

BYLAWS

REGION 2 OF OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.

PREAMBLE

General Warranties of Region 2 of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.

In all its proceedings, Region 2 shall observe the spirit of Overeaters Anonymous tradition, taking care that the corporation never becomes the seat of wealth and power; that sufficient operating capital, plus reserves, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the corporate Board members ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no corporate action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though it may act for the service of Overeaters Anonymous groups in Region 2, it shall never perform any acts of government and that like the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous, the Corporation itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be Region 2 of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “R2”)

ARTICLE II - Place of Business

The site for the transaction of the business of the Corporation shall be located at such place or places within the State of California as the R2 Board shall from time to time determine.

ARTICLE III - Purpose

The purpose of R2 is to promote unity within the Region (as defined in Section 2 of the R2 Policy and Procedures Manual,) to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, to be aware of and serve the needs of member Groups and Intergroups and to carry the message of Overeaters Anonymous (hereinafter referred to as “OA”) to the compulsive overeater who still suffers, by:

A. Furthering the OA program in accordance with the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service.

The Twelve Steps

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.

The Twelve Traditions

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 nonprofessional, 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.

The Twelve Concepts of OA Service

1. The ultimate responsibility and authority for OA world services resides in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.
2. The OA groups have delegated to World Service Business Conference the active management of our world services; thus, the 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 the legal rights and responsibilities accorded 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 wherever 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.

(Permission to use the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous for adaptation granted by AA World Services, Inc.)

- B. Maintaining a Communication Center for R2.
- C. Providing a format for selection of Trustee nominees.
- D. Providing unity of Groups and organization of Intergroups within R2.
- E. Conducting an annual R2 Convention for the purpose of promoting unity and communication within the Region.
- F. Conducting fund-raising activities, including the Annual Convention, that are deemed necessary to finance the functions of R2.
- G. Facilitating semi-annual R2 Assemblies as the representative body of all unaffiliated groups and Intergroups within the Region.

ARTICLE IV - 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 R2 Assembly and all rights which would otherwise vest in the members shall vest in the Assembly, except as otherwise expressly provided herein.

ARTICLE V - Assemblies of Region 2

- A. An R2 Assembly shall be held two times each year at a place and on date(s) designated by the Board. Notification of R2 Assembly places and dates for each calendar year shall be announced at the last R2 Assembly of the previous calendar year.
- B. A special assembly may be called at any time by a majority vote of the R2 Board or by at least one-fourth (1/4) of the registered R2 Regional Representatives (hereinafter referred to as "RR").
- C. Notification of regular and special Assemblies of R2 shall be the responsibility of the designated R2 Board Member. These notifications shall be mailed and/or sent by electronic transmission to each Intergroup Office, Unaffiliated Group contact, RR, and R2 Board Member at least 45 days prior to the date of the assembly.
- D. All Assemblies of R2 shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except when in conflict with these Bylaws. The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian to serve all Assemblies of R2, who shall not be considered a member of the Board of R2.

ARTICLE VI - Membership of the R2 Assembly

Members of the R2 Assembly shall consist of the R2 Board, RR's from each R2 Intergroup desiring to participate, and a representative of any other OA group unaffiliated with an Intergroup (hereinafter referred to as any Unaffiliated Group) within R2 (California, Hawaii, Mexico and Northern Nevada):

Intergroups and Unaffiliated Groups must be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous (hereinafter referred to as WSO), and agree that:

Section 1 – Definition

The following points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:

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

- A. Those Intergroups and Unaffiliated Groups within R2 are deemed members, provided that each Group or Intergroup is registered with the World Service Office prior to an R2 Assembly.

- B. The selection of the RR's to the R2 Assemblies shall be determined by the Intergroup and Unaffiliated Groups whom they represent and shall serve for a period determined by their respective groups.
- C. Intergroups and Unaffiliated Groups may select RR alternates to substitute for a designated RR who becomes unable to serve. Once such substitution is made, the Alternate becomes the RR for the remainder of that Assembly.
- D. Each Intergroup shall be entitled to one (1) RR for each ten (10) Groups located within the geographical boundaries of Region 2 as defined by World Service, or fraction thereof.
- E. Each Unaffiliated Group shall be entitled to one (1) RR.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of each Intergroup and Unaffiliated Group contact to provide the R2 Publications Coordinator with the name, mailing address, phone number and email address (when available) of their RRs at least sixty (60) days prior to an assembly in order to receive an Assembly information packet , the pre-registration notice, or other notices deemed necessary by the R2 Board or an R2 Assembly.

