By the end of 2013, combined revenue from sales and contributions will exceed 2008 levels by 20%.*

In 2008, revenue from literature and *Lifeline* sales and contributions totaled \$1,437,414. In 2013, the total was \$1,548,053. This was nearly an 8 percent increase over the five-year period.

### 4) Public/Professional Awareness

*Goal: By the end of 2013, OA will have invested \$100,000 additionally to money already budgeted on public/professional awareness.*

From 2008 through 2013, over \$268,000 was spent on a variety of public awareness projects, and nearly \$101,500 was spent exhibiting at tradeshow.

While the overarching results were, in general, disappointing, the board, region chairs, and WSO staff were extremely active and productive in many strategic planning projects and did accomplish a great deal, including producing radio and television PSAs, both of which have had a great deal of airtime over the past five years; websites in French and Spanish; an increase in the number of *Lifeline* reps; an Internet radio series and sizeable podcast library; a demographic survey and two census surveys; a Strong Meetings Checklist; clear Conference policies on public relations activities; and significant increases in Delegate Support Fund contributions and disbursements.

Throughout 2013, the board, region chairs, and staff brainstormed on what worked and didn't work in the previous five-year plan, and came up with a new direction and focus for 2014 through 2016. See the Strategic Planning Committee report for more details.

### GROUPS AND SERVICE BODIES

In 2013 the number of OA meetings worldwide, including telephone and online meetings, averaged 6,553 in about 80 countries, with 339 service bodies (includes region offices). In 2011, the average was 7,054 with 337 service bodies (includes region offices). When the WSO hears from people who want more information about OA, a packet of information is mailed to them. In 2013, sixty-five general information and nineteen family packets were mailed out, compared to seventy-six and twenty-four respectively in 2012.

The unaffiliated groups in OA receive a mailing from the WSO in October of every year, which contains information sent to all service bodies for the quarterly mailings. In 2013, 549 unaffiliated groups received a compilation of relevant news and fliers from the past year's mailings.

Please remember it is critical to ensure your meeting and service body information is current with the WSO so that those who request meeting information from the WSO will be assured that what they receive is accurate.

### OA PUBLICATIONS

The following new or revised Conference-approved literature will be presented for approval at WSBC 2014:

- *The Promises of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*
- *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*
- *Unity With Diversity Checklist*

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The literature that was approved at WSBC 2013 is now available for sale:

- *For Today Workbook* (in both electronic and printed formats)

In addition, the *Voices of Recovery e-Workbook*, which was approved at WSBC 2012, is now available in printed form as well as electronic form.

The following board-approved literature was created or updated in the last year:

- *Introducing OA to the Clergy* has been updated to be more inclusive
- *OA Guidelines for a Group Conscience Meeting* was updated to more accurately reflect Tradition Two and to be consistent with the Suggested Meeting Format
- *Young Person's Meeting Format* is designed to reach young people in OA or those who came to the program as young people

The board-approved book *Abstinence, Second Edition* is now available in Spanish as well as English.

E-reader books continue to be popular with OA members. All of OA's books are available for popular e-reader and mobile formats. In 2013, 10,560 e-reader books were sold.

### **INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS/TRANSLATIONS**

According to our records, OA literature has been translated, or is in the process of being translated, into twenty-six languages in thirty-nine countries. Indonesia is a new country that is translating OA literature.

The designated Translation Fund, which was discontinued at the end of 2012, had a remaining balance of \$9,207. Although the World Service Office is no longer accepting fund contributions, all money remaining in the fund will be used to fulfill the fund's designated purpose of translating OA literature. In 2013, \$6,525 was distributed to service bodies that are translating OA literature, and \$2,525 was added back to the fund from service bodies that did not use their allocated funds. The balance in the fund at the end of 2013 was \$5,205.

Other translation activities included translating *Abstinence, Second Edition* and *Voices of Recovery Workbook* into Spanish. *Abstinence, Second Edition* is available as a print book through the OA online bookstore. The WSO can provide the *Voices of Recovery Workbook* as an electronic file for Spanish-speaking service bodies that request it.

In 2014 so far, \$750 was awarded to a group in Jakarta, Indonesia for translations including the 12&12 and a number of pamphlets in the Newcomer Packet. Also awarded was \$610 to the National Service Board of Poland to reprint translations of the Twelve Step Workbook and a number of other pamphlets.

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Despite a tight budget in 2013, we were able to engage in some significant PI activities to continue to increase media and public awareness about OA.

- We sent periodic press releases to online and print media, including the use of specialized health and nutrition media lists.
- We ran a two-month Facebook ad campaign in June and July that resulted in over 5,300 new visitors to oa.org. Due to the success of the campaign, we will be running more Facebook ads throughout 2014.
- We bought ads in *Today's Dietitian* magazine; issues with our ads were distributed to participants at several national conferences, as well as to regular print and online subscribers.
- We conducted a PSA pitch and follow-up email campaign to 300 television stations, resulting in nearly 7,000 plays.

- We sent out free PI posters kits to 110 groups and service bodies in the US and eight other countries that requested them, as well as translated them into French and Spanish to post on our website. We had many more requests for the poster kits than we had budgeted for; in 2014 we will be charging a small fee for the kits, which will be available in the fall.

**PROFESSIONAL TRADESHOWS**

The WSO did not participate in any tradeshows in 2013 and will not participate in any tradeshows in 2014 due to budget limitations.

The *Courier* newsletter, an annual publication targeted to the health care community, was sent out in early January to a mailing list of thirty-five health care professionals. Professionally printed *Couriers* continue to be available to purchase through the OA catalog, and you can download it for free from the website.

**PROFESSIONAL EXHIBITS FUND**

The following service bodies were funded in 2013:

<b>Service Body</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Funded</b>
Silicon Valley IG (R2)	California Dietetic Association	April 11-13	\$491.52
Region Three	Cardio Metabolic Risk Summit	October 18-20	\$615.00
Chicago West Farout IG (R5)	Advocate Healthcare Obesity Management Symposium	October 25	\$1,178.49
Heart of England IG	Primary Care Conference	May 21-22, 2014	\$891.00

**A FINAL NOTE**

In this, my twentieth year working at the WSO, it continues to be a privilege to serve Overeaters Anonymous. Your stories of recovery always inspire me, and your devotion to making this Fellowship strong and there for those who need it is impressive.

Also impressive is your staff at the World Service Office. They are a hard-working, conscientious team, committed to serving you to the best of their ability. Know that they are here for you and will keep the WSO running smoothly so you may continue to live the Twelfth Step.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to our founder, Rozanne S. I was honored to be able to work with her closely on the video *Reflections* and our history book *Beyond Our Wildest Dreams*, as well as consult with her many times on issues important to OA. She was always a delight and an inspiration to me; I am indebted to her for making my career with OA possible and so that I could, in some small way, participate in making a difference to those still suffering and in recovery.

With gratitude,  
 Naomi Lippel  
 Managing Director  
 March 2014

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT**

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The committee was chaired by Karen B. The committee reviewed the goals for 2013-2014 and what remained to be completed. New subcommittees were formed after short- and long-term goals were established. The subcommittees met to discuss how the goals would be accomplished over the coming year. In the afternoon the committee met as a group, and the subcommittees gave a report. Below is the result of the highly productive session.

**SHORT-TERM GOALS AND RELATED ACTION PLANS (TO BE COMPLETED BY MAY 2015)**

- Update WSBC 2014 Proposal 11 to remove redundancy
- Review group definition and check consistency with Subpart B
- Review Sample Intergroup Bylaws to note “American-centric” sections
- Update Statement of Purpose

**LONG-TERM GOAL AND PROPOSED ACTION PLAN FOR MULTIPLE YEARS**

- Create “How Tos” for service bodies

**ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING**

- Update Statement of Purpose
- Motions to withdraw
- Review group definition for consistency
- Update WSBC 2014 Proposal 11 to remove redundancy
- Create “How Tos” for service bodies

**DECISIONS MADE**

- Approved new Statement of Purpose to be submitted to BOT
- Approved update to WSBC 2014 Proposal 11
- Approved withdrawal of WSBC 2014 Proposals 11 and J
- Karen B. elected delegate cochair
- Michael K. elected vice-chair
- Andi S. elected secretary

**GOALS/ACTIONS (THAT WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE UPCOMING YEAR)**

- Complete short-term goals

**ASSIGNMENTS AND DEADLINES (PER ACTION PLAN)**

- All deadlines have been communicated to the committee.

Submitted by,  
Karen B., Delegate Cochair  
Bob F., Trustee Cochair  
May 2014

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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Mimi D., delegate cochair; Tina C., trustee cochair; twenty-one delegate members; Naomi Lippel, managing director and acting publications manager; and Summer Russo, associate editor attended the Conference-Approved Literature Committee (CLC) meeting.

**OVERVIEW OF 2014 MEETINGS**

- Welcome, introduction of committee members, review of agenda, current projects.
- Naomi Lippel, managing director, reviewed the CLC/BOT literature process, including how to make new literature proposals and the Strategic Publications Plan (SPP).
- The committee reviewed three new potential literature proposals, approving one: *Traditions 101-Principles*. The trustee cochair will present a motion to the Board of Trustees to approve further development of the proposed literature by the CLC. A tentative subcommittee was formed in case the project is approved for further development.
- The delegate cochair explained the CLC process in detail, providing a handout with key deadline dates.
- Updates were given on current and new projects, subcommittees formed, committee chairs selected, and goals and timelines established.
- Projects for 2014-2015 include:
  - *Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step Workshop Guide*
  - *OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Service Bodies: Recovery Opportunities*
  - *Small Meetings, Small Towns*
  - *A Program of Recovery*
- Potential subcommittees were formed dependent upon the WSBC 2014 voting results of proposed new literature.
  - *The Promises of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions* was defeated. Critique sheets were given to delegates to provide input as to how the 2014-2015 subcommittee should proceed with revising the pamphlet.
  - *The Unity with Diversity Checklist* received Conference approval and will be posted at oa.org.
  - *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition* received Conference approval and will be formatted and prepared for publication.
- Committee elections for 2014-2015
  - Delegate Cochair: Jill M.
  - Vice Chair: Sherri F.
  - Secretary: Eileen J.
  - Trustee Cochair: Tina C. (appointed by BOT officers)

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi D., Delegate Cochair  
Tina C., Trustee Cochair  
May 2014

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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Barbara B., delegate cochair, and Karen C., trustee cochair and treasurer, presided over the meeting. There were fifteen members in attendance, including delegates from seven regions as well as WSO Controller Sarah Armstrong. The meeting was held on April 30, 2014.

**REVIEW OF 2013-2014 COMMITTEE WORK**

The 501(c)(3) Subcommittee made the decision to not complete a revision of the out-of-date PowerPoint. It was determined this would not be appropriate committee work as 501(c)(3) regulations are for the United States only and Overeaters Anonymous is an international organization.

The other two subcommittees completed their goals for 2013-2014 with the exception of a one-sheet Seventh Tradition form to assist groups.

**GOALS FOR 2014-2015**

- The goal of the Seventh Tradition Review Subcommittee is to revise and reorganize the current Seventh Tradition pamphlet per the seven-year cycle for literature review (SPP).
- The goals of the Finance Guidelines Review Subcommittee are to produce Word documents to track proposed changes, read documents and submit changes.
- The goals of the Short-Form Seventh Tradition Subcommittee are to change the habits of individual members in relation to the Seventh Tradition and to improve the dissemination of information for treasurers.

**ELECTIONS**

- Delegate Cochair: Helen D., Houston Metro Intergroup (Region Three)
- Delegate Vice Chair: “Buddy” Martin K., Staten Island Intergroup (Region Six)
- Secretary: Linda L., Northern Blue Ridge Intergroup (Region Seven)
- Trustee Cochair: Gerri H., Treasurer and General Service Trustee

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb B., Delegate Cochair  
Karen C., Trustee Cochair  
May 2014

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

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Trustee Cochair: Meg H.  
Delegate Cochair: Lonna C.  
Vice Chair: Pat O.  
Secretary: Ruth D.

**REVIEW OF GOALS COMPLETED IN PREVIOUS YEAR**

Lonna and Meg welcomed a full committee. The report of activities from 2013-2014 were discussed. Progress was made on some goals and not others. Members requested some background on past actions of the group: discussion on *Courier* articles; proposal submission to the BOT to post the PO Manual on the website, which was denied; BOT's recommendation that the committee refine its request to create a PO tab on the OA website. Ten responses were received from five different regions cataloging professional outreach projects undertaken. Intergroups had some success. One intergroup purchased copies of the *Courier* (\$0.20 cents each) for members to use when they spoke to their doctors. San Antonio Area IG used the professional presentation folders containing information for healthcare professionals at the National Obesity Conference held in their town. They went through two boxes of materials. The goals of the committee were reviewed. Please note that the goals of the committee listed on the meeting agenda were incorrect.

The correct goals of PO Committee are:

- To assist service bodies in apprising professionals of the OA Twelve Step program.
- To promote use of the Professional Outreach Manual.
- To solicit articles for the *Courier*.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Professional Outreach Manuals were distributed to all members of the committee. Meg and Lonna distributed samples of the professional kit sent out to healthcare professionals when requested as well as Professional Presentation Folders for use with healthcare professionals by service bodies. Meg found out that 1,511 Professional Presentation Folders (cost \$2.25) were distributed in the past year. Additionally forty-nine PO Manuals were purchased.

Subcommittees were formed continuing last year's structure and matched to the PO Committee's goals. Subcommittees were formed for each goal: Web Resources for Service Bodies and Professionals (on OA website), Professional Outreach Manual and *Courier*.

**ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- Committee's statement of purpose and continuation of past goals
- How can we broaden awareness of PO Manual and *Courier* with more specific-use information
- Some felt the PO manual is very outdated in language.
- Merits of forming only a few goals and doing them well

**DECISIONS MADE**

Three subcommittees were formed.

- Web Resources Subcommittee: Propose to the BOT a more user-friendly framework on the OA website for service bodies and referring professionals to access professional outreach resources
  - Research new resources

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- Design actual page
  - Write and submit proposal of other items
  
  - Professional Outreach Manual: Increase the visibility of this resource among service bodies and review and make suggestions on the contents of the manual
    - Promote use of the PO Manual
    - Review and update the PO Manual
  
  - *Courier*: Generate the necessary number of quality articles for the 2015 edition and increase awareness of the *Courier*
    - Solicit *Courier* articles
    - Encourage members to take *Courier* to their medical professionals
    - Broaden access to *Courier*

### **OFFICERS FOR UPCOMING YEAR**

Trustee Cochair: Faith M.

Delegate Cochair: Pat O.

Vice Chair: Laurie O.

Secretary: Marcy R.

### **DISCUSSION AT TRANSITION MEETING**

The subcommittees firmed up goals, discussed where the subcommittees overlap and committed to work together.

