

World Service Business Conference 2021 Final Conference Report



Looking to the Future:

One Day at a Time

World Service
Business Conference
April 12-24, 2021

Table of Contents

World Service Board of Trustees 2021-2022	4
World Service Delegate Cochairs 2021-2022	5
World Service Business Meetings Minutes	6
Chair’s Report	24
Treasurer’s Report	26
Managing Director’s Report	29
Bylaws Committee Report	35
Conference-Approved Literature Committee Report	37
Region Chairs Committee Report	38
Twelfth Step Within Committee Report	40
Unity with Diversity Committee Report	41
Young People’s Committee Report	42
World Service Attending Delegates	44
Business Conference Policy Manual	46
Business Conference Policy Manual Appendix A – Rescissions	62
Business Conference Policy Manual Index	68
OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A	78
OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B	88
OA, Inc. FY2020 Financial Report	102

World Service Board of Trustees 2021-2022

Trustee	Positions	Committee Assignments (chair)
<i>Karen B.</i>	Region Seven Trustee First Vice Chair	Bylaws Strategic Planning
<i>Beth B.</i>	Region Six Trustee	Unity with Diversity
<i>Tina C.</i>	General Service Trustee	Internal Information
<i>Margie G.</i>	Region One Trustee	Conference Planning
<i>Judy H.</i>	General Service Trustee Chair of the Board	
<i>BJ J.</i>	General Service Trustee	Young People's
<i>Barb K.</i>	Region Five Trustee	Twelfth Step Within
<i>Bob L.*</i>	General Service Trustee	
<i>Sandra M.*</i>	General Service Trustee	
<i>Letitia M.</i>	Region Ten Trustee	Website Review Restructuring Ad Hoc
<i>Meg M.</i>	Region Four Trustee Treasurer	Delegate Support Fund Professional Tradeshow/Public Awareness Public Information/Professional Outreach
<i>CJ M.</i>	General Service Trustee Second Vice Chair	BRM Review Region Chairs
<i>Anne O.*</i>	Region Two Trustee	
<i>Dora P.</i>	Virtual Region Trustee	WSBC Translations Ad Hoc
<i>Neva S.</i>	Region Three Trustee	Conference-Approved Literature Literature Review
<i>Andi S.</i>	Region Eight Trustee	Board-Approved Literature Convention 2021
<i>Vasiliki T.</i>	Region Nine Trustee	International Publications/ Translations

*Appointed in June 2021 to serve until WSBC 2022.

World Service Delegate Cochairs 2021-2022

Conference Committee	Delegate Cochair
<i>Bylaws</i>	Cyndy L.
<i>Conference-Approved Literature</i>	Marjorie T.
<i>Public Information/Professional Outreach</i>	Blair Alden P.
<i>Region Chairs</i>	Katrina S.
<i>Twelfth Step Within</i>	Jane C.
<i>Unity with Diversity</i>	Mollie Kaye M.
<i>Young Persons</i>	Nathan O.

World Service Business Meetings Minutes

**General Business Meetings
Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.
60th Annual World Service Business Conference
April 20-24, 2021**

Electronic Meetings

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING I

Chair Bonnie L. called the 60th Annual World Service Business Conference to order at 10:00 a.m. Marisa M., Region Eight, led the Serenity Prayer in Portuguese and in English. **CALL TO ORDER**

Joanne M., Virtual Region, read the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous; Marjorie T., Region One, read the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous; Jack P., Region Six, read the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. **READINGS**

The chair welcomed all attendees to the Conference. **WELCOME**

The chair announced the Conference theme: Looking to the Future: One Day at a Time. **CONFERENCE THEME**

The chair introduced Conference Planning Chair Margie G. **CONFERENCE PLANNING CHAIR INTRODUCTION**

The chair introduced the Board of Trustees: Region One Trustee Margie G., Region Two Trustee Hanna S., Region Three Trustee Neva S., Region Four Trustee Meg M., Region Five Trustee Barb K., Region Six Trustee Beth B., Region Seven Trustee Karen B., Region Eight Trustee Andi S., Region Nine Trustee Vasiliki T., Region Ten Trustee Letitia M., Virtual Region Trustee Dora P., General Service Trustee and First Vice Chair Ron P., General Service Trustee and Second Vice Chair Judy H., General Service Trustee and Treasurer Tina C., General Service Trustee BJ J., General Service Trustee CJ M., and General Service Trustee and Chair of the Board Bonnie L. **TRUSTEE INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair introduced the region chairs: Region One Chair Cindy C., Region Two Chair Lynn K., Region Three Chair Elaine L., Region Four Chair Mary C., Region Five Chair Eileen C., Region Six Chair Carmen D., Region Seven Chair Terri B., Region Eight Chair Katrina S., Region Nine Chair Alexandra D., Region Ten Chair Dinah W., and Virtual Region Chair Vicki W. **REGION CHAIR INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair introduced Parliamentarian Valoree Althoff, Board Administrator/Conference Secretary Rebbie Garza, and Center Microphone Monitor Karin H. **PARLIAMENTARIAN/ SECRETARY INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair appointed Deanna B., Region Five; Linda H., Region Eight; and Joanne M., Region Three, to serve as Minutes Approval Committee for the WSBC 2021 business meetings. **MINUTES APPROVAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

The chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as timekeepers during Business Meeting I.

**VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS**

Margie G. called attendance by region to acknowledge delegates present at WSBC.

REGION ATTENDANCE

Region One – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, 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

Region Four – Illinois (except Greater Chicago area and Central Illinois Intergroup), Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, 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 and Labrador, 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, 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 Region – Virtual Groups, Virtual Intergroups

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 246 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

**CREDENTIALS REPORT
ADOPTED**

The chair declared a quorum present.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Conference Standing Rules

STANDING RULES

Standing Rules Motion 1

Move to amend the Standing Rules to read as follows:

6) Recognition and Debate

- A) At the business meetings of the WSBC, a delegate will use the video/camera feature when speaking, unless accommodation for non-use of video has been requested, and:
- 1) Must be recognized by the chair before speaking, and
 - 2) Give his or her name, office/title, and service body as appropriate.

Standing Rules Motion 1 **adopted**. 136 yes, 67 no.

The 2021 Conference Standing Rules were **adopted** as amended. 206 yes, 6 no.

**STANDING RULES ADOPTED
AS AMENDED**

The chair reported service body voting results from the Agenda Questionnaire. 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:

**NEW BUSINESS MOTIONS
PRESENTED**

New Business 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.

New Business Item A was submitted by San Francisco Intergroup and approved by **71%** of the responding service bodies. **Item B** was submitted by MetroWest Intergroup and approved by **66%** of the responding service bodies. **Item C** was submitted by Central New Mexico Intergroup and approved by **54%** of the responding service bodies. **Item D** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee and approved by **91%** of the responding service bodies. **Item E** was submitted by Ron P. and approved by **96%** of the responding service bodies. **Item F** was submitted by Ron P. and approved by **86%** of the responding service bodies. **Item G** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **89%** of the responding service bodies. **Item H** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **92%** of the responding service bodies. **Item I** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **99%** of the responding service bodies.

**AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE
RESULTS**

Voting results of each Bylaw Amendment motion were as follows:

Bylaw Amendment Item 1 was submitted by San Francisco Intergroup and approved by **95%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 2** was submitted by MetroWest Intergroup and approved by **95%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 3** was submitted by Region One and approved by **90%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 4** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee and approved by **97%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 5** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee and approved by **93%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 6** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee and approved by **98%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 7** was submitted by the WSBC Bylaws Committee and approved by **98%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 8** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **97%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 9** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **96%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 10** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved

by **96%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 11** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **97%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 12** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **96%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 15** was submitted by Vasiliki T., Letitia M., and Karen B. and approved by **95%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 16** was submitted by Vasiliki T., Letitia M., and Karen B. and approved by **90%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 17** was submitted by Vasiliki T., Letitia M., and Karen B. and approved by **87%** of the responding service bodies.

Motion Number One

Karen B. moved to withdraw Bylaw Amendment Items 8, 9, and 10.

**MOTION NUMBER ONE
WITHDRAW ITEMS 8, 9, AND
10 ADOPTED**

Motion Number One **adopted**. 181 yes, 31 no.

The following items were placed on the Consent Agenda: New Business Motion **G** (WSBC Policy 2010d), Proposal Item **4** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 2), Proposal Item **6** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 1), and Proposal Item **7** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3.)

**CONSENT AGENDA
ADOPTED**

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. The Consent Agenda was **adopted**. 194 yes, 1 no.

By unanimous consent, the 2021 World Service Business Conference agenda was **adopted** as distributed.

**CONFERENCE AGENDA
ADOPTED**

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

OFFICERS' REPORTS

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

New Business Motion A-a

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *The Tools of Recovery*.

**NBM A-a
THE TOOLS OF RECOVERY
ADOPTED**

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. New Business Motion A-a **adopted**. 201 yes, 11 no.

New Business Motion A-b

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet *A New Plan of Eating: A Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Journey*.

**NBM A-b
A NEW PLAN OF EATING; A
PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND
SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
ADOPTED**

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. New Business Motion A-b **adopted**. 155 yes, 58 no.

New Business Motion A-c

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised manuscript *The Voices of Recovery*.

**NBM A-c
THE VOICES OF RECOVERY**

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. New Business Motion A-c **adopted**; 142 yes, 71 no.

NBM A-C
THE VOICES OF RECOVERY
ADOPTED

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING II

Chair Bonnie L. called the second business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Carmen D., Region Six, led the Serenity Prayer in French and in English.

CALL TO ORDER

Evangelyn R., Region Six, 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 248 eligible voters. The Credentials Report was **adopted** without objection as presented.

CREDENTIALS REPORT
ADOPTED

The chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as timekeepers during Business Meeting II.

VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS

New Business Motion I

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2019a to read as follows:

NBM I
WSBC POLICY 2019a
ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WSBC Policy 2019a

It was adopted that:

The term hybrid is used to describe a group composed of members attending a single meeting where all can hear and share but may be present either in the same physical location (face-to-face) or through some form of electronic device (virtual).

A hybrid group may register only once and is assigned one group number but may appear on oa.org in both the face-to-face listing and the virtual listing and will clearly indicate that they are a hybrid meeting.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion I **adopted** as amended. 193 yes, 9 no.

Substitute New Business Motion E

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1984a by striking and inserting as follows:

SUBSTITUTE NBM E
WSBC POLICY 1984a

WSBC Policy 1984a

~~Upon the recommendation of the Literature Committee, a Preamble for Overeaters Anonymous was adopted to read: The Preamble of Overeaters Anonymous~~

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who through shared experience, strength, and hope are recovering from compulsive overeating and other compulsive food behaviors. We welcome everyone who wants to stop ~~eating compulsively~~ engaging in these behaviors. 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 compulsive food behaviors and to carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of OA to those who still suffer.

**SUBSTITUTE NBM E
WSBC POLICY 1984a FAILED
AS SUBSTITUTED**

Motion required majority to adopt. Substitute New Business Motion E **failed** as substituted. 93 yes, 125 no.

New Business Motion H

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1992a to read as follows:

**NBM H
WSBC POLICY 1992a
ADOPTED**

WSBC Policy 1992a

The following policy statement was adopted:

“Unity with Diversity” Policy

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous 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 attribute. We welcome all who share our compulsion. Everyone with the desire to stop eating compulsively is welcome in Overeaters Anonymous.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of members, groups, and service bodies to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group, and service body to respect those rights as they extend the 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.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion H **adopted**. 137 yes, 62 no.

New Business Motion D

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2019c to read as follows:

**NBM D
WSBC POLICY 2019c**

WSBC Policy 2019c

The following policy statement was adopted:

The World Service Business Conference established the following annual events.

OA Birthday: The third full weekend (Friday included) of January as the annual celebration of the January 19, 1960 founding of Overeaters Anonymous.

NBM D
WSBC POLICY 2019c
ADOPTED AS AMENDED

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 full weekend (Friday included) in August.

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

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion D **adopted** as amended. 148 yes, 61 no.

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING III

Chair Bonnie L. called the third business meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. Karen C., Region Three, led the Serenity Prayer in Russian and English.

CALL TO ORDER

Bob B., Region Seven, 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 248 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

The chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as timekeepers during Business Meeting III.

VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS

New Business Motion F

Move to adopt the following policy statement:

NBM F
DIVERSE VOICES POLICY
ADOPTED

Diverse Voices Policy

When developing new and updating existing literature published by Overeaters Anonymous World Service, the Literature Committees will make a concerted effort to include stories and/or quotes from members of diverse populations that are underrepresented in OA (i.e., reflect a variety of compulsive food behaviors, belief systems, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, indigenous peoples, and peoples of color, etc.).

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion F **adopted**. 138 yes, 78 no.

