



**2019 World Service Business Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
WRAP-UP REPORT**

“Growing Our Membership Worldwide”

Dear Delegates,

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

The minutes, all speeches, presentation/discussion items, committee reports, workshop reports, names of delegates and trustees, bylaws, and the Business Conference Policy Manual will be published in the Final Conference Report. The Final Conference Report (excluding full delegate names and contact information) will be available on the OA website in late August. Delegates will be notified, and a list of delegate names and contact information will be emailed directly to you.

There were 188 voting delegates and 17 countries present.

Countries present: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom (including Scotland), United States

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019 – BUSINESS MEETING I

Credentials Report

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

187 eligible voters

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

Conference Standing Rules

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

Consent Agenda

- New Business Motion **E** (WSBC Policy 2009d)
- New Business Motion **H** (WSBC Policies 1986a, 1992b, 2017c)
- Proposal Item **5** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 3)
- Proposal Item **6** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 4)
- Proposal Item **7** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 3)
- Proposal Item **8** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XI, Section 3)
- Proposal Item **9** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX, Section 5)
- Proposal Item **10** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3)

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. The Consent Agenda was **adopted** as amended.

Conference Agenda

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

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of officers' reports, region reports, and committee reports.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019 – BUSINESS MEETING II

Credentials Report

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

187 eligible voters

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

There were committee reports, trustee nominee speeches, and time for questions and answers.

Updated Credentials Report

188 eligible voters

New Business Motion A-a

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the manuscript *Body Image, Relationships, and Sexuality: Personal Journeys to Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous*.

Proviso

Include the statement on abstinence and recovery (or the new definition of abstinence and recovery, if passed) at the beginning of the book

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. New Business Motion A-a **adopted with proviso**.

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019 – BUSINESS MEETING III

Credentials Report

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

188 eligible voters

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

Region Trustee Elections

The results of the region trustee elections were as follows:

Region Two – Hanna S.

Region Five – Barbara K.

Region Six – Beth B.

Region Eight – Andrea S.

Region Nine – Vasiliki T.

Region Ten – Letitia M.

General Service Trustee Elections

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

Tina C.

New Business Motion A-b

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet *Dignity of Choice: Establishing a Plan of Eating*.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. New Business Motion A-b **failed**.

New Business Motion A-c

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet *Welcome Back: Suggestions for Members in Relapse and for Those Who Care*.

Proviso

Service bodies licensed to translate and publish *Welcome Back* and *Members in Relapse* shall be permitted to continue publication and sales until such time that *Welcome Back: Suggestions for Members in Relapse and for Those Who Care* is published.

New Business Motion A-c **adopted with proviso**.

New Business Motion J

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2016.

~~WSBC Policy 2016~~

~~It was adopted to:~~

~~Establish an OA Virtual Services Conference Committee. The committee would focus on virtual groups and would assist in forming new virtual service boards, presenting virtual workshops, and other projects that support the virtual groups and virtual service boards (VSBs). This will help build infrastructure and support for VSBs and virtual groups.~~

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

New Business Motion F

Move to apply for and, if approved, accept nonprofit status from Google so that we may gain access to Google's Custom Search feature at no cost.

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

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019 – BUSINESS MEETING IV

Credentials Report

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

188 eligible voters

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

New Business Motion D

Move to adopt the following policy statement:

Groups known as hybrid meetings may register only once. The hybrid groups may be included on the oa.org meeting list under the appropriate meeting categories.

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

New Business Motion P

Move that the Board of Trustees consider alternative ways to make the newcomer packet information available online.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion P **postponed indefinitely**.

New Business Motion I

Move that WSBC 2019 directs the Board of Trustees to make all Board of Trustees and all BOT committee meetings virtual meetings, with the exception of the meeting that takes place during the World Service Business Conference and those meetings that might require the physical presence of members of the Board of Trustees in exceptional and extenuating circumstances. This requires a change to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A, which can only be done by the Board of Trustees.

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

New Business Motion B

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2008a to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 2008a

It was adopted that:

OA literature may be discontinued, removed, or changed in format for the following reasons:

- 1) Low Demand. When it is no longer cost-effective to print and maintain inventory of Conference-approved OA literature due to low demand, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees may decide to move the piece from print to digital form after the depletion of remaining stock.
 - a) Pamphlets will be made available for download from the OA website.
 - b) The Executive Committee may choose other methods to make low-demand books available.