Submitted by,

Lonna C., Delegate Cochair

Meg H., Trustee Cochair

May 2014



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## APRIL/MAY 2014 REGION CHAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

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Merry R. (Region One); Nancy J. (Region Two); Andrea M. (Region Three); Meg M., vice-chair (Region Four); Denise O., secretary (Region Five); Diana G. (Region Six); Amy L. (Region Seven); Gloria L., delegate cochair (Region Eight); Susan S. (Region Nine); Letitia M. (Region Ten) and Stephanie D., VST, trustee cochair were in attendance.

In addition to meeting at the WSBC, the Region Chairs Committee (RCC) met together with the Board of Trustees in August 2013 at the World Service Convention in Cleveland to participate in the strategic planning process. We also met in Albany, New York, at the Region Six Assembly in September 2013.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Among other things, the purpose of the RCC is to provide channels of information and communication among regions and between the regions and the Board of Trustees and network among the regions for the purpose of sharing resources and solutions.

### **2013-2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

We met our goals for this past year.

- Create a PowerPoint presentation for use by the Fellowship: The RCC developed a PowerPoint on abstinence for use by the Fellowship. That PowerPoint presentation is available on the oa.org website.
- Facilitate the 2014 WSBC Forum: “Who Wants to Stay Abstinent? Play the Game and Stick with the Winners.” The RCC was “back by invitation” to plan and facilitate this year’s Forum. The Forum was designed to complement the overall theme of OA’s new three-year Strategic Plan and WSBC 2014 Conference theme: “Our Primary Purpose.” The purpose of the Forum was to help us discern what our primary purpose really is, as opposed to our personal preferences.
- Conduct quarterly conference calls by Skype: To increase our efficiency and camaraderie, we decided to have quarterly conference calls by Skype. We used Skype to conduct our group inventory (see below).
- Conduct a group inventory of our committee: To better serve our regions and the Fellowship, we conducted a group inventory during our inaugural Skype call. Through the inventory process, we were better able to articulate for ourselves, our regions and the Fellowship, the goals and mission of our committee. That inventory resulted in some new organizational and mission goals for the RCC for the coming year (see below).
- Continue Green Dot Mentor Program for new WSBC delegates: We successfully continued the Green Dot Mentor Program by matching all new WSBC delegates with experienced mentors. We welcome suggestions and ideas for mentorship.
- Participation in virtual service workshops: We have participated in the virtual service workshops organized by our VST and trustee cochair, Stephanie D., once a month. There will be six months more of these workshops for this year. Recorded versions can be found under Podcasts on the oa.org website.
- Assist BOT with strategic planning: A wonderful strategic planning session was held with the BOT at WSBC this year, and further planning will be done at the joint RCC/BOT August meeting. All of the region chairs will be working on disseminating information from year 2014 of the Strategic Plan to our regions and intergroups. The RCC and the BOT are working together on virtual workshops, OA Quick Step Study, 12 Stepping a Life Problem and Articles for *Lifeline* committees for 2015 where the focus is on the necessity of taking all Twelve Steps.

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### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- The RCC/BOT will attend the BOT meeting in August 2014 in Albuquerque, NM.
- The RCC will attend the Region Five Assembly in Merrillville, Indiana, in November 2014.
- The RCC will attend the Region Ten Assembly in Brisbane, Australia, in October 2015.

### **ELECTIONS/NEW OFFICERS FOR 2014-2015**

- Delegate Cochair: Amy L. (Region Seven)
- Trustee Cochair: Stephanie D. (Virtual Services Trustee)
- Vice Chair: Denise O. (Region Five)
- Secretary: Meg M. (Region Four)

### **GOALS/ONGOING ACTIVITIES FOR 2014-2015**

In addition to the tasks assigned to the region chairs from the Strategic Plan, the RCC will focus on:

- Increasing our productivity and communication with quarterly conference calls;
- Creating the 2015 Forum at WSBC;
- Continuing to support our virtual services trustee in workshops for 2015;
- Reorganizing and streamlining our document repository system;
- Encouraging abstinence and service in our regions;
- Restructuring the RCC to better serve and add value to our regions and to the Fellowship as a whole;
- Developing a survey mechanism to gather information regarding growing concerns about declining membership and struggling service bodies; and
- Conducting a RCC training for an intergroup-rejuvenation workshop to then facilitate training throughout our regions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gloria L., Delegate Cochair  
Stephanie D., Trustee Cochair  
May 2014

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**UNITY WITH DIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

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**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Recognizing the significance that acceptance of diversity plays in our ability to effectively carry the message of recovery, this committee intends to encourage awareness within and outside the Fellowship of the importance of unity while honoring and respecting diversity.

Cristina S., Region Two, acted as chair, and Teri R. was appointed secretary.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Alison B., Carolina R., Carol B., Cristina S., Delmar F., Donna A., Dori B., Esti O., Nancy H., Pedro G., Sarah G., Sarah G. and Teri R. were in attendance. Richard D. was absent due to illness.

After the Serenity Prayer and reading, the attending members introduced themselves.

Esti O., trustee cochair, summarized the goals and outcome of our committee from the previous year and stressed how important it is to keep in touch throughout the year. She suggested we develop realistic goals and keep applying ourselves.

Cristina S., delegate cochair, reviewed the Unity with Diversity policy to expand our knowledge of diversity within our Fellowship.

Collectively, the group brainstormed concerns facing diversity. Below is the list.

- Reaching Puerto Ricans in the USA (Spanish-speaking group)
- Reaching black populations
- Diversity within OA: Can we unite on the disease since we aren't united on the food? OA says we need to be tolerant of how others work the program.
- Working together as service bodies
- Anorexics, bulimics and overeaters
- Reaching out to stoic cultures
- Spirituality
- Reaching native populations in urban Canada
- Translation in difference languages

After brainstorming for twenty minutes, the committee agreed on establishing three subcommittees that would address each of our concerns.

- Ethnic and Cultural Outreach
- Language
- Unity Within Our Fellowship

Instructions were to split into small groups and develop short- and long-term goals, elect a chair, and if possible, vice-chair and secretary for each subcommittee. In addition, each subcommittee was asked to decide how they would communicate with each other during the coming year.

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### **ETHNIC AND CULTURAL OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE**

Members include Nancy H. (chair), Donna A., Teri R. and Sarah G.

Short-term goals are as follows:

- Spanish-speaking message on WSO phone message
- Send a letter to all service bodies
- Locate AA pamphlets on addressing special needs of newcomers
- Create similar pamphlets for OA

The long-term goal of the subcommittee is to be attractive and approachable to people of diverse backgrounds.

This subcommittee has agreed to meet the first of every month via email, text or telephone. The delegate cochair will check in with the subcommittee chair on the fifth of each month for updates.

### **UNITY WITHIN OUR FELLOWSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE**

Members include Cristina S. (chair), Carol B. and Delmar F.

Short-term goals are as follows:

- Compose a letter to the WSO to inquire about podcasts related to diversity
- Write a letter to the region chairs suggesting themes for conventions and workshops
- Host a workshop at one of the nearby intergroups related to diversity in the program

The long-term goal of the subcommittee is to encourage and support unity within our Fellowship.

This subcommittee has agreed to meet the first of every month via email, text or telephone. The delegate cochair will check in with the subcommittee chair the fifth of every month for updates.

### **LANGUAGE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Members include Carolina R. (chair), Sarah G., Alison B., Pedro G. and Dori B.

Short-term goals are as follows:

- Provide bilingual delegate application
- Provide goodwill interpreters at WSBC 2015 identified by armbands
- Send email to trustees to ask for PowerPoint translation
- Research OA translations
- Research professional translators in Albuquerque
- Research UNM translation school

The long-term goal of this committee is to get the Board of Trustees to include in the budget an interpretation of the WSBC discussions into other languages and translate literature and other materials that are used in OA.

This subcommittee has agreed to meet via Skype on the following dates: May 16, June 13, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17 and November 21 at 6:30 p.m. central time.

The delegate cochair will check in with the subcommittee the fifth of every month for updates.

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**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-2015**

- Trustee Cochair: Karen C.
- Delegate Cochair: Cristina S.
- Vice Chair and Secretary: Teri R.

Submitted by,  
Cristina S., Delegate Cochair  
Esti O., Trustee Cochair

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## APRIL/MAY 2014 YOUNG PERSONS' COMMITTEE REPORT

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### YOUNG PERSONS' COMMITTEE OFFICERS

- Delegate Cochair: Matt S.
- Trustee Cochair: Janice S.
- Vice Chair: Jessica M.
- Secretary: Cayley W.

### COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 30

- Reviewed goals and activities of previous year, including the Young Person's Packet, email inquiries and letter to the service bodies
- Reviewed our intentions and reinforced why we are focusing our efforts on 18 to 30 year olds, with the goal of reaching teenagers once we establish a strong base of young people

### COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY 3

- Discussed trends we saw at the Business Conference in relation to voting, the motions that were brought to the floor and how they relate to our committee and our younger members

### GOALS FOR 2014

In order to accomplish our goals for the coming year, the committee created three subcommittees.

- **Website Development:** Review the website and revise the Youth in OA page. The goal is to break the page down into three categories: Newcomer, Resources for the Fellowship, and Parents and Concerned Adults. The website is an integral part of carrying the message. It can also be a great resource for us to use in terms of carrying the message and relaying all of our resources we have available.
- **Personal Service Board Outreach:** Develop a plan for more personal outreach to the service bodies. This will start with outreach to the region chairs outlining our resources and seeing how they can help us better reach out to each intergroup. This past year revealed how difficult it is to passively let people know about our new resources such as the meeting format and the letter in *A Step Ahead*. We believe by pursuing a grassroots, proactive campaign toward letting the Fellowship know what we offer, we have a better chance of getting the word out about the Fellowship and also encouraging the leadership to reach out to their local service body leaderships.
- **Twelfth Step Committee:** Create actions based on previous experiences in OA that have worked in carrying the message. Focus on getting back to basics, keeping it simple and letting the Fellowship know what our needs are as a committee so that we can be of maximum service. This will start with a letter to the Board of Trustees outlining our perspective, our own strategic plan and asking for any suggestions they have that may be of guidance to us. This will include putting requests in for new literature for the future, Fellowship outreach and reaching out to longtimers. The goal is to reinvigorate the Fellowship toward Twelfth-Step work that young persons will find appealing as well as to ensure that those currently in the Fellowship carry the message. We believe the real future of OA is with the newcomer, and that it is important the Fellowship is reminded that they must make this a priority.

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**DELEGATE AND TRUSTEE COCHAIR ACTIONS FOR THE YEAR**

- Continue to respond to email inquiries
- Reach out to Literature Committee regarding the pamphlet *To Parents and Concerned Adults*
- Put forth a proposal for a book addressing young persons' and/or body image and sexuality
- Work with the virtual services trustee regarding social media issues
- Put forth a motion for the bylaws regarding social media for next year

Matt S., Delegate Cochair

Janice S., Trustee Cochair

May 2014

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**ALL ABOUT CONFERENCE**  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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Leaders: Barbara B., Conference Support Committee Chair  
Bob F., Bylaws Committee Trustee Cochair  
Karin H., Conference Planning Committee Chair  
Bonnie L., Center Microphone Monitor

The All About Conference workshop is intended to prepare green dots (new delegates) for the best experience possible at the World Service Business Conference. In addition to new delegates, several mentors also attended to provide support to their green dots.

Karin H., Conference Planning chair, led the workshop, along with Barbara B., Conference Support Committee (CSC) chair, Bonnie L., center microphone monitor and Bob F., Bylaws Committee trustee cochair.

Karin gave an overview of the week's activities and emphasized the importance of attending all of the business meetings as well as making a one-year commitment to their committee work. She briefly reviewed the delegate binder and encouraged the delegates to familiarize themselves with it. Karin encouraged the new delegates to take advantage of their green dot mentors, attend some of the OA meetings offered throughout the day, have some fun and to take care of themselves and their abstinence.

Barbara discussed her role as the CSC chair. She said her committee and all of the volunteers were here to help the delegates. Mary S. was the volunteer coordinator this year. Barbara stressed that all delegates must wear their badges in all Conference sessions. She explained the seating rotation for the business meetings, reviewed committee sign up, the use of the bulletin board and the Boutique room. If there were any problems with rooms, those should be addressed by hotel staff. Sandy Z., our WSO meeting planner, dealt with all meeting room inquiries. All other inquiries were handled by Karin or Barbara.

Bonnie talked about her role as center microphone monitor (CMM) with regard to conducting business in the Conference sessions. She reviewed the process for approaching the CMM and when it was appropriate to do so. She urged the delegates to ask questions whenever they were unsure or needed more clarification.

This is the first year that we have combined the workshops All About Conference and Parliamentary Procedure. Bob discussed the formal business practices with which the delegates should be familiar. He also discussed the Standing Rules, some of the terms in the binder, the types of motions and how to make an amendment. He addressed the consent agenda, which was sent out to the delegates in advance this year. He also talked about the role of the Reference Subcommittee and encouraged everyone to attend one of the subcommittee sessions to see how it works.

We encouraged delegates to approach us with any questions throughout the week.



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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE: ABSTINENCE**  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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Leaders: Mike B., Region Seven  
Shari G., Region Two

The purpose of this workshop was to increase the focus on actions required for abstinence and included references to *Abstinence, Second Edition (Item #994)*, *A Commitment to Abstinence (Item #141)*, *Before You Take That First Compulsive Bite (Item #150)* and *OA Members Come in All Sizes (Item #110)*.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1) What can we do to elevate the importance of abstinence?
- 2) How can we help the member in the rooms who is still suffering?
- 3) What steps did/do you take to stay abstinent during difficult times?

Shari G. stressed that “Abstinence First” requires action. She discussed the actions she takes in order to make abstinence a priority. She listed making a daily written food plan, weighing and measuring her food, calling her sponsor, checking with restaurants ahead of time, asking questions of waiters, checking with hosts about menus, attending meetings while traveling, avoiding trigger places and events, using a structured and disciplined method that requires working the Steps and using the tools.

Mike B. responded to the three questions stated above. He involves family and friends in his abstinence. He talked about abstinence leading to freedom of obsession, the ability to focus, the ability to appreciate things and being happy. Staying abstinent requires surrender, saying yes and letting everyone know about OA. In order to help others, he suggested using technology, being a good example, sponsoring a lot of people and being humble.

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE: CARRYING THE MESSAGE**  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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Leaders: Evelyn C., Region Six  
Mark J., Region Seven

The purpose of this workshop was to increase focus on the individual's responsibility to carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer and referenced *Members in Relapse (Item #400)*, *Newcomer Packet (Item #710K)* and *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous (Item #990)*.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1) What do you see as your personal responsibility in carrying the message?
- 2) How do you carry the message one-on-one, at the group level, at the intergroup/service board level, at the region level?
- 3) What is the OA message of recovery that we carry?