Substitute New Business Motions A and C

Move to combine New Business Motions A and C and replace with the following:

SUBSTITUTE NBM A & C
ABSTINENCE POLICY

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

WSBC 2021 accepts the following:

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

**SUBSTITUTE NBM A & C
ABSTINENCE POLICY
ADOPTED AS SUBSTITUTED**

Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is the result of living and working the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.

Motion required majority to adopt. Substitute New Business Motions A and C **adopted** as substituted. 162 yes, 58 no.

New Business Motion B

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988b by inserting the following:

**NBM B
WSBC POLICY 1988b
FAILED**

WSBC Policy 1988b

The following policy statement was adopted:

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.

This policy shall be subject to change only in years ending in zero.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion B **failed**. 68 yes, 153 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Sixteen

Move to combine OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Article VII – Regions, and Article VIII – Service Boards into Article VI to read as follows:

**BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
SIXTEEN
BYLAWS B, ARTICLES VII,
VIII**

Article VI – Service Bodies

Service bodies are formed to support the groups in matters the group cannot accomplish on their own.

There shall be five types of service bodies to provide services beyond the group level. Service bodies provide support and representation of the groups and intergroups from which they are formed and act as guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service.

Service Bodies

- a) Intergroups
- b) National Service Boards
- c) Language Service Boards
- d) Special Focus Service Boards

e) Regions

Section 1 – Composition

- a) Intergroups are composed of two or more groups that have formed a service body for the purpose of supporting and representing these groups that are affiliated with it. Each state/province/country may have at least one service body (intergroup or national service board). In a state/province/country having only one group, that group may function as an intergroup.
- b) National service boards are composed of groups and intergroups who share a common purpose; to deal with issues that require a combination of membership and financial resources of intergroups and groups established within a single country.
- c) Language service boards are composed of groups, intergroups, and national service boards to serve the common needs of a language group, regardless of geographic proximity.
- d) Special focus service boards are composed of two or more groups or intergroups to serve the common needs of groups/intergroups with the same special focus, regardless of geographic proximity.
- e) Regions. There shall be eleven regions, each composed of intergroups, groups, and service boards. The regions shall be as follows:
 - 1) Region No. 1 shall be the Pacific Northwest region composed of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, 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.
 - 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, 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.

- 9) Region No. 9 shall be composed of countries and territories in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Western Asia, including all of Russia.
- 10) Region No. 10 shall be composed of countries and territories in Australia, East Asia, New Zealand, South East Asia, and the Western Pacific Basin.
- 11) Virtual Region is nongeographic and is primarily composed of virtual groups and virtual intergroups.

Should states/provinces/territories/countries withing a region, or intergroups/national/language service boards within a state/province/territory/country wish to transfer to a region that is more convenient, the body notifies its current region, the region it would like to join, and the Board of Trustees of its desire to transfer. The BOT then submits a motion to WSBC to amend Subpart B, Article VI, Section 1d of the bylaws.

Section 2 – Registration

- a) Each service body 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 having problems with 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:
 - i) intergroups – each affiliated group;
 - ii) national service boards – each affiliated intergroup and group;
 - iii) language service boards – each participating group, intergroup, and/or national service board; and
 - iv) special focus boards – each participating group.
- b) Each service body shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) Each service body 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 their 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 body. Any updated bylaws shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 2a) 2 above.

Section 3 – Affiliation and Participation

BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
SIXTEEN
BYLAWS B, ARTICLES VII,
VIII

Purpose of Affiliation: to facilitate the count of the groups and service bodies of the Fellowship and to encourage the flow of support and information to all.

Purpose of Participation: To facilitate the support and the flow of information within groups and service bodies that have a common need.

For the purpose of registration and WSBC representation:

- a) An intergroup may affiliate with one national service board if it exists, shall be affiliated with one region, and may participate in one or more language service boards.
- b) A national service board is affiliated with the region where their nation exists and may participate in one or more language service boards.
- c) A language service board may affiliate with one region. When the language service board spans more than one region, it may choose which region to affiliate with. Should a language service board choose to not affiliate with a region, the BOT chair shall assign a trustee to serve as liaison to that language service board. The service bodies, and groups acting as service bodies, that participate in a language service board retain their original affiliation.
- d) A special focus service board may affiliate with one region. When the special focus service board spans more than one region, it may choose which region to affiliate with. Should a special focus service board choose to not affiliate with a region, the BOT chair shall assign a trustee to serve as liaison to that special focus service board. The groups that participate in a special focus service board retain their original affiliation.

A group may choose to affiliate with an intergroup. The group shall be affiliated with the intergroup's region.

Should a group choose not to affiliate with an intergroup, but affiliates with a national service board, that group shall be affiliated with that national service board's region.

Groups that choose not to affiliate with an intergroup or a national service board shall be affiliated with the region where the group exists, either the geographic region or the Virtual Region.

Any group or service body may participate in the activities (including voting) of another intergroup, national service board, and/or language service board and region with their permission.

Section 4 – Functioning and WSBC Representation

- a) Service bodies may conduct their business by any method they choose.

- b) Minimal requirement for registered service bodies to maintain their registration at the WSO:
- 1) Intergroups shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all affiliated member groups, and for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - 2) National service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all affiliated member groups and intergroups for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - 3) Language service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all member groups, intergroups, and national service boards for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of one delegate/alternate to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - 4) Special focus service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all member groups for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of one delegate/alternate to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - 5) Region assemblies whose members shall be called “region 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.
- c) To send delegates to the WSBC a service body must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, a service body must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair, and region trustee; or in the case of a language or special focus service board that is not affiliated with a region, the World Service Office and the trustee liaison.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
SIXTEEN
BYLAWS B, ARTICLES VII,
VIII ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Sixteen **adopted** as amended. 175 yes, 35 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eleven

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eleven **ruled out of order** due to passage of Proposal Sixteen.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
ELEVEN
RULED OUT OF ORDER**

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seventeen

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seventeen **withdrawn**.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
SEVENTEEN
WITHDRAWN**

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Fifteen

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

BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
FIFTEEN
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE X,
SECTION 3 ADOPTED AS
AMENDED

Article X – Meetings of Delegates

Section 3 – Delegates

a) Qualifications/Selection

- 1) Each intergroup or national 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, as per the January Service Body Information Report from WSO, except that the national service board shall not represent the same groups as intergroups represent.
- 2) Countries without intergroups or national service boards that seek representation at the annual Conference shall have at least one delegate. Larger representation shall be determined by the Board of Trustees, with the delegate approval in accordance with the number of groups in that country.
- 3) Each language service board is entitled to have one qualified delegate only, regardless of the number of groups or service bodies (at least two meetings) that compose the language service board.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Fifteen **adopted** as amended. 198 yes, 8 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Twelve

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 2 – Composition, to read as follows:

BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
TWELVE
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE V,
SECTION 2
ADOPTED

Article V– Overeaters Anonymous Groups

Section 2 – Composition

- a) A group may be formed, as set forth in Article V, Section 1, by two or more persons meeting together, either
 - 1) in the same physical location (land-based);
 - 2) through some form of electronic device (virtual); or
 - 3) both (hybrid).
- b) Groups compose the intergroups and service boards set forth in Articles VI and VIII hereof.
- c) Affiliation/Participation:
 - 1) A group may affiliate with only one intergroup or national service board.
 - 2) Groups may also participate in the activities (including voting) of another service body (intergroup, national service board, language service board, special focus service board and/or region) with their permission.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Twelve **adopted**. 192 yes, 18 no.

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours. **ADJOURNMENT**

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING IV

Chair Bonnie L. called the fourth business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Viviana G., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Spanish and English. **CALL TO ORDER**

Marga K., Region Two, 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 248 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented. **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

The chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as timekeepers during Business Meeting IV. **VOLUNTEER INTRODUCTIONS**

The region trustee and general service trustee election ballots were posted, cast, and counted. **REGION AND GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEE POLL**

The chair announced the ballot results for the region trustee election. **REGION TRUSTEE TELLER'S REPORT**

Region Trustees

Region Three – Neva S. 204 yes, 2 no
Region Six – Beth B. 201 yes, 4 no
Virtual – Dora P. 194 yes, 7 no

The chair declared Neva S. as Region Three Trustee, Beth B. as Region Six Trustee, and Dora P. as Virtual Region Trustee. **NEW REGION TRUSTEES DECLARED**

The chair announced the ballot results for the general service trustee election. **GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEE TELLER'S REPORT**

General Service Trustees

CJ M. 208 “yes” votes
Judy H. 198 “yes” votes

The chair declared CJ M. and Judy H. as general service trustees. **NEW GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES DECLARED**

The chair asked the managing director to destroy the polls after the adjournment of Conference. **POLLS DESTROYED**

Bylaw Amendment Proposal One

Bylaw Amendment Proposal One **withdrawn**. **BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM ONE WITHDRAWN**

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Two

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 3 – Term of Office, by striking and inserting as follows: **BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM TWO BYLAWS B, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 3**

Article IX – 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.

BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
TWO
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE IX,
SECTION 3
FAILED

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 total service as a trustee.

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

- Regions One, Four and Seven
- Regions Three, Six, Nine, and Virtual
- Regions Two, Five, Eight and Ten

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Two **failed**.
101 yes, 120 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Three
Bylaw Amendment Proposal Three **withdrawn**.

BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
THREE
WITHDRAWN

Applications for Region Two and two general service trustee vacancies are due at the World Service office by June 1, 2021.

CALL FOR TRUSTEE
APPLICATIONS

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours and the Serenity Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING V

Chair Bonnie L. called the fifth business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Vasiliki T., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Greek and English.

CALL TO ORDER

Susan M., Region 10, 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 241 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

The chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as timekeepers during Business Meeting V.

VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS

New Business Motion G
Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010d to read as follows:

NBM G
WSBC POLICY 2010d
ADOPTED ON CONSENT
AGENDA

WSBC Policy 2010d
It was adopted to:
Establish an OA Young People's Conference Committee.

New Business Motion G **adopted** on the Consent Agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four

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

**BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
FOUR
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE VII,
SECTION 2
ADOPTED ON CONSENT
AGENDA**

Article VII – Regions

Section 2 – Composition

- a) There shall be eleven regions: one virtual region and ten geographic regions each composed of intergroups, groups, and service boards that fall within its region. Subject to regional and BOT approval, language service boards that span more than one region may choose to affiliate with any single region or choose not to be affiliated with a region.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four **adopted** on the Consent Agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference, to read as follows:

**BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
SIX
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE X,
SECTION 1
ADOPTED ON CONSENT
AGENDA**

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 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.
- c) Emergency
In the event of an emergency, as determined by the Board of Trustees, the board may call the Conference, or any part of it, by virtual method(s).

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six **adopted** on the Consent Agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seven

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

**BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM
SEVEN
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE X,
SECTION 3**

Article X – Meetings of Delegates

Section 3 – Delegates

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

- a) Voting delegates shall consist of the following persons chosen in accordance with OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX, Section 6 or Article X, Section 3(c)1:

4) A region that was represented at the last WSBC by fewer than 40 percent of its intergroups and other eligible service bodies may send up to five additional delegates from the region. When selecting these delegates, the region shall give preference to delegates from intergroups and service bodies which would not otherwise be represented.

BYLAW AMENDMENT ITEM SEVEN
BYLAWS B, ARTICLE X, SECTION 3
ADOPTED ON CONSENT AGENDA

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seven **adopted** on the Consent Agenda.

Emergency New Business Motion One

Move to plan for and provide real-time language translation, including ASL interpretation, potentially via assistive technology, as needed for the entirety of the World Service Business Conference business meetings and committee meetings in time for the 2022 Conference.

ENBM ONE
WSBC TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION
FAILED

Emergency New Business Motion One **failed** as amended. 87 yes, 132 no.

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

COLLECTIVE THANKS

There being no further business to come before the assembly, the 60th Annual World Service Business Conference was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., with the Serenity Prayer and I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Signature on File
Deanna B. – Minutes Approval Committee

Signature on File
Linda H. – Minutes Approval Committee

Signature on File
Joanne M. – Minutes Approval Committee

Chair's Report

As we gather virtually for this Business Conference, “Looking to the Future: One Day at a Time,” I take time to reflect over the blessings and the challenges of this past year.

The past year has presented opportunities for growth while dealing with many challenges. In May 2020, I was elected as the chair of the Board of Trustees for a second year. As we held that election meeting virtually, I'm sure none of us could have anticipated that virtual group meetings and business meetings would all become the norm. In serving as your chair, I have continued to lean on the experience of the other officers, fellow trustees, and past chairs. I have also felt well supported this year through my weekly scheduled calls with our managing director and, of course, by every member of our qualified and professional staff at the World Service Office. I very much appreciate the encouragement received this year. On a personal level, I have also worked continuously with a sponsor. Sponsorship could well be one of the most vital service tools available to us.

The pandemic has created many challenges for us in our meetings at home and at the WSO. Some of our scheduling has been impacted when the WSO's hours were affected by local health guidelines. We greatly appreciate the understanding of our members when dealing with the many unavoidable changes.