- c) A copy marked “digital only” with the date the piece was converted to digital only will be maintained in literature archives.
- 2) Removal of Conference Seal of Approval. WSBC delegates may remove the Conference Seal of Approval by a two-thirds vote. Sales of such literature will cease immediately. A copy marked “removed” with the date the piece was removed will be maintained in literature archives.
- 3) Non-Observance of Traditions. If any previously approved literature is found by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees to violate our Traditions, sales of that literature will cease immediately, and it will not be distributed for any reason. Conference-approved literature determined to violate Traditions will then be submitted to the Conference for removal of the Conference Seal of Approval. A copy marked “removed” with the date the piece was removed will be maintained in literature archives.
- 4) Discontinued Literature. A copy of literature that is discontinued for any reason other than noncompliance with Traditions will be marked “discontinued” with the date the piece was discontinued and maintained in literature archives.

Notification to the Fellowship shall be through appropriate WSO publications.

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

New Business Motion O

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1993a to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 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, the OA Promise *I Put My Hand in Yours*, or the Step Twelve Affirmation from *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition*.

“We who began working the Steps in order to recover from compulsive eating now find that, through them, we have embarked on a lifelong journey of spiritual growth...Those of us who live this program don’t simply carry the message; *we are the message*. Each day that we live well, we *are* well, and we embody the joy of recovery, which attracts others who want what we’ve found in OA. We’re always happy to share our secret: the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous, which empower each of us to live well and be well, one day at a time.”

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion O **failed**; 89 yes, 93 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eleven

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eleven **withdrawn**.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Three

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

Article IX – Board of Trustees
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 one World Service Business Conference; 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) If the trustee applicant has served as a delegate to only one World Service Business Conference at the time of application, that applicant must serve as a delegate to the World Service Business Conference at which they stand for election as trustee.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Three **failed**; 93 yes, 81 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Twelve

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XI – Conference Committees, by inserting a new Section 5 and renumbering the subsequent sections.

Article XI – Conference Committees
Section 5 – Disbanding Conference Committees

- a) A Conference committee established by the Board of Trustees may be disbanded by the Board of Trustees if it is found not to have been working or meeting outside of WSBC for more than one year.
- b) A Conference committee established by an act of the World Service Business Conference, may be suspended by the Board of Trustees if it is found not to have been working or meeting outside of WSBC for more than one year. A motion to disband the committee shall be placed on the agenda of the next World Service Business Conference for consideration.

Section 6 – Conference Committee Chair

...

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Twelve **adopted**.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Thirteen

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article III – Twelve Concepts, Concepts 2, 6, 7, 8, and 11 to read as follows:

Article III – Twelve Concepts

- 2) The OA groups have delegated to their local service bodies, regions, and ultimately to World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, each level or service acts on behalf of members and groups at its level. The World Service Business Conference is the voice, authority, and effective conscience of OA as a whole.
- 6) The World Service Business Conference has entrusted the Board of Trustees with the primary responsibility for the administration of Overeaters Anonymous. Similar boards or officers are selected at the local and region levels to manage any legal or financial responsibilities that are needed.
- 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. Local service bodies and regions have similar bylaws and guidelines that are developed for their needs.
- 8) The Board of Trustees had delegated to its Executive Committee the responsibility to administer the OA World Service Office. Service bodies may delegate such responsibilities to their elected officers.
- 11) Trustee administration of the World Service Office should always be assisted by the best standing committees, executives, staffs and consultants. Local service bodies rely on their officers and committees to provide guidance and support for their activities.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Thirteen **failed**.

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019 – BUSINESS MEETING V

Credentials Report

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

184 eligible voters

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

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 2 – Composition, to read as follows:

Article VII – Intergroups

Section 2 – Composition

- d) Virtual intergroups may also participate in the activities (including voting) of another region with that region's permission.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four **failed**.

New Business Motion A

Move that the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous respects that we are a worldwide fellowship. The WSBC 2019 delegates recommend that all OA members, groups, committees, and service bodies and the WSO staff consider ease of translation when developing written material.

Members' stories will not be subject to this statement.

The intent of this statement can be realized through:

- Using clear English expressions, avoiding slang or jargon.
- Being sensitive to the benefit of using common words, using simple sentences, and incorporating alternative formats, such as bullet points and headings where they add clarity.
- Reliance on the OA Glossary used for translation of OA literature.

By considering these matters at the beginning of a project, the Fellowship will make it easier to translate our literature and materials.

