



**2018 World Service Business Conference  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
WRAP-UP REPORT**

**“Growing OA Recovery Worldwide”**

Dear Delegates,

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

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

There were 188 voting delegates and 17 countries present.

Countries present: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, England/UK, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, USA, Venezuela.

**Thursday, April 26, 2018 – Business Meeting I**

**Credentials Report**

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

188 eligible voters

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

**Conference Standing Rules**

**Amendment One**

Karin H. moved to amend Standing Rule #7 to read as follows:

7) Amendments

B. Amendments will be considered proposed when received by the Conference secretary. Amendments can be proposed until the question has been called.

Amendment One **adopted**.

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

### **Consent Agenda**

New Business Motion **C** (WSBC Policy 2004b)  
New Business Motion **D** (WSBC Policy 2010e)  
New Business Motion **H** (WSBC Policy 1991c)  
New Business Motion **I** (WSBC Policy 1987b)  
New Business Motion **N** (WSBC Policy 1988a)  
New Business Motion **O** (WSBC Policy 1982c)

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-d, F, S, B, E, M, G, A. Motions J, K and L were considered together. The Bylaw Amendments were considered in the following order: 3, 7, 2, 1, 5, 6, 4, 10, 8, and 9.

### **Remaining Business**

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

## **Thursday, April 26, 2018 – Business Meeting II**

### **Credentials Report**

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

188 eligible voters

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

### **New Business**

#### ***New Business Motion A-a***

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *To the Family of the Compulsive Eater*.

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

***New Business Motion A-b***

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *To the Young Person*.

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 pamphlet *Welcome Back*.

New Business Motion A-c **withdrawn**.

***New Business Motion A-d***

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to *Twelve Concepts of OA Service: An Introduction*.

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

**Remaining Business**

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

**Friday, April 27, 2018 – Business Meeting III**

**Credentials Report**

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

188 eligible voters

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

**Region Trustee Elections**

The results of the region trustee elections were as follows:

Region One – Pat O.

Region Three – Neva S.

Virtual Services – Dora P.

**General Service Trustee Elections**

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

Three-year term – Bonnie L.

Three-year term – Judy H.

*New Business Motion E*

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2009d.

~~WSBC Policy 2009d~~

~~It was adopted to:~~

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

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

*New Business Motion M*

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2012a to read as follows:

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.

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

*New Business Motion G*

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 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.~~

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

**Remaining Business**

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

**Friday, April 27, 2018 – Business Meeting IV**

**Credentials Report**

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

188 eligible voters

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

***New Business Motion A***

Move 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.

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

***New Business Motion S***

Move to eliminate the restrictions to share parts of the book *For Today* between members of Overeaters Anonymous.

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

***Substitute New Business Motion B***

Move to adopt the following policy statement:

In keeping with Tradition Ten, Overeaters Anonymous had 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.

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

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Three***

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

Article VII – Regions  
Section 2 – Composition

- a) There shall be ten regions composed of intergroups, groups with each region, service boards that fall within regional boundaries, and one virtual region. Subject to BOT approval, language service boards that span more than one region may choose to affiliate with one of the regions that it spans.
- b) The regions shall be as follows:
  - 1) Virtual Region is non-geographic and is composed of virtual groups and virtual intergroups.

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

Due to adoption of Proposal Item 3, the following housekeeping motions were adopted.

***Motion Number 1***

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

Article VIII – Service Boards  
Section 4 – Functioning

- d) In order to deregister, a service board must submit a written notice to the World Service Office and the region chair and region trustee.

***Motion Number 2***

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 1 – Composition, to read as follows:

Article IX – 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.”

***Motion Number 3***

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities by striking the following and renumbering subsequent sections.

Article IX – Board of Trustees  
Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities

- c) Specific Duties
  - 3) ~~The virtual services trustee (VST) will represent virtual groups and service boards at the Board of Trustees, and will support virtual services in a manner similar to regional trustees’ support of the OA regions.~~

***Motion Number 4***

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 3 – Term of Office to read as follows:

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.

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

***Motion Number 5***

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

Article IX – Board of Trustees

Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees

d) Virtual Services Trustee

- 1) Should a virtual region be created by a change to these Bylaws, anyone serving as the virtual services trustee shall serve the remaining portion of their term as the trustee responsible for the new virtual region.

***Motion Number 6***

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 7 – Vacancies by striking the following and relettering subsequent sections.

Article IX – Board of Trustees

Section 7 – Vacancies

- ~~e) A vacancy occurring in the virtual services trustee position may be filled by the Board of Trustees to serve until the conclusion of the next World Service Business Conference.~~

***Motion Number 7***

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates by striking the following:

Article X – Meetings of Delegates

Section 3 – Delegates

- ~~8) Virtual services trustee.~~

***Motion Number 8***

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XI – Conference Committees, Section 2 – Bylaws Committee, to read as follows:

Article XI – Conference Committees  
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 may 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.
- 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.