Throughout the year as chair, I have continued to review numerous requests for use of our logo, a task that keeps me in frequent contact with our staff. As many of you know, service bodies can apply for a blanket approval use of our logo good, for a period of two years. Seeing these applications is a reminder to me that OA is alive and well.

The print version of our *Lifeline* publication has now ended. In the coming months, we hope to introduce the “next generation,” the replacement to the printed copy we've been familiar with. Exciting ideas are being considered; stay tuned. This year we added our newest book, *Body Image, Relationships and Sexuality*, a very strong seller, to our bookstore, and also combined some of our pamphlets and increased the literature available as downloadable files. Most recently, for added convenience, we have added links to our bookstore pages making it easier to locate where electronic versions of literature are available. Kudos to our publications department who continue to work diligently to produce the very best resources for us, without fail.

We had a very solid fiscal year-end once again in 2020 and have exceeded all previous history with the contributions received. As I write this, I came across a similar report from our 2018 Conference Binder. At that time we were faced with two years of deficit budgets and were looking at how we could improve our financial position. One step taken was the formation of an ad hoc committee to consider if we could perhaps serve our Fellowship with fewer trustees. This year, we have a motion before us as a result of that consideration. We also looked at ways to shorten Conference by two days, and at possibly reducing the number of Conference committees or merging committees. We have eliminated rental cars during BOT meetings and Conference, opting for shuttles or more economical choices. Our commitment continues to be to always look for ways to save on expenses during the budget process and throughout the year while providing the best possible services to our members. Since that report in 2018, our members have helped us to move away from any feelings of financial insecurity or uncertainty to quite a strong financial position. Our investments have also performed remarkably well. You will see a very thorough report from our treasurer celebrating our commitment to Tradition Seven.

It's now just a few short months until our 2021 World Service Convention. Plans were well underway at this time last year, but were put on hold—another casualty of the pandemic. As I write this report, we are faced with the decision again. One important consideration now, however, is that Florida is “open for

business” unlike last year when the decision was made for us. We hope to have a decision in place by or before this Conference.

Three years ago, we held our first virtual board meeting in February 2019. We have not been able to meet physically as a board since November 2019. While this does save on expenses, it also comes at a cost. One important cost is the fellowship. The business is taken care of, but in my experience of the virtual meetings is that the relationships suffer, some more than others perhaps. During our board meetings, and at Conference, we benefit greatly from the camaraderie and friendships formed before and after the meetings. Time spent together in the evening or over a meal are priceless. The same will be missing from this virtual Conference for each one of us. I do plan to be in Albuquerque, but when the meetings end, or as I sit to have breakfast, the halls will be void of friendly faces. The evenings will be quiet. I will miss the intimate conversations with others. Time spent *with people* is important, and I’m missing that this year. I’m sure that each of our delegates will understand this from your personal experience during this Conference.

As I rotate off the board at the end of this Conference, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have shown their love, support, and their encouragement, especially during this year. As always, I am here to help in any way I can, and I’m grateful to be of service.

Bonnie L.
Chair, Board of Trustees
March 2021

Treasurer's Report

2020 Audit

As a nonprofit corporation, Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. is required by New Mexico state law to have an official audit conducted annually. Per accounting best practices, accounting firms are rotated every two to three years. Thus, for the 2020 audit, Porch & Associates, LLC, certified public accountants and consultants, were brought in.

Overeaters Anonymous' fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the auditors found that OA had strong internal financial controls using appropriate accounting procedures. It was further stated that the accounting staff was highly competent and proficient. There were no areas of concern or discrepancy. In fact, Thad Porch, CPA stated that OA's set of accounting processes and books were "one of the cleanest" he had ever seen. Kudos to our accounting staff! OA's balance sheet is extremely healthy with more than adequate financial reserves. In addition, as a nonprofit corporation, OA is fiscally stronger than most comparable corporations. An added plus was that Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. again "ended in the black" (greater income generated than expended)!

2020 was the year that was indescribable—one to forget—and yet for Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., it was quite the year, especially financially! Income was up, print book sales were down, and BOT expenses minimal. The World Service Office was closed for quite some time, and yet, our gallant staff continued working from home and there were no staff layoffs. Conference was minimized, netting a profit, and Convention was cancelled. Face-to-face meetings were disappearing, but meetings resurfaced and thrived due to the emergence of multiple virtual meetings. And yet, the bottom line at the end of the fiscal year shows that OA had a net profit of US\$488,751!

Budget

For the past several years, the annual budget process has become somewhat easier. Both the staff and the trustees are always prudent and wise in what items need to be included in a budget. OA's annual budget has become increasingly lean and mean. The excess had already been removed in previous years. In addition, for several consecutive years, OA's fiscal year has ended with a net profit. This allows the Executive Committee and managers in October, and the Board of Trustees in November, some latitude for the next year's budget. For FY2021, the approved budget came to US\$1,812,400. Budget comparisons and details for FY2020 and FY2021 can be found in Appendix D.

Contributions

- General Contributions: Money donated to this fund has no specific designation. It is used as needed, where needed: public information, translations, literature, video ads, staffing, equipment, administrative needs, etc. The total for general contributions for FY2020 was the highest in the history of Overeaters Anonymous (US\$948,957)! Many thanks to the service bodies and meetings all the way up through the multitude of donations from individual members. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated, both by OA and the compulsive eater/overeater who still suffers. It is much easier to fulfill OA's primary purpose "to carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers" (Tradition Five) when there are ample operating funds. Please be sure to read all the committee reports. Many exciting events and programs have been developed this past year, a year in which the compulsive eater/overeater had even a greater need for our solution.
- Restricted Funds: Members may choose to donate to specific restricted funds, meaning your donation may only be used to support activities in the fund you designated. A total of US\$26,114 was donated in FY2020. At the end of the fiscal year, any unused funds stay in that specific fund and are rolled over to the next fiscal year. Listed below are the three restricted funds and their balances as of January 2021.

- Translation Assistance: US\$8,706.44
- Professional Exhibits: US\$15,137.75
- Delegate Support Fund: US\$36,154.84

Both the Professional Exhibits and Delegate Support Funds are very robust. In 2020; with the pandemic, there were very few opportunities to utilize those funds. Translations, however, is a never-ending process, always needing sources of money as we continue to reach all current and potential members around the globe.

- Board Designated Funds: Because of a continuing net profit for several years, the board has been able to establish board designated funds. These funds are for projects and events for which the board has set aside additional funding, projects such as bookstore.oa.org enhancements, translations, Find a Meeting (FAM) improvements, public information/public awareness, Lifeline 2.0, WSO equipment and facilities, etc. These and other projects are being given an extra boost to help the still-suffering compulsive eater/overeater. Monies in these funds are not restricted and may be moved into general contributions when a project is completed. These board designated funds exist and are able to exist by your generous Seventh Tradition donations!
- Automatic Recurring Contributions (ARC): This program was established in 2012 to provide members with a method for regular, ongoing contributions toward OA's Seventh Tradition. Last year's Treasurer's Report that stated through January 31, 2020, there were 344 current accounts, providing a monthly income of US\$7,115.30. Through January 31, 2021, the number of ARC accounts rose to 496, with a monthly income of US\$10,506.64. Can we reach 600 ARC accounts by January 31, 2022?

Through the Automatic Recurring Contribution process, members choose how often and how much they wish to contribute. No contribution is too small. Members may sign up for the ARC program by going to oa.org and clicking on the contribution button. Donations may be designated for monthly or quarterly payments. This contribution system is vital, as it provides OA with a monthly guarantee.

- Literature and Book Sales: 2020 was "the best of times and the worst of times" for OA literature. Literature sales is also a part of Seventh Tradition donations. The very full general contribution fund helped to supplement the large decrease that occurred in hard books sales. Again, the pandemic affected bookstore sales as the World Service Office was frequently closed due to pandemic restrictions. The good news? For the first time in several years, OA experienced a noticeable increase in digital book sales! This has also been aided by the creation of OA's very first digital pamphlets! I am frequently asked about income from digital and print book sales through outside vendors and through oa.org. OA receives all funds for anything purchased at bookstore.oa.org. After publishing costs, the entire amount is profit for OA. With outside vendors, be it print or digital material, the vendor determines the maximum sales price that can be charged. OA then only gets a royalty or percentage (about 35 percent) of the sales price, and OA gets no income if a used book is purchased through an outside vendor. For 2021, I am hopeful that we will continue to see the growth in digital literature sales, as well as a recommitment to our wealth of print pamphlets and excellent OA books. Supporting OA literature is another form of supporting OA through the Seventh Tradition.

The OA Fellowship was extremely generous in 2020. If you read the reports, you will see the money has been well spent. I hope that you will continue to be as generous in 2021. There is still so much work that we need to do. With your support, OA continues to offer a solution to the many suffering individuals, both inside and outside the walls and the virtual waves of OA.

On a Personal Note

When elected as treasurer at the April 2020 virtual Board of Trustees meeting, I was humbled, excited, and scared. Fortunately, Tradition Eight says we “may employ special workers.” Concept Eight states that the day-to-day management of the World Service Office is assigned to “a) skilled and experienced professional(s).” Many thanks to Rose Crown, controller, and Sarah Armstrong, managing director, as well as the entire WSO staff for their ongoing guidance and support.

I believe strongly in the responsibility pledge; it is more than a “responsibility.” This program literally saved my life! So, it is an honor and a privilege to give back what I have so generously been given. Thank you for your trust in allowing me to serve as your 2020—2021 treasurer. Together we can!

Respectfully submitted,
Tina C.
Treasurer, Board of Trustees
March 2021

Managing Director's Report

And what a year it was!

Amidst a worldwide pandemic, recovery flourished within Overeaters Anonymous. As the world quarantined, our various virtual-format meetings continued business as usual and our face-to-face meetings quickly adapted to alternate ways of meeting.

The World Service Office continued to do our best to meet the needs of the Fellowship. We continued to process literature orders, shipping them through an overwhelmed delivery system. E-book sales grew; and, as a result, we are now offering some pertinent pamphlets in this format as well. Three new publications arrived in our warehouse just as the majority of our staff was sent to work from home. The *Twelve Step Workshop and Study Guide, Second Edition* and its accompanying *Participant Guide* became available through bookstore.oa.org in April, while *Body Image, Relationships, and Sexuality* waited until July, when our staff coverage was better able to meet the sudden influx of orders a new publication creates.

The final few issues of *Lifeline* were mailed in their usual manner, with the final issue being sent for November 1, 2020 delivery. Our desire to process refunds for the remaining value of subscriptions was hindered by staff challenges related to quarantines, and the final refunds were sent to subscribers in February 2021. We are currently investigating alternative methods for sharing our members' experiences working the Twelve Steps, defining their abstinence, and finding recovery within our rooms as a vital component of our primary purpose to reach out to those who still struggle.

The World Service Office was able to take advantage of two government programs during 2020 that were quite a boon to us. In May, we applied for funds through a Payroll Protection Program loan administered by the Small Business Administration. This allowed us to maintain our staff through the various quarantines of 2020. Having a stable, knowledgeable staff is crucial to our effectiveness in meeting the needs of the Fellowship. This loan was fully forgiven in January 2021.

In addition, we were able to benefit from a program administered by our local electric utility that allowed us to replace every light, both inside and outside our building, with LED lights for a fraction of the cost. We paid less than US\$1,000 for a job that cost over US\$16,000. We will save money on every electric bill going forward, and we definitely enjoy more brightness with less glare in our workspaces.

Groups and Service Bodies

In 2020, the number of OA meetings worldwide, including virtual meetings, averaged 6,199 in over seventy-five countries, with 334 service bodies (including region offices). Below is a five-year average.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Groups	6,199	6,131	6,209	6,276	6,344
Service Bodies	334	336	338	337	337

To ensure your meeting and service body information is current with the World Service Office, it is important to update that information at oa.org/find-a-meeting.

OA Publications

Three revised manuscripts are being presented this year to receive the Conference Seal of Approval:

- *Tools of Recovery: Helping us live and work the Twelve Steps*
- *A New Plan of Eating: A Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Journey*
- *Voices of Recovery, Second Edition*

A New Plan of Eating was developed through the review and combination of OA-approved literature *Dignity of Choice* and *A Plan of Eating*. *Voices of Recovery, Second Edition* is updated with references to the *OA Twelve and Twelve, Second Edition* and other current OA literature.

Manuscripts adopted at WSBC 2020 are now available for download or purchase. E-books are available from Amazon (Kindle), Barnes & Noble (Nook), and Apple Books.

