



APRIL 27 — MAY 2, 2015
ALBUQUERQUE, NM USA

Final Report

**Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.
2015 World Service Business Conference**

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OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
Embassy Suites Albuquerque Hotel and Spa
Albuquerque, New Mexico USA
April 27 – May 2, 2015
Final Business Conference Report
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**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2015-2016**

Trustee	Position	Committee Assignment (chairs)
Tina C.	General Service Trustee Treasurer	Delegate Support Fund Finance
Stella C.	Region Nine Trustee	International Publications/ Translations Unity with Diversity
Karen C.	General Service Trustee Second Vice Chair	BRM Review
Stephanie D.	Virtual Services Trustee	Virtual Services Young Persons'
Bob F.	General Service Trustee	BOT Bylaws
Margie G.	Region One Trustee	Web/Technology
Barbara G.	Region Seven Trustee	Internal Information
Meg H.	Region Two Trustee First Vice Chair	Convention 2010 Site Selection Strategic Planning
Linda H.	Region Eight Trustee	Board-Approved Literature
Gerri H.	General Service Trustee Chair	
Karin H.	Region Six Trustee	Convention 2016 Region Chairs
Linda J.	Region Five Trustee	Conference-Approved Literature Literature Review
Cyndy L.	Region Four Trustee	Bylaws
Bonnie L.	General Service Trustee	Twelfth Step Within
Faith M.	Region Ten Trustee	Professional Outreach Professional Tradeshows
Janice S.	General Service Trustee	Conference Planning
Vicki W.	Region Three Trustee	Public Awareness Public Information

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
WORLD SERVICE DELEGATE COCHAIRS
2015-2016

Conference Committee	Delegate Cochair
Bylaws	<i>Michael K.</i>
Conference-Approved Literature	<i>Jill M.</i>
Finance	<i>Donna M.</i>
Professional Outreach	<i>Pat O'C.</i>
Public Information	<i>Caroline M.</i>
Region Chairs	<i>Meg M.</i>
Twelfth Step Within	<i>CJ M.</i>
Unity with Diversity	<i>Viviana G.</i>
Web/Technology	<i>Wallace M.</i>
Young Persons'	<i>Matt S.</i>

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
APPROVED MINUTES
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETINGS
54TH ANNUAL WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE
April 30 – May 2, 2015

EMBASSY SUITES ALBUQUERQUE HOTEL AND SPA
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 30, 2015 – BUSINESS MEETING I

Chair Joe L. called the 54th Annual World Service Business Conference to order at 8:33 a.m. Louise M. and Vianca M., Region Two, led the Serenity Prayer in Spanish and English.

CALL TO ORDER

Eva M., Region Six, read the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous; Roberta S., Region Four, read the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous; Michael B., Region Five, read the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.

READINGS

The chair welcomed all attendees to the Conference.

WELCOME

The chair announced the Conference theme: The Miracle of Abstinence.

CONFERENCE THEME

The chair introduced Conference Planning Chair Karin H.

**CONFERENCE
PLANNING CHAIR
INTRODUCTION**

The chair introduced the Board of Trustees in order as seated on the dais: General Service Trustee Bob F., Virtual Services Trustee Stephanie D., Region Seven Trustee Barbara G., Region Three Trustee Vicki W., Region Nine Trustee Esti O., General Service Trustee Janice S., Region Ten Trustee Faith M., Region Six Trustee Karin H., Region Five Trustee Linda J., General Service Trustee Tina C., Region Eight Trustee Linda H., General Service Trustee and 2nd Vice Chair Karen C., Region One Trustee Margie G., General Service Trustee and Treasurer Gerri H., Region Four Trustee Cyndy L., Region Two Trustee and 1st Vice Chair Meg H., and General Service Trustee and Chair of the Board Joe L.

**TRUSTEE
INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair introduced Parliamentarian Jan Strand and Board Administrator/Conference Secretary Rebbie Garza.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN/
SECRETARY
INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair introduced the region chairs: Region One Chair Merry R., Region Two Chair Nancy J.; Region Three Chair Roni B., Region Four Chair Meg M., Region Five Chair Denise O., Region Six Chair Diana G., Region Seven Chair Amy L., Region Eight Chair Gloria L., Region Nine Chair Susan S., and Region Ten Chair Letitia M.

**REGION CHAIRS
INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair introduced Managing Director/Corporate Secretary to OA, Inc. Naomi Lippel, Associate Director/Controller Sarah Armstrong, Publications Manager DeDe DeMoss, Member Services Manager/Meeting Planner Sandy Zimmerman, and Center Microphone Monitor Karen B.

**WSO STAFF/CENTER
MICROPHONE
MONITOR
INTRODUCTIONS**

Conference Planning Committee Chair Karin H. introduced Conference Support Committee Chair Barbara B.

CSC INTRODUCTIONS

Conference Support Committee Chair Barbara B. announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting I.

**VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS**

Karin H. called attendance by region to acknowledge delegates present at WSBC:

Region One – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming (except Torrington, Wyoming), Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Yukon

**REGION
ATTENDANCE**

Region Two – California, Hawaii, Reno/Tahoe area of Nevada, Mexico

Region Three – Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Outstates Intergroup (which includes Scottsbluff, Nebraska and Torrington, Wyoming)

Region Four – Illinois (except Greater Chicago area and Central Illinois Intergroup), Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska (except Outstates Intergroup, which includes Scottsbluff, 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, 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, Aruba, 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 Service Boards – 12 Step 4 Coes, OA HOW Two Hour Format Phone Meeting, Spiritual Fitness and Serenity, Perseverancia, Global Online.

The chair appointed Steve B., Region Five; Sara Jane B., Region Seven; and Annette P., Region Four, to serve as Minutes Approval Committee for the WSBC 2015 business meetings.

MINUTES APPROVAL
COMMITTEE

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 16 trustees, 174 voting delegates for a total of 190 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 RULE AMENDMENT ONE

Move to amend WSBC Standing Rules, Section 8D as follows:

STANDING RULE
AMENDMENT ONE
ADOPTED

8) Other Actions

- D) Request for Information (questions of the chair). Each delegate is permitted to ask one question per report or motion. Preference will be given to delegates who have not asked a question on the report or motion if the delegate has a follow-up/additional question.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Amendment was **adopted**.

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT TWO

Move to amend WSBC Standing Rules, Section 8D as follows:

STANDING RULE
AMENDMENT TWO
ADOPTED

8) Other Actions

- D) Request for Information (questions of the chair). Each delegate is permitted to ask one question per report or motion. Preference will be given to delegates who have not asked a question on the report or motion ~~if the delegate has a follow-up/additional question.~~ Requests for clarification are not considered to be an additional question.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Amendment was **adopted**.

