



**2017 World Service Business Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
WRAP-UP REPORT**

“Growing OA Unity Worldwide”

Dear Delegates,

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

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

At WSBC 2017, there were 20 countries, 37 US states, and 7 Canadian provinces represented.

Thursday, May 4, 2017 – Business Meeting I

Credentials Report

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

186 eligible voters

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

Conference Standing Rules

The Conference Standing Rules were **adopted**.

Consent Agenda

New Business Motion **D** (WSBC Policy 1991a)

New Business Motion **E** (WSBC Policy 2009b)

New Business Motion **G** (WSBC Policy 1985)

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

Conference Agenda

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

Delegate Briefing

The chair explained the order in which New Business Motions and Bylaw Amendments would be addressed. The items were considered in alphabetical/numerical order, unless the chair determined otherwise. New Business Motions were considered in the following order: A-a, A-b, A-c, A, B, C, F, H, I, J, K, M, L, and N. The Bylaw Amendments were considered in the following order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Remaining Business

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

Thursday, May 4, 2016 – Business Meeting II

Credentials Report

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

186 eligible voters

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

New Business

New Business Motion A-a

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight*.

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

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of committee reports, trustee nominee speeches, and questions and answers.

Friday May 5, 2017 – Business Meeting III

Credentials Report

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

185 eligible voters

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

Region Trustee Elections

The results of the region trustee elections were as follows:

- Region Four – Cyndy L.
- Region Seven – Karen B.

General Service Trustee Elections

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

- Three-year term – Joanne M.
- Three-year term – Ron P.
- Two-year term – Lawrie C.

New Business Motion A-b

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the *Twelve Concepts of OA Service Pocket Guide*.

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

New Business Motion A-c

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised manuscript *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. New Business Motion A-c **adopted** as amended.

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

Friday, May 5, 2017 – Business Meeting IV

Credentials Report

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

185 eligible voters

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

New Business Motion A

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2014a.

~~WSBC Policy 2014a~~

~~It was adopted:~~

~~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.~~

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

New Business Motion B

Move to establish the following statement.

Statement on Copyright and Ownership of Creative Works

The copyright of all works of authorship, created in the course of volunteer service to Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. and submitted to the WSO or the WSBC shall be owned by Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Works of authorship include, but are not limited to, literary works; musical works, including any accompanying words; dramatic works, including any accompanying music; pantomimes and choreographic works; pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works; motion pictures, and audio visual works; sound recordings; and architectural works.

In the spirit of Tradition Seven, all contributions of writing, images, and other creative Works are given freely, without expectation of compensation, either monetary or attribution. This policy is an acknowledgement that ownership of the final product created for OA belongs exclusively to Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.

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

New Business Motion C

Move to add a tenth Tool: Mindfulness.

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

New Business Motion D

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1991a as follows:

WSBC Policy 1991a (*Amended 2003, 2013, and 2015*)

It was adopted that:

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

- 1) The Conference committees listed in Subpart B, Article XI of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws should confer with the corresponding board committees.
- 2) Committee membership will be limited to a delegate 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 XI, 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.

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

New Business Motion E

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2009b as follows:

WSBC Policy 2009b

It was adopted that:

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

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

New Business Motion F

New Business Motion F **withdrawn** by maker.

New Business Motion G

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1985 as follows:

WSBC Policy 1985 (*Amended 1993*)

Upon the recommendation of the Literature Committee, the following revised procedure for granting the Conference Seal of Approval was adopted:

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

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

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

Prior to the Business Conference, pamphlets 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.

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

New Business Motion H

Move to amend WSBC 1992a as follows:

WSBC Policy 1992a (*Amended 2013*)

The following policy statement was adopted:

“Unity with Diversity” Policy

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

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

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

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

THE FELLOWSHIP recognizes the importance of using a meeting format that includes the OA Preamble, and the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous and of mentioning the Seventh Tradition contributions. By doing so, we as a Fellowship collectively acknowledge we will safeguard Overeaters Anonymous today and in the future.

Duly registered is defined as being in full compliance with Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V.

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

New Business Motion I

New Business Motion I **withdrawn** by maker.

New Business Motion J

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2005c as follows:

It was adopted to:

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

- 1) All submissions of proposed new business motions, policy motions, and/or amendments to Subpart B of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws shall include a) a statement of intent; b) a statement of the procedures necessary for the implementation of the proposal (if necessary); c) a statement of estimated cost associated with the proposal; d) a history of related new business items or bylaw amendments that were voted upon by the WSBC in the past five years and the results of those votes; and e) up to one page of arguments in favor of each new business item or bylaw amendment submitted by the maker of the motion at the time of submission; and f) an explanation of how this motion will help carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

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

New Business Motion K

It was moved that:

- a) WSBC 2017 request the Board of Trustees to investigate and develop proposals for submission to WSBC no later than WSBC 2019 that would encourage WSBC to conduct its business in accordance with Concept Twelve (c – to reach decisions by substantial unanimity).
- b) In doing so, the board examine the ways in which other Twelve Step fellowships reach their decisions at their business meetings.

- c) In doing so, that board examine alternatives to the use of *Robert's Rules of Order*, including consensus methods of decision making.

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

New Business Motion M

Move that the World Service Business Conference 2017 adopt the following policy: Overeaters Anonymous will establish an adhoc 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.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion M **adopted** as amended.

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

Saturday, May 6, 2017 – Business Meeting V

Credentials Report

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

181 eligible voters

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

New Business Motion L

Move that the World Service Business Conference 2017 adopt the following policy: 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.

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

New Business Motion N

Move that the World Service Business Conference 2017 create a Sponsorship Day to be held annually on the third Saturday in August.

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

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Proposal Item 1

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 6 – Election of Trustees as follows:

Article IX – Board of Trustees

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.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Proposal Item 1 **adopted**.

Proposal Item 2

Proposal Item 2 **referred** to the Reference Subcommittee.

Proposal Item 3

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A, Article X – Dissolution, as follows:

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, 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.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Proposal Item 3 **failed**.

Proposal Item 4

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

Article IX - Board of Trustees

Section 4 – Qualifications

- 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 of election. 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.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Proposal Item 4 **failed**.

Due to time constraints, Bylaw Amendments 5, 6, 7, and 8 were not considered.

Remaining Business

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

Seventh Tradition Total: \$4,323.68

World Service Business Conference 2017 Intergroup/Service Board Representation

Per the November 2004 BOT meeting, a motion was passed that states “On the final morning of the Conference, a count of those represented intergroups and national/language service boards shall be made.” Therefore, the counts below are based on the final morning (5/6/17) of WSBC 2017.

Region	Total # of Intergroups/Service Boards (as of 1/4/17)	Total # of Intergroups/Service Boards Represented at WSBC 2017	Percentage of Intergroups/Service Boards Represented at WSBC 2017
Region 1	26	9	35%
Region 2	34	18	53%
Region 3	22	15	68%
Region 4	17	9	53%
Region 5	29	8	28%
Region 6	38	17	45%
Region 7	21	9	43%
Region 8	57	12	21%
Region 9	63	14	22%
Region 10	12	3	25%

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

Therefore, Regions One, Five, Eight, Nine, and Ten are eligible to send up to five additional delegates to WSBC 2018.