- *Temporary Sponsors: Newcomers' First Twelve Days* available at oa.org/document-library under category "Sponsorship"
- *To the Young Person: Do you have a problem with food, eating behaviors, or body image?* available as e-book
- *In OA, Recovery Is Possible: About Compulsive Eating and the OA Program of Recovery* (#135) available at bookstore.oa.org and as e-book
- *A Lifetime of Abstinence: One Day at a Time* (#155) available at bookstore.oa.org and as e-book

The following board-approved resources were updated and/or approved for distribution:

- Meeting Transition Guidance letter (new) available at oa.org/document-library under category "Meeting Resources"
- *Public Information Resource List* (updated) available at oa.org/document-library under category "Public Information"
- OA holiday workshops and materials (new) available at oa.org/document-library under category "Twelfth Step Within: OA Holiday Workshops":
 - "Twelfth Step Within Day" workshop
 - "IDEA" workshop
 - "A Sponsor's Toolbox"
 - "Sponsorship Day" workshop
 - "Sponsorship Success" online workshop
 - "Back to Basics" workshop
 - "Unity Day Flyer How-To" guide
 - "Unity Day History" exercise
 - "Unity Day" workshop ideas
- *Comedores Compulsivos Anónimos*, 3rd (*Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*, Spanish translation) Kindle e-book
- *Voci de Recupero* (*Voices of Recovery*, Italian translation) Kindle e-book
- *Founder Recordings* (now online) available at oa.org/podcasts
 - "Reflections: A Visit with OA's Founder"
 - "And Now a Word from Our Founder"
- *Young Persons Podcasts* (new) available at oa.org/podcasts

All OA books are available as e-books; our three e-workbooks are available as PDFs at bookstore.oa.org under category "Digital Products." Four OA pamphlets are now available as e-books:

- *Where Do I Start? Everything a Newcomer Needs to Know*
- *To the Young Person: Do you have a problem with food, eating behaviors, or body image?*
- *In OA, Recovery Is Possible: About Compulsive Eating and the OA Program of Recovery*
- *A Lifetime of Abstinence: One Day at a Time*

In 2020, sales of e-books increased by 75.35 percent. In total, 16,010 e-books were purchased, compared to 9,130 in 2019.

In 2020, a third OA book was made available in print solely via Amazon's print-on-demand program: *Lifeline Sampler*. To purchase, go to the "Lifeline Sampler by Overeaters Anonymous" page at amazon.com

and click “Paperback.” OA receives a royalty for all “Paperback” purchases.

The suspension of consideration of proposals for new Conference-approved literature has been lifted. In 2018, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees voted to temporarily suspend the consideration and development of new Conference literature for no more than three years. The backlog of work has been cleared, and proposals will be considered by the Conference-Approved Literature Committee at this year’s Conference.

Proposals for new Conference-approved literature must be submitted by a registered service body or a Conference or board committee using the Literature Proposal form, available by request from the World Service Office. The annual deadline for proposals is April 1, and proposals are reviewed by the Conference-Approved Literature Committee at the subsequent World Service Business Conference.

The *WSO News Bulletin* continues to be a useful way for members to receive monthly OA news. In March 2020, the WSO switched to a less costly e-newsletter provider and reset its subscriber database to ensure double opt-in consent from subscribers, a standard required by GDPR. Since then, sign-ups have grown steadily, and the year ended with the *Bulletin* at 5,500 subscribers. The open rate for *Bulletin* emails was 34.6 percent and the click rate was 7.6 percent. (21.5 percent and 2.7 percent are the respective averages for health and fitness organizations.)

The *Bulletin* has proven to be vital for communicating developing OA news, including reduced WSO services and hours resulting from the pandemic, soliciting applications to fill trustee vacancies, and announcing the postponement of the World Service Convention. To subscribe to the *Bulletin*, go to oa.org and look for “Let’s keep in touch” at the bottom of the page.

The following OA resources were also published in 2020:

- *A Step Ahead*, quarterly newsletter available at oa.org/document-library under category “A Step Ahead”
- *Ask-It Basket Archive 2010–2019* available at oa.org/document-library under category “Ask-It Basket”
- *Professional Community Courier* newsletter, Issue IV available at oa.org/document-library under category “Outreach to Professionals”

[International Publications/Translations](#)

OA literature has been translated or is in the process of being translated into more than twenty-nine languages.

More than thirty digital documents of translated OA literature were added to the WSO archives in 2020, with the greatest number of contributions being in the French (Québec), Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Persian, and Portuguese (Brazil) languages.

OA’s new pamphlets, *A Lifetime of Abstinence: One Day at a Time* and *In OA, Recovery Is Possible*, are available to be translated. These are combinations of previous OA pamphlets that your group may have already translated. If this is the case, contact the WSO and request a copy of the edited manuscript showing the changes. This may save your group time in translating.

In late 2018 and 2019, the Executive Committee designated additional funds for translations with the intent to support service bodies in countries where OA is becoming established but the lack of literature is a barrier and to assist in the goals of the International Publications and Translations Committee. In 2020, the IP/T tapped the board designated fund for translations for the following:

- Development cost for *Por Onde Começo* e-book (*Where Do I Start?* Portuguese translation)
- Grant to Latvian NSB for translations of *Where Do I Start?*; *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition*; and *The Twelve Step Workbook, Second Edition*.
- Grant to OA Cluj (Romania) for translations of *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition* and *The Twelve Step Workbook, Second Edition*.

There is more than US\$54,000 in the board designated fund for translations, and the IP/T is actively seeking opportunities to support OA groups and service bodies with translations, especially with translations of the OA *Twelve and Twelve* and *Twelve Step Workbook*, either for the first time or to update a first edition translation to the second edition. There is not a deadline for applications to this fund. For more information, contact your region trustee or the WSO.

Included in the License 2 agreement that groups and service bodies sign is a requirement that they send 10 percent royalties of their net income from the sale of the licensed work. In 2020, OA received US\$4,105 in royalties from eight service bodies: First Hungarian IG, IG OA Français de Montréal (Canada), Israel NSB, Japan LSB, Juncab NSB (Spain), Junta NSB de Espana (Spain), and OA Great Britain NSB.

If your group or service body translates and sells OA literature, remember to send royalties to the WSO annually.

In 2020, the board eliminated the October 1 deadline to submit an application to the Translation Assistance Fund. The two deadlines are now February 1 and June 1, annually. Find the application at oa.org/document-library under category “Translation.”

[Find a Meeting](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for the WSO staff and our web developer when updating and addressing projects with the Find a Meeting database. In 2020, there were 5,443 updates, including new meetings added to the database. That’s an average of 450 updates to the database monthly. Most of these updates occurred because of the pandemic and the switch from face-to-face meetings to virtual meetings.

In 2020, the following projects were completed:

- Non-real-time meetings were added to the database, which resulted in an interactive search function on oa.org.
- Find a Service Body queries show service bodies based on their geographic location. Virtual intergroups were added to the search functionality since they are not geographically based.
- “Literature” and “Spirituality” were added as Special Topic categories, with drop-down meeting lists for both.
- There were also updates to the back end of the database to facilitate a more user-friendly interface for the WSO staff.

The time zone functionality is being worked on and should be completed before Conference. When clicking on Find a Meeting at oa.org, the time zone will automatically display based on the user’s computer time zone setting. The user will be asked to confirm their time zone. If the user chooses this option, the time zone will be set for future queries. If the user chooses to opt out, they will have to select their time zone from a drop-down menu each time they log into Find a Meeting.

The next project is to add the hybrid meeting functionality to the database. We appreciate your patience.

Professional Exhibits Fund

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tradeshows were cancelled or held virtually. The tradeshows that were funded were postponed until 2021.

OA Website

March 2020 marked the exciting launch of a brand-new design for oa.org. Working with a professional design team, the Website Review Committee aimed to create a welcoming, hopeful experience for newcomers and an easier, more intuitive navigation experience for the Fellowship. The results have shown a positive response: website usage has jumped 15 percent.

In late 2020, work began to bring the website's data privacy practices further into compliance with GDPR and similar data privacy laws emerging in countries around the world. Today, we have a compliant structure on the website that allows all members to read in our Privacy Policy about how the website uses personal data to improve the website experience and allows members in applicable countries to change their consent status at any time.

OA Social Media

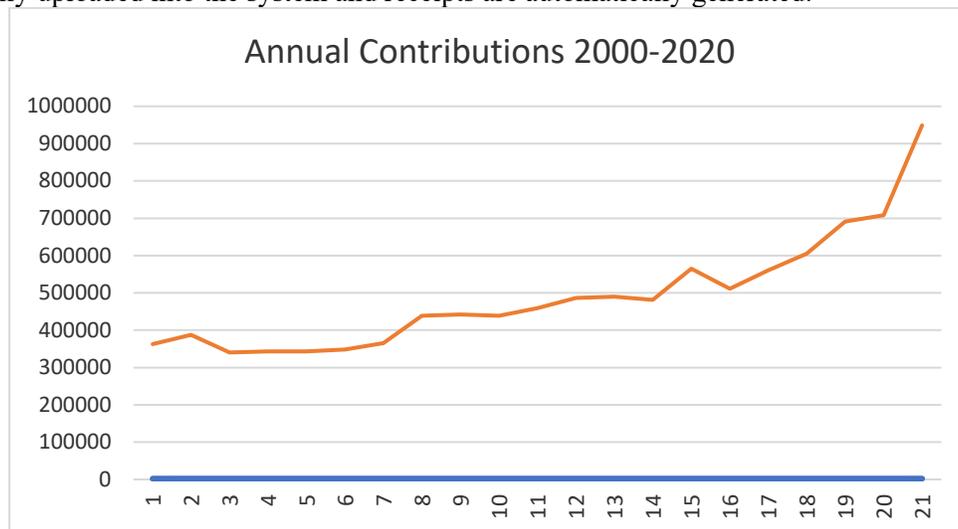
OA's social media efforts in 2020 largely kept to a holding pattern due to a WSO staff change that wasn't implemented until *Lifeline* magazine ceased publication in November. Still, our Facebook following grew by 14 percent to a total of 13,079 followers and our Instagram audience grew by 27 percent to end the year at 2,504 followers.

FINANCIAL

We had another record year for contributions, with a 24 percent increase over 2019. The annual growth in our financial contributions can be seen in the graph below. We are particularly grateful to the Fellowship for sustaining our global efforts to reach out to the still-suffering compulsive eater, even during a pandemic.

Our Seventh Tradition contribution page on oa.org gives the donor an easy and secure way to contribute. There is a comment box on the page specifically for you to include meeting information to ensure your group's contribution is counted in the annual contributions report.

You can also set up a regular recurring contribution through the page. Fewer than 500 individuals take advantage of this convenient method of making regular donations to world service. Contributions made through oa.org/contribute are much quicker to process through our accounting software, as they are automatically uploaded into the system and receipts are automatically generated.



We ended 2020 with an unrestricted surplus of US\$488,751. Continued support from our members along with prudent budgeting of our resources enabled us to designate funds toward the following projects in 2021:

- Upgrade oa.org and bookstore.oa.org as needed
- Develop a new platform for sharing member stories
- Make ongoing changes to the functionality of Find a Meeting on oa.org
- Translation efforts
- Facility maintenance at the World Service Office

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as managing director for Overeaters Anonymous. It is a pleasure to be a part of growing OA membership worldwide.

With gratitude,
Sarah Armstrong
Managing Director
March 2021

Bylaws Committee Report

The 2021-2022 Bylaws Committee met on April 11 and again on May 1.

Thirty-three delegates participated in the April meeting. After introductions were made, a brainstorming session was held to determine the subcommittee work to be done over the next twelve months. Of the six ideas suggested, the top four priorities were determined, and a sign-up sheet was posted for the members to indicate their choice.

The final four ideas formed the subcommittees for the coming year.

- Bylaws are My Friend: A possible panel discussion on how the bylaws help.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): About bylaws.
- Pretty as a Picture—A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words: A graphic presentation about bylaws that can be easily translated.
- Sample Policy Manual and Standing Rules Creators: Continued work on a sample policy and procedure manual and Standing Rules guidelines for service bodies.

At the May meeting twenty-seven delegates participated.

Elections were held.

- Delegate Cochair: Cyndy L.
- Vice Chair: Lee R.
- Secretary: Chris W.
- Trustee Cochair: Karen B. (appointed)

The subcommittees were formed, and the chairs and secretaries were selected.

- Bylaws are My Friend: Diana G. and Lynda B.
- FAQs: Mary Anne S. and Joanne M.
- Pretty as a Picture: Emilia I. and Chris W.
- Sample Policy Manual and Standing Rules Creators: Lee R. and Christina K.

Each subcommittee will set their own schedule and how they will communicate. Deadlines for reports have been set and a timeline for completed projects was established. The entire committee will meet again in six months to share progress.

The Reference Subcommittee met each day of the Conference for two hours. The attendance by delegates was high, with as many as eighty-five observers during one session.

The subcommittee was tasked with reviewing the motions that addressed the definition/statement of abstinence. After careful consideration, the subcommittee drafted a substitute motion that was adopted by the Conference. They also made a recommendation to defeat New Business Proposal B which addressed how often the body may consider changing this definition/statement. The subcommittee did consider other policy motions, but did not send forward any other substantial changes, only recommendations.