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT THREE

Move to amend WSBC Standing Rules, Section 6H as follows:

STANDING RULE
AMENDMENT THREE
ADOPTED

6) Recognition and Debate

- H) A motion to move the previous question and proceed to vote will be stated by the chair after fifteen minutes of questions. If this motion fails, the chair will automatically ask for the vote at ten-minute intervals.

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. Amendment was **adopted**.

The 2015 Conference Standing Rules were **adopted** as amended.

STANDING RULES
ADOPTED

The following items were placed on the consent agenda: New Business Motion A (WSBC Policy 1979d), Proposal Item 1 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 3), Proposal Item 2 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 4), Proposal Item 3 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3), Proposal Item 4 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3), Proposal Item 5 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3), Proposal Item 6 (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 1).

CONSENT AGENDA
ADOPTED

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. The consent agenda was adopted.

By unanimous consent, the 2015 World Service Business Conference agenda was adopted as revised.

CONFERENCE
AGENDA ADOPTED AS
REVISED

The chair reported service body voting results from the agenda questionnaire and announced that new business motions would be considered in the following order: A-a, A-b, A-c, B, G, H, I, and J.

NEW BUSINESS
MOTIONS
PRESENTED; ORDER
OF NEW BUSINESS
MOTIONS

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:

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.

Item A was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **99%** of the responding service bodies. **Item B** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **99%** of the responding service bodies. **Item G** was submitted by the Los Angeles Intergroup and approved by **92%** of the responding service bodies. **Item H** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **97%** of the responding service bodies. **Item I** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **99%** of the responding service bodies. **Item J** was submitted by the San Diego County Intergroup and approved by **80%** of the responding service bodies.

AGENDA
QUESTIONNAIRE
RESULTS

The chair asked the makers of new business motions to introduce themselves at the pro microphone.

NBM MAKER
INTRODUCTIONS

The chair announced that bylaw amendment motions would be discussed in a similar fashion to discussion of new business motions.

BYLAW AMENDMENT
MOTIONS PRESENTED

Voting results of each bylaw amendment motion were as follows:

Bylaws Amendment **Item 1** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **98%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 2** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **98%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 3** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **100%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 4** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **99%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 5** was submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **100%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 6** was

AGENDA
QUESTIONNAIRE
RESULTS

submitted by the Board of Trustees and approved by **99%** of the responding service bodies. **Item 7** was submitted by Oregon OA Intergroup and approved by **77%** of the responding service bodies.

The bylaw amendments would be considered in the following order: 7.

**ORDER OF BYLAW
AMENDMENT
MOTIONS**

The chair asked the makers of bylaw amendment proposal motions to introduce themselves at the con microphone.

The chair referred the assembly to the officers' reports presented in the 2015 Conference binder.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

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

The chair referred the assembly to the region reports presented in the 2015 Conference binder.

REGION REPORTS

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

The chair referred the assembly to the committee reports presented in the 2015 Conference binder.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

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

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 30, 2015 – BUSINESS MEETING II

Chair Joe L. called the second business meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Perline N., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in French and English.

CALL TO ORDER

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 16 trustees, 176 voting delegates for a total of 192 eligible voters. The Credentials Report was **adopted** without objection as presented.

**CREDENTIALS
REPORT ADOPTED**

The Conference Support Committee Chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting II.

**VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS**

The parliamentarian addressed the assembly regarding how to write an amendment.

**PARLIAMENTARY
ADDRESS**

The region trustee candidates were presented, and per Bylaws B, Article IX, Section 7, each addressed the assembly for five minutes, and then answered questions from the floor for ten minutes.

**REGION TRUSTEE
CANDIDATE
ADDRESSES**

The region trustee candidates:

Region Three Vicki W.

Region Six Karin H.

Region Nine Stella C. and Susan S.

REGION TRUSTEE
CANDIDATES

The general service trustee candidates were presented, and per Bylaws B, Article IX, Section 7, each addressed the assembly for five minutes and then answered questions from the floor for ten minutes.

The general service trustee candidates:

Lonna C.

Tina C.

Bonnie L.

GENERAL SERVICE
TRUSTEE
CANDIDATES

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A-A

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *A Program of Recovery*.

NBM A-A
A PROGRAM OF
RECOVERY ADOPTED

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

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A-B

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *A Guide for Sponsors*.

NBM A-B
A GUIDE FOR
SPONSORS ADOPTED

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. New Business Motion Proposal Item A-b **adopted**.

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A-C

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies*.

NBM A-C
OA HANDBOOK FOR
MEMBERS, GROUPS,
AND SERVICE BODIES
ADOPTED

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

Following announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 1, 2015 – BUSINESS MEETING III

Chair Joe L. called the third business meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Meike V., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Dutch and English.

CALL TO ORDER

Anne B., OA How Two Hour Format Phone Meeting VSB, 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 16 trustees, 174 voting delegates for a total of 190 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS
REPORT ADOPTED

The Conference Support Committee Chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting III.

**VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS**

The region trustee election ballots were distributed, cast, collected, and counted.

**REGION TRUSTEE
BALLOT**

The chair announced the ballot results for the region trustee election.

**REGION TRUSTEE
TELLERS' REPORT**

Region Trustees – Three-Year Term:

Region Three – Vicki W. 188 votes cast, 95 needed to elect, 180 “yes” votes

Region Six – Karin H. 190 votes cast, 96 needed to elect, 188 “yes” votes

Region Nine – 178 votes cast, 5 illegal ballots, 90 needed to elect
Stella C. 132 “yes” votes
Susan S. 46 “yes” votes

Seventh Tradition was taken.

The chair declared Vicki W. as Region Three Trustee, Karin H. as Region Six Trustee, and Stella C. as Region Nine Trustee.

**SEVENTH TRADITION
COLLECTION**

Updated credentials report: 16 trustees, 179 voting delegates, 190 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

**NEW REGION
TRUSTEES DECLARED**

The general service trustee election ballots were distributed, cast, collected, and counted.

**UPDATED
CREDENTIALS
REPORT**

The chair announced the ballot results for the general service trustees:

**GENERAL SERVICE
TRUSTEE BALLOTS**

General Service Trustees

Total votes cast: 186

Illegal ballots: 1

Number of votes needed for election: 94

**GENERAL SERVICE
TRUSTEE TELLERS'
REPORT**

Lonna C. 80 “yes” votes

Tina C. 167 “yes” votes

Bonnie L. 104 “yes” votes

The chair declared Tina C. and Bonnie L. as general service trustees for three-year terms.