Section 2 – Composition

- a) A group may be formed, as set forth in Article VI Section 1, by two or more persons meeting together, either:
 - i) in the same physical location (face-to-face);
 - ii) through some form of electronic device (virtually); or
 - iii) both
- b) Groups compose the intergroups and service boards as set forth in Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Articles VI and VIII.

ARTICLE VII - Voting Body of the R2 Assemblies

- A. A quorum shall consist of Representatives from at least thirty percent (30%) of all Intergroups.
- B. A simple majority shall govern for voting purposes unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.
- C. Voting shall be by a show of hands unless otherwise specified by the Chair, a judgment of group conscience, or another article of these Bylaws.
- D. Each RR shall be entitled to one (1) vote in the assembly.
- E. The R2 Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Publications Coordinator and Events Coordinator shall each be entitled to one (1) vote in the assembly.
- F. The R2 Chair may vote to make or break a tie, or on a ballot vote.
- G. Any other member of the fellowship attending an assembly shall have a voice, but no vote.

ARTICLE VIII - R2 Board

Subject to the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and the Laws of the State of California, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of this corporation shall be controlled by the Board of Directors, which shall be known as the Region 2 Board (hereinafter called the R2 Board).

The R2 Board will be comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Publications Coordinator, and Events Coordinator. The R2 Trustee, whose duties and responsibilities are specified by the World Service Bylaws Subpart B., Article IX, Section 2 and the World Service Trustee's Board Reference Manual, shall act as liaison to Region 2 for the World Service Board of Trustees, and may have a voice at Board Meetings.

These Board Members shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws, the Policies and Procedures Manual, the Board Operation Manual, and the adopted parliamentary authority, which are listed in order of precedence.

- A. The R2 Board shall hold regular meetings at its discretion.
- B. The R2 Board is authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media, so long as all members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting. A quorum (majority of seated members) must be "on line" before the meeting may be called to order and must remain "on line" for any business to be conducted.
- C. All business considered by the R2 Board requires a majority vote of the seated members for adoption.
- D. Persons serving on the R2 Board shall not be considered by R2 as RR's from any Intergroup or Unaffiliated Group.

ARTICLE IX - Nomination & Election

Nomination & Election of the R2 Board:

- A. Election of the R2 Board members shall be held at the last assembly of each calendar year. Newly elected officers shall assume their offices following adjournment of that assembly. The outgoing Board members will serve in an advisory capacity until the next regular assembly.
- B. Nominations for the R2 Board of Directors shall be made by completing the approved R2 Board application form. The application form shall be submitted to the Chair no later than the end of the morning session on the first day of the last assembly of the calendar year. The elections shall be held on the second day of the last assembly of the calendar year. Only candidates who have followed the application procedure shall be considered for election.
- C. Vote for the R2 Board shall be by secret ballot or, providing there are no objections from the floor, by voice vote if there is only one candidate for any given position.
- D. All members elected to the R2 Board shall serve for a term of two (2) full years or

until a successor is elected or appointed and assumes office. Chair, Publications Coordinator and Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years; Vice Chair, Secretary and Events Coordinator shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

E. No person shall serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms as a member of the R2 Board. No person shall serve more than five (5) consecutive years.

F. Vacancies occurring on the R2 Board may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining R2 Board members. The R2 Board may solicit individuals known to them; may solicit volunteers from the fellowship via mail and/or electronic transmission; or may post the vacancy on the R2 website. Appointees shall serve until the position is filled by an election. Elections to fill the term of an unexpired R2 Board position shall occur at the next annual assembly at which elections are normally held.

G. To be eligible for election or appointment to the R2 Board, a person must, at the time of election:

1. Be a member of Overeaters Anonymous for at least three (3) years.
2. Be regularly attending OA meetings within R2;
3. Have current abstinence from compulsive overeating of at least two years, each person being the sole judge of their abstinence, and taken Steps 4 and 5 of the Twelve Steps;
4. Declare themselves as practicing the Twelve Steps to the best of their ability as well as being committed to the Twelve Traditions of OA and the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
5. Have at least two (2) years of service above the meeting level.
6. Be serving, or have served, as an RR to at least two (2) R2 Assemblies, as a member of the R2 Board, or as a member of World Service Board of Trustees. For appointments only, and with due consideration, the R2 Board may appoint an individual who has attended one (1) assembly if an otherwise qualified candidate who has attended two (2) or more assemblies cannot be found.