The subcommittee considered Bylaw Amendment Proposal 2, and after careful consideration, suggested that the motion would better serve as a change to the Standing Rules. The motion was withdrawn by the maker having heard the discussion.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal 3 was also withdrawn by the maker when it became clear that the committee could not make a substantive amendment to clarify the intent of the motion, and the motion as written was not received favorably.

The final subcommittee discussion was about Bylaw Amendment Proposal 16, which made a significant change to the layout of the bylaws by combining three sections and making the service structure for the entire world more clearly reflect all of OA. The addition of special focus service boards opens options that were not available before as well as removing the limitation of only allowing national service boards to exist outside of North America.

In service,
Cyndy L., Delegate Cochair
Karen B., Trustee Cochair
May 2021

Conference-Approved Literature Committee Report

Committee Officers 2020-2021

- Delegate Cochair: Marjorie T.
- Trustee Cochair: Judy H.
- Vice Chair: Jan E.
- Secretary: Liz S.

Meeting Discussion

The delegate cochair announced that all three literature motions passed WSBC 2021. Committee procedures and delegate commitment were discussed. Five new literature proposals were presented and discussed. Three passed with 2/3 vote: bariatric surgery, Traditions workbook, and Traditions workshop and study guide.

Decisions Made

Elections were held for delegate cochair, vice chair, and secretary. Subcommittees were formed. There are four projects. Subcommittees met briefly to elect officers and set goals.

Subcommittee Goals and Actions

- Combo #6 (Handbook/Small Meetings) Subcommittee: Draft ready for CLC to review October 9, 2021.
- Sponsorship Combo Subcommittee: Draft ready for CLC to review by August 21, 2021.
- Common Solution (Unity in Diversity) to envelop the CLC Surgery Committee: Goal undetermined.
- Traditions Projects Subcommittee: Review current literature, meet on May 8, 2021.

Elections/Officers 2021-2022

- Delegate Cochair: Marjorie T.
- Trustee Cochair: Neva S.
- Vice Chair: Lee R.
- Secretary: Christina D.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie T., Delegate Cochair
Neva S., Trustee Cochair
May 2021

Region Chairs Committee Report

The Region Chairs Committee (RCC) is comprised of the eleven region chairs of OA, together with a member of the Board of Trustees (BOT) as the trustee cochair of the committee.

Region Chairs

Region 1: Cindy C.
Region 2: Lynn K.
Region 3: Elaine L.
Region 4: Mary C.
Region 5: Eileen C.

Region 6: Carmen D.
Region 7: Terri B.
Region 8: Katrina S.
Region 9: Alexandra D.
Region 10: Dinah W.
Virtual Region: Vicki W.

2021-2022 Officers

- Delegate Cochair: Katrina S., Region Eight Chair
- Vice Chair: Elaine L., Region Three Chair
- Secretary: Lynn K., Region Two Chair
- Trustee Cochair: CJ M., General Service Trustee

RCC Mission/Vision

(Adopted August 1, 2020 and Revised February 13, 2021)

- 1) To network among the regions for the purpose of sharing resources, solutions, and support.
- 2) To provide channels of information and communication among regions and between the regions and the Board of Trustees.
- 3) To prepare a workshop annually to be presented either virtually or face-to-face. The workshop will be made available to the Fellowship and region websites.
- 4) To offer input to the BOT Strategic Plan.

RCC Mission/Vision Update

- 1) Sharing Resources, Solutions and Support
 - a) This is now the primary focus of the RCC. We believe that we have been highly successful in this effort.
 - b) We meet monthly to answer questions and exchange ideas.
 - c) Each new region chair has a mentor, who is an experienced region chair. This effort is also supported by former region chairs.
 - d) Examples of support: Each region completed highly successful virtual region assemblies and recovery conventions. To make this possible the committee met monthly to discuss and share agendas, scripts, and technical tips. In a time of chaos, this allowed each chair the opportunity to resolve issues, lower stress levels, and deliver successful events.
- 2) Provide Channels of Information and Communication
 - a) We meet monthly to answer questions and exchange ideas. As issues are raised, multiple solutions are offered, and often better solutions are crafted in the meeting.
- 3) Prepare a Workshop Annually
This is covered under Goal 2.
- 4) Input to the BOT Strategic Plan:
 - a) During WSBC 2021 the RCC met to provide input to the documents developed by the Strategic Planning Committee (the OA logic diagram and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis). The discussion gave the committee a clearer view of the role of region chair and the entire OA organization.

Goals Overview and Status

- Review and update the RCC reference manual and service task list: Complete. The RCC Reference Manual has been reviewed and updated by an RCC subcommittee. The updates will be submitted to the full committee on a section-by-section basis for review of major changes.
- Workshop 2021: Complete. The RCC developed a workshop that can be presented either virtually or face-to-face. The theme of the workshop is Life on Life's Terms—Using Spiritual Principles to Deal with the Journey—One day at a Time. The workshop will be made available to the Fellowship and to the regions.
- Review and determine region comparisons: This work is ongoing within the committee.
- Review and/or update resources file: Draft updates are complete. The updates will be submitted to the full committee on a section-by-section basis for review of major changes.
- Podcasts in Non-English: Complete. Region Three produced a 15-minute podcast in Spanish featuring five OA members from Texas, Colorado, and California. It has been posted to the Region Nine Sound Cloud channel. Region Nine has a goal to produce up to five short podcasts in languages other than English by the end of 2022.
- Orientation of new chairs: Complete. All new region chairs have been assigned an experienced region chair as mentor. A check-in and a question and answer section has been added to the meeting agenda to encourage support and sharing solutions. The new chair orientation was completed.

Respectfully submitted,
Katrina S., Delegate Cochair
CJ M., Trustee Cochair
May 2021

Twelfth Step Within Committee Report

Twenty-two members of the Twelfth Step Within Committee met virtually on May 8, 2021. Following a reading about service and a round of introductions, the purpose of the committee was reviewed.

Statement of Purpose

- 1) To carry the same message of recovery to those who still suffer WITHIN the OA Fellowship.
- 2) To deal with relapse and issues of membership retention offering the message of hope.
- 3) To encourage OA members to maintain recovery and prevent relapse.

Elections

- Delegate Cochair: Jane C.
- Secretary: Terry M.

Establish Norms and Expectations of Committee Members

- The full committee will meet every other month on the first Saturday of the month at 3:00 p.m. eastern.
- Subcommittees will meet on their own schedule and report back to the full committee.
- We will continue to communicate through email.
- We will have a co-host to monitor the virtual platform settings.

Discuss Issues Concerning the Committee

- Twenty-two out of thirty-six members were present. The members who were not present will be contacted.
- The 2020 Sponsorship Survey was discussed.
- Anything agreed upon will be sent to the Material Approval Committee (MAC) made up of four trustees.
- Any communication to other trustees and the WSO will go through the cochairs.

Subcommittees

- OA.org Subcommittee: Will be downloading and looking at PDFs on website to update and translate.
- OA.org Calendar: This project is pending determination of the Executive Committee discussing whether a calendar will be added to oa.org.
- Sponsorship: Continue work from last year.
- Welcome Back: Reach out to members who are in relapse/still suffering while still in the rooms.

Subcommittee Meeting Proceedings

- Vote on chair of subcommittee.
- Establish SMART goals short- and long-term. Barb will email all subcommittees the materials to be worked on. Establish objectives or actions plans to meet the goals.
- Assign tasks and deadlines as dictated by the action plan.
- These tasks are to be worked on and to be reported at the next full committee meeting.
- Please keep Barb and Jane copied on all subcommittee emails.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane C., Delegate Cochair
Barb K, Trustee Cochair
May 2021

Unity with Diversity Committee Report

The committee convened via videoconference April 16 and again on May 8, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. EDT. On May 8, twenty-five members were present. Several of the committee's thirty-five members were unable to attend the May meeting but will be able to choose subcommittees for project work.

After the reading of the Unity with Diversity Committee statement of purpose and the Fifth Tradition and Fifth Concept, members were invited to introduce themselves and share their WSBC committee experience. Sixteen were WSBC Green Dots, eight had been to WSBC before, and three had been on the committee before. The expectation that members would continue service with the committee to WSBC 2022 was discussed.

At the April meeting, the group came up with eleven ideas for projects through a lively brainstorming session. At the May meeting, the projects were discussed, and three projects were chosen to move forward. The delegates divided into three subcommittees to work on their projects throughout the coming year. The topics chosen were Removing Financial and Other Barriers for Young People and Others, Quality and Speed of Translations, and Amazing Recovery Passport to Unity Workshop review and worldwide dissemination.

The three subcommittees met and came up with a basic framework for their projects. The subcommittees each agreed to meet again within a month. At that point, each subcommittee will further define their goals and refine their action plans.

Election of officers was held at the April 16 meeting.

- Delegate Cochair: Mollie
- Secretary: Pat O.

Mollie M., Delegate Cochair
Beth B., Trustee Cochair
May 2021

Young People's Committee Report

We have thirty-eight very enthusiastic YPCC members eager to fulfill our statement of purpose! We meet monthly and established four subcommittees to complete the following goals this year.

- Support the Formation of the Young People's Virtual IG: The subcommittee will seek advice plus experience (mentorship from people with more long-term recovery and service experience), to join intergroup renewal.
- Outreach/Social Media: The subcommittee will support social media used by the YP Facebook page, Tik Tok, Instagram, and Snapchat, and collaborate with PIPO's Welcome Room.
- Advocate enhancing oa.org web page for YP: The subcommittee will look at updating the *Suggested Young People's Meeting Format*; Document Library; and YP resources like podcasts, information about the Young People's Virtual IG, and links to other resources.
- Support YP Retreat: The inaugural March 2021 YP retreat was very successful. The subcommittee will build upon that accomplishment and anniversary of the event in 2022.

Committee Officers 2021-2022

- Delegate Cochair: Nate O.
- Secretary: Michelle K.
- Trustee Cochair: BJ J.

Respectfully in service,
Nathan O., Delegate Cochair
BJ J., Trustee Cochair
May 2021

World Service Attending Delegates

For Use Within OA Only

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

Region	Number of Delegates
<i>1</i>	19
<i>2</i>	28
<i>3</i>	20
<i>4</i>	12
<i>5</i>	15
<i>6</i>	41
<i>7</i>	16
<i>8</i>	31
<i>9</i>	26
<i>10</i>	3
<i>Virtual</i>	20
<i>Board of Trustees</i>	17
TOTAL	248

The total number includes Board of Trustees, region chairs, and delegates.

Business Conference Policy Manual

A Summary of Continuing Effects Motions
1962-2021

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

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 VIII, 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 Rescinded 2015.

1979e Amended 1989, 2001, 2012, and 2016. It was adopted:

To ensure personal anonymity be maintained, the online version of the Final World Service Business Conference Report will only include first names and last initials in minutes and reports. The contact section of the report, which includes names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of delegates will be emailed to all service bodies and delegates following Conference. “For Use Within OA Only” will appear at the top of this list.

1980a Rescinded 2016.

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 and 2018. 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. This includes newcomers.
- 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.
- 1984a** Amended 1990, 2013 and 2015. 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 compulsive food behaviors 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.

1985 Amended 1993 and 2017. 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-Approved Literature Committee (CLC), Board-Approved Literature Committee (BAL), 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 and books that are recommended for the Conference Seal of Approval will be posted online as downloadable files. 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, 1993 and 2017)

1986a Superseded by 2019c.

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 Rescinded 2018.

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.

1988a Amended 1989, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2010, 2014 and 2018. It was adopted that:

1) Functioning

Service bodies may join together in order to help carry the message of OA recovery, providing they adhere to the Traditions and the Overeaters Anonymous policies for the use of OA-approved literature and print material.

2) Business Conference Delegates

a) In addition to the requirements set out in Article VIII, 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, 2011, 2019, and 2021. The following policy statement was adopted:

The WSBC 2021 accepts the following definitions:

Abstinence 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 and working the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.

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.

1991a Amended 2003, 2013, 2015 and 2017. 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 IX of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws should confer with the corresponding board committees.
- 2) Committee membership will be limited to a delegate cochair, a trustee cochair, and up to thirty delegates at WSBC. Additionally, a combination of up to six former trustees, current trustees, and nondelegate members may be appointed to participate in the work of the committee during the year.
- 3) Cochairs consisting of a Conference delegate (elected by committee members at WSBC) and a trustee (appointed by the chair of the BOT) will coordinate the efforts of the committee. The Conference delegate cochair will preside over the committee meetings at WSBC. The trustee cochair will act as liaison between the committee and the BOT and will report to the Board of Trustees regarding committee activities.
- 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 cochairs 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.
- 6) Delegates should be registered by March 1 and have submitted a committee preference form by April 1. Committee assignment is made on a first come, first served basis with the exception of the Conference-Approved Literature Committee and the Reference Subcommittee (OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX, Sections 1 and 2). Delegates will be notified of their committee assignment at or prior to WSBC. Service on a committee is expected and the commitment is maintained until the following WSBC. It is recommended that those serving at the world services level rotate committee assignments every two years.