**EVELYN'S HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1) My job is to deliver the message; what is received is up to God.
- 2) "It's not what you say; it's how you say it."
- 3) If I am the message, I need to be aware of what message I am carrying. Am I walking the walk or just talking the talk? Am I honest? Do I practice the principles in all my affairs?
- 4) At the group level, in the format at my home meeting we ask, "How did I use the tools and OA program as a whole to not pick up this week?"
- 5) The OA message I try to carry is one of hope. There really is nothing to be afraid of (not responsibility, not even change).
- 6) Concepts in a nutshell: Bring God into everything I do. Know what I am doing. I now have a voice; make sure everyone else does too. It is not only okay to make a mistake, it is expected. Try not to do too much. Ask for help when I need it. Do not do something I asked someone else to do. Trust the process. Don't judge the judging. And, don't think I am all that.
- 7) Excitement, enthusiasm, and energy. Service is increased by attraction not promotion.

**MARK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1) Our primary purpose is to exhibit recovery on all three levels. We should always be welcoming, courteous, and abstinent.
- 2) Do we welcome newcomers or retreats?
- 3) Do we offer to sponsor or do we rest on our own success and not share the program with others?
- 4) Do we speak up when there is a break in Traditions? It is our responsibility to protect OA as a whole. We can say what we need to say to the person without saying it in a mean way.
- 5) Do we offer service positions to newcomers no matter how small they may seem (moving chairs, reading a reading)?
- 6) Acceptance of all. We need to be accepting of all no matter what the circumstances are, especially newcomers and those who are returning. Coming back to OA after leaving is a big step. We need to welcome all and not pass judgment. Our message of recovery can be presented physically, certainly, by maintaining a healthy body weight, but also in our actions. Are we actually practicing these Steps in all of our affairs?

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### **ATTENDEES' HIGHLIGHTS**

- Keep an open mind.
- I am inspired by constantly changing and growing.
- Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Twelve Steps, I can feel my feelings. I no longer have to live in a prison and neither do you.
- Focus on my own recovery and do not confuse anonymity with secrecy.
- Program of attraction. I cannot promote myself unless I give it away. I cannot keep it.
- Sometimes the message isn't pretty, but you can be sure someone else can relate to it.
- Listen to what others have to say too.
- The physical is not the only message. It is also in how we treat people.

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE: WORKING ALL TWELVE STEPS**  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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Leaders: Beverly C., Region Four  
Michael K., Region Three

The workshop centered on the importance of working all of OA's Twelve Steps of recovery. During the workshop, the necessity of having numerous members in a group worked the Steps with the help of a sponsor was stressed. It was then suggested members pass their recovery on to others by sharing their strength, hope and experience of Step work, not only at the personal level but during meetings as well.

One of the workshop leaders stated that working all the Steps is much like building a house. The foundational steps to keep the house steady is a thorough understanding and application of Steps One, Two, and Three. Steps Four and Five are the framing of the structure. Steps Six and Seven must be identified and worked on diligently due to the fact that skipping these particular Steps is like having termites and can make the structure most unsteady, causing it to collapse. Working Steps Eight through Twelve are the completion of the structure. At times renovation is necessary, so reworking the Steps is most advisable.

Another workshop leader discussed how the biological concept of osmosis can be utilized with the book *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*. It was suggested that *The Twelve-Step Workbook* is one of the best tools the Fellowship has to assist in understanding and applying the Twelve-Step recovery program in members' daily lives. The concept of "working the Steps" and "living the Steps" was discussed.

Some of the important items that were mentioned are:

- Being a member of the Fellowship does not mean recovery. Recovery requires working the Steps.
- The Steps cannot be worked by osmosis; active participation is necessary on the member's part to study and write about the Steps with the aid of a sponsor.
- If life seems to be difficult, then possibly the Steps are not being worked.
- Questions to be asked by the individual member to self and fellow members are: What Step are you on? What Step(s) should I be working on?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1) How do you work with a long-time member who hasn't worked through all the Steps?
- 2) How do we avoid complacency?
- 3) How are we promoting and emphasizing the importance of working all OA's Twelve Steps as the way to recover from compulsive eating?

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**SPONSORSHIP: ITS ROLE IN OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE**  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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Leaders: Don C., Region Six  
Frank F., Region Five  
Miranda K., Region Nine

The purpose of this workshop was to share the importance of the role of sponsorship in our primary purpose, which is to abstain from compulsive eating and carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer. Literature referenced was *A Guide for Sponsors (Item #200)*, *Sponsorship Kit (Item #210)*, *Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps (Item #220)*, and *The Tools of Recovery (Item #160)*.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1) As a sponsor, how do you encourage your sponsees to sponsor and to do service?
- 2) What are the benefits of sponsorship to each member and the Fellowship as a whole?
- 3) How do you guide your sponsee through the Steps?

Between the three speakers and great sharing from a packed room, this workshop covered many new ideas as well as the tried-and-true. All three speakers answered the above questions from their perspective, but each went on to focus on a particular aspect of sponsorship. At the core of the sponsorship subject is the truism that “Sponsoring is not optional; it’s part of the Twelfth Step.” Those who do not carry the message will not hold onto recovery.

Frank focused on how important sponsoring is for his own recovery. He gave five examples. Discussions of the disease remind him how cunning, baffling and, irrational the disease is. Talking about abstinence reminds him constantly how central to his life abstinence and recovery are. Going through the Steps with a sponsee reaffirms to him the individual application of each Step in his own life. Commitment discussions with a sponsee remind him that he must do the same kind of committing for his own recovery. The greatest service he can do to help a sponsee attain a spiritual awakening is to live a spiritual life himself. “. . . a true belief that our HP can relieve us of the insanity of compulsive eating and . . . to believe that we can turn our . . . character defects over to the care of our HP and move on is powerful . . . when sponsoring others . . . my recovery is increased in every meeting.”

Miranda touched on important points from the viewpoints of both sponsor and sponsee. She reminded the sponsee to get an abstinent sponsor as soon as possible and remember that sponsors set the terms, not the sponsee. Sponsees should not expect things from the sponsor that the sponsor doesn’t have to give. She also made an interesting point about different styles of sponsoring. “Loose sponsoring and the use of technology such as email have the advantage of one sponsor being able to take on more sponsees and not get angry if some sponsees don’t keep their commitments.”

Some points to immediately address with sponsees is to agree on a plan of eating or a plan to develop a plan of eating; set conditions and expectations such as call times, writing assignments, the need for complete honesty, doing service, and eventually becoming a sponsor; review the tools that can help them stay abstinent while working the Steps; help them understand that the program is the Twelve Steps, not the tools and not a diet; tell them they need to be abstinent when working the Steps; and explain the Steps in broad terms.

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Some points for sponsors to remember is they are not responsible for anyone's recovery or relapse other than their own; they are a guide based on their experience and understanding of the program; their path might not be the most appropriate path for their sponsee; listen actively for fear, resentment, negative thinking and self-pity, and encourage the sponsee to focus on his actions, not on others; slogans are the shorthand for many program principles, use them often with the sponsee; be aware of the sponsee's needs and adapt; when the time comes, encourage the sponsee to sponsor and pass on what he has been given and what he wanted from his sponsor, e.g., understanding, acceptance, caring, encouragement, support, patience, love.

Don focused on sponsor training, a recent innovation by Westchester United Intergroup. They have established three training meetings, each attached to a regular meeting in different geographic areas. The overall purpose is twofold: 1) to create more sponsors for newcomers and 2) to increase newcomer retention by having more sponsors available immediately for the newcomers. They have set the minimum qualifications to become a newcomer sponsor as thirty days abstinence, completion of the first three Steps, and working on Step Four. They "step up" these people and tell them to make themselves available to newcomers. What the training entails is showing a simple way to help newcomers understand the disease, define a plan of eating, get abstinent and work through the first three Steps using only OA literature. The first thing newcomers are instructed to do is watch the newcomer orientation video (eight minutes) found on Westchester United IG's website, [www.oahelps.org](http://www.oahelps.org). The training process continues with daily study and proceeds, assuming the member gets abstinent, through the first three Steps using the questions found either in *A Guide for Sponsors, Sponsoring Through the Twelve Steps* or *The OA Workbook*.

Some of the points coming from excellent attendee sharing:

- A useful phrase when asked a question: What would you tell your sponsee?
- Lead by example.
- Technology: To handle large numbers of sponsees, one member uses a conference call once a week. She and her sponsees all study and discuss a couple of paragraphs from the literature. Skype and email increasingly are being used for long distance sponsor. Texts are used for immediate issues.
- Don't ask someone if they have a sponsor. Ask them if they're working with a sponsor. Having and working are two different things.
- Many shared about the tremendous feeling they receive from helping people rebuild their lives.
- Sponsors continually grow and learn from sponsoring.
- One intergroup ran sponsor workshops every month for two years to rejuvenate OA in the area.
- Several who shared on their process of taking sponsees through the Steps do it simply by studying the books together, a few paragraphs at a time, combined with writing assignments.
- It's important to give newcomers concrete information and instructions on what to do next. They're confused, and many leave without ever knowing what OA is about.
- Get literature into newcomer's hands immediately.

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**APRIL/MAY 2014**  
**STRATEGIC PLANNING**  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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Leaders: Gerri H., General Service Trustee  
Janice S., General Service Trustee  
Vicki W., Region Three Trustee

The Strategic Planning workshop is designed to inform delegates about the Fellowship's goals and associated tasks.

We started out by highlighting what we learned from our previous five-year plan, followed by a progress report on the current, three-year plan, entitled "Our Primary Purpose." Several tasks from the 2014 goal "increase focus on actions required for abstinence" are already complete, including the already popular Strong Abstinence Checklist and the Abstinence PowerPoint presentation created by the Region Chairs' Committee.

The goal for this workshop was to brainstorm and share ideas based on the BOT 2014 Strategic Plan for delegates to take back and share with their service bodies and groups. The room broke into several small groups, and after about thirty minutes, each shared their top three ideas. You can find their ideas on the OA website ([www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org)).

Prior to concluding, we touched on the 2015 goal, already in progress, "increase focus on the necessity of working all Twelve Steps." The delegates left enthusiastic to share ideas upon their return home.





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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**WORLD SERVICE ATTENDING DELEGATES**  
FOR USE WITHIN OA ONLY

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*\*To preserve privacy and anonymity, this section is not included in the online report.*

<b>Region</b>	<b># of Delegates</b>
<b>1</b>	17
<b>2</b>	23
<b>3</b>	27
<b>4</b>	16
<b>5</b>	16
<b>6</b>	26
<b>7</b>	21
<b>8</b>	19
<b>9</b>	11
<b>10</b>	3
<b>VSBs</b>	2



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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.  
BUSINESS CONFERENCE POLICY MANUAL**

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**A Summary of Continuing Effect Motions**

**1962-2014**

*Adopted by the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.*

**(Index begins on page 77)**



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**BUSINESS CONFERENCE POLICY MANUAL  
A SUMMARY OF CONTINUING EFFECT MOTIONS  
1962-2014**

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**INTRODUCTION**

It is noted that all motions appearing in this summary were adopted by the group conscience of the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous. Furthermore, until changed, these motions set self-imposed limits on the Fellowship. According to the Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., Subpart B, Article X, Section 1a) which states:

“...The Conference shall serve as the collective conscience of the  
Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole...”

**CONTINUING EFFECT MOTIONS**

**1962** Rescinded 2014.

**1977a** Rescinded 2001.

**1977b** It was adopted to:

Adopt a responsibility pledge: Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion; for this I am responsible.

**1978** It was adopted that:

Showing just cause, literature groups of OA from countries other than the United States may obtain permission to reprint OA literature from OA Board of Trustees. Reprinted literature should conform to existing Conference-approved literature.

**1979a** Rescinded 1989. Superseded by 1982b.

**1979b** Rescinded 1989. Superseded by 1980c and 1984e.

**1979c** Amended 1989. It was adopted that:

The treasurer’s report be prepared and sent out to delegates prior to the Business Conference to allow each person time to study, assimilate and prepare any questions they might have for the Board of Trustees.

**1979d** It was adopted to:

Pay founder Rozanne S.’s expenses to all future Conventions.

**1979e** Amended 1989, 2001 and 2012. It was adopted to:

Include names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of delegates only in the hard copy print version of the Final World Service Business Conference Report. “For Use Within OA Only” should appear at the top of this list. In the online version of the report, all names and contact information of delegates will be redacted; only first names and last initials will be used in minutes and reports.

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- 1980a** Amended 1989. It was adopted that:  
The purpose of each proposed amendment to the World Service bylaws be clearly verbalized by the proposing body.
- 1980b** Amended 2013. An anonymity statement was adopted:  
Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our program, always ensuring principles before personalities. This means that OA itself is not anonymous, but its members are. There are no exceptions. While OA may be publicized, we do not break our individual anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, television, and all public media of communication; and the recognizable facial exposure of persons identifying as OA members at the level of press, films, television, and all public media of communication is a violation of our tradition of anonymity, even though the first name only is given or the entire name is withheld.
- 1980c** Amended 2002 and 2013. It was adopted that:  
All OA events sponsored by registered OA groups and service bodies referenced in Bylaws, Subpart B, provided they uphold the Twelve Traditions, be placed in the WSO calendar upon request of the sponsoring body.
- 1980d** It was adopted that:  
A Conference committee member can petition the Board of Trustees to consider by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees to remove a nonfunctioning chairman of a specific Conference committee. The vice chairman will then assume the chairmanship.
- 1982a** Rescinded 1999.
- 1982b** Rescinded 2010.
- 1982c** Amended 1989. A definition of open and closed groups was adopted:  
Open group is a group which is open to anyone.
- Closed group is a group that is open to anyone with the desire to stop eating compulsively, or anyone who thinks they may have a problem with compulsive overeating.
- 1982d** Rescinded 2001.
- 1982e** It was adopted that:  
Through announcements in *Lifeline* and *A Step Ahead* the Fellowship be invited to attend and observe the Board of Trustees' meetings held prior to the annual Business Conference and Convention. The board is to make available sufficient facilities to accommodate all who choose to attend.
- 1982f** Rescinded 2012.
- 1983** Amended 1989. After a presentation/discussion on requirements other than the Twelve Steps, the following statement was adopted:  
Overeaters Anonymous respects the autonomy of each OA group. We do suggest, however, that any OA group which imposes a special purpose, task or guideline should inform its members that this special purpose, task or guideline does not represent OA as a whole. The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop eating compulsively. Anyone who says they are a member is a member. We of Overeaters Anonymous welcome all members with open arms.

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**1984a** Amended 1990 and 2013. Upon the recommendation of the Literature Committee, a preamble for Overeaters Anonymous was adopted to read:

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members; we are self-supporting through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. OA is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology or religious doctrine; we take no position on outside issues. Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive eating and to carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer.

**1984b** Amended 1993 and 2001. It was adopted that:  
The World Service Convention will be held at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

**1984c** It was adopted that:  
Business Conference committees not raise or maintain funds.

**1984d** Amended 2013 and 2014. The following procedure for Business Conference presentations/discussions was adopted:

- 1) Items for presentations/discussions at the annual Business Conference are selected by the board from those recommended by the Conference Planning Committee. Selections for topics are made from recurring problems, topics of major interest and topics requested by the Fellowship.
- 2) Service bodies who propose presentation/discussion topics will be sent a letter stating how topics are chosen and that their recommendation has been referred to the Conference Planning Committee for consideration.