ARTICLE X - Recall

R2 Board members shall be subject to recall at any regularly scheduled R2 Assembly.

A. Reason(s) for recall shall be any breach of duty imposed on the R2 Board member by the Bylaws and the Corporation Code of California, or failure to continue to meet the qualification requirements for R2 Board members set forth in these Bylaws, Article IX, Section G.

B. Recall petitions may be proposed at any time by one or more Intergroups or a majority vote of the R2 Board. Petitions proposed by Intergroups shall include complete information about the proposing entity, name and contact information of the presiding officer at the meeting at which the petition was proposed, and the number of voting members at that meeting.

C. Recall petitions shall include the R2 Board member's name, office to be vacated, and a substantive statement of the breach of duty which supports the petition.

D. Recall petitions shall be delivered by mail or electronic transmission to the Region 2 Secretary, who shall immediately forward the petition to all R2 Board members. Should the R2 Secretary be the subject of the petition, it shall be delivered to the R2 Chair who shall forward it to all R2 Board members.

E. A special committee shall be formed to act on all recall petitions submitted. This committee shall be chaired by the Chair of the Bylaws Committee, or a previous R2 Chair if there is no Bylaws Committee Chair, and be comprised of four (4) other Regional Representatives, excluding members of the R2 Board. The appointments shall be made by the R2 Board.

F. All members, with the exception of the Chair of the Committee, shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The Committee Chair shall have a vote to make or break a tie. A simple majority vote is needed to act on a recall petition.

G. As soon as the special committee is in place, the R2 Secretary shall forward copies of the petition to the members of the committee. The committee shall decide if the petition meets with the requirements in items B, C, and D of this Section.

H. If the petition meets with all requirements as set forth in B, C, and D of this Section, a copy of the petition shall be sent to the subject of the petition, who shall have two (2) weeks to respond to the petition, in writing, to the Recall Committee Chair.

I. The committee shall then consider the petition and response, and determine if further action is required. The decision of the committee, including the opinion of the minority, shall be sent to the R2 Board. If any action is recommended, a written report, including the minority opinion, shall be included in the Assembly Packet for the next R2 Assembly, at which time the recall petition shall become an agenda item, subject to R2 rules and Limited Debate.

J. Adoption of a recall petition shall:

1. Require a three-fourths (3/4) vote of seated RR's.
2. Result in immediate vacating of the office named.
3. Render the recalled ineligible to hold R2 office for a period equivalent to the balance of the current term of office plus two (2) additional years.

ARTICLE XI - Trustee Nomination/Affirmation and Selection

The R2 nominees for the position of Trustee will be selected at the last assembly of the calendar year from members of OA within R2 who meet the requirements set forth by the World Service Bylaws and R2.

A. Region 2 requires, in addition:

1. Working knowledge and understanding of the Twelve Traditions as they apply to OA;

2. An awareness of the possible time and expense involved in service as a Trustee.

3. Attendance as a Regional Representative to at least two Regional Assemblies.

B. Persons wishing to be nominated must obtain an application form from the World Service Office.

1. All completed applications must be sent to the R2 Secretary, postmarked no later than midnight, at least sixty (60) days prior to the assembly at which nominations/affirmations are to take place.

2. Copies of all applications which meet all requirements shall be submitted to each Intergroup, Unaffiliated Group, and all members of the voting body of the R2 Assembly, along with notification of the assembly at which nominations/affirmations are to take place.

C. Individuals must be present at the assembly at which their application is to be considered and be prepared to respond to questions regarding their qualifications.

D. Vote for Trustee nominee(s) shall be by secret ballot or, providing there are no objections from the floor, by voice vote if there is only one candidate.

E. Nomination and Selection of R2 Trustee:

1. When voting by ballot, the names of applicants wishing to be nominated for R2 Trustee shall be listed on the ballot. Each RR and voting Board member will be given a ballot and will vote for three (3) nominees only.

2. The names of each of the three (3) people receiving the highest number of votes who also receive a majority of the votes shall be forwarded to the World Service Office of OA within one (1) week.