1991b Superseded by 2005c.

1991c Amended 2018. 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 to the topic and context by the Literature Committee during the regular literature writing, editing, and approval process.

1992a Amended 2013 and 2021. The following policy statement was adopted:

“Unity with Diversity” Policy

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous 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 attribute. We welcome all who share our compulsion. Everyone with the desire to stop eating compulsively is welcome in Overeaters Anonymous.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of members, groups, and service bodies to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group, and service body to respect those rights as they extend the 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 Amended 2018. Superseded by 2019c.

1992c Amended 2002 and 2016. It was adopted that:

AA literature sold by the OA World Service Office shall be available for purchase at all World Service Conventions.

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.

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 Rescinded 2016.

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.

- 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:
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** Rescinded 2018.
- 2004b** Amended 2009, 2014 and 2018. 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 VIII, 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) The service body shall notify the World Service Office if it wishes to appeal denial of delegate credentials within fourteen days of this notification.
 - 3) The Appeals Review Committee shall be composed of two members of the Board of Trustees (the BOT chair and one other trustee), two region chairs, and two representatives of the region bringing the appeal. It will be chaired by the BOT chair.
 - 4) The Appeals Review Committee, via electronic communications, will collectively decide the final disposition of each appeal with a deadline of one month prior to the first session of the upcoming WSBC.
- 2005a** Amended 2016. It was adopted that:
Business Conference policies that have been completed or the purpose of which have been served and are no longer required shall be presented by the Bylaws trustee cochair to the Board of Trustees for consideration of removal at the next Business Conference.
- 2005b** Rescinded 2011.
- 2005c** Amended 2017. 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; 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; and f) an explanation of how this motion will help carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

- 2) The Conference Agenda Questionnaire include all proposed new business, 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 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 Amended 2019. 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.

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.

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 provides website templates for optional use by OA service bodies and groups in creating or revising their websites.

2009b Amended 2017. 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 bodies, meetings, and individual members to reach out to those within the Fellowship who are still suffering from compulsive eating behaviors.

2009c Rescinded 2012.

2009d Rescinded 2019.

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 Amended 2015. It was adopted that:
The WSBC Final Conference Report be made available electronically.

2010d Amended 2014 and 2021. It was adopted to:
Establish an OA Young People's Conference Committee.

2010e Amended 2014 and 2018. It was adopted to:
Require all groups and service bodies wishing to register 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 Amended 2016 and 2019. 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*. (<https://oa.org/guidelines/anonymity-in-the-digital-world/>).

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 Amended 2018. 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 adhere to Overeaters Anonymous policies for the use of OA-approved literature and print material.

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:

- 1) It has provided the Board of Trustees, in writing, the specific compelling reason.
- 2) 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.

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 Rescinded 2017.

2014b It was adopted that:

Meetings of Delegates

Annual Business Conference

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Communications concerning the Business Conference from the trustees and the World Service Office shall be through the registered delegates and service bodies.

2015 It was adopted that:

World Service display the name “Overeaters Anonymous” on all displays, banners, and other signage at its events. This does not apply to badges.

2016 Rescinded 2019.

2017a The following policy statement was adopted:

Overeaters Anonymous will establish an ad hoc committee to consider the implementation/ registration of a Spanish language service board (SLSB). The Spanish-speaking Fellowship will work with the BOT in order to establish how the SLSB will fit into the OA service structure.

2017b The following policy statement was adopted:

Overeaters Anonymous will establish a special fund to assist in translating OA literature, forms, correspondence, website, and other materials to languages other than English. Money contributed to this fund is in addition to the International Publications/Translations Committee’s budget. The BOT will establish guidelines to allocate the funds.

2017c Amended 2018. Superseded by 2019c.

2018a It was adopted that:

The World Service Business Conference 2018 direct the Board of Trustees of Overeaters Anonymous to establish an ad hoc committee to research and delineate the best means and costs of improving, upgrading, and expanding the electronic “front door” of OA for the purpose of defining a budgetary amount for a “Welcome to OA” capital campaign. OA’s “front door” includes the oa.org website data systems and could include the development of a geolocator and real-time Find a Meeting app for smartphones, or other means revealed to be useful in the research.

2018b The following policy statement was adopted:

In keeping with Tradition Ten, Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on bariatric (weight-loss) surgery. In the spirit of Tradition Three, Overeaters Anonymous welcomes anyone with a desire to stop eating compulsively, including those who have had bariatric surgery or are contemplating it.

2019a Amended 2021. It was adopted that:

The term hybrid is used to describe a group composed of members attending a single meeting where all can hear and share but may be present either in the same physical location (face-to-face) or through some form of electronic device (virtual).

A hybrid group may register only once and is assigned one group number but may appear on oa.org in both the face-to-face listing and the virtual listing and will clearly indicate that they are a hybrid meeting.

2019b It was adopted to:

Apply for and, if approved, accept non-profit status from Google so that we may gain access to Google’s Custom Search feature at no cost.

2019c Amended 2021. The following policy statement was adopted:

The World Service Business Conference established the following annual events.

OA Birthday: The third full weekend (Friday included) 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 full weekend (Friday included) in August.

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

2021 The following policy statement was adopted:

Diverse Voices Policy

When developing new and updating existing literature published by Overeaters Anonymous World Service, the Literature Committees will make a concerted effort to include stories and/or quotes from members of diverse populations that are underrepresented in OA (i.e., reflect a variety of compulsive food behaviors, belief systems, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, indigenous peoples, and peoples of color, etc.).

****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.

Business Conference Policy Manual Appendix A – Rescissions

- 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*)
- 1979d** It was adopted to:
Pay founder Rozanne S.’s expenses to all future Conventions. (*Rescinded 2015*)
- 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. (*Rescinded 2016*)
- 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*)

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*)

1986a Amended 1996, 1998 and 2018. It was adopted that:
Overeaters Anonymous celebrate an annual worldwide Unity Day on the last Saturday in February in even years and the last Sunday in February in odd years at 11:30 a.m.

To designate the third weekend of January as the annual celebration of the January 19, 1960 founding of Overeaters Anonymous. (*Superseded by 2019c*)

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*)

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. (*Rescinded 2018*)

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*)

1992b Amended 2018. It was adopted that:
The World Service Business Conference establish an International Day Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA) to be held annually on the third weekend in November. (*Superseded by 2019c*)

- 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.
 - 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)*

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)*

- 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) Takes place in “real-time”;
2) Is fully interactive; and
3) Fulfills the definition of an OA group as contained in Subpart B, Article V, Section 1 of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws. *(Rescinded 2016)*
- 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 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)*
- 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. *(Rescinded 2018)*
- 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)*
- 2008** 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)*
- 2009d** It was adopted to:
Create a Web/Technology Conference Committee starting at WSBC 2010. *(Rescinded 2019)*

2010b It was adopted to:
Add a ninth Tool: “Action Plan.” *(Rescinded 2014)*

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 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.
- 2) The topic and/or focus of the email group are consistent with those listed on oa.org for Overeaters Anonymous face-to-face and virtual groups.
- 3) New members must be informed of the loop’s 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. *(Rescinded 2017)*

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. *(Rescinded 2019)*

2017c Amended 2018. It was adopted that:

The World Service Business Conference 2017 create a Sponsorship Day to be held annually on the third weekend in August. *(Superseded by 2019b)*

Business Conference Policy Manual Index

A

abstinence
defined, 1988b
International Day Experiencing Abstinence, 1992b, 2019c
as primary purpose of OA, 1984a, 1994a, 1995b
replaced as Tool by plan of eating, 1995b
statement on, and recovery, 1988b

action plan
as Tool of recovery, 2010b, 2011b

addictions
role in OA, 1994a

advertising policy, 2008e
See also media

affiliation
cooperation without, 1989a
defined, 2008c

Agenda Questionnaire, 2004a, 2005c

Alcoholics Anonymous
sale of AA literature, 1979a, 1982b, 199c, 1993b, 2010a
Twelve Concepts, 1993e

alcoholism
role in OA, 1994a

anonymity
media and, 2008b, 2011a
of members, 1990, 2003, 2011a
of speakers/leaders, 1990
statement on, 1980b
as Tool of recovery, 2011b

anorexia
literature on, 1982a
members with, 1992d

Appeals Review Committee, 2004b

attract/attraction
defined, 2008c

autonomy
of groups, 1983, 1984e

B

bariatric surgery, 2018b

basic creed
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions endorsed as, 1962

BCPM. *See* Business Conference Policy Manual

bequests, 2013

birthday
OA's annual celebration, 1986a, 2019c

Board Literature Committee, 1985

Board of Trustees
application form, 1992c
attendance at meetings by general fellowship/observers, 1982e
communication to intergroups, 1988a
general service trustee job description, 1992e
leaves of absence, 1987b
petitions considered by, 1980d
policies beyond sunset dates, 2005a
responsibilities, 1994c
special meetings, calling of, 2014b

Board of Trustees and committees
chair appointment responsibilities, 1991a
Executive Committee, 1994c
merging with Conference committees, 1991a
structure and membership of committees, 1991a
See also chairs of committees; committees

Board of Trustees and literature
approvals, 2010a
literature printing discontinuations, 1996b, 2008a
literature production responsibilities, 1985
literature translation funds responsibility, 2009c

Board of Trustees and WSBC
activities for WSBC non-committee members, 1991a
Appeals Review Committee participation, 2004b
delegate credentials, 2004b
regional input in selecting WSBC committee members, 1991a
registration fee, 2001
removal of completed/obsolete policies, 2005a
topics for presentation/discussion selection, 1984d
waiver of delegate term limits, 2012d
written reports, 1982d

body weight
statement on abstinence and healthy, 1988b

budget
copies at WSBC, 1986b

bulimia, 1982a, 1992d

Business Conference Policy Manual
changes and deletions, 1989b, 2005a
distribution to delegates, 1987c

new business/motions submission, 2005c
obsolete/completed policies removal, 2005a
Tools of recovery, 2011b
updating, 1987c
See also World Service Business Conference
(WSBC)

Bylaw Amendments

procedures for submission and consideration,
2005c
procedures for undebated, 1982f
verbalization of purpose, 1980a

C

calendar of events

activities allowed in, 1980c

chairs of committees

appointment or election, 1991a
at Conference, 1991a
petitions to remove nonfunctioning, 1980d

closed groups

defined, 1982c

cochair, trustee, 1991a

codependency, role in OA, 1994a

cofounder. *See* founder

collective conscience of Fellowship, 1994c

committees

Appeals Review Committee, 1004b
Board Literature Committee, 1985
Board of Trustees Executive Committee,
1994c
Conference Literature Committee, 1985
Conference Planning Committee, 1984d
coordination of, 1991a
deadline for preferences, 1991a
delegate cochairs, 1991a
delegates, optional service by, 1991a
delegates, preferences of, 1991a
funds not to be maintained by WSBC
committees, 1984c
HIPM name change, 2006
liaison with and reporting to Board of
Trustees, 1991a
literature responsibilities, 1985
meetings, 1991a
members, removal from mailing list, 1991a
non-committee members, activities for, 1991a
nondelegate members, 1991a
open status, 1991a
power of, 1994c

Professional Outreach Committee, 2006
reports, 200b, 2014b

special, to evaluation OA structure, 2002a
temporary absences from, 1991a

Translation Committee funds, 2009c

Virtual Services Conference Committee
created, 2016

Web/Technology Conference Committee
created, 2009d

Welcome to OA Ad Hoc Committee, 2018a

WSBC Motions Review Committee, 2005c

Young People's Committee established,
2010d

See also chairs of committees

communications

anonymity of speakers/leaders in event
materials, 1990

from Board of Trustees to delegates and
service bodies, 2014b

electronic, 200b, 2010e, 2010c

events in WSO publication calendars, 1980c

See also literature; media; website

compulsive eater/overeater

interchangeable use of term, 1991c

compulsive eating/overeating

primary purpose of OA and, 1994a

use of term, 1991c

Conference. *See* World Service Business
Conference (WSBC)

Conference Literature Committee, 1985

Conference Policy Manual. *See* Business

Conference Policy Manual

Conference Seal of Approval

granting, 1985

removing, 2008a

contributions, 1984a, 1993c, 2013

Conventions. *See* events/functions; World Service
Convention

cooperation

defined, 2008c

copyright

food plan information, 2000a

creed

preamble, 1984a

responsibility pledge, 1977b

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions endorsed
as basic, 1962