**1984e** Amended 2014. After a presentation/discussion, a statement on the sale of merchandise was adopted:

It is the will of the Business Conference that sale of merchandise, per se, is not prohibited by the Traditions. With regard to sale of merchandise, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole." If you choose to sell merchandise, the following guidelines are suggested:

- 1) All sales be made by and for OA service bodies.
- 2) Each sale item be approved by group conscience.
- 3) Sales at OA events and functions should be conducted in such a manner so as not to divert or distract from our primary purpose to carry the message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.

In accordance with our Traditions, each group and OA service body may choose to sell or not sell merchandise as they determine. Overeaters Anonymous must be ever mindful of our Traditions, which warn against endorsement of outside enterprise.

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**1985** Amended 1993. Upon the recommendation of the Literature Committee, the following revised procedure for granting the Conference Seal of Approval was adopted:

The Conference-approved seal that appears on the back of our literature means that the material has broad application to the Fellowship as a whole and is intended primarily to distinguish OA literature, not to censor other literature.

The Board of Trustees oversees the production of literature at the world service level. The Conference Seal of Approval shall be granted to OA literature upon receiving a two-thirds vote from the delegates present and voting at the annual World Service Business Conference.

All refining will be processed by the Conference Literature Committee (CLC), Board Literature Committee (BLC), and the Board of Trustees (BOT), according to their procedures prior to recommending any literature for approval of the delegates.

Prior to the Business Conference, pamphlets that are recommended for the Conference Seal of Approval will be mailed to all registered Conference delegates in press proof form. Recommended books will be mailed in manuscript form. At the Business Conference, delegates will vote either to approve or reject, rather than to edit or refine the material.

(Note: Originally adopted in 1976; revised 1980, 1985 and 1993)

**1986a** Amended 1996 and 1998. It was adopted that:  
Overeaters Anonymous celebrate an annual worldwide Unity Day on the last Saturday in February at 11:30 a.m. pacific standard time.

To designate the third Saturday of January as the annual celebration of the January 19, 1960 founding of Overeaters Anonymous.

**1986b** It was adopted that:  
The annual World Service Business Conference delegate binders include a copy of the current fiscal year budget as adopted by the Board of Trustees.

**1987a** Rescinded 2000. Superseded by 2000a.

**1987b** It was adopted that:  
One leave of absence for up to sixty days from all Board of Trustees activities and responsibilities may be claimed by any member of the Board of Trustees during each of her/his elected terms of office for any reason.

**1987c** It was adopted that:  
All policies adopted by the Business Conference shall be placed in a document entitled "Business Conference Policy Manual" which shall be distributed to world service delegates as part of pre-Conference delegate materials and also updated and included in all final World Service Business Conference reports.

**1987d** Superseded by 2005c.



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**1988a** Amended 1989, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2010 and 2014. It was adopted that:  
These matters should be considered but are not binding upon service bodies:

1) Functioning

Service bodies may join together in order to help carry the message, providing they adhere to the Traditions and do not alter, print or electronically transmit any OA-approved literature unless approved in writing by the World Service Office.

2) Business Conference Delegates

a) In addition to the requirements set out in Article X, Section 3c) of the Bylaws, Subpart B, it is suggested the delegates should be selected for judgment, experience, stability, willingness and for faithful adherence to living within the concepts of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous. It is further suggested a World Service delegate be a current or past regional representative.

b) As participants, delegates shall not be bound by the wishes of their service bodies, but should not vote against these wishes unless situations arise at the Business Conference that make it necessary for the best interests of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.

**1988b** Amended 2002, 2009 and 2011. The following policy statement was adopted:

**Statement on Abstinence and Recovery**

Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.

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

**1988c** Superseded by 2005c.

**1989a** It was adopted that:

In order to reaffirm the special relationship between OA and O-Anon and in keeping with the spirit of Tradition Ten—cooperation without affiliation—the following be adopted:

Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. recognizes the special relationship we enjoy with O-Anon groups, a separate but similar fellowship. OA wishes to recognize the contribution O-Anon has made and is making to friends and families of compulsive overeaters.

It is the desire of the Conference to affirm the relationship between OA and O-Anon, and it is also the desire of the Conference to acknowledge OA's appreciation for O-Anon groups.

**1989b** Rescinded 2003.

**1990** Amended 2011 and 2014. It was adopted that:

The World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous suggests that individual groups and service bodies refrain from publishing the names or non-OA titles of speakers/leaders at OA functions in any informational materials (flyers, newsletters, etc.). OA service titles (but not names) may be used when a speaker/leader is performing the service responsibility of his or her OA office.

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**1991a** Amended 2003 and 2013. It was adopted that:

The following Conference and board committees be restructured as follows, to begin with the 1992 WSBC:

- 1) The Conference committees listed in Subpart B, Article XI of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws should confer with the corresponding board committees.
- 2) Committee membership will be limited to a delegate cochairman, a trustee cochairman and two or more delegates from each region, up to thirty members at WSBC. Additionally, a combination of up to six former trustees, current trustees, and non-delegate members may be appointed to participate in the work of the committee during the year.
- 3) Cochairmen consisting of a Conference delegate (elected by committee members at WSBC) and a trustee (appointed by the chairman of the BOT) will coordinate the efforts of the committee. The Conference delegate cochairman will preside over the committee meetings at WSBC. The trustee cochairman will act as liaison between the committee and the BOT and will report to the Board of Trustees regarding committee activities. The cochairmen will select the committee members from the delegates that have indicated interest on the committee preference form with input from the appropriate regional trustee based on involvement and experience in same/similar committee at local, regional and past world service levels.
- 4) Committee members not responding to two consecutive mailings of the committee which require answers will not receive future mailings unless the member has notified one of the cochairmen of a reason for a temporary absence from committee work.
- 5) The committee meetings at WSBC will be open; however, only committee members will have a voice and vote. The BOT may plan other Conference-related activities during the committee meetings at WSBC for delegates not serving on committees.
- 6) Delegates should be registered by March 1 and have submitted a committee preference form by April 1 in order to be considered for committee membership. Delegates will be notified at or prior to WSBC if they were selected to serve on a committee. The committee preference form will be updated to advise delegates that serving on a committee is optional.

**1991b** Superseded by 2005c.

**1991c** It was adopted that:

The terms “compulsive overeater, compulsive eater,” and “compulsive eating, compulsive overeating” be used interchangeably in OA literature, as determined to be appropriate by the Literature Committee during the regular literature writing, editing and approval process.

**1992a** Amended 2013. The following policy statement was adopted:

**“Unity with Diversity” Policy**

THE FELLOWSHIP encourages and promotes acceptance and inclusivity. All are welcome to join OA and are not excluded because of race, creed, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or any other trait. We welcome all who share our compulsion.

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous recognizes the existence of individual approaches and different structured concepts to working our Twelve-Step program of recovery;

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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 service bodies to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group, and service body 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 service body 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.

**1992b** It was adopted that:

The World Service Business Conference establish an International Day Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA) to be held annually on the third Saturday in November.

**1992c** Amended 2002. It was adopted that:

We, the 2002 Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, ask that AA literature sold by the OA World Service Office also be available for purchase at all World Service Conventions and Business Conferences.

**1992d** Rescinded 1998.

**1992e** It was adopted that:

The World Service Board of Trustees incorporates the job description of the general service trustee on the trustee application form.

**1993a** It was adopted that:

We, the 1993 Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, suggest that OA meetings and events be closed with one of the following: the Serenity Prayer, the Seventh-Step Prayer, the Third-Step Prayer or the OA Promise *I Put My Hand in Yours*.

**1993b** Amended 2010. It was adopted that:

It is the group conscience of the 1993 World Service Business Conference that the sale or display of literature other than OA-approved literature and AA conference-approved literature (as described in WSBC Policy 2010a) is an implied endorsement of outside enterprises, and therefore in violation with Tradition Six.

**1993c** Amended 1994, 2001, 2002, 2012 and 2014. It was adopted that:

World Service Business Conference 2012 adopt a policy that the World Service Office shall mail an annual letter to all service bodies requesting contributions to help fund delegates to attend World Service Business Conferences. Delegates selected to receive this fund will be those from intergroups and service boards demonstrating need. Priority will be given to those intergroups and service boards that have not previously sent delegates to Conference.

**1993d** Rescinded 2001.

**1993e** Rescinded 1998.

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- 1994a** (updated 2013 due to amended 1984a) The following policy statement was adopted:  
Our primary purpose in Overeaters Anonymous is to abstain from compulsive eating and to carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer. Other addictions and problems may have contributed to the intensity of our disease; however, OA is not directly concerned with recovery from these issues. They should be shared in OA meetings only as they relate to compulsive eating. It is in our best interest to concentrate on our primary purpose and not be distracted by focusing on issues such as alcoholism, codependency, abuse or the treatment thereof. These and similar outside issues should be addressed in other programs or with professionals.
- 1994b** Amended 2008. It was adopted that:  
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.
- 1994c** Rescinded 1998.
- 1995a** Rescinded 2014.
- 1995b** Rescinded 2014.
- 1996a** Amended 1999 and 2014. It was adopted that:  
The 2014 WSBC of OA suggests OA’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be read at every meeting. In addition, we suggest all service bodies and the WSBC read the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
- 1996b** Rescinded 2008. Superseded by 2008a.
- 1997** Rescinded 2001.
- 1998** Rescinded 2008. Superseded by 2008a.
- 1999** Amended 2004 and 2005. It was adopted that:  
An online or telephone group will be registered with World Service as long as the listed group meets the following criteria:
- 1) Take place in “real-time”;
  - 2) Is fully interactive; and
  - 3) Fulfill the definition of an OA group as contained in Subpart B, Article V, Section 1 of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws.
- 2000a** Amended 2005. It was adopted that:  
No OA members shall be prevented from attending, sharing, leading and/or serving as a speaker at an OA meeting due to choice of food plan. Groups sharing food plan information must adhere to OA’s policies on outside literature, as well as copyright law.

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- 2000b** It was adopted that:  
Terms used in the bylaws and policies that refer to communications, including report(s), response(s), document(s) and notice(s), shall be understood to include suitable electronic transmissions. The term “postmark” includes appropriate electronic date/time stamping.
- 2001** It was adopted that:  
There will continue to be a delegate registration fee (\$65 for WSBC 2000) adjusted as deemed necessary by the BOT. A portion of this fee is nonrefundable based on cost.
- 2002a** Rescinded 2005.
- 2002b** Rescinded 2005.
- 2003** Amended 2014. It was adopted that:  
To ensure the personal anonymity of members, an encryption program will be maintained to allow for secure transmission of all meeting information submitted via the OA website.
- 2004a** It was adopted that:  
The WSO have proposal forms available on the OA website with detailed online instructions for submitting the proposals. The forms are to include an email address for the maker of the proposal.
- 2004b** Amended 2009 and 2014. It was adopted that:  
Appeals process for service bodies denied credentials at WSBC because they do not meet the requirements of OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3c – Qualifications/Selection.
- 1) The World Service Office will notify the service body of any challenges to delegate credentials within seven days of receipt of delegate information by the World Service Office.
  - 2) Each region will provide, at the time they submit their delegate information, a list of up to five individuals willing to serve on an Appeals Committee.
  - 3) The Appeals Review Committee shall be composed of two members of the Board of Trustees, two region chairs and two representatives of the region bringing the appeal.
  - 4) Service body notifies the World Service Office if it wishes to appeal denial of delegate credentials.
  - 5) The Appeals Review Committee, via electronic and/or written communications, will consider relevant information and collectively decide the final disposition of each appeal with a deadline of one month prior to the first session of the upcoming WSBC.
  - 6) At the expense of the service body, a telephone conference call may be scheduled to review the findings of the committee within two weeks of notification of the Appeals Review Committee’s disposition.
- 2005a** It was adopted that:  
Business Conference policies that have been completed, or have passed their “sunset” date, be presented by the Bylaws trustee cochair to the chairman of the Board of Trustees for removal at the next Business Conference.
- 2005b** Rescinded 2011.

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**2005c** It was adopted to:

Combine WSBC Policies 1987d, 1988c and 1999b to read: The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) adopts as policy the following procedures for the submission and consideration of all a) new business motions, b) policy motions, and c) bylaw amendments to Subpart B of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws.

- 1) All submissions of proposed new business motions, policy motions and/or amendments to Subpart B of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws shall include a) a statement of intent; b) a statement of the procedures necessary for the implementation of the proposal (if necessary); c) a statement of estimated cost associated with the proposal; d) a history of related new business items or bylaw amendments that were voted upon by the WSBC in the past five years and the results of those votes; and e) up to one page of arguments in favor of each new business item or bylaw amendment submitted by the maker of the motion at the time of submission.
- 2) The Conference agenda questionnaire include all proposed new business and policy motions and bylaw amendments that have been submitted within the announced postmarked deadline, including those deemed out of order with the exception of those such motions and bylaw amendments that, based upon opinions from legal counsel, are deemed to be defamatory.

Proposals included in the agenda questionnaire that are deemed out of order must include within the “WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments” an explanation of this determination, and at the end of the “Proposed Wording” the parenthetical comment “deemed out of order: See WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments below.”

Additionally, the WSBC Motions Review Committee must also include an explanation of the general nature of the motion or bylaw amendment that resulted in it being deemed defamatory by legal counsel and therefore not printed in the Conference agenda questionnaire.

**2006** Rescinded 2014.

**2007** Rescinded 2009.

**2008a** It was adopted that:

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 website.

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*.

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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 duplicating, mailing, etc.

**2008b** It was adopted to:  
Create an Overeaters Anonymous 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, websites, 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.

**2008c** It was adopted to:  
Create an Overeaters Anonymous 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.*

**2008d** It was adopted to:  
Create an Overeaters Anonymous public service announcements policy.

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

- 2008e** It was adopted to:  
Create an Overeaters Anonymous paid ads policy.

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

- 2008f** It was adopted that:  
The Overeaters Anonymous World Service Office (WSO) sell recovery chips marked with years from 1 to 20, 25, 30, 35, 40.

- 2009a** It was adopted that:  
The World Service Office provide website templates for optional use by OA service bodies and groups in creating or revising their websites.

- 2009b** It was adopted that:  
December 12 (12/12) each year be designated as OA's International Twelfth-Step-Within Day, the purpose of which will be to encourage OA service boards, meetings and individual members to reach out to those within the Fellowship who are still suffering from compulsive eating behaviors.

- 2009c** Rescinded 2012.

- 2009d** It was adopted to:  
Create a Web/Technology Conference Committee starting at WSBC 2010.

- 2010a** Amended 2012. The following policy statement was adopted:

**Statement on Approved Literature**

In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest that OA groups maintain unity and honor our Traditions by using, selling and displaying only approved books and pamphlets at their meetings. This includes OA Conference- and board-approved literature; AA Conference-approved books, booklets, and all future editions thereof, with original edition copyright 2010 or earlier; and locally produced OA literature. Locally produced literature must be developed according to the *OA Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature*, and should be used with the greatest discretion. Local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.