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

Substitute New Business Motion C

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988b to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 1988b

The WSBC 2019 accepts the following definitions:

- 1) Abstinence: The act of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.
- 2) Recovery: Removal of the need to engage in compulsive eating behaviors.

Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is achieved through working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program.

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

New Business Motion M

New Business Motion M **withdrawn**.

Substitute New Business Motion K

The following policy statement was adopted:

Statement on Public and Social Media

While Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, including social media, the delegates of the 2019 World Service Business Conference recommend that any OA member, group, or service body using social media for OA public information and public awareness maintain the personal anonymity of OA members.

Members of Overeaters Anonymous are anonymous. The Fellowship is not. Members of Overeaters Anonymous are responsible for maintaining their anonymity and respecting the anonymity of other OA members. When attending an OA meeting, whether face-to-face or virtual, members are encouraged to seek appropriate means to protect their own anonymity and that of fellow members.

All registered virtual meetings shall inform members that their anonymity is not fully protected when attending a virtual meeting.

Find options for protecting anonymity at *Guidelines for Anonymity in the Digital World*. (URL) hyperlink.

Motion required majority to adopt. Substitute New Business Motion K **adopted**.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal One

Bylaw Amendment Proposal One **referred to committee**.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Two

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Two **withdrawn**.

Consent Agenda Motions

New Business Motion E

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2009d.

~~WSBC Policy 2009d~~

~~It was adopted to:~~

~~Create a Web/Technology Conference Committee starting at WSBC 2010.~~

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

New Business Motion H

Move to combine WSBC Policies 19876a, 1992b, 2017c.

WSBC Policy 2019

The World Service Business Conference established the following annual events.

OA Birthday: The third weekend of January as the annual celebration of the January 19, 1960 founding of Overeaters Anonymous.

Unity Day: The last Saturday in February in even years and the last Sunday in February in odd years at 11:30 a.m. local time.

Sponsorship Day: The third weekend in August.

International Day Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA): The third weekend in November.

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

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Five

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

Article VI – Intergroups
Section 3 – 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 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 3a)2) above.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Five **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 4 – Registration, to read as follows:

Article VII – Regions
Section 4 – 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 electronic transmission to the registered 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 4a) above.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seven

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

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seven **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eight

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XI – Conference Committees, Section 3 – Region Chairs Committee, to read as follows:

Article XI – Conference Committees
Section 3 – Region Chairs Committee

- a) The Region Chairs Committee shall act as a channel of communication between the Board of Trustees and the members of the Fellowship in their respective regions, for the purpose of sharing resources and solutions.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eight **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Nine

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 5 – Nominations of Trustees, to read as follows:

Article IX – Board of Trustees
Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees

- b) Regional Trustees for Newly Approved Regions ~~Outside Regions One – Ten~~
- ~~d) Virtual Services Trustee~~
 - ~~1) Should a virtual region be created by a change to these bylaws, anyone serving as the virtual services trustee shall serve the remaining portion of their term as the trustee responsible for the new virtual region.~~

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Nine **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Ten

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

Article X – Meetings of Delegates
Section 3 – Delegates

- 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, trustee nominees, the managing director, and/or the managerial staff of the World Service Office.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Ten **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Remaining Business

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

Seventh Tradition Total: \$6,252.00

World Service Business Conference 2019

Intergroup/Service Board Representation

Per the November 2004 BOT meeting, a motion was passed that states “On the final morning of the Conference, a count of those represented intergroups and national/language service boards shall be made.” Therefore, the counts below are based on the final morning (5/11/19) of WSBC 2019.

| Region | Total # of Intergroups/Service Boards (as of 5/11/19) | Total # of Intergroups/Service Boards Represented at WSBC 2019 | Percentage of Intergroups/Service Boards Represented at WSBC 2019 |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| Region 1 | 25 | 15 | 60% |
| Region 2 | 36 | 17 | 47% |
| Region 3 | 21 | 15 | 71% |
| Region 4 | 16 | 8 | 50% |
| Region 5 | 27 | 8 | 30% |
| Region 6 | 38 | 21 | 55% |
| Region 7 | 21 | 9 | 43% |
| Region 8 | 55 | 13 | 24% |
| Region 9 | 62 | 10 | 16% |
| Region 10 | 13 | 2 | 15% |
| Virtual Region | 12 | 5 | 42% |

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

Therefore, Regions Five, Eight, Nine, and Ten are eligible to send up to five additional delegates to WSBC 2020.