**NEW GENERAL
SERVICE TRUSTEES
DECLARED**

The chair asked the managing director to destroy the ballots after the adjournment of Conference.

**BALLOTS
DESTROYED**

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 1979d as follows:

**NBM A
RESCIND WSBC
POLICY 1979D**

WSBC Policy 1979d

It was adopted to:

~~Pay founder Rozanne S.'s expenses to all future Conventions.~~

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM A (CONTINUED)

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

NBM A
RESCIND WSBC
POLICY 1979D
ADOPTED ON
CONSENT AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM B

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1991a, Item 6 as follows:

NBM B
AMEND WSBC
POLICY 1991A, ITEM
6

WSBC Policy 1991a (Amended 2003 and 2013)

It was adopted that:

- 6) Delegates should be registered by March 1 and have submitted their committee preference by April 1. Delegates will be notified at or prior to WSBC to which committee they have been assigned. Service on a committee at WSBC is expected, and the commitment should be maintained throughout the following year.

Amendment B-1

Bob F. moved to strike the last sentence and insert “Service on a committee is expected and the commitment is maintained until the following WSBC.”

AMENDMENT B-1
ADOPTED

Amendment B-1 **adopted**.

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

NBM B
AMEND WSBC
POLICY 1991A, ITEM
6 ADOPTED AS
AMENDED

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1, 2015 – BUSINESS MEETING IV

Chair Joe L. called the fourth business meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Lena E., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in Swedish and English.

CALL TO ORDER

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. Sandy Zimmerman presented the report, confirming that there were 16 trustees, 173 voting delegates for a total of 189 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS
REPORT ADOPTED

The Conference Support Committee Chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting IV.

VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS

SUBSTITUTE NEW BUSINESS PROPOSAL ITEM G

The Reference Subcommittee voted to make no recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE NBM G
AMEND WSBC
POLICY 1984A

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1984a as follows:

WSBC Policy 1984a (Amended 1990 and 2013)

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

SUBSTITUTE NEW BUSINESS PROPOSAL ITEM G (CONTINUED)

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.

SUBSTITUTE NBM G
AMEND WSBC
POLICY 1984A

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

SUBSTITUTE MOTION
ADOPTED

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

NBM G ADOPTED AS
SUBSTITUTED

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM H

New Business Motion H **withdrawn** without objection.

NBM H
WITHDRAWN

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM I

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010c as follows:

NBM I
AMEND WSBC
POLICY 2010C

WSBC Policy 2010c

It was adopted that:

The WSBC Final Conference Report be made available electronically.

Amendment I-1

Caroline M. moved to add “A printed copy can be provided upon request, at the expense of the requester.”

AMENDMENT I-A
FAILED

Amendment I-1 **failed**.

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

NBM I
ADOPTED

NEW BUSINESS MOTION PROPOSAL ITEM J

Move that the World Service display the name “Overeaters Anonymous” on all displays, banners, badges, and other signage at its events.

NBM J
DISPLAY
OVEREATERS
ANONYMOUS NAME

Amendment J-1

Steve C. moved to amend New Business Motion J to strike “badges” and add “This does not apply to badges.”

AMENDMENT J-1
ADOPTED

Amendment J-1 **adopted**.

Amendment J-2

Steven K. moved to strike “Overeaters Anonymous” and replace with “OA.”

AMENDMENT J-2
FAILED

Amendment J-2 **failed**.

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

NBM J ADOPTED AS
AMENDED

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM ONE

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Section 3 – Functioning, Part d as follows:

Article VI - Intergroups

3) Functioning

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

Proposal Item One **adopted** on the consent agenda.

BYLAW AMENDMENT
ITEM ONE
AMEND BYLAWS B,
ARTICLE VI,
SECTION 3D
ADOPTED ON
CONSENT AGENDA

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM TWO

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

Article VIII – Service Boards

4) Functioning

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

Proposal Item Two **adopted** on the consent agenda.

BYLAW AMENDMENT
ITEM TWO
AMEND BYLAWS B,
ARTICLE VIII,
SECTION 4D ADOPTED
ON CONSENT
AGENDA

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM THREE

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates, Part c) 4 as follows:

Article X – Meetings of Delegates

c) Qualifications/Selection

- 4) Delegates and alternates should be selected at least seventy days before the annual Conference, and the names forwarded immediately upon selection to the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous.

Proposal Item Three **adopted** on the consent agenda.

BYLAW AMENDMENT
ITEM THREE
AMEND BYLAWS B,
ARTICLE X, SECTION
3C) 4 ADOPTED ON
CONSENT AGENDA

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM FOUR

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

Article X – Meetings of Delegates

3) Delegates

- b) Non-delegates who may address the World Service Business Conference shall consist of officers of the corporation or any parent or subsidiary of the corporation who are not also trustees, the Conference parliamentarian, the managing director, and/or the managerial staff of the World Service Office.

Proposal Item Four **adopted** on the consent agenda.

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

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM FIVE

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates, Part c) 2 as follows:

Article X – Meetings of Delegates

3) Delegates

c) Qualifications/Selection

- 2) Each intergroup or 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 service board shall not represent the same groups as intergroups represent. A group shall be recognized as registered and represented by an intergroup or service board.

Proposal Item Five **adopted** on the consent agenda.

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM SIX

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 1 – Composition, Parts 1, 3 and 4 as follows:

Article VII – Regions

b) 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.
- 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 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.

Proposal Item Six **adopted** on the consent agenda.

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM SEVEN

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XIV – Bylaw Amendments, Section 1 – Procedure, Part e as follows:

Article XIV – Bylaw Amendments

1) Procedure

- 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 ~~forty-five~~ 30 percent of the registered groups have responded.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT
ITEM FIVE
AMEND BYLAWS B,
ARTICLE X, SECTION
3C) 2 ADOPTED ON
CONSENT AGENDA**

**BYLAW AMENDMENT
ITEM SIX
AMEND BYLAWS B,
ARTICLE VII,
SECTIONS 1, 3 AND 4
ADOPTED ON
CONSENT AGENDA**

**BYLAW AMENDMENT
ITEM SEVEN
AMEND BYLAWS B,
ARTICLE XIV,
SECTION 1E**

BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL ITEM SEVEN (CONTINUED)

Amendment 7-a

Beverly M. moved to amend Proposal Item Seven by striking “30” and inserting “45.”