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seven***

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

Article XI – Conference Committees  
~~Section 3 – Finance Committee~~

- ~~a) To review the annual budget.~~
- ~~b) To develop, suggest, and implement strategies with the goal of increasing Seventh Tradition and special funds contributions to the World Service Office.~~
- ~~c) To keep the Fellowship informed of financial decisions made by the BOT that affect groups and service bodies.~~
- ~~d) To assist group and service<sup>3</sup> body treasurers with the performance of their responsibilities.~~

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

**Remaining Business**

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 – Business Meeting V**

**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.



***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Two***

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

Article VI – Intergroups  
Section 2 – Composition

- a) Two or more groups may form an intergroup for the purpose of servicing and representing the groups of which they are composed and acting as the guardian of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
  - 1) A land-based intergroup is composed primarily of groups within its region, or groups within its geographical proximity.
  - 2) A virtual intergroup is composed primarily of virtual groups.
- b) With permission, a land-based group may affiliate with a virtual intergroup and a virtual group may affiliate with a land-based intergroup.
- c) Each state/province may have at least one intergroup. In a state/province having only one group, that group may function as an intergroup.

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

***Substitute Bylaw Amendment Proposal One***

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

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.
- b) Groups compose the intergroups and service boards set forth in Articles VI and VIII hereof.
- c) A group may affiliate with only one intergroup or service board. However, groups may also participate in the activities (including voting) of another service body (intergroup, national service board, language service board, region) with their permission.

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

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Five***

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Service Boards, Section 1 – Definition and Section 2 – Composition, to read as follows:

Article VIII – Service Boards  
Section 1 – Definition

For the purpose of this document, a service body is defined as a service entity that provides services beyond the group level. A service board shall be a duly registered service body. The purpose of a service board is to deal with issues that require a combination of membership and financial resources of intergroups and groups not otherwise served within the existing service structure. The service board shall serve and be responsible and accountable to these groups and intergroups. These service boards may be known as national service boards or language service boards.

Section 2 – Composition

- a) National service boards may be registered in countries outside the US and Canada in which the intergroup serves the entire country or the groups/intergroups within a country have formed a service board to serve the entire country. In cases in which there are common needs that exceed the boundaries of one country, the national service board may serve more than one country.
- b) Language service boards may be registered to serve common needs of language groups, regardless of geographic proximity.

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

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six***

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six **withdrawn**.

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four***

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

Article VII – Regions  
Section 2 – Composition

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

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four **adopted** as amended.

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Ten***

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Ten **withdrawn**.

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eight***

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eight **withdrawn**.

***Bylaw Amendment Proposal Nine***

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Nine **withdrawn**.

***New Business Motion F***

New Business Motion F **withdrawn**.

***New Business Motion J***

Moved to amend WSBC Policy 1986a to read as follows:

WSBC 1986a

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.

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

***New Business Motion L***

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2017c to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 2017c

It was adopted that:

The World Service Business Conference 2017 create a Sponsorship Day to be held annually on the third weekend in August.

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

***New Business Motion K***

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

WSBC Policy 1992b

It was adopted that:

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

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

*New Business Motion C*

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2004b to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 2004b

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

- 1) The World Service Office shall notify the service body of any challenges to delegate credentials within seven days of receipt of delegate information by the World Service Office.
- 2) 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.

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

*New Business Motion D*

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010e to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 2010e

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.

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

***New Business Motion H***

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1991c to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 1991c

It was adopted that:

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

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

***New Business Motion I***

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 1987b.

~~WSBC Policy 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.~~

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

***New Business Motion N***

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

WSBC Policy 1988a

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

b) As participants, delegates shall not be bound by the wishes of their service bodies, but should not vote against these wishes unless situations arise at

the Business Conference that make it necessary for the best interests of Overeaters Anonymous as a whole.

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

***New Business Motion O***

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1982c to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 1982c

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.

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

***Emergency New Business Motion One***

Move to adopt the following policy:

The 2018 World Service Business Conference directs the Board of Trustees to implement processes with regards to the registration of meetings where safeguarding members' anonymity may be at issue.

Emergency New Business Motion One **failed**.

**Remaining Business**

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

**Seventh Tradition Total:** \$15,978.59

## World Service Business Conference 2018 Intergroup/Service Board Representation

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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 (4/28/18) of WSBC 2018.

Region	Total # of Intergroups/Service Boards (as of 4/28/18)	Total # of Intergroups/Service Boards Represented at WSBC 2018	Percentage of Intergroups/Service Boards Represented at WSBC 2018
<b>Region 1</b>	25	16	<b>64%</b>
<b>Region 2</b>	36	18	<b>50%</b>
<b>Region 3</b>	21	14	<b>67%</b>
<b>Region 4</b>	17	7	<b>41%</b>
<b>Region 5</b>	28	10	<b>36%</b>
<b>Region 6</b>	38	17	<b>45%</b>
<b>Region 7</b>	21	10	<b>48%</b>
<b>Region 8</b>	57	14	<b>25%</b>
<b>Region 9</b>	63	10	<b>16%</b>
<b>Region 10</b>	13	2	<b>15%</b>
<b>Virtual</b>	9	5	<b>56%</b>

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

Therefore, Regions Five, Eight, Nine, and Ten are eligible to send up to five additional delegates to WSBC 2019.

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