3. In the event that there are no applications for region trustee submitted for consideration at the fall assembly, as required in item B, #1, above, or when a vacancy occurs where there is no region assembly prior to the deadline date specified for submission of nominations to the World Service office, nominee(s) may be selected by the following process:

i. The R2 Board will solicit applications from OA members within Region 2 by posting a notice on the R2 website, sending notifications via emails to RRs who attended the previous two assemblies, mailing and or emailing notice to R2 Intergroups, and other methods determined by the R2 Board.

ii. All requirements for applicants set by the World Service bylaws must be met prior to consideration of such applications(s) by the R2 Board.

iii. A majority vote of the R2 Board will constitute affirmation of the application.

iv. Notification of the R2 Board's nominee affirmation(s) will be posted on the R2 website.

The R2 Trustee will be elected at the World Service Business Conference, as stated in the World Service Bylaws.

F. Affirmation and Selection of General Service Trustee:

1. When voting by ballot, the names of applicants requesting affirmation of their application for GST shall be listed on the ballot. Each RR and voting Board member will be given a ballot and may vote to affirm as many nominees as they feel appropriate.

2. The names of the nominees receiving a majority of the vote for affirmation shall be forwarded to the World Service Office of OA within one (1) week.

GST elections take place at the World Service Business Conference as stated in the World Service Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII - Committees

The R2 Board shall create such committees as are deemed necessary by the R2 Board or an R2 Assembly. No person shall serve as chair of a committee for more than two (2) consecutive years.

ARTICLE XIII - Financial Structure

The activities of R2 shall be financed primarily by contributions.

A R2 may accept donations from members of OA in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of OA.

B. The acceptance of bequests and/or contributions from any outside source is prohibited.

C. R2 shall not accept responsibility for nor enter into the distribution or allocation of any funds set up outside of R2.

D. Disbursements:

i. Any document for disbursement of R2 funds must be signed by the R2 Treasurer and one (1) other authorized member of the R2 Board. In the absence or incapacitation of the R2 Treasurer, disbursement documents may be signed by the Region 2 Chair and one (1) other authorized member of the R2 Board. Convention accounts are the exception to this requirement.

ii. Convention Accounts: Disbursement documents from an R2 Convention account must be signed by an authorized member of the R2 Board and an authorized member of the Convention Committee. Authorized signers shall be:

a. The R2 Treasurer must sign for the R2 Board. In the absence or incapacitation of the R2 Treasurer, the R2 Chair or the R2 Events Coordinator may sign, in that order.

b. The Convention Treasurer must sign for the Convention Committee. In the

absence or incapacitation of the Convention Treasurer, the Convention Chair or Vice Chair may sign for the Convention Committee, in that order.

ARTICLE XIV - Major Policy Matters

The policies of the Overeaters Anonymous World Service Business Conference and Board of Trustees are adopted as the policies of Region 2. Matters not so covered which relate to major policy affecting OA as a whole shall be referred to the Overeaters Anonymous World Service Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XV - Delegates to World Service Business Conference

Each year R2 shall send the Board Chair (or alternate) as the R2 Delegate to the World Service Business Conference. Other R2 Delegates may be allowed per WSO Bylaws Subpart B, Article X, Section 3. (All R2 delegates must meet the WSO qualifications specified within Section 3.)

ARTICLE XVI - Dissolution

Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provisions for payment of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. or another duly registered OA service body. In the event no other Overeaters Anonymous service body exists, the remaining assets shall be distributed to another non-profit group organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code.

ARTICLE XVII – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised, shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order which Region 2 may adopt.

ARTICLE XVIII- Amendments to Bylaws

A. Except for the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts listed under Article III, A, these Bylaws may be amended at any time by two-thirds (2/3) of the RR's present and voting at any regular R2 Assembly. A copy of the amendment must be submitted to the R2 Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the assembly at which action is to be taken on the amendment. Written notice shall be prepared by the Publications Coordinator and communicated by mail or by electronic transmission to each Intergroup Office, Unaffiliated Group contact, RR, Alternate and R2 Board member

at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the assembly. Proposed amendment(s) shall be posted on the R2 website in PDF format, prior to written notification. The written notice of proposed amendment(s) shall indicate the availability of the content of such amendment(s) on the R2 website.

B. The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and The Twelve Concepts of Service listed under Article III, A, shall conform to the Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Subpart B. Articles I, II, and III.

ARTICLE XXIX - Legal Disclaimer

A. This Corporation is organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Further, the corporation shall only make contributions to organizations qualified under Section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

C. The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private person.