AMENDMENT 7-A
FAILED

Amendment 7a **failed**.

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

BYLAW AMENDMENT
ITEM SEVEN FAILED

The Seventh Tradition total was \$5,921.51

SEVENTH TRADITION
TOTAL

Following announcements, the chair adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m. with I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 2015 – BUSINESS MEETING V

Chair Joe L. called the fifth business meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Jutta F., Region Nine, led the Serenity Prayer in German and English.

CALL TO ORDER

Amy R., Region Eight, 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 16 trustees, 173 voting delegates for a total of 189 eligible voters. By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

CREDENTIALS
REPORT ADOPTED

Parliamentarian Jan Strand discussed how to become a parliamentarian.

PARLIAMENTARY
ADDRESS

The Conference Support Committee Chair announced the names of the volunteers serving as pages and timekeepers during Business Meeting V.

VOLUNTEER
INTRODUCTIONS

The committee delegate cochairs presented two minute summaries of their meetings.

COMMITTEE
MEETING
SUMMARIES

The workshop leaders presented two minute summaries of their meetings.

WORKSHOP
SUMMARIES

The chair asked all the new WSBC delegates to stand before the assembly for recital of the ceremonial “green dot” verse, followed by removal of the green dots from their delegate badges.

GREEN DOT
CEREMONY

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

COLLECTIVE THANKS

There being no further business to come before the assembly, the 54th Annual World Service Business Conference was adjourned at 9:55 a.m., with I Put My Hand in Yours.

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by: _____
Rebbie Garza
Board Administrator and Conference Secretary

Approved by: _____
Naomi Lippel
Managing Director and Corporate Secretary to OA, Inc.

Steve B.– Minutes Approval Committee

Sara Jane B. – Minutes Approval Committee

Annette P. – Minutes Approval Committee



APRIL/MAY 2015 CHAIR'S REPORT

As I began to collect my thoughts for this report regarding the past year, I decided I wanted to start out with a pat on the back for each and every one of us. I believe, all things considered, we did a good job in 2014! We are living during a tough economic time. But even though money is tight, our dedicated OA Fellowship increased contributions and literature purchases. The trustees and the World Service Office spent the entire year with a sincere and monumental focus on being frugal. So thanks to everyone we ended 2014 in the black! We took in more money than we spent. Of course this is always our goal, but it is never an easy task. Good job, everyone!

I cannot mention the financial condition of OA without reciting that old axiom, "let's not let good be the enemy of our best!" This is my seventh year as a general service trustee and member of the Executive Committee. Each year in October, the EC examines the income for the previous year. We comb through all the avenues of that income searching for places where we might anticipate an increase or decrease in the upcoming year. Conservatively, we predict our income. Then we examine projected expenditures. "Trustees want to do more workshops." "Committees want to launch new projects." "WSBC wants something new on the website." Always, the list of proposed expenditures exceeds the income predictions. That places us in the excruciating predicament of having to select which plans, proposals, and projects will not move forward, due entirely to lack of funds! At that point, we have no choice. We delete and/or delay projects from our proposed expenditures. One very recent instance of this that comes to mind is oa.org upgrades and improvements mentioned later in this report. Point being, we cannot afford to let "good" be acceptable. Too many have gotten too comfortable with only a buck or two in the basket. There are many still-suffering compulsive eaters we have not reached. "It takes two" is an obsolete Seventh Tradition slogan. I have discovered that, personally, I really like the Automatic Recurring Contribution (ARC) system now available on oa.org.

It almost goes without saying that oa.org has become the crux of OA. The website is the tool most widely used to purchase OA literature. It has (dare I say) hundreds of downloads, documents, workshops, podcasts, and guidelines, which we use to reach out to the still-suffering compulsive eater and support the Fellowship. It is the conduit for a considerable (and growing) amount of our contributions. For quite some time it has been the overwhelmingly favorite tool for newcomers and members alike to find a meeting. Every year we add more and more items and implements to our website. Over the past few years, the need for some major upgrades and a redesign has increased. Sadly, due entirely to a lack of funds (as mentioned in the previous paragraph), the improvements on oa.org proposed by our managing director either got delayed or were minimized and dealt with in "half measures." In late December 2014, the glaring need for upgrades became absolutely critical when the Find a Meeting function of oa.org went down. The bad news is that Find a Meeting is an absolutely crucial element of oa.org, and we had to do without it for several days! The good news is this transpired at a moment in time when OA is finally in a financial condition to address oa.org issues properly and aggressively. The managing director has been directed to begin the implementation of some very broad upgrades and improvements. Due to the collective girth of these projects, the step-by-step process will probably take more than a year to complete.

In 2013, our beloved book *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous* came up on the Strategic Publications Plan for review. The trustee and delegate cochairs of the Conference-Approved Literature Committee asked the BOT for assistance. Their thought was since this is a keystone piece of our literature and the review is such a large task, possibly a committee of a broader base and more singular focus would serve the Fellowship better. The BOT agreed and began the process of establishing

an ad hoc committee to review the *Twelve and Twelve*. In August 2013, the last members of that original committee were put in place. In May 2014, three members of the original committee rotated off. So in July 2014, the BOT appointed three new members. The ad hoc *Twelve and Twelve* Review Committee has been in process now for over a year and a half. The committee has met this rather daunting task head-on. The current members of this committee live in six time zones, which brings challenges to the real-time interaction they believe to be an absolute necessity. But they have established a method of inspection and interaction that is working well. They are making steady progress but are not yet ready to predict a completion date.

Our virtual community has really been working hard. In 2014 members could attend monthly virtual workshops. Led by trustees or region chairs, the workshops covered topics about OA literature and our primary purpose as per our Strategic Plan. The workshops are recorded and are available on the podcast page of our OA website (oa.org). Those workshops were well received and well attended. Therefore in 2015, there will again be monthly workshops led by trustees or region chairs covering each of our Twelve Steps. The OA Datebook calendar on the website also has information on these and other events.

The Conference-Approved Literature Committee has obviously been very busy this past year. Therefore we will be voting on three pieces of OA literature at the 2015 WSBC. So don't forget to attend the Literature Q&A session if you have any questions about the literature we will be addressing. As you are probably aware, at this stage of our literature-approval process, these literature items are not amendable. We will be voting to approve or reject "as is."

In January 2008, we had 9,773 *Lifeline* subscriptions. In January 2015 we have 6,847. We have maintained for some time that 10,000 subscriptions is our goal because that is the approximate number it takes to make *Lifeline* "self-supporting." But we are rather glaringly 3,153 short of our goal. These are the cold hard facts to consider.