D

datebook calendar
activities allowed onto WSO calendar, 1980c
decision-making process, *1994c*
defamatory policies and amendments, 2005c
Delegate Support Fund, 1993c
delegates to WSBC
appeals process for credential denial, 2004b
budget distribution to, 1986b
Business Conference Policy Manual
distribution to, 1987c
challenges to credentials, 2004b
committee preferences, 1991a
communications to, 2014b
contact information, 1979e
criteria, 1988a
Final Conference Report distribution to,
2010c
funds for attendance, 1993c
nondelegate members of committees, 1991a
regional representatives, 1998a
registration fee, *1993d*, *1997*, 2001
service body wishes, 1988a
special meetings, 2014b
term limits, 2012d
diversity, 1992a, 2021
donations, 1984a, 2013
dues, 1984a
duly registered
defined, 1992a

E

eating disorders
literature on, *1982a*, *1992d*
electronic communications
Final Conference Report availability, 2010c
inclusion of, 2000b
postmark, 2000b
registration of groups and service bodies,
2010e
email contact information, 2010e
email groups, *2014a*
emotional recovery, 1988b
encryption program, 2003
events/functions
closing prayers/readings, 1993a
considered as outside enterprise, *1979b*, 1984e
display of name, 2015
founding day celebration, *1986a*, 2019c

International Day Experiencing Abstinence,
1992b, 2019c
International Twelfth Step Within Day, 2009b
Media Awareness Month, *1995a*
sale of merchandise at, 1984e
speakers/leaders, anonymity in fliers for, 1990
Sponsorship Day, *2017c*, 2019c
Unity Day, *1986a*, 2019c
in WSO calendars of events, 1980c
Executive Committee
authority to discontinue literature, *1996b*,
2008a

F

Final Conference Report
contact information for delegates, 1979e
electronic availability, 2010c
inclusion of updated BCPM, 1987c
financial matters
dues/fees, 1984a
funds for founder to attend Conventions,
1979d
funds for translation of materials, *2009c*
matching grants, *2005b*
operating and reserve, *1994c*
Public Awareness Campaign, 2007
WSBC committees, funds raise or maintained
by, 1984c
WSBC delegates, copies of budget for, 1986b
WSBC delegates, funds for attendance of,
1993c
WSBC delegates, registration fee for, *1993d*,
1997, 2001
WSBC treasurer's report sent prior to, 1979c
See also sales
food plans
abstinence replaced as Tool by plan of eating,
1995b
copyright of, 2000a
groups sharing information, 2000a
non-endorsement, *1987a*
outside literature, 2000a
restrictions on speakers at meetings based on,
2000a
See also plan of eating
founder
bestowal of title on Rozanne S., 2011c
payment of expenses to Conventions, *1979d*

founding day
celebration, *1986a*, 2019c
functions. *See* events/functions

G

groups
activities of, in WSO calendar, 1980c
anonymity of speakers/leaders at events, 1990
autonomy of, 1983, 1984e
closed, defined, 1982c
criteria for online or telephone, *1999*
different recovery approaches allowed, 1992a
diversity of, 1992a
duly registered, defined, 1992a
electronic registration of, 2010e
email, *2014a*
financing, 1984a
hybrid meetings, 2019a
liability insurance, 2012c
literature printing by groups outside US, 1978
locally produced literature, 2010a
media use, 2011a
membership requirements, 1983
open, defined, 1982c
restricted access, 2012b
sale of merchandise, 1984e
sharing food plan information, 2000a
special focus/special purpose, 1983
“Unity with Diversity” policy statement, 1992a
use of AA Twelve Concepts, *1993e*
See also literature; meetings; specific types
such as intergroups, virtual groups
GST definition on trustee application form, 1992e

H

hand and heart of OA pledge, 1977b
healthy body weight, statement on abstinence and, 1988b
HIPM (Hospitals, Institutions, Professionals and Military) Committee name change, *2006*

I

I Put My Hand in Yours, OA Promise, use of, 1993a
IDEA (International Day Experiencing Abstinence), established, 1992b, *2019c*
insurance liability, 2012

intergroups

different approaches to recovery allowed, 1992a
duly registered, defined, 1992a
events, etc., inclusion in WSO calendar, 1980c
Final Conference Report distribution, 2010c
meetings, closing statements/readings, 1993a
“Unity with Diversity” policy statement, 1992a
website templates for use by, 2009a
WSBC delegate attendance funding, 1993c
WSBC Delegate Support Fund contributions, 1993c
WSBC presentations/discussion topics proposals, 1984d
See also service bodies
International Day Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA), established, *1992b*, 2019c
International Twelfth Step Within Day, established, 2009b

L

language service boards. *See* service boards
liability insurance, groups or service bodies, 2012c
literature
AA Conference-approved, 2010a
alteration, printing or transmission of by service bodies, 1988a
approved, *1982b*, 1985, 1993b, 2010a
calendars of events, activities in, 1980c
compulsive eater/overeater, use of term, 1991c
Conference Seal of Approval, 1985, 2010a
discontinued/discontinuing, *1996b*, *1998*, 2008a
downloaded from website, 2008a
on eating disorders, *1982a*
food plan information, 2000a
locally produced, 2010a
non-approved, 1993b, 2000a
non-USA reprints, 1978
notification of decisions to Fellowship, 2008a
prices, *1977a*
produced at world service level, 1985
recovery chips, 2008f
removal of, 2008a
sale of, *1979a*, *1982b*, 1992c, 2010a

Statement on Approved, 2010a
as Tool of recovery, 2011b
translation funds, 2009c
violations of Tradition Six, 1993b
WSBC policy, 1982b, 1985, 1993b, 2010a
Literature Committee, 1985
locally produced literature, 2010a
loops, email. *See* email groups

M

maintainers, 1994b
matching grant program, 2005b
media
 anonymity of members, 1980b, 2011a
 Media Awareness Month established, 1995a
 paid ads policy created, 2008e
 policy created, 2008b
 Public Awareness Campaign, 2007
 public relations policy created, 2008c
 public service announcements policy created, 2008d
 social media statement, 2011a
 Statement on Public, 2011a
Media Awareness Month
 established, 1995a
meetings
 100-pounder, 1994b
 addiction topics at, 1994a
 closing prayers/readings, 1993a
 food plan information at, 1987a, 2000a
 gay and lesbian, 1994b
 hybrid meetings, 2019a
 literature locally produced, 2010a
 literature sale/display, 2010a
 maintainers, 1994b
 media use, 2011a
 meetings of delegates, 2014b
 members attendance at, before WSBC, 1982e
 men's, 1994b
 open and closed, defined, 1982c
 opening readings, 1996a
 primary purpose of, 1994a
 recognition of special focus, 1994b
 restrictions, 2000a
 sharing at, 1994a, 2000a
 special purpose/focus, 1983, 1994b
 as Tool of recovery, 2011b
 See also committees; groups

members
 anonymity of, 1980b, 1990, 2003, 2011a
 anorexics and bulimics as, 1992d, 1998
 attendance at Board of Trustees meetings, 1982e
 attendance at WSBC committee meetings, 1991a
 choice of food plan and participation, 2000a
 different approaches to Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, 1992a
 media use, 2011a
 participation, 2000a
 special requirements imposed by groups, 1983
membership requirements, 1983
merchandise
 group sale of, 1984e
 sale at events/functions, 1984e
Motions Review Committee, 2005c

N

names
 in Final Conference Report, 1979e
 publishing, 1990
national service boards. *See* service boards
New Business Motions
 procedures for submission and consideration at Conference, 2005c
 non-English languages, translation funds for, 2009c

O

O-Anon
 relationship with, 198a
OA annual birthday celebration, 1986a, 2019c
OA Promise, I Put My Hand in Yours, use of, 1993a
OA Young People's Committee established, 2010d
online groups
 registration criteria, 1999
 See also virtual groups
open groups
 defined, 1982c
out-of-order proposals, 2005c
outside issues/enterprises
 addictions and other problems, 1994a
 food plans, 2000a
 groups and activities considered, 1979b
 literature, 1993b

sale of literature, 1984e

P

paid ad policy, 2008e

pamphlets. *See* literature

petitions

Board of Trustees consideration of, 1980d

phone meetings

registration criteria, 1999

See also virtual groups

physical recovery, 1988b

plan of eating

as Tool of recovery, 1995b, 2011b

See also food plans

pledges

hand and heart of OA, 1977b

responsibility, 1977b

See also creed

policies beyond sunset dates, 2005a

policy motions

procedures for submission and consideration
at Conference, 2005c

postmark

defined, 2000b

electronic communications, 200b

prayers/readings

suggested closing, for meetings, events,
functions, 1993a

preamble

adopted, 1984a

primary purpose of OA included in, 1994a,
1995b

primary purpose

abstinence, 1994a, 1995b

defined, 1984a

Professional Outreach Committee, 2006

promote/promotion

defined, 2008c

Public Awareness Campaign, 2007

public info toll-free line, 2002b

public media. *See* media

public relations policy

created, 2008c

See also media

public service announcements policy

created, 2008d

publication calendars

activities in, 1980c

publishing. *See* literature

R

recovery

action plan adopted as Tool, 2010b

different approaches to, 1992a

elements of, 1988b

statement on abstinence and, 1988b

Tools, 1995b, 2010b, 2011b

recovery chips

sales, 2008f

regions

affirm and maintain Twelve Traditions, 1992a

different approaches to recovery allowed,
1992a

duly registered, defined, 1992a

events, anonymity of speakers/leaders at,
1990

media use, 2011a

meetings, closing prayers/readings, 1993a

respect rights of individuals, 1992a

“Unity with Diversity” policy statement,
1992a

website templates available for use by, 2009a

WSBC Appeals Committee, nomination of
persons to serve on, 2004b

WSBC committees membership, 1991a

See also service bodies

reports, oral Conference committee and

workshop, 2014b

reports, Conference written, 2014b

reprints of literature

by non-US groups, 1978

responsibility pledge, 1977b

restricted access groups, 2012b

Rozanne S., bestowal of title of founder, 2011c

S

sales of AA literature, 1979a, 1982b, 1992c,
2010a

of literature other than OA- or AA-approved,
1993b, 2010a

of merchandise at events/functions, 1984e

of merchandise by groups and service bodies,
1984e

of recovery chips, 2008f

statement on Approved Literature, 2010a

Seal of Approval

granting, 1985

removing, 2008a

self-supporting, 1984a

Serenity Prayer, use of, 1993a
 service
 no food plan required for, 2000a
 as Tool of recovery, 2011b
 service boards
 different approaches to recovery allowed, 1992a
 events, anonymity of speakers/leaders, 1990
 events, inclusion in WSO calendar, 1980c
 Final Conference Report distribution, 2010c
 media use, 2011a
 meetings, closing prayers/readings, 1993a
 meetings, opening reading, 1996a
 Spanish Language Service Board, 2017a
 “Unity with Diversity” policy statement 1992a
 website templates available for use by, 2009a
 See also intergroups; regions; service bodies
 service bodies
 creating service centers, 2012a
 delegate term limits, 2012d
 different approaches to recovery allowed, 1992a
 electronic registration of, 2010e
 events, inclusion of WSO calendar, 1980c
 Final Conference Report distribution, 2010c
 functioning, 1988a
 join together to carry message, 1988a
 liability insurance, 2012c
 matching grants, 2005b
 media use, 2011a
 meetings, closing prayers/readings, 1993a
 meetings, opening reading, 1996a
 power of, 1994c
 sale of merchandise, 1984e
 “Unity with Diversity” policy statement, 1992a
 website templates available for use by, 2009a
 WSBC Appeals Committee, nomination of persons to serve on, 2004b
 WSBC delegate attendance funding, 1993c
 WSBC delegate credentials, 2004b
 WSBC delegates, credential denials to, 2004b
 service centers, 2012a
 service offices
 titles, advertising and use of, 1990
 share-a-thons. *See* events/functions
 singleness of purpose, 1994a
 social media use, 2011a

special focus meetings
 recognition of, 1994b
 spiritual recovery, 1988b
 Sponsorship Day, established, 2017c, 2019c
 sponsorship
 of OA activities, 1979b
 as Tool of recovery, 2011b
 Step Seven Prayer, use in meeting closings, 1993a
 Step Three Prayer, use in meeting closings, 1993a
 Steps. *See* Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
 sunset procedures for policies, 2005a

T

telephone
 as Tool of recovery, 2011b
 telephone groups
 registration criteria, 1999
 See also virtual groups
 templates for websites, 2009a
 term limits, WSBC delegates, 2012d
 titles, 1990
 toll-free line, 2002b
 Tools of recovery
 action plan added, 2010b
 defined, 2011b
 listed in Business Conference Policy Manual, 2011b
 plan of eating replacing abstinence, 1995b
 Tradition Eleven
 media policies, 2008b, 2011a
 paid ads policy, 2008e
 public relations policy, 2008c
 public service announcement policy, 2008d
 “Unity with Diversity” policy statement, 1992a
 Tradition Five
 primary purpose of OA, 1994a, 2008c
 Tradition Four
 “Unity with Diversity” policy statement, 1992a
 Tradition One
 approved literature policy, 2010a
 “Unity with Diversity” policy statement, 1992a
 Tradition Six
 approved literature policy, 2010a
 sale of non-approved literature, 1993b
 Tradition Ten
 approved literature policy, 2010a