- 2010b** Rescinded 2014.

- 2010c** It was adopted that:  
The WSBC Final Conference Report be made available electronically. All delegates and service bodies will continue to receive the printed version unless otherwise requested.

- 2010d** Amended 2014. It was adopted to:  
Establish an OA Young Persons' Conference Committee.



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**2010e** Amended 2014. It was adopted to:  
Require all groups and service bodies wishing to register electronically with the WSO to provide at least one email address and name when submitting their registration request. The required email address is for use within the OA organization and will not be published.

**2011a** The following policy statement was adopted:

**Statement on Public Media**

While Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, including social media, the delegates of the 2011 World Service Business Conference recommend against any OA member, group or service body endorsing (sponsoring, creating, funding or using) *for OA purposes* any public media of communication where the personal anonymity of OA members cannot be maintained.

**2011b** It was adopted to:  
Include the tools of recovery of OA in the Conference Policy Manual.

The following are the tools of recovery of OA: A Plan of Eating, Sponsorship, Meetings, Telephone, Writing, Literature, Anonymity, Service and Action Plan.

**2011c** It was adopted that:  
Overeaters Anonymous Fellowship bestow the title of founder to Rozanne S.

**2012a** The following policy statement was adopted:

**Statement on Creating Service Centers**

Service bodies may form service centers to assist them in communicating with the groups and to help carry the message, providing that they adhere to the Traditions, as guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service, and do not alter or print any OA board- or Conference-approved literature unless approved by the World Service Office.

**2012b** The following policy statement was adopted:

**Statement on Group Where Access is Restricted**

A group which, for compelling reasons over which it has no control, where access is restricted (i.e., national security, military security, ships, military bases or institutional setting), cannot welcome all who have the desire to stop eating compulsively will be considered to be in compliance with the points defined in Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, Section 1, if:

- a) It has provided the Board of Trustees, in writing, the specific compelling reason.
- b) The Board of Trustees specifically approves the exception.

**2012c** The following policy statement was adopted:

**Statement on Group Liability Insurance**

As per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A, Article III – Members, the legal structure of OA, Inc. does not allow for the provision of liability insurance for OA groups or service bodies.

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**2012d** Amended 2014. It was adopted that:

The terms of WSBC delegates from service bodies shall be limited. After completing four consecutive years, service shall not exceed an additional two years. A one year rotation out of service shall then be observed. Request for a waiver of this limitation shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees.

**2013** The following policy statement was adopted:

**Statement on Individual Member Donations to the OA World Service Office**

- 1) A member may contribute up to \$5,000 per year to the general fund, up to \$5,000 per year to any special fund and up to \$5,000 per year to honor the memory of a deceased member.
- 2) OA, Inc. may accept a bequest from the will of a deceased member in cash or cash equivalent. There is no limit on the amount of such a bequest.

**2014a** It was adopted that:

Overeaters Anonymous email groups, commonly called loops (groups that do not meet in real time), may list their group on [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org) as a courtesy with the following criteria:

- 1) Email groups must comply with the definition of an Overeaters Anonymous group as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition a) 1-4 and b) 1-2.
- 2) The topic and/or focus of the email group are consistent with those listed on [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org) for Overeaters Anonymous face-to-face and virtual groups.
- 3) New members must be informed of the loops policies, norms and practices.
- 4) Archives are to be deleted at least once a month unless the loop’s policies dictate otherwise.
- 5) Email groups are moderated to stay on topic.
- 6) The format of the email groups is structured similarly to a registered OA group. Postings to email groups are limited to the topic, the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions or the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. Feedback, crosstalk and advice-giving are discouraged.
- 7) Each email group will have a coordinator who registers the loop with an email service provider and a secretary who will liaise with the OA World Service Office.

**2014b** It was adopted that:

**Meetings of Delegates**

Annual Business Conference

- a) Oral committee and workshop reports shall be made on the final day of the Business Conference when time allows. Written reports are due in the World Service Office two weeks following the close of the Business Conference.
- b) Special meetings of delegates or committees of delegates during the Business Conference for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the chair or by a majority of the trustees and/or delegates.

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- c) Communications concerning the Business Conference from the trustees and the World Service Office shall be through the registered delegates and service bodies.

**\*\*END\*\***

Note: The World Service Office shall oversee that the Business Conference minutes are researched annually in order to update this summary with any Business Conference motions which have a continuing effect. This includes new, revised or rescinded motions adopted by the World Service Business Conference.

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**BUSINESS CONFERENCE POLICY MANUAL**  
**APPENDIX A – RESCISSIONS**

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- 1962** At OA’s first Business Conference, then called the National Conference, it was adopted that:  
We endorse as our only basic creed the only thing that OA in general subscribes to (from headquarters), the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions. That this is the only basic program that OA (headquarters) believes as its creed. We acknowledge that these two things are the only creed that OA subscribes to, basically. (*Rescinded 2014*)
- 1977a** It was adopted that:  
The price be put back on the literature. (*Rescinded 2001*)
- 1979a** It was adopted that:  
AA-approved literature to be sold at the WS Convention, with list to be submitted from the Literature Committee to the board for approval. (*Rescinded 1989*)
- 1979b** It was adopted that:  
Any activity (i.e., marathons, conventions and retreats) not sponsored by a registered group, an intergroup, region or OA as a whole be considered an outside enterprise not to be endorsed or promoted by OA and as such not appear in a world service publication. Any marathon, convention or retreat that offers for sale any items that are not Conference-approved, be considered an outside enterprise and also not be publicized in OA publications. (*Rescinded 1989*)
- 1982a** After a presentation/discussion on whether OA should produce literature on anorexia nervosa or other eating disorders, the following statement was adopted:  
Overeaters Anonymous does not have any literature for specific eating disorders other than compulsive overeating. We welcome in love and fellowship all who have the desire to stop eating compulsively. (*Rescinded 1999*)
- 1982b** After a presentation/discussion on using an OA/AA-approved literature list which includes the 1976 Business Conference Statement on OA/AA-approved literature, the following was adopted that:  
  
The current World Service Business Conference policy on literature be a list (to be updated as necessary) which includes the amended 1976 Statement on OA/AA-approved literature: “In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest OA groups maintain unity and protect our Traditions by selling only program books and pamphlets at their meetings. This would include AA Conference-approved literature and OA Conference- and board-approved literature. Intergroup or group prepared local literature should be used with the greatest discretion. Even then, we suggest that you submit it to the World Service Office for their information. This type of local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.” (The complete list which includes this statement, literature and explanations is available from the World Service Office.) (*Rescinded 2010*)
- 1982d** It was adopted that:  
The Board of Trustees presents a written Business Conference report of all Board of Trustees’ policies, to be updated for each Business Conference beginning May 1983. (*Rescinded 2001*)

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**1982f** It was adopted that:  
Future Business Conferences begin proposed bylaw amendments directly following the last completely debated article of the previous year.

(Note: The intent is to apply this recommendation only in a year following a Business Conference that was unable to debate and vote on all proposed bylaw amendments due to a lack of time.)  
*(Rescinded 2012)*

**1987a** Amended 1997. A policy statement on food plans was adopted:  
The OA 1997 World Service Business Conference, after careful consideration, believes that although many individual OA members choose to follow a plan of eating for their personal plan of recovery, offering food plans at OA meetings is a violation of Tradition Ten. While each OA member is free to choose a personal plan of eating to achieve abstinence, OA as a whole cannot print, endorse or distribute food plan information to members.

Nutrition is a most controversial outside issue; the hiring of professionals to produce food plans for use at meetings also violates the Eighth Tradition, as we need always remain nonprofessional. Groups endorsing any food plans by distributing them at their meetings affect OA as a whole. We ask all groups, intergroups and regions of OA to adhere to the above policy statement and discontinue the use of food plan information at meetings. We ought best concern ourselves with our suggested program of recovery—the Twelve Steps. *(Rescinded 2000)*

**1988a** Regions:  
Regional Assemblies  
Regions may meet more often for the conduct of business as necessary. *(Rescinded 2005)*

**1989b** Changes and deletions in the Business Conference Policy Manual were adopted. See sections marked “Revised 1989” or “Deleted 1989.” *(Rescinded 2003)*

**1992d** The following policy statement adopted that:  
The World Service Business Conference resolves to welcome anorexics and bulimics in the OA Fellowship as full and equal members. *(Rescinded 1998)*

**1993d** It was adopted that:  
Beginning 1994 the World Service Office will charge a twenty-dollar (\$20) nonrefundable fee to register a World Service Business Conference delegate. *(Rescinded 2001)*

**1993e** It was adopted that:  
Until such time as the World Service Business Conference adopts concepts for OA, that all OA service bodies study and utilize AA’s Twelve Concepts as guidelines for their service. *(Rescinded 1998)*

**1994c** The World Service Business Conference 1994 adopted:

- 1) The ultimate responsibility and authority for OA world services reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- 2) The OA groups have delegated to World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, World Service Business Conference is the voice, authority and effective conscience of OA as a whole.
- 3) The right of decision, based on trust, makes effective leadership possible.

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- 4) The right of participation ensures equality of opportunity for all in the decision-making process.
  - 5) Individuals have the right of appeal and petition in order to ensure that their opinions and personal grievances will be carefully considered.
  - 6) The World Service Business Conference has entrusted the Board of Trustees with the primary responsibility for the administration of Overeaters Anonymous.
  - 7) The Board of Trustees has legal rights and responsibilities accorded to them by OA Bylaws, Subpart A; the rights and responsibilities of the World Service Business Conference are accorded to it by Tradition and by OA Bylaws, Subpart B.
  - 8) The Board of Trustees has delegated to its Executive Committee the responsibility to administer the World Service Office.
  - 9) Able, trusted servants, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are indispensable for effective functioning at all service levels.
  - 10) Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority; therefore, duplication of efforts is avoided.
  - 11) Trustee administration of the World Service Office should always be assisted by the best standing committees, executives, staffs, and consultants.
  - 12) The spiritual foundation for OA service ensures that:
    - a) no OA committee or service body shall ever become the seat of perilous wealth or power;
    - b) sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, shall be OA's prudent financial principle;
    - c) no OA member shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority;
    - d) all important decisions shall be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;
    - e) no service action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; and
    - f) no OA service committee or service board shall ever perform any acts of government, and each shall always remain democratic in thought and action. (*Adopted into OA Bylaws, Subpart B 1998*)

**1995a** It was adopted that:

Overeaters Anonymous designate January as "Media Awareness Month." (*Rescinded 2014*)

**1995b** (updated 2013 due to amended 1984a) It was adopted to:

Remove abstinence as a tool and replace it with a "plan of eating," leaving abstinence as our primary purpose as outlined in the OA Preamble: "Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive eating and carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer." (*Rescinded 2014*)

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**1996b** It was adopted that:  
The Board of Trustees may discontinue reprinting low-demand pamphlets that are no longer cost-effective to reprint and maintain in the OA literature inventory.

Discontinuance of a pamphlet:

Conference-approved pamphlets that have broad application to the Fellowship and which fall within the lowest 20 percent of ranked total pamphlet unit sales shall be considered for discontinuance.

The World Service Office publications department will provide a quarterly report indicating the unit demand volume on each Conference-approved pamphlet for review by the Executive Committee.

Those pamphlets that consistently fall below the designated 20 percent of total unit demand for four consecutive quarters may be chosen by the Executive Committee for recommendation to discontinue reprinting.

The Executive Committee will submit a motion to the Board of Trustees for approval to discontinue reprinting those pamphlets.

If the Executive Committee motion is approved by the Board of Trustees, the designated pamphlets will not be reprinted and will be removed from the OA literature catalog when the remaining inventory is depleted.

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 the literature archives for duplication by the World Service Office for special requests. An appropriate amount will be charged for the time and cost of duplicating, mailing, etc. Unauthorized duplication of copyrighted discontinued pieces is prohibited.

For withdrawal of any Conference-approved pamphlet that is no longer printed; that is the pamphlet shall no longer be available for distribution to the Fellowship in any language, will require approval of the World Service Business Conference. (*Rescinded 2008*)

**1997** It was adopted:  
Effective with the World Service Business Conference 1998, there be established an additional per-delegate registration fee of forty-five dollars (\$45) (adjusted annually for inflation as deemed necessary by the BOT). (*Rescinded 2001*)

**1998** The following policy statement was adopted to:  
Discontinue Conference-approved literature for reasons other than low sales, a two-thirds vote from the delegates present and voting at the annual World Service Business Conference is needed. (*Rescinded 2008*)

**2002a** It was adopted that:  
There will be a special Conference committee consisting of four members of the Board of Trustees, four region chairmen, and up to ten delegates to develop a plan of action to either strengthen the current OA worldwide service structure or restructure it. The result will be

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presented to WSBC no later than 2004. The chairman of the board will choose committee members. *(Rescinded 2005)*

**2002b** It was adopted that:

The Board of Trustees will investigate the feasibility of establishing a toll free line for the purpose of public information and publish its reports to all service bodies by October 1, 2002. *(Rescinded 2005)*

**2005b** It was adopted that:

WSBC 2005 directs the Board of Trustees (BOT) to implement a matching grant program whereby service bodies may apply for and receive funds from OA, Inc. for projects enhancing unity and the ability to carry the message both within and outside OA. Total yearly funding for grants shall not exceed 1 percent of total donations to the World Service Office (WSO) for the prior year. *(Rescinded 2011)*

**2006** It was adopted to:

Change the name of the HIPM (Hospitals, Institutions, Professionals and the Military) Committee to “Professional Outreach” Committee. *(Rescinded 2014)*

**2007** It was adopted that:

Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. conduct a Public Awareness Campaign using the services of an outside agency. Expenses connected to this campaign will be supported by member contributions to a special public awareness campaign fund established by the Board of Trustees. The BOT may use up to \$20,000 of current reserves for “seed” money to initiate the campaign. Such funds are to be reimbursed from the special fund established for this purpose. *(Rescinded 2009)*

**2009c** It was adopted to:

Establish a special fund to assist in the translating of OA literature, forms, correspondence, website and other materials to languages other than English. Money in this fund is in addition to the translation committee’s budget. The BOT will establish guidelines to allocate the funds. *(Rescinded 2012)*

**2010b** It was adopted to:

Add a ninth tool: “Action Plan.” *(Rescinded 2014)*



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**INDEX TO THE OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.  
BUSINESS CONFERENCE POLICY MANUAL  
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**BYLAWS**  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**SUBPART A – CORPORATE ORGANIZATION**

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**BYLAWS**  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**SUBPART A – CORPORATE ORGANIZATION**

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**ARTICLE I – NAME AND PLACE OF BUSINESS**

The name of this Corporation is Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. (the “Corporation”). The principal office for the transaction of the business of the Corporation shall be located at such place or places within the County of Sandoval, State of New Mexico, as the Board of Trustees shall from time to time determine. Such principal place of business shall also constitute the location of the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of New Mexico, as the business of the Corporation may require from time to time.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The Corporation is organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of New Mexico to operate as an exempt organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or similar provision of any future revenue law) (the “Code”) without profit to any officer or director. The specific and primary purpose of the Corporation is to aid those with the problem of compulsive overeating to overcome that problem through a Twelve-step program of recovery. The general purpose and power is to promote the public health, and to work with and furnish charitable and cultural assistance to those with problems of obesity; and to conduct such other activities as are appropriate to these objectives. Subject to the foregoing, the Corporation may also engage in all other activities which are permissible by law. The Corporation is the guardian of the world services and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous and shall preserve the exclusive right to use the name Overeaters Anonymous. The Corporation shall maintain a World Service Office to serve Overeaters Anonymous.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERS**

The Corporation shall have no members as such. Any action which would otherwise require approval by the members shall require only the approval of the Board of Trustees and all rights which would otherwise vest in the members shall vest in the trustees, except as otherwise expressly provided herein.