- What can we do about these facts?
- Is this insurmountable?
- 286 more subscriptions per region—intimidating!
- 185 more subscriptions per trustee—challenging!
- One-third of our meetings sell/buy one more subscription—doable?
- Each IG/SB accounts for selling ten more subscriptions—why not?
- If 5 percent (1 in 20) more of our Fellowship bought or renewed
- WE CAN REACH TEN THOUSAND SUBSCRIPTIONS!
- What can I do to make it happen?

In closing I must mention what an incredible year this has been for me. Never in my recovery journey did I dream of being on the OA Board of Trustees, much less serving as the chair of BOT. This has truly been "beyond my wildest dreams." I have grown in so many ways, both personally and in my program, that I can't possibly mention them all. My OA friends, my "OA family," and God placed me in this position, and I will be eternally grateful. I could never have envisioned this for myself. And a big part of what I might not have been able to envision was that in this position, I would be so completely supported by such a profoundly amazing World Service Office staff and so totally embraced by a board full of nurturing and supportive fellow trustees.

In humble gratitude,
Joe L.
Chair, Board of Trustees
March 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

DUTIES OF TREASURER

The Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Subpart A, Article VI – Officers, Section 6 states: “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 to him/her from time to time by the Board of Trustees or general service trustees.”

How does one who is not a professional accountant and also not positioned at the World Service Office do that? We are fortunate enough to have Associate Director/Controller Sarah Armstrong, who manages the day-to-day financial affairs of our corporation. Shortly after being elected as your treasurer, I flew to New Mexico and spent a day with Sarah. Having managed nonprofit corporations for twenty-three years, I was able to understand our procedures, checks, and balances, and left there with a real sense of comfort that our money is in good hands.

I review all check registers and ask questions when something isn’t clear. Each month I, along with the rest of the BOT, review our financial statements. There is a necessary level of trust, and we are very fortunate to have such a competent, reliable staff.

2014 AUDIT

Porch and Associates, certified public accountants, reviewed the 2014 financial statements as required by state law. The Executive Committee meets with them at the February board meeting. It is their opinion that our financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Overeaters Anonymous as of December 31, 2014. This is just another layer of assurance for the BOT that our money matters are in capable hands with our paid staff, under the direction of Managing Director Naomi Lippel and Associate Director/Controller Sarah Armstrong.

LOOKING BACK

The job of budgeting for the upcoming year is a painstaking process. The BOT makes decisions based on historical data and tries to stretch income to cover our probable expenses. It has been a gut-wrenching process to inform region trustees that some of the workshops and outreach efforts will be limited, committees they will have less to work with, and the office it will have to make do for another year.

As our chair stated in his report, the proposed expenditures always exceed the income predictions. Getting by is not an effective way to do the business of carrying the message. In late December, the Find a Meeting function of our website failed. Our website has been in need of an upgrade for quite some time, but it was another area where we just didn’t have the money to do much more than a band-aid effort to keep it up and running.

Thanks to your generosity, our 2014 income exceeded our projections, and expenses were well under what we frugally anticipated. That excess income over expenses has allowed us to move forward and properly upgrade the website now. The Executive Committee voted to earmark \$70,000 to do this. Our website is where people go to not only find a meeting, but also to buy literature and keep abreast of what

is happening in our Fellowship. It is incumbent upon our board to make sure that it properly reflects who we are at Overeaters Anonymous.

LOOKING FORWARD

I take the responsibilities of being your treasurer seriously, a job that I cannot do effectively without your help. How can we change our past budgeting process from just getting by to thriving? I have a few proposals for you to consider:

- **Automatic Recurring Contributions:** One-hundred twenty-six members are already participating. We have a goal of 150 members by the end of the year. If you are not already using this very convenient method of donating your Seventh Tradition, just go to oa.org and click on the Contribute page.
- **Lifeline magazine:** Do you have a subscription? How about your meeting? And your sponsees? How about your doctor's office? Do your region, intergroup/service board, and meeting have a *Lifeline* rep? If you do not have a subscription, please do not leave this Conference without one. Use the subscription form in the *Lifeline* you received in your registration packet, turn that in to me (your treasurer), and I'll be happy to make sure your subscription or renewal is handled!
- It is not true that virtual meetings have no expenses. Do you really give double at your next face-to-face meeting? Use your meeting number when making contributions for your virtual meeting. Contributions have doubled from virtual meetings in the last year, but we really need your help to increase the Seventh Tradition here. For more information on this, please see the virtual services trustee's report.
- **Buy OA Literature:** This continues to be our greatest source of income. Some great new books and pamphlets have recently been published, such as *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*. Do you have your copy yet? Do you encourage your sponsees to purchase and use our literature? Does your meeting have a good supply of materials for members to purchase?
- Every year, I give a special donation to OA for my years of abstinence. Since my anniversary falls just after WSBC, I put that check in the Seventh Tradition basket at Conference. It's getting expensive; this year will be twenty-two years! I'm challenging you to consider making an extra annual donation too, equal to your years of abstinence!

We in Overeaters Anonymous are resourceful. When we put out a last minute plea for the Delegate Support Fund, you stepped up to the plate. When we created a memorial fund for our beloved founder, Rozanne, you contributed. Whenever we have asked, you have helped. My dream, as your treasurer, is that when we start the budgeting process later this year, we'll have the amazing new challenge of more money to spend than we need. I know that you want OA to be financially strong just as much as I do. My dream is that when you read the treasurer's report next year, you'll see that we were able to once again fund areas where at present we are minimally, or worse, not funding at all. Together we can do what we could never do alone. Thank you for the honor of serving as your treasurer.

Gerri H.
Treasurer and General Service Trustee
February 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015 MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2015 World Service Business Conference, this year with the theme The Miracle of Abstinence. It has been a busy and productive year for the WSO. Keep reading to find out what we've been up to...

FINANCIAL

As mentioned in the other officers' reports, OA ended 2014 well in the black, with revenue exceeding expenses by nearly \$76,000. Total revenue decreased by 3 percent from 2013, primarily due to no Convention revenue in 2014; overall expenses decreased 6.5 percent. Our newest book, *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*, released in October, yielded strong sales in the final quarter of the year. Digital literature continues to be a reliable revenue stream, with over \$76,000 in sales. Overall literature sales increased about 2 percent over 2013 sales. According to our auditor, OA's financial position remains strong.

Contributions in 2014 were \$564,585 (including restricted funds), the highest we have ever seen, and we were able to fund seventeen delegates this year through the Delegate Support Fund. Contributors using the Automatic Recurring Contributions (ARC) system doubled between January and December 2014 and continues to rise.