O-Anon and, 1989a
Tradition Three
 bariatric surgery, 2018
 special focus meetings, 1994b
translation funds, 2009c, 2017b
treasurer's report, timing of, 1979c
trustees. *See* Board of Trustees
Twelfth Step Within Day, established, 2009b
Twelve Concepts
 AA's, utilization of, 1993e
 of OA Service, 1994c
 reading of, at meetings, 1996a
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
 different approaches of members, 1992a
 endorsed as basic creed, 1962
 prayers at meeting closings, 1993a
 reading of, at meetings, 1996a
 See also specific Steps; specific Traditions

U

Unity Day, established, 1986a, 2019c
"Unity with Diversity"
 policy statement, 1992a

V

virtual groups (online/telephone)
 criteria for registration of, 1999
 See also groups; meetings
virtual service boards. *See* service boards
Virtual Services Conference Committee created, 2016

W

website
 Datebook calendar on, 1980c
 encryption program, 2003
 Google search, 2019b
 literature available on, when discontinued, 2008a
 templates for use by groups and service bodies, 2009a
 translation funds for non-English languages, 2009c
 WSBC proposal forms available on, 2004a
Web/Technology Conference Committee created, 2009d
weight
 statement on abstinence and healthy body, 1988b

World Service Business Conference (WSBC)
 activities for non-committee members, 1991a
 agenda, 2005c
 Agenda Questionnaire, 2004a, 2005c
 budget distribution, 1986b
 Bylaw Amendments, 1980a, 2005c
 challenges to delegate credentials, 2004b
 committee chairs, non-functioning, 1980d
 committee meetings, 1991a
 committee reports, 2014b
 committee structure, 1991a
 committees, special, 2002a
 communications to delegates and service bodies concerning, 2014b
 defamatory motions, 2005c
 delegate term limits, 2012d
 discussion topics, 1984d
 funds not to be maintained by committees, 1984c
 literature available for purchase at, 1992c
 literature policy, 1982b, 1985, 2010a
 members attendance at BOT meetings before, 1982e
 motions, procedures for submitting, 2005c
 non-committee members, activities for, 1991a
 nondelegate members of committees, 1991a
 OA Young Persons' Committee name change, 2010d
 out-of-order motions, 2005c
 policies adopted included in Business Conference Policy Manual, 1987c
 presentations to, 1984d
 proposal forms on website, 2004a
 reading of Twelve Concepts of OA Service, 1996a
 regional representatives, 1988a
 registration fee, 1993d, 1997, 2001
 reports, Final Conference, 1979e, 2010c
 reports available electronically, 2010c
 reports form Board of Trustees, 1982d
 reports from committees and workshops, 2014b
 reports from treasurer sent prior, 1979c
 special meetings during, 2014b
 as voice, authority and conscience, 1994c
 waiver of term-limits, 2012d
 See also Business Conference Policy Manual; Bylaw Amendments, committees; delegates to WSBC

World Service Convention

literature available for purchase at, 1992c
members attendance at meetings before,
1982e

payment of founder's expenses to, 1979d
time and place determined by Board of
Trustees, 1984b

World Service Office (WSO)

administration, 1994c

contributions to WSBC Delegate Support
Fund, annual letter requesting, 1993c

discontinued literature, 2008a

display of name at events, 2008a

proposal forms, have available on website,
2004a

provide website templates, 2009a

recovery chips, sell, 2008f

registration with, 2010e

WSBC registration fee, 1993d, 1997, 2001

writing

as Tool of recovery, 2011b

WSO. *See* World Service Office (WSO)

Y

Young People's Committee, name change, 2010d

OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A

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

Section 1 – Mission Statement

Our mission is to carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps to the compulsive eater who still suffers.

Section 2 – Organization and 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 purpose of Overeaters Anonymous is to carry the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps to the compulsive eater who still suffers. 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.

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 VII, 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” and “general service trustees” 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 VIII 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.
- 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.
 - 3) Any general service trustee who is absent from three Executive Committee meetings in a twelve-month period.
 - 4) Absences of a trustee serving only 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.
- d) Any member of the Board of Trustees may present a motion that an absence from a meeting of the Board of Trustees, and/or a meeting of the Executive Committee, be approved for good cause.
- 1) 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.
 - 2) 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.
- e) To be considered in attendance at a meeting, a trustee must attend 75 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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 VII, Section 2 may constitute cause for removal.
- h) 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 VII, 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, 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 Virtual Conference

Members of the Board of Trustees may participate in a meeting through use of electronic means 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

- a) Any actions required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees may be taken without a meeting.
- b) A two-thirds vote of the board shall be required for approval. Any vote taken will occur over a minimum period of twenty-four hours.
- c) Such action shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the board.

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 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

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 when there are more people nominated for trustee than can be elected.
- h) The approval of any self-dealing transaction.

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 board of trustees elect the chair, the first and second vice chairs of the board, and the treasurer of the Corporation from the current trustees at the first board meeting following the annual Conference. Each nominated trustee may speak for up to five minutes on what they hope to bring to the position. 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.

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 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 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 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.

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.
 - (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.

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 to the board administrator twenty-five days prior to the next board meeting.
- b) Seven-eighths vote of the board provided the amendment has been given in writing to the chair of the board 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.

OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B

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.
- 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.
- 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 its 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

These points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:

- a) As a group, they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
- b) All who have the desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group.
- c) No member is required to practice any actions in order to remain a member or to have a voice (share at a meeting).
- d) As a group they have no affiliation other than Overeaters Anonymous.
- e) It has affiliated as an Overeaters Anonymous group by registering with the World Service Office.

Section 2 – Composition

- a) A group may be formed, as set forth in Article V, Section 1, by two or more persons meeting together, either
 - 1) in the same physical location (land-based);
 - 2) through some form of electronic device (virtual); or
 - 3) both (hybrid).
- b) Groups compose the intergroups and service boards set forth in Article VI hereof.
- c) Affiliation/Participation:
 - 1) A group may affiliate with only one intergroup or national service board.
 - 2) Groups may also participate in the activities (including voting) of another service body (intergroup, national service board, language service board, special focus service board, and/or region) with their permission.

ARTICLE VI – SERVICE BODIES

Service bodies are formed to support the groups in matters the group cannot accomplish on their own.

There shall be five types of service bodies to provide services beyond the group level. Service bodies provide support and representation of the groups and intergroups from which they are formed and act as guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service.

Service Bodies

- a) Intergroups
- b) National Service Boards
- c) Language Service Boards
- d) Special Focus Service Boards
- e) Regions

Section 1 – Composition

- a) Intergroups are composed of two or more groups that have formed a service body for the purpose of supporting and representing these groups that are affiliated with it. Each state/province/country may have at least one service body (intergroup or national service board). In a state/province/country having only one group, that group may function as an intergroup.
- b) National service boards are composed of groups and intergroups who share a common purpose; to deal with issues that require a combination of membership and financial resources of intergroups and groups established within a single country.
- c) Language service boards are composed of groups, intergroups, and national service boards to serve the common needs of a language group, regardless of geographic proximity.
- d) Special focus service boards are composed of two or more groups or intergroups to serve the common needs of groups/intergroups with the same special focus, regardless of geographic proximity.
- e) There shall be eleven regions: one virtual region and ten geographic regions each composed of intergroups, groups, and service boards that fall within its region. Subject to regional and BOT approval, language service boards that span more than one region may choose to affiliate with any single region or choose not to be affiliated with a region.
 - 1) Region No. 1 shall be the Pacific Northwest region composed of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, 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.

- 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, 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.
- 9) Region No. 9 shall be composed of countries and territories in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Western Asia, including all of Russia.
- 10) Region No. 10 shall be composed of countries and territories in Australia, East Asia, New Zealand, South East Asia, and the Western Pacific Basin.
- 11) Virtual Region is nongeographic and is primarily composed of virtual groups and virtual intergroups.

Should states/provinces/territories/countries within a region, or intergroups/national/ language service boards within a state/province/territory/country wish to transfer to a region that is more convenient, the body notifies its current region, the region it would like to join, and the Board of Trustees of its desire to transfer. The BOT then submits a motion to WSBC to amend Subpart B, Article VI, Section 1e of the bylaws.

Section 2 – Registration

- a) Each service body 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 having problems with 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:
 - i) intergroups—each affiliated group;
 - ii) national service boards—each affiliated intergroup and group;
 - iii) language service boards—each participating group, intergroup, and/or national service board; and
 - iv) special focus boards—each participating group.
- b) Each service body shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) Each service body 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 their 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 body. Any updated bylaws shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 2a) 2 above.

Section 3 – Affiliation and Participation

Purpose of Affiliation: To facilitate the count of the groups and service bodies of the Fellowship and to encourage the flow of support and information to all.

Purpose of Participation: To facilitate the support and the flow of information within groups and service bodies that have a common need.

For the purpose of registration and WSBC representation:

- a) An intergroup may affiliate with one national service board if it exists, shall be affiliated with one region, and may participate in one or more language service boards.
- b) A national service board is affiliated with the region where their nation exists and may participate in one or more language service boards.
- c) A language service board may affiliate with one region. When the language service board spans more than one region, it may choose which region to affiliate with. Should a language service board choose to not affiliate with a region, the BOT chair shall assign a trustee to serve as liaison to that language service board. The service bodies and groups, acting as service bodies, that participate in a language service board retain their original affiliation.
- d) A special focus service board may affiliate with one region. When the special focus service board spans more than one region, it may choose which region to affiliate with. Should a special focus service board choose to not affiliate with a region, the BOT chair shall assign a trustee to serve as liaison to that special focus service board. The groups that participate in a special focus service board retain their original affiliation.

A group may choose to affiliate with an intergroup. The group shall be affiliated with the intergroup's region.

Should a group choose not to affiliate with an intergroup, but affiliates with a national service board, that group shall be affiliated with that national service board's region.

Groups that choose not to affiliate with an intergroup or a national service board shall be affiliated with the region where the group exists, either the geographic region or the Virtual Region.

Any group or service body may participate in the activities (including voting) of another intergroup, national service board, language service board, and/or special focus service board, and region with their permission.

Section 4 – Functioning and WSBC Representation

- a) Service bodies may conduct their business by any method they choose.
- b) Minimal requirement for registered service bodies to maintain their registration at the WSO:
 - 1) Intergroups shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all affiliated member groups, and for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - 2) National service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all affiliated member groups and intergroups for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - 3) Language service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all member groups, intergroups, and national service boards for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of one delegate/alternate to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.

- 4) Special focus service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all member groups for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of one delegate/alternate to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- 5) Region assemblies whose members shall be called “region 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.
- c) To send delegates to the WSBC a service body must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening. (See Article VIII, Section 3(c) for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, a service body must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair, and region trustee; or in the case of a language or special focus service board that is not affiliated with a region, the World Service Office and the trustee liaison.

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1 – Composition

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

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, ensuring that they are not altered in any way, except as specified in Article XII 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.
 - 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 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.

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, Nine, and Virtual
- 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.
- 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
 - 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.

- (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.

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. No candidate may run for more than one position.
- 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 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 VII, 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 created by action of the Conference delegates shall be filled for each category of trustee as stated in Section 7.

ARTICLE VIII – 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 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.

c) Emergency

In the event of an emergency, as determined by the Board of Trustees, the board may call the Conference, or any part of it, by virtual methods(s).

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 VI, Section 4(c) or Article VIII, Section 3(c)1:

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 40 percent of its intergroups and other eligible service bodies may send up to five additional delegates from the region. When selecting these delegates, the region shall give preference to delegates from intergroups and service bodies which would not otherwise be represented.

6) Regional trustees.

7) General service trustees.

b) Nondelegates 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.

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 national 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, as per the January Service Body Information Report from WSO, except that the national service board shall not represent the same groups as intergroups represent.

3) Countries without intergroups or national service boards that seek representation at the annual Conference shall have at least one delegate. Larger representation shall be determined by the Board of Trustees, with the delegate approval in accordance with the number of groups in that country.

- 4) Each language service board is entitled to have one qualified delegate only, regardless of the number of groups or service bodies (at least two meetings) that compose the language service board.

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 50 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 IX – CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

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

Section 1 – Conference-Approved Literature Committee

- a) The Conference-Approved Literature Committee (CLC) shall be composed of twelve or more delegates selected by the cochairs of the Conference-Approved Literature Committee from among delegates at the Conference, to obtain good geographic representation, strong abstinence, and a willingness to serve.
- b) The cochairs may appoint outgoing delegates to serve an extra year on the committee in an advisory capacity.

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. 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 cochairs; and the representatives selected from each region 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 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 – 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.
- 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 5 of Article IX does not apply to this committee.

Section 4 – Other Conference Committees as may be needed and established by the Board of Trustees or the World Service Business Conference

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

- 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.
- 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 X – 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 XI – 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.

ARTICLE XII – 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 50 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 55 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.

OA, Inc. FY2020 Financial Report