**ARTICLE IV - PROHIBITIONS**

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, the Corporation’s directors, members, officers or other private personas, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions necessary to carry out the purposes set forth in Article Two. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles of Incorporation, the Corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; or (b) by a corporation to which contributions are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

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## **ARTICLE V – DIRECTORS/MANAGEMENT**

### **Section 1 – Powers**

Subject to the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation, these bylaws and the laws of the State of New Mexico, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors, which shall be known as the Board of Trustees and shall control the business and affairs of this Corporation. The term “trustees” as used in the Articles of Incorporation and these bylaws shall mean “directors” as that term is used in the New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act and other laws. The use of the term “trustees” is historic only and is not intended to vary the duties of the trustees of this Corporation from that imposed on directors, or to establish a trust relationship.

### **Section 2 – Number of Trustees and Qualifications**

The authorized number of trustees of the Corporation shall be seventeen until changed by amendment to the Articles of Incorporation or by the amendment of this Section 2, Article V, Subpart A adopted by the delegates, as provided in Article IX, Subpart B of these bylaws. The exact number of trustees shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the board, subject to the right of delegates as provided by Subpart B. No paid employee at the local or national level may be a member of the Board of Trustees.

### **Section 3 – Composition**

The board shall consist of all “regional trustees,” “general service trustees” and a “virtual services trustee” elected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Subpart B of these bylaws.

### **Section 4 – Election and Terms of Office**

Trustees shall be elected by the delegates at the annual World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous in accordance with Subpart B of these bylaws and shall hold office until the conclusion of the next such meeting at which their successors are elected and qualified.

### **Section 5 – Compensation**

Trustees shall serve without compensation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Corporation may reimburse the trustees for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for travel, lodgings, meals and miscellaneous expenses in connection with attendance at board meetings and other official business.

### **Section 6 – Meetings**

- a) Immediately following each annual World Service Business Conference meeting held pursuant to Article X of Subpart B of these bylaws, the board shall hold a regular meeting to elect officers and transact other business. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least quarterly, at such place and time as it may designate from time to time by resolution of the board. In the absence of a resolution, regular meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation. Special meetings may be called by the chair of the board or any three trustees, and such meetings shall be held at the time, place and hour designated by the person or persons calling this meeting.
- b) Notice of the time and place of meetings shall be delivered to each trustee personally or sent by first-class mail, at least seven days prior to any such meeting, provided, however, that notice of regular meetings, the time of which has been designated by resolution of the board, is hereby dispensed with.
- c) More than half of the trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- d) In the absence of a quorum, the board shall transact no business, except as otherwise expressly provided in these bylaws, in the Articles of Incorporation, or by law, and the only motion the board shall entertain is a motion to adjourn.

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- e) Meetings of trustees shall be governed by the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* or such successor publication as may from time to time be published, insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with or in conflict with these bylaws, with the Articles of Incorporation, with law, or with special resolutions the board may adopt.

### **Section 7 – Resignation and Removal of Trustees**

- a) Any trustee may resign effective upon giving written notice to the chair of the board, the secretary to the board, or the Board of Trustees of the Corporation. Unless the notice specifies otherwise, its acceptance by the Corporation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Any trustee who advises the Board of Trustees that she/he has returned to compulsive eating will be deemed to have resigned as of the time of receipt of such notice by the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees may declare vacant the office of a trustee who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court or convicted of a felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty under Section 53-8-25.1 or any other relevant provision of the New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act.

- b) Any trustee may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the Conference delegates present and voting at the annual World Service Business Conference.
- c) A vacancy shall be presumed and the office shall be declared vacant by a three-fourths vote of all trustees under the following circumstances:
- 1) Any trustee who is absent from two Board of Trustees meetings during his/her term of office without prior notice to the chair of the board or the secretary of the board and good cause as determined by the Board of Trustees.
  - 2) Any trustee who is absent from two Board of Trustees meetings in a twelve-month period, or any general service trustee who is absent from three Executive Committee meetings in a twelve-month period, beginning with the first such meeting following the adjournment (sine die) of the annual World Service Business Conference. Absences during a one-year term could be excused only by impassable weather, serious illness of a trustee, death or serious illness of a trustee's immediate family member, war or national strike. Any member of the Board of Trustees may present a motion that an absence from a meeting of the Board of Trustees, a meeting of the Executive Committee, and/or an Executive Committee teleconference be approved for good cause. The motion may be presented at a Board of Trustees meeting prior to or the meeting subsequent to the meeting from which the trustee wishes to be excused. The motion to excuse an absence shall be treated as any other business motion, and requires a three-fourths vote of the Board of Trustees. The vote to excuse the absence will be taken by written ballot.
- d) To be considered in attendance at a meeting, a trustee must attend seventy-five percent of the business meeting's schedule on the agenda for that meeting. This stipulation may be waived due to an emergency or other good cause that occurs during the business meeting if approved by a three-fourths vote of the trustees present.
- e) One leave of absence for up to sixty days from all Board of Trustees activities and responsibilities may be claimed by a member of the Board of Trustees during each of his/her elected terms of office for any reason. The provisions in Section 7c) above do not apply to any absences of any trustee while on a leave of absence.

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- f) The Board of Trustees may remove any trustee for cause by an affirmative three-fourths vote of the trustees. The failure to perform the duties and responsibilities of a trustee, as enumerated in the OA Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX, Section 2 may constitute cause for removal.
- g) No reduction in the authorized number of trustees will have the effect of removing any trustee before his/her term of office expires.

### **Section 8 – Vacancies**

Vacancies on the Board of Trustees may be filled by a majority vote of the trustees then in office in accordance with Article IX, Section 7 of Subpart B of these bylaws, whether or not less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining trustee, and each trustee elected in this manner shall hold office until the conclusion of the next annual Conference or until his/her earlier resignation or removal or his office has been declared vacant in the manner provided by these bylaws. A vacancy or vacancies on the Board of Trustees shall exist on the death, resignation or removal of any trustee, or if the board declares vacant the office of a trustee if he/she is declared of unsound mind by an order of court or is convicted of a felony, or if the authorized number of trustees is increased, or if the delegates fail to elect the full authorized number of trustees to be voted for at any delegates meeting at which an election of trustees is held. If the resignation of a trustee states that it is to be effective at a future time, a successor may be elected to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

### **Section 9 – Waiver of Notice or Consent**

The transactions of any meeting of the Board of Trustees however called and noticed or wherever held, shall be as valid as though it had at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice, if a quorum is present and if, either before or after the meeting, each of the trustees not present or who, though present, has prior to the meeting or at its commencement, protested the lack of proper notice to him/her, signs a written waiver of notice, or a consent to holding the meeting, or an approval of the minutes of the meeting. All such waivers, consents and approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meetings. A notice or waiver of notice need not specify the purpose of any regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Notice of a meeting need not be given to any trustee who signs a waiver of notice, whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting, prior to or at its commencement, the lack of notice of such trustee.

### **Section 10 – Adjournment**

A majority of the trustees present, whether or not a quorum is present may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. If the meeting is adjourned for more than twenty-four hours, notice of the adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the trustees who were not present at the time of the adjournment.

### **Section 11 – Meetings by Conference Telephone**

Members of the Board of Trustees may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another. Participation by trustees in a meeting in the manner provided in this Section constitutes presence in person at such meeting.

### **Section 12 – Action without a Meeting**

Any actions required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees may be taken without a meeting. A two-thirds vote of the board shall be required for approval. Such action shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the board.



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### **Section 13 – Chair of the Board**

The Board of Trustees shall elect a chair of the board to preside over meetings of the board, and shall elect a first and second vice chair to serve in his/her absence.

### **Section 14 – Executive Committee**

There shall be an Executive Committee of the board, whose members shall consist of the general service trustees. If a regional or virtual services trustee is elected to the position of chair of the Board of Trustees or to treasurer, these officers shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee with full rights. The Executive Committee shall meet at least monthly at such time and place as they designate by resolution from time to time. The chair of the board shall preside at all such meetings. In the event the chair of the board should be unable to attend any meeting of the Executive Committee, the next highest-ranking officer in attendance shall serve as chair for that meeting.

The ranking of the officers shall be as follows:

- a) First vice chair
- b) Second vice chair
- c) Treasurer
- d) Secretary

The secretary shall not be included in the progression since the managing director holds that office. In the event that no officer serves on the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall elect an interim chair.

Notice of the regular monthly meetings of the Executive Committee need not be given if the time and place of such meetings have been set forth in the resolution of the committee. Otherwise, and in the case of special meetings, notice shall be given in the manner prescribed for meetings of the board in Article V, Section 6, Subpart A of these bylaws. All proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted as prescribed in these bylaws for the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee, to the extent provided in the resolution of the board or in these bylaws, shall have all the authority of the board, except with respect to:

- a) The approval of any action for which law or these bylaws also require approval of the Board of Trustees or delegates or approval of the majority of the Board of Trustees or delegates.
- b) The filling of vacancies on the board or in any committee which has the authority of the board.
- c) The fixing of compensation of the trustees for serving on the board or on any committee.
- d) The amendment or repeal of bylaws or adoption of new bylaws.
- e) The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the board, which by its express terms is not so amendable or eligible for repeal.
- f) The appointment of committees of the board or members thereof.
- g) The expenditure of corporate funds to support a nominee for trustee after there are more people nominated for trustee than can be elected.
- h) The approval of any self-dealing transaction.

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### **Section 15 – Other Committees**

The board may, by resolution adopted by a majority of the trustees then in office, provided that a quorum is present, create one or more committees, each of which shall be chaired by a trustee or designated officer of the Corporation, to serve at the pleasure of the board. The chair of the board shall appoint chairs of such committees. The chair shall serve as ex-officio member, without vote, on all committees. Such committees shall not exercise the authority of the board. Any committee exercising authority of the board must conform to the New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act.

### **Section 16 – Managing Director**

There shall be a managing director who shall act as the chief operations officer of the Corporation. The managing director shall be responsible for providing advice and assistance to members of the Board of Trustees, and shall be responsible for administering the total operations of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. and the World Service Office. The managing director shall also serve as an officer of the Corporation as its secretary.

## **ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 – General**

The Corporation shall have a chair of the board, first and second vice chair of the board, a secretary and a treasurer and such other officers as the board may elect.

### **Section 2 – Qualification, Election and Vacancies**

- a) The chair of the board, first and second vice chairs of the board and treasurer of the Corporation shall be elected from among the trustees by the board at its first regular meeting following the annual Conference. Each nominated trustee will be allowed to speak (for up to five minutes) on what he/she hopes to bring to the position to which he/she is nominated. If a tie vote occurs on two ballots, election shall then be decided by lot.
- b) No trustee shall serve in any one office for more than two consecutive one-year terms.
- c) Vacancies may be filled by the board.
- d) The board may elect such other officers, with such qualifications and duties as it may deem fit, to serve at the pleasure of the board.
- e) The secretary need not be a trustee.

### **Section 3 – Duties of Chair of the Board**

The chair of the board shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control of the board, supervise and control the affairs of the Corporation. He/she shall perform all duties incident to his/her office and such other duties as are provided in these bylaws or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Trustees. The chair shall serve as ex-officio member, without vote, on all committees.

The chair of the BOT shall appoint all members of such committees. The chair of the BOT may appoint former trustees to serve on such committees.

### **Section 4 – Duties of Vice Chair of the Board**

The first vice chair of the board shall perform all duties and exercise all powers of the chair of the board when the chair of the board is absent, or is otherwise unable to act and when the first vice chair is absent or otherwise unable to act, the second vice chair shall perform such duties and exercise such powers. The

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first and second vice chairs of the board shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

**Section 5 – Duties of Secretary**

The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Trustees, general service trustees and World Service Business Conference delegates; shall be the custodian of the corporate records; shall give all notices as are required by law or by these bylaws; and generally shall perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these bylaws, or which may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Trustees or general service trustees.

**Section 6 – Duties of Treasurer**

The treasurer shall have charge and oversight of all funds of the Corporation; shall oversee WSO staff to deposit such funds as required by the Board of Trustees or general service trustees, keep and maintain adequate and correct amounts of the Corporation’s properties and business transactions, and render reports and accounting to the trustees as required by the Board of Trustees or general service trustees; and shall in general perform all duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these bylaws, or which may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Board of Trustees or general service trustees.

**Section 7 – Compensation**

Officers who are trustees of the Corporation shall serve without compensation.

**ARTICLE VII – INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHER AGENTS**

To the maximum extent permitted by the New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Corporation shall, as to its past and present trustees, and may, in other cases, indemnify each of its agents against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding arising by reason of the fact that any such person is or was an agent of the Corporation, and shall advance to each such agent expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding to the maximum extent permitted by that law. For purposes of this Article, an “agent” of the Corporation includes any person who is or was a trustee, officer, employee or other agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as trustee, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, or was a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation which was a predecessor corporation of the corporation or of another enterprise serving at the request of such predecessor corporation. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article VII, the Corporation shall not be required to indemnify any past or present trustee to the extent that the matter to be indemnified against is covered by insurance purchased by the Corporation.

In the event that the Corporation makes any payment or assumes any obligations under this Article VII, it shall to the extent of such payment or obligation be subrogated to all rights of the indemnified agent, including under policies of insurance and in any cause of action and judgment in favor of such agent arising out of or related to the indemnified matter.

**ARTICLE VIII - INSURANCE**

The Corporation may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of the Corporation or another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other incorporated or unincorporated enterprise against any such expense, liability or loss, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such expense, liability or loss under the New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act.

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## **ARTICLE IX – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **Section 1 – Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be January 1 to December 31.

### **Section 2 – Corporate Seal**

The Corporation may have a seal, which shall set forth, the name of the Corporation, the state and date of incorporation. The seal may be affixed to any corporate instrument, but failure to affix it shall not affect the validity of any such instrument.