For 2015, OA has launched a campaign to increase awareness of and attract contributors to OA's ARC program. Starting with ninety-five registered contributors in January 2015, the WSO set a modest goal of attracting thirty more members to sign up, for a total of 125. The publications department designed a "blooming" tree to visualize the campaign, and for every new contributor, another leaf is added to the tree.

At the beginning of March 2015, we reached the goal: 126 Automatic Recurring Contributors have signed up with OA. Thank you to the Fellowship for your tremendous support.

We're not stopping here; our new goal is 150 ARC participants. Your support helps sustain OA's primary purpose by funding member support, free online resources, OA-approved literature, Conference, and much, much more. No contribution is too small to help OA carry the message of recovery. To become an Automatic Recurring Contributor, go to oa.org and click on the Contribute button.

LIFELINE

October 2015 marks the 50th birthday of *Lifeline* magazine, certainly a cause for celebration. However, subscriptions continue to lose ground, with another loss of 400 subscriptions in 2014 added to the 515 lost the year before. And only three months into 2015, we have already lost another 428. The subscription base now sits at 6,652, and only 17 percent of those are to the electronic version. Expenses for producing and mailing continue to rise. Also of note, with the February issue, *Lifeline's* international subscriptions dropped below the minimum number needed in order for the WSO to take advantage of a preferable (ISAL) postal rate. International subscriptions must now be mailed first class, costing approximately \$200 more per issue. Continued subscription losses of this magnitude *will* make our beloved "meeting on the go" obsolete in the near future.

To help maintain and grow *Lifeline* subscriptions, the WSO has launched a campaign this year to recruit, educate, and support *Lifeline* reps to be strong advocates for the magazine at group and service body meetings. The first step was a bold blue and yellow ad featuring the words, "I WANT TO BE A LIFELINE

REP.” Since January 2015, fourteen OA members from around the country have contacted the WSO to sign up as new reps, bringing the total number of registered *Lifeline* reps to 192. Join them: Become a *Lifeline* rep by calling the WSO at 1-505-891-2664 or emailing info@oa.org.

The recovery shared in *Lifeline* is strong, thoughtful, and inspiring; the design professional and attractive. Many magazines in recent years have had to go exclusively online or close up shop completely; I sincerely hope this is not the case for *Lifeline*. But it will take the Fellowship to show it values this treasured resource by subscribing. Will you throw *Lifeline* a lifeline?

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The three-year focus for the 2014–2016 Strategic Plan is Our Primary Purpose. The main goal for 2014 was to increase the Fellowship’s **focus on actions required for abstinence**. Toward that end, the board and region chairs collaborated on a number of projects, all of which were completed and distributed to the Fellowship. These projects included two workshop formats on abstinence for use by groups and service bodies; the *Strong Abstinence Checklist*, now translated into seventeen languages and available as a pocket card in our bookstore; and an *Abstinence Literature Resource Guide*. All these items are now available on oa.org for free download to use in your meetings and workshops.

The Strategic Plan goal for 2015 is to increase the Fellowship’s **focus on the necessity of working ALL Twelve Steps** by creating a Steps Made Simple program. Tasks in process are a *Lifeline* column on the topic written by trustees and region chairs, a virtual workshop series of one Step per month (also available as podcasts), a *Newcomer Quick Step Study*, and a document on how to “Twelve Step” a problem. All these projects are well under way, and the board and region chairs will be soon working on projects for 2016.

WEBSITE

Last year was a challenging year for website development. While we were able to make some improvements to the existing site, we were not able to do what we had hoped due to limited funds and difficulties with the developer at the time. In the fall, we found new developers who took on our site with vigor.

We began work on repairing and rewriting our Find A Meeting system, which was badly in need of attention. Unfortunately, when we updated to the most current version of WordPress (important for site security), despite extensive testing, the meeting finder broke and was no longer providing accurate information. Our developers got to work immediately on making the necessary and numerous repairs to restore it, but it was down for several weeks.

During this emergency, we provided a PDF of service body information so those seeking meetings could locate them via their local intergroups/service boards; we posted PDFs of online and phone meetings so that information could be easily accessed; and we instructed those adding new meetings or editing existing ones to send us emails as the online forms were also being repaired. Within a few weeks, the face-to-face meeting search was restored; PDFs of virtual meetings remained on the site for a few weeks more.

As of the writing of this report, our developers are still working tirelessly to restore all meeting searches and forms and make them more user-friendly with faster load times; in addition, the back-end is being rewritten to be far more efficient and functional. This work takes considerable new programming, rebuilding of our meeting database, testing, and, of course, time. We know this has been a frustrating experience for the Fellowship, and we and our developers are committed to doing everything possible to right the situation and make finding a meeting even better than ever.

We have also significantly upgraded OA's e-commerce site, which launched at the beginning of March 2015. The new bookstore (still at bookstore.oa.org) provides a more current interface and a much-improved shopping experience and is designed to work seamlessly with our accounting software, thus solving many back-end functionality issues.

Recognizing the need to secure adequate resources for further website improvements, the Executive Committee has earmarked funding for a full website redesign this year and development of an OA mobile app in 2015-2016. They will also ensure that there are sufficient funds in the budget to maintain the work being done now and enable needed upgrades in the future.

GROUPS AND SERVICE BODIES

In 2014 the number of OA meetings worldwide, including telephone and online meetings, averaged 6,468 in about eighty countries, with 339 service bodies (including region offices). When the WSO hears from people who want more information about OA, a packet of information is mailed to them. In 2014, seventy general-information and twenty-five family packets were mailed out.

Please remember it is critical to ensure your meeting and service body information is current with the WSO so that those who request meeting information from the WSO will be assured that what they receive is accurate.

OA PUBLICATIONS

The following revised Conference-approved literature will be presented for approval at WSBC 2015:

- *A Guide for Sponsors* (revision)
- *A Program of Recovery* (revision)
- *OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies* (revision)

The following literature was approved at WSBC 2014 and is now available for sale:

- *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition* (available in print and as e-reader). The *Third Edition* can be purchased from the OA bookstore (bookstore.oa.org) singly or in discounted combination with the *Second Edition*, at discount while supplies last.

The following board-approved literature was revised or approved for publication:

- *Taste of Lifeline*. A book of collected *Lifeline* stories scheduled for publication summer of 2015. (new)
- *Strong Abstinence Checklist and Writing Exercise* pocket card (new)
- *Abstinence, Second Edition*, Spanish translation (e-reader format)
- *To Parents and Concerned Adults*. Questions revised, with input from Young Persons' Committee, to include anorexia, bulimia, food restriction, and other compulsive behaviors which can be issues for teens/young adults. (revision)
- *Pocket Reference for OA Members*. Updated with revised Our Invitation to You, abridged, from *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*, as approved at WSBC 2014. (revision)
- *Suggested Meeting Format*. Updated with revised Our Invitation to You, abridged. All versions of the meeting format updated in English, Spanish, and French. (revision)
- *Budget Guidelines for Service Bodies*. Updated for easier readability and to include new information. (revision)
- *Fundraising and Prudent Reserve Guidelines for Groups and Service Bodies*. Updated for easier readability and to include new information. (revision)
- *Guidelines for Public Information Events*. Updated for readability. (revision)

The following board-approved abstinence resources were published on oa.org for free download:

- *The Strong Abstinence Checklist and Writing Exercise* (new)
- *The Abstinence Literature Resource Guide* (new)
- *The Abstinence PowerPoint Presentation* (new)
- *The Difference Between Abstinence and A Plan of Eating Workshop* (new)

E-readers continue to be popular with OA members. All of OA's books, except the workbooks, are available for purchase for popular e-reader and mobile formats. In 2014, over 10,550 e-reader books were sold.

A new Newsletter Editors page was added to oa.org in the Service Body Support section under Members/Groups. The page includes professionally produced ads, in multiple sizes and formats, that groups/service bodies can use in their newsletters to let members know about new OA literature.

The OA News Bulletin was redesigned and became a regularly scheduled monthly email. At the end of 2014, the bulletin was sent to a list of over 2,060 subscribers and had an open rate of 45 percent (the industry average open rate is 19 percent). To subscribe to the OA News Bulletin, go to oa.org and click on the link at the top right of the home page.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS/TRANSLATIONS

According to the WSO's records, OA literature has been translated or is in the process of being translated into twenty-nine languages in forty-two countries. The three new languages OA literature is being translated into are Korean, Lithuanian, and Chinese.

Included in the Licensing Agreement groups and service bodies sign when translating and publishing OA literature is a requirement that they send 10 percent royalties of their net income from the sale of the licensed work. OA received \$7,780 in royalties from six countries in 2014. If your group or service body translates and sells OA literature, remember to send in royalties annually.

The restricted Translation Fund, which was discontinued at the end of 2012, had a remaining balance of \$5,206 at the start of 2014. Although the WSO no longer accepts fund contributions, all money remaining in the fund has been used to fulfill the fund's designated purpose of translating OA literature. In 2014 and first quarter 2015, \$5,586 was granted to OA groups and service bodies translating OA literature. The amount granted was comprised of the remaining balance (\$5,206) and \$380 that was added back to the fund from a service body that did not use its entire allocated funds.

The restricted Translation Fund balance is now \$0. Going forward, approved applications for translation funds will be allocated from the International Publications and Translations Committee budget.

The International Publications and Translations Committee added a third deadline for receiving Translation Fund applications to increase opportunities for service bodies to apply. The deadlines are now February 1, August 1, and November 1 each year.

The committee received and approved applications from the following service bodies for these translation projects:

- **NSB of Poland:** \$610, *Questions and Answers; What If Don't Believe in God?; Think First; The Twelve-Step Workbook of Overeaters Anonymous; A Guide for Sponsors; and Many Symptoms, One Solution.*
- **Jakarta OA Meeting:** \$750, *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Questions and Answers, To the Newcomer, The Tools of Recovery, A Plan of Eating, Dignity of Choice, and The Twelve Traditions of OA.*

-
- NSB OA of Greece: \$2,161, *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*.
 - Lithuania OA Group (Feniksas): \$800, *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions by Overeaters Anonymous*.
 - NSB OA of Greece: \$1,265, *Twelfth-Step-Within Handbook; Public Information Service Manual; and Service, Traditions, and Concepts Workshop Manual*.

The following translations were completed through initiatives identified by the International Publications and Translations Committee. All translations were distributed to Regions Nine and Ten trustees and chairs. Spanish translations were also distributed to Regions Two and Eight trustees and chairs.

- *The Strong Abstinence Checklist* was translated into Danish, Dutch, Flemish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish by OA members as service, at no cost to OA. In addition, the pamphlet was translated into Arabic, Hungarian, Icelandic, Japanese, Russian, and Swedish by a professional service.
- The *Unity with Diversity Checklist* was translated into French and posted on the French OA website. The translation was completed by OA members as service. It was also translated into Portuguese by an OA member as service.
- *The Strong Meeting Checklist* was translated into Dutch, Swedish, and Russian by a professional service.
- In addition, the *Unity with Diversity Checklist* and *Strong Meeting Checklist* were translated into Japanese by a professional service.
- The *Suggested Meeting Format*, including the abridged *Tools of Recovery*, and the newly revised abridged *Our Invitation to You*, was translated into Arabic, Japanese, and Dutch by a professional service.
- The *Abstinence PowerPoint Presentation* was translated into Spanish, French, and Portuguese by members as service. The Spanish and French translations were added to the Spanish and French OA websites.

Currently, *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*, is being translated into Spanish by a member/translator. The WSO anticipates having the translation available in spring/early summer 2015.

The following updates were made to the Spanish and French OA websites:

- Revised *Our Invitation to You*, abridged, posted in *Group Support*, *Service Body Support*, and *About OA*.
- Revised *Our Invitation to You*, abridged, appended to the *Suggested Meeting Format* and *Step-Study Meeting Format*.
- *Atheists and Agnostics* page added under *Newcomers*.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Despite a tight budget in 2014, we were able to engage in some significant public information activities to increase media and public awareness about OA.

- Periodic press releases were sent to online and print media, including the use of specialized health and nutrition media lists.
- Facebook ads ran for about half the year, focusing on February–April and September–December, which resulted in nearly 17,000 new visitors to oa.org.
- OA advertised for five weeks on *Today's Dietitian* website, todaysdietitian.com, which averages about 145,000 unique visitors per month. We also ran an ad in their August American Association for Diabetes Educators (AADE) issue, distributed to 40,000 subscribers (digital and hard copy) and all the participants at the annual AADE Conference. Finally, we ran a year-long ad in their 2014 *Diabetes Resource Guide*, which can still be viewed at todaysdietitian.com/guides-and-showcases.shtml.