### **Section 3 – Execution of Checks, Notes, Contracts**

- a) Contracts. The Executive Committee may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
- b) Loans. No loans up to \$150,000 shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Executive Committee. Loans above this amount require authorization of the full Board of Trustees. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
- c) Checks, Drafts and Other Financial Instruments. Except as otherwise provided by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for the payment of money and other evidences of indebtedness of the Corporation shall be signed by:
  - 1) The treasurer or other designated officer and countersigned by the chair of the board or by other specified officer.
  - 2) Except that payment for any or all operating obligations may be signed by a designated employee of the World Service Office up to the amount of their respective bond.

### **Section 4 – Annual Report**

- a) The board shall cause an annual report to be sent to the trustees not later than one hundred twenty days after close of the Corporation's fiscal year. Such report shall contain in appropriate detail the following:
  - 1) The assets and liabilities, including the trust funds, of the Corporation as of the end of the fiscal year.
  - 2) The principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the fiscal year.
  - 3) The revenue or receipts of the Corporation both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for the fiscal year.
  - 4) The expenses or disbursements of the Corporation, for both general and restricted purposes, during the fiscal year.
  - 5) A statement of any transaction or indemnification in which the Corporation, a parent or subsidiary was party, and in which either of the following had a direct or indirect material financial interest:
    - (i) A trustee or officer of the Corporation, or its parent or subsidiary.

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- (ii) Any holder of more than 10 percent of the voting power of the Corporation, its parent or subsidiary.

For the purpose of this subparagraph (5), an “interested” person is any person described in subparagraph (i) or (ii) above of this subparagraph (5).

For the purpose of this subparagraph (5), a mere common directorship is not a material financial interest.

The statement required by this subparagraph (5) shall describe briefly:

- (i) Any covered transaction during the previous fiscal year involving more than forty thousand dollars, or which was one of a number of covered transactions in which the same interested person had a direct or indirect material financial interest, and which transactions in the aggregate involved more than forty thousand dollars.
- (ii) The names of the interested persons involved in such transactions, stating such person’s relationship to the Corporation, the nature of such person’s interest in the transaction and, where practicable, the amount of such interest; provided, that in the case of a transaction with a partnership of which such person is a partner, only the interest of the partnership need be stated.

The statement required by this subparagraph (5) shall describe briefly the amount and circumstances of any indemnifications or advances aggregating more than ten thousand dollars paid during the fiscal year to any officer or trustee of the Corporation.

The report required by this Section 4 shall be accompanied by any report thereon of independent accountants, or, if there is no such report, the certificate of an authorized officer of the Corporation that such statements were prepared without audit from the books and records of the Corporation.

#### **Section 5 – Inspection**

Every trustee shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Corporation.

#### **Section 6 - Choice of Law**

These Bylaws shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of New Mexico, and any action brought to enforce its provisions shall be brought in a court in New Mexico.

#### **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation to an organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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## **ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1 – Board of Trustees**

Except as expressly stated in Subpart A, and provided there is no conflict in Subpart B, the bylaws of Subpart A may be amended by the Board of Trustees as follows:

- a) Two-thirds vote of the board provided the amendment has been given in writing forty-five days prior to the next board meeting.
- b) Seven-eighths vote of the board provided the amendment has been given in writing at least one hour prior to the vote.

### **Section 2 – Record of Amendments**

Whenever an amendment or new bylaw is adopted, it shall be copied and inserted into the minute book adjacent to the original bylaws or in an appropriate section of the bylaws.

If any bylaw is repealed, the fact of repeal and the date of the meeting at which the repeal was enacted or written consent was filed, must be noted in the minutes and adjacent to the original bylaw.

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**BYLAWS  
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.  
SUBPART B**

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**BYLAWS**  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.**  
**SUBPART B**

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**ARTICLE I – TWELVE STEPS**

The Twelve Steps suggested for recovery in the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous are as follows:

- 1) We admitted we were powerless over food—that our lives had become unmanageable.
- 2) Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- 3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
- 4) Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
- 5) Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
- 6) Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
- 7) Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
- 8) Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
- 9) Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
- 10) Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
- 11) Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
- 12) Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to compulsive overeaters and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

**ARTICLE II – TWELVE TRADITIONS**

The Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous are:

- 1) Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon OA unity.
- 2) For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
- 3) The only requirement for OA membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively.
- 4) Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole.
- 5) Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.

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- 6) An OA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the OA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
  - 7) Every OA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
  - 8) Overeaters Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
  - 9) OA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
  - 10) Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence, the OA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
  - 11) Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, television and other public media of communication.
  - 12) Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all these Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

### **ARTICLE III – TWELVE CONCEPTS**

The Twelve Concepts of OA Service are:

- 1) The ultimate responsibility and authority for OA world services reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- 2) The OA groups have delegated to World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, World Service Business Conference is the voice, authority and effective conscience of OA as a whole.
- 3) The right of decision, based on trust, makes effective leadership possible.
- 4) The right of participation ensures equality of opportunity for all in the decision-making process.
- 5) Individuals have the right of appeal and petition in order to ensure that their opinions and personal grievances will be carefully considered.
- 6) The World Service Business Conference has entrusted the Board of Trustees with the primary responsibility for the administration of Overeaters Anonymous.
- 7) The Board of Trustees has legal rights and responsibilities accorded to them by OA Bylaws, Subpart A; the rights and responsibilities of the World Service Business Conference are accorded to it by Tradition and by OA Bylaws, Subpart B.
- 8) The Board of Trustees has delegated to its Executive Committee the responsibility to administer the OA World Service Office.
- 9) Able, trusted servants, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are indispensable for effective functioning at all service levels.

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- 10) Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority; therefore, duplication of efforts is avoided.
  - 11) Trustee administration of the World Service Office should always be assisted by the best standing committees, executives, staffs and consultants.
  - 12) The spiritual foundation for OA service ensures that:
    - a) no OA committee or service body shall ever become the seat of perilous wealth or power;
    - b) sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, shall be OA's prudent financial principle;
    - c) no OA member shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority;
    - d) all important decisions shall be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;
    - e) no service action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; and
    - f) no OA service committee or service board shall ever perform any acts of government, and each shall always remain democratic in thought and action.

#### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS**

##### **Section 1 – Legal Status**

The corporation may have associated with it persons who are not members of the corporation within the meaning of Section 53-8-11 of the New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act, but who may be referred to as “members of Overeaters Anonymous” or “members” in this Subpart B. The identity, rights and privileges of such “members” with respect to the corporation shall be as set forth in these bylaws. Reference in this Subpart B to members shall refer to such persons.

##### **Section 2 – Qualifications**

Any person may become a member of Overeaters Anonymous who has a desire to stop eating compulsively.

#### **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, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
  - 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.
  - 5) It has affiliated as an Overeaters Anonymous group by registering with the World Service Office.

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- 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.

### **Section 2 – Composition**

- a) A group may be formed by two or more persons meeting together as set forth in Article V, Section 1.
- b) Groups compose the intergroups and service boards set forth in Articles VI and VIII hereof.

## **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.
- b) Each state/province may have at least one intergroup. In a state/province having only one group, that group may function as an intergroup.

### **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, neither of which shall 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 and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service, and to serve and represent the OA groups from which it is formed; and
  - 3) complete registration information on each of its affiliated groups.
- b) Each intergroup shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) Each intergroup shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the intergroup bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the registered contact for each intergroup. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 2a) 2) above.

### **Section 3 – Functioning**

- a) Intergroups may conduct the business of their groups by any method they choose.

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- b) With prior notice to all member groups, intergroups shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
  - c) An intergroup must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
  - d) In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair and region trustee.

## **ARTICLE VII – REGIONS**

### **Section 1 – Composition**

- a) There shall be ten regions composed of intergroups, groups within each region and service boards that fall within regional boundaries. Subject to BOT approval, language service boards that span more than one region may choose to affiliate with one of the regions that it spans. Virtual service boards are not included in the regional structure.
- b) The regions shall be as follows:
  - 1) Region No. 1 shall be the Pacific Northwest Region composed of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming (except Torrington, WY), Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon.
  - 2) Region No. 2 shall be the Pacific Southwest Region composed of California, Hawaii, Reno/Tahoe area of Nevada and Mexico.
  - 3) Region No. 3 shall be the Southwest Region composed of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah and Outstate Intergroup, which includes Scottsbluff, NE and Torrington, WY.
  - 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 Outstate 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.
  - 6) Region No. 6 shall be the Northeast Region composed of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Bermuda.
  - 7) Region No. 7 shall be the Eastern Region composed of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.
  - 8) Region No. 8 shall be the Southeast Region composed of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, the Virgin Islands, Central America and South America.

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- 9) Region No. 9 shall be composed of countries and territories in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Western Asia.
- 10) Region No. 10 shall be composed of countries and territories in Australia, the Far East, New Zealand, South East Asia and the Western Pacific Basin.
- c) States/provinces/countries/territories within a region, or intergroups/national/ language service boards within a state/province/country/territory may petition the Board of Trustees for transfer to another region that is geographically more convenient. The transfer will be in effect immediately upon BOT approval. The BOT shall submit a motion to WSBC to amend Subpart B, Article VII, Section 1 of the bylaws.

### **Section 2 – Regional Assemblies**

Regional assemblies whose members shall be called “regional representatives” or “RRs” shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all intergroups, national/language service boards and unaffiliated registered groups, for the election of officers and/or the selection of nominees for regional trustee for that region.

### **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, neither of which shall 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 and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service, and to serve and represent the OA groups from which it is formed.
- b) Each region shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) Each region shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the region bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the chair and/or secretary/coordinator representing each region. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 3a) above.

### **Section 4 – Functioning**

- a) Regions may conduct the business of their organization by any method they choose.
- b) A region must be duly registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates specified in Article X, Section 3a) (5) to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)

## **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

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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, neither of which shall 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 and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service, 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.
- b) Each service board shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) The intergroups shall register separately with the World Service Office as defined in Article VI – Intergroups.
- d) Each service board shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the service board bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the registered contact for each service board. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 3a) 2) above.

### **Section 4 – Functioning**

- a) Service boards shall conduct business under the bylaws and policies established by their intergroups and groups.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups and intergroups, service boards shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.

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- c) A service board must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
  - d) In order to deregister, a service board must submit a written request to the World Service Office and either the region chair and region trustee, or the virtual services trustee as applicable.

## **ARTICLE IX – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Section 1 – Composition**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of ten “regional trustees,” each representing one of the ten regions, six “general service trustees,” and one virtual services trustee.

### **Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities**

- a) Each trustee shall serve and represent Overeaters Anonymous as a whole. The members of the board, subject to the laws of the State of New Mexico, are expected to exercise the powers vested in them by law in a manner consonant with the faith that permeates and guides the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous, inspired by the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous, in accordance with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service, and in accordance with the bylaws.
- b) Subject to the limitations of these bylaws, and to the action of the delegates at the Conference, all powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business affairs of the corporation shall be controlled by the Board of Trustees. Without prejudice to such general powers but subject to the same limitations, it is hereby expressly declared that the trustees shall have the following powers:
  - 1) To act as guardians of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, insuring that they are not altered in any way, except as specified in Article XIV, Subpart B of these bylaws.
  - 2) To act as guardians of the Twelve Concepts of OA Service and to promote the understanding and implementation of the Twelve Concepts of OA Service at all levels of service.
  - 3) To conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of the corporation and any charitable foundation organized in conjunction with or allied with Overeaters Anonymous as they may deem best, and to make such rules and regulations consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, or with these bylaws or the action of the Conference taken through the delegates at the Conference.
  - 4) To designate a place within the United States for holding of any meeting or meetings of the delegates.
  - 5) To manage in such a manner as they deem best all funds and real or personal property received and acquired by the corporation, and to distribute, loan or dispense with the same and the income.
  - 6) To call to the attention of any group or service body any non-adherence to the Twelve Traditions or the Twelve Concepts of OA Service which the trustee believes the group or service body has made, acting only in an advisory capacity in matters affecting Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.
  - 7) To speak on behalf of Overeaters Anonymous in all matters affecting Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.
  - 8) To provide for and supervise publications of Overeaters Anonymous.



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- 9) To furnish counsel and guidance to the members, groups and service bodies.
  - 10) To supervise and guide education and attraction efforts of Overeaters Anonymous.
  - 11) To provide forums for the interchange of ideas and information among groups and OA service bodies and to be instrumental in carrying the OA message of recovery to compulsive overeaters.
  - 12) To perform such other duties as may be directed by the delegates at the Conference.
  - 13) To prepare and present an annual report to the delegates at the Conference.

c) Specific Duties

- 1) The trustees shall attend Board of Trustees meetings and Executive Committee meetings, if applicable, and the annual World Service Business Conference.
- 2) The regional trustees shall be the representatives of the Board of Trustees in their respective regions and at the region assemblies.
- 3) The virtual services trustee (VST) will represent virtual groups and service boards at the Board of Trustees, and will support virtual services in a manner similar to regional trustees' support of the OA regions.
- 4) The general service trustees shall have general authority with respect to the routine conduct of the business affairs of the corporation, including the following specific duties:
  - (i) To maintain a World Service Office and to receive and disburse all funds contributed to the World Service Office for the benefit of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole, so that the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous need never be organized in any legal or official manner.
  - (ii) To receive, manage, control, use and disburse in such manner as the board may deem advantageous to Overeaters Anonymous, all gifts and contributions, monies and properties of every kind received by the Board of Trustees for Overeaters Anonymous.

The board must decline all outside contributions in accordance with Tradition Seven.

- (iii) To have the books of the corporation and any and all affiliated bodies, foundations and nonprofit corporations audited and to furnish an accounting of all financial transactions at the regular annual meeting of the Conference.
- (iv) To submit minutes of the general service trustees meetings to the Board of Trustees.

**Section 3 – Term of Office**

Trustees shall be elected at the annual World Service Business Conference for a period of three years. Regional and general service trustees may be elected at any annual Conference in order to fill the remaining term created by a vacancy except as specified in Section 7. When the Conference elects a virtual services trustee, whether due to the expiration of the current VST three-year term or due to a vacancy, the term of office for the newly elected virtual services trustee will be three years.

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Trustees shall serve no more than eight consecutive years. A candidate may not run for election at WSBC if serving the full term of the proposed office would result in that candidate serving on the Board of Trustees for more than eight consecutive years.

Terms of office for regional trustees shall be staggered according to the following rotation:

Regions One, Four and Seven

Regions Three, Six and Nine

Regions Two, Five, Eight and Ten

#### **Section 4 – Qualifications**

a) Qualifications for trustee shall be:

- 1) Seven years in the Fellowship;
- 2) Five years of service beyond the meeting level;
- 3) Attendance as a delegate to at least two World Service Business Conferences; and
- 4) Five years of continuous recovery in Overeaters Anonymous as evidenced by:
  - (i) five years of current continuous abstinence;
  - (ii) current maintenance of a healthy body weight for at least two years; and
  - (iii) emotional and spiritual growth as a result of incorporating into their lives the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as a new way of living.

b) Qualifications for trustee must be met at the time the application for trustee is submitted to the WSO. Specifically, such trustee nominees must also have:

- 1) Worked through all Twelve Steps;
- 2) Declared themselves as practicing the Twelve Steps to the best of their ability;
- 3) Declared themselves as committed to the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous; and
- 4) Affirmed these additional qualifications on their trustee application forms.

c) Upon election, each trustee shall make a commitment of:

- 1) Adherence to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
- 2) Continual recovery including abstinence and maintenance of a healthy body weight throughout the entire term(s) of office. Each person shall be the judge of his or her own recovery including abstinence and maintenance of a healthy body weight.
- 3) Compliance with all the terms and provisions of the prevailing Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws.

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d) In addition, regional trustees:

- 1) Are to physically reside in the region represented no less than the six months immediately prior to election.
- 2) Elected regional trustees will maintain physical residency in the regions represented for two-thirds of each year of their terms, excluding OA-related business travel.
- 3) If a change of status of physical residency of a regional trustee occurs following election to office, said trustee will notify the Board of Trustees of the change in status immediately. The trustee will vacate the position at the next World Service Business Conference, where elections will be held to fill the incomplete term.
- 4) Additional qualifications for regional trustee may be set by each region.

### **Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees**

a) Regional Trustees

- 1) At least one-hundred twenty days prior to the scheduled opening of the annual Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, all groups within a region eligible to submit trustee nominees shall be notified by the regional officers of the forthcoming Conference, with a request to all qualified members of the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous from the region to submit nominations to the region.
- 2) At least ninety days prior to the annual Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, the regional representatives of each region shall choose from the nominees submitted to it no more than three qualified nominees from that region. Resumes of these nominees must be sent to the Board of Trustees within one week of their selection. Copies of these resumes must be sent to all delegates at least forty-five days prior to its annual meeting. (See exception, Section 7.)
- 3) The (no more than three) nominees for regional trustees chosen by the regional assembly or affirmed by the currently registered region representatives shall be submitted to the Conference for election.

b) Regional Trustees for Newly Approved Regions Outside Regions One - Ten

1) Appointment

- (i) The board shall appoint the first regional trustee for the region.
- (ii) Each region may submit one nominee for the new regional trustee appointment in accordance with the provisions of Section 5, a) and b) with the exception of the new region who may submit three nominees.

2) Elections

- (i) The first election of the regional trustee shall occur at the World Service Business Conference the year following approval of the new region.
- (ii) Applicants for the first elected regional trustee who live within the new region shall submit their resume to the Board of Trustees ninety days prior to the annual Conference.

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(iii) If there are at least three qualified nominees from the new region, nominees from other regions shall not be accepted. One nominee for the elected regional trustee position may also be submitted from each other region in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 a) and b) except as otherwise provided in Section 5 b) 2) (ii).

3) Copies of resumes must be sent to all Conference delegates at least forty-five days prior to the annual Conference.

c) General Service Trustees

1) All applicants for open position(s) of general service trustee must submit their resume to the Board of Trustees ninety days prior to the annual Conference. Such resumes must be affirmed by a majority vote of the applicant's intergroup/service board or a region in which the applicant has recently served, or a majority vote of the Board of Trustees if the applicant is a sitting trustee.

2) The Board of Trustees, acting as a nominating committee, shall submit a list of nominees for the open position(s), with copies of the nominees' resumes, to all Conference delegates at least forty-five days prior to the Conference.

d) Virtual Services Trustee

1) All applicants for the open position of virtual services trustee must submit their resumes to the Board of Trustees ninety days prior to the annual Conference. Such resumes must be affirmed by a majority vote of the applicant's intergroup/service board or a region in which the applicant has recently served, or a majority vote of the Board of Trustees if the applicant is a sitting trustee.

2) The Board of Trustees, acting as a nominating committee, shall submit a list of nominees for the open position, with copies of the nominees' resumes to all Conference delegates at least forty-five days prior to the Conference.

**Section 6 – Election of Trustees**

a) To be eligible for election, each nominee must appear before the delegates at the World Service Business Conference and address the assembled delegates from three to five minutes and answer questions from the floor. No new nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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

c) If more than one ballot is necessary for any position, any candidate having less than one-fifth of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically on subsequent ballots, except that the top two candidates must remain. If no candidate has less than one-fifth of the votes, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

d) Once there are only two candidates remaining for any trustee position and neither candidate receives a majority after two additional ballots are taken, a vacancy is declared. The Board of Trustees will fill this vacancy at the second regular board meeting after Conference.

e) The election at WSBC of the next category of trustee shall occur after the candidate(s) in the previous category have been elected or the position(s) have been declared vacant. The order of election shall be: regional trustee(s), virtual services trustee, general service trustee(s).

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- f) The newly elected trustees shall take office immediately at the conclusion of the Conference.

**Section 7 – Vacancies**

a) Regional Trustees

- 1) Vacancies occurring among the regional trustees shall be filled by the Board of Trustees to serve until the conclusion of the next World Service Business Conference. When possible, the trustee shall be selected from the region involved. The Board of Trustees shall solicit the names of eligible candidates from the region involved.
  - 2) Should such vacancy occur within one hundred twenty days prior to Conference, the usual deadlines for the selection of regional trustee nominees shall be suspended. In this case only, resumes of regional trustee candidates nominated by the region shall be received by the Board of Trustees at least two weeks prior to the official opening of Conference to be considered for election at that Conference. Regions may affirm the nominations in a manner determined by the region. Copies of these resumes shall be supplied to the delegates by the opening of Conference.
  - 3) If a region is unable to provide applicant(s), then Article IX, Section 7 a) (1) applies.
- b) Vacancies occurring among the general service trustees may be filled by the Board of Trustees to serve until the conclusion of the next World Service Business Conference.
- c) A vacancy occurring in the virtual services trustee position may be filled by the Board of Trustees to serve until the conclusion of the next World Service Business Conference.
- d) A vacancy created by action of the Conference delegates shall be filled for each category of trustee as stated in Section 7.

**ARTICLE X – MEETINGS OF DELEGATES**

**Section 1 – World Service Business Conference**

a) Annual Meeting

The corporation shall sponsor an annual meeting of the delegates of the members, which shall be known as the World Service Business Conference (hereafter may be referred to as the “Conference”). The Conference shall serve as the collective conscience of the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.

b) Time and Location

The annual Conference shall be held during the month of May or on such dates as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference shall be held in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate.

**Section 2 – Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the delegates for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the chair of the board or by a majority of the trustees.

**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 OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX, Section 6 or Article X, Section 3(c)1:

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- 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.
  - 4) Each region shall be entitled to one vote through its duly elected chair or alternate.
  - 5) A region that was represented at the last WSBC by fewer than forty percent of its intergroups and other eligible service bodies may send up to five additional delegates from the region. Preference shall be given to delegates selected from intergroups and service bodies which would not otherwise be represented by delegates.
  - 6) Regional trustees.
  - 7) General service trustees.
  - 8) Virtual services trustee.
- b) Non-delegates who may address the World Service Business Conference shall consist of officers of the corporation or any parent or subsidiary of the corporation who are not also trustees, the Conference parliamentarian, the managing director and/or the managerial staff of the World Service Office, and the founder of Overeaters Anonymous.
- 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 beyond 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.
  - 3) Countries without intergroups or national/language service boards which seek representation at the annual Conference shall have at least one delegate. Larger representation shall be determined by the Board of Trustees, with delegate approval in accordance with the number of groups in that country.
  - 4) Delegates and alternates should be selected at least one-hundred twenty days before the annual Conference, and the names forwarded immediately upon selection to the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous.
  - 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.

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#### **Section 4 – Notice**

Notice of the regular annual Conference and all special meetings of delegates shall be given to each registered service body, unless otherwise instructed by each individual service body, by prepaid mail and/or electronic transmission. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the delegates representing each service body. Such notice shall be sent no less than sixty days before each meeting, and shall specify the place, day and hour of the meeting and shall state the general nature of the business to be considered at such meeting. The notice of the annual Conference shall designate it as such.

#### **Section 5 – Voting**

No delegate shall have more than one vote. Votes may be taken by notice, by show of hands, by ballot or as called for by the presiding officer of any meeting, provided that the delegates may prescribe the method of voting desired on any question without regard to the method called for by the presiding officer.

#### **Section 6 – Presiding Officer**

All meetings of delegates shall be presided over by the chair of the Board of Trustees. In the absence of the chair, the first vice chair shall preside over the meetings of the delegates.

#### **Section 7 – Parliamentary Authority**

All meetings of the delegates shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, where not in conflict with the law, Articles of Incorporation, these bylaws or special rules that delegates may adopt.

#### **Section 8 – Business Agenda**

- a) The chair shall provide that the agenda for the annual Conference includes written reports of the treasurer, managing director, board and Conference committee chairs.
- b) Notwithstanding any action of the chair or mandate of Section 7 above, questions of policy shall take precedence over proposed bylaw amendments at all Conference meetings, except for such bylaw amendments as may be required to conform with or be mandated by any action of State or Federal statute, code or law. The agenda of the Conference shall specifically provide for consideration of policy questions before consideration of bylaw amendments.
- c) New business to be placed on the agenda prior to Conference shall follow the same procedure for submission as for bylaw amendments and shall be approved by fifty percent of all intergroups and service boards responding to an agenda questionnaire by sixty days prior to the Conference. Other new business of an urgent nature must receive a majority vote of the Reference Subcommittee in order to be brought to the Conference floor.

### **ARTICLE XI – CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

The delegates may submit their preference for Conference committees in accordance with this Article XI. Committees shall include but not be limited to the following:

#### **Section 1 – Conference Literature Committee**

- a) The Conference Literature Committee shall be composed of twelve or more delegates selected by the chair of the Literature Committee of the Board of Trustees from among delegates at the Conference, to obtain good geographic representation, strong abstinence and a willingness to serve.
- b) Outgoing delegates, if they desire, may serve an extra year on the committee in an advisory capacity.

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## **Section 2 – Bylaws Committee**

The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of one or two delegates from each region, selected either at regional assembly or by a method practical to the region. One or two delegates shall also be selected from the collective virtual service boards by a method practical to them. In addition, other delegates attending WSBC may choose to serve on the Bylaws Committee.

- a) The Reference Subcommittee shall be composed of the Bylaws Committee delegate chair and representative of the Board of Trustees who shall be the cochair; and the representatives selected from each region and the virtual service boards to serve on the Bylaws Committee.
- b) The Reference Subcommittee shall meet at times designated on the Conference schedule or agenda, and other times as required by the Conference. The Reference Subcommittee will meet on the day prior to the conclusion of scheduled new business to consider emergency new business.
- c) Names of the Bylaws Committee members selected by the regions and virtual service boards shall be sent to the World Service Office forty-five days prior to the Conference.
- d) The Reference Subcommittee shall further operate according to guidelines developed by the Bylaws Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

## **Section 3 – Finance Committee**

- a) To review the annual budget.
- b) To develop, suggest and implement strategies with the goal of increasing Seventh Tradition and special funds contributions to the World Service Office.
- c) To keep the Fellowship informed of financial decisions made by the BOT that affect groups and service bodies.
- d) To assist group and service body treasurers with the performance of their responsibilities.

## **Section 4 – Region Chairs Committee**

- a) The Region Chairs Committee shall provide a channel of information and communication between the members and the Board of Trustees through the regions and a network for the purpose of sharing resources and solutions.
- b) The Region Chairs Committee shall be composed of the current region chairs only. A region chair may designate an alternate, such as the region vice chair, to serve on the committee in her/his absence.
- c) Section 6 of Article XI does not apply to this committee.

## **Section 5 – Other Conference Committees as may be needed and established by the Board of Trustees or the World Service Business Conference**

### **Section 6 – Conference Committee Chair**

- a) Election – A Conference cochair and a vice chair for each Conference committee shall be elected annually by a majority of the delegates present at the annual Conference committee meetings. The Conference cochair shall be a delegate and shall not serve more than two consecutive one-year terms. The vice chair shall assume all responsibilities in the absence of the Conference cochair.



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- b) Responsibilities – One year’s active service with the committee members and chairing the Conference committee meetings at the next annual World Service Business Conference if re-elected as a delegate.
  - c) Vacancies – If, for any reason, the Conference Committee cochair is unable to fulfill the position and there is no vice chair, the chair of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the trustee cochair responsible for liaison between the Conference Committee and the board, shall appoint a delegate from the committee to serve as Conference cochair.
  - d) A vacancy shall be presumed if the Conference Committee cochair fails to communicate with the committee for three consecutive months.

## **ARTICLE XII – FINANCES**

### **Section 1 – Procedure**

- a) Full and complete disclosure of all World Service official financial matters is a prime guidance and objective for all accounting procedures and financial statements.
- b) Any delegate or trustee is entitled to examine the accounting records of the World Service Office, and any question concerning the finances of the World Service Office is completely proper and is to be answered promptly.
- c) Accounting procedures shall be geared to periodic reporting, and financial controls shall be established for credibility of the financial statements.
- d) Statements shall be clear and easy to understand to prevent confusion and misinterpretations.

## **ARTICLE XIII – CORPORATION ASSETS**

No delegate to the Conference or member of any local group which is a member of Overeaters Anonymous, and no trustee, officer or employee or member of a committee or person connected with the corporation, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation; provided that this shall not prevent payment to any such person of reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the assets upon the dissolution of the corporation.

All delegates to the Conference and all members of local groups which are members of Overeaters Anonymous shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that, upon such dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the corporation then remaining in the hands of the Board of Trustees, after all debts have been paid, shall be delivered and paid over in such amounts as the Board of Trustees may determine or as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the Board of Trustees, exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

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## **ARTICLE XIV – BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1 – Procedure**

Subpart B of these bylaws may be amended as follows:

- a) Amendments to Subpart B of these bylaws may be proposed by any registered service body, trustee, the Region Chairs Committee or the Conference Bylaws Committee and shall be submitted to the chair of the Board of Trustees, postmarked or be date and time stamped through electronic transmission by December 10 before the annual meeting of the Conference. The Board of Trustees may also submit amendments to the bylaws.
- b) The chair of the board shall cause a copy of the proposed amendments to be communicated to each delegate whose name appears in the office of the secretary of the corporation and to each registered service body and trustee by January 10 prior to the annual Conference.
- c) In order for an amendment proposed to be submitted to the World Service Business Conference, these proposals will need to be approved by fifty percent of all intergroups and service boards responding. The agenda questionnaire must be returned to the WSO by sixty days prior to the Conference.
- d) Except as otherwise specified by these bylaws, proposed amendments to Subpart B may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting provided a quorum is present.
- e) Amendments to Article I (Twelve Steps) and Article II (Twelve Traditions) of Subpart B of these bylaws may only be adopted if, in addition to d) above, they are ratified by three-fourths of the registered Overeaters Anonymous groups responding within six months of notification, provided at least fifty-five percent of the registered groups have responded.
- f) The parliamentarian may suggest editorial changes which do not alter the meaning of any bylaws but clarify the wording or bring the bylaws and Articles of Incorporation into conformity.
- g) Amendments to Subpart B of these bylaws shall be effective at the close of the Conference except as otherwise specified.

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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.  
FY2013 FINANCIAL REPORT**

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