- An ad for OA ran in the Fall/Winter issue of *Modern Woman* magazine, a *USA Today* featured publication that comes out annually in October and has a circulation of about 1.3 million, plus about 210,000 online readers.
- The PI Poster Campaign, during which we sell professionally designed and printed public information posters to OA groups and service bodies that order them, resulted in a total of 2,100 posters ordered. The \$5.00 cost of each ten-pack of posters covered printing and mailing costs. The poster, along with previous PI posters, is available for free download on oa.org, and on our Spanish and French websites.
- To address a common misconception that OA is a religious organization, the Public Awareness Committee proposed, and the board approved, an adaptation of the pamphlet *What If I Don't Believe in God?* be placed on a new Web page on oa.org titled To Atheists and Agnostics.
- The *Courier* newsletter, an annual publication targeting the health care community, was sent out in early January to a mailing list of health care professionals. Because we are no longer attending tradeshow, this mailing list has dwindled considerably. Professionally printed *Couriers* continue to be available to purchase through the OA catalog, and you can download it for free from the website to bring to health care providers, health fairs, and tradeshow.

In 2015, the following public awareness activities are planned:

- Outreach to health/wellness providers, including researching and identifying providers, developing a communication plan and materials to send to the provider list, and following up.
- Purchase of Google ads, including creating ads and keyword list, with increased saturation in October through December. Effectiveness will be monitored, adjusted as needed, and reported.
- Distribution of 366 television PSA tapes to stations in the US. These Betacam tapes were not selling and thus gathering dust in the warehouse, so the Executive Committee decided to send them to our PR agency to distribute to television stations so they will get some play throughout the year. The Betacam version of the PSA is no longer being sold through the bookstore.
- Sales and distribution of a new PI poster packet to those that order by the deadline. See the flyer in your delegate packet for ordering information.

PROFESSIONAL EXHIBITS FUND

The following service bodies were funded in 2014 to assist with attendance at local area tradeshow.

Service Body	Conference	Dates	Funded
San Gabriel Valley Inland Empire IG (R2)	California Dietetic Association	April 3-4	\$564.57
Southeastern Arizona IG (R3)	AZ Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	June 6	\$387.21
San Francisco IG (R2)	American Diabetes Association	June 14-16	\$3,086.32
Chicago West Farout IG (R5)	Ignite the Fight Against Obesity	September 26	\$1,192.87

Contributions are encouraged to help support this important fund, and the application for use of fund money is available on oa.org.

STAFFING

Last year brought a few rare staffing changes to the World Service Office. Two members of the publications department retired; as a result, we had the opportunity to hire a new publications manager, DeDe DeMoss, and a new associate editor, Kevin McGuire. We also promoted the previous associate editor, Summer Russo, to periodicals editor/designer. The new publications staff brings a fresh look and

approach to *Lifeline* and other projects, as well as renewed enthusiasm, productivity, and creativity to the department. In addition, one of our accounting staff moved out of state; Brett Burleigh, hired as our new accounting technician, has made great strides in customer service and helping to build our new online bookstore. We are so delighted to work with our new staff; they are all doing an outstanding job.

As always, it is a privilege to work for Overeaters Anonymous and be able to have a part in the transformation of so many lives. I am also honored and humbled to work with such an excellent staff and devoted Board of Trustees.

With gratitude,
Naomi Lippel
Managing Director
March 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015 BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

The twenty-four members of the 2015 WSBC Bylaws Committee were willing and eager to tackle some issues which they believed should be addressed. Prior to the subcommittee groups meeting at the afternoon session, elections for secretary, delegate cochair, and vice chair were held. Michael B. from Region Five was kind of “voluntold” to be committee secretary for this year’s committee meeting and was unanimously chosen for the position. Mike K. from Region Three was elected to serve as delegate cochair, and Alice W. from Region One was elected to serve as vice chair. Their terms will expire at the end of WSBC 2016.

The committee divided into four subcommittees to work on the following:

- 1) Anonymity issues involving social media; OA Inc., Bylaws, Subpart B; OA Continuing Effect Motions; and the current pamphlet on anonymity.
- 2) Suggested guidelines for intergroups, national service boards, virtual service boards, and regions policy and procedures manual.
- 3) Review Article VII – Regions for possible revision.
- 4) Review Article VIII – Service Boards for possible revision.

The subcommittees will be working throughout the coming year to present possible new business motions and/or bylaw proposals for WSBC 2016.

The Reference Subcommittee was comprised of sixteen WSBC delegates from nine regions and a virtual services board, plus the trustee cochair and delegate cochair. Bob F., trustee cochair, explained the purpose of the Reference Subcommittee and the procedural aspects of how the subcommittee would operate.

The Reference Subcommittee discussed the following:

- 1) Revising the policy to state delegates are expected to serve on a committee.
- 2) Revising the OA Preamble.
- 3) Discontinuing the printing of a hard copy of the WSBC Final Report.
- 4) Requiring all World Service events to include the name “Overeaters Anonymous” on banners, displays, and other signage. Delegate and WS Convention badges are excluded from this requirement.

The information provided by the delegates and others in attendance offered insights and suggestions for each of the items discussed prior to the Reference Subcommittee going into session and making a recommendation for each item. The Reference Subcommittee was at all times concerned with the ramifications to the OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B and continuing effect motions. The recommendations taken to the Conference floor were accepted for each of the items discussed. Many of the delegates stated that the Reference Subcommittee work is invaluable because issues are hammered out in the subcommittee that could possibly consume a great deal of time on the Conference floor.

Cyndy L. was selected as the new trustee cochair, and the Bylaws Committee is looking forward to working with her this coming year. The Bylaws Committee and Reference Subcommittee are indebted to Bob F., outgoing trustee cochair, for his guidance, wisdom, and knowledge in assuring the delegates knew what was going on at all times.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike K., Delegate Cochair
Bob F., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015
CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jill M., delegate cochair; Tina C., trustee cochair; twenty-two delegate members; Naomi Lippel, managing director; DeDe DeMoss, publications manager; Kevin McGuire, associate editor; and Mary Young, publications assistant were in attendance.

2015 MEETING OVERVIEW

- 1) Delegates were welcomed; committee members and WSO publications staff introduced themselves.
- 2) Statement of purpose was read and the agenda was reviewed.
- 3) Activities of the 2014-2015 CLC were reviewed.
- 4) Delegates were advised of their year-long commitment, and that they were expected to participate in their subcommittee as well as review and vote on other pieces of literature.
- 5) DeDe DeMoss, publications manager, reviewed the literature development process and the Strategic Publications Plan.
- 6) The committee considered three new literature proposals and will ask the new trustee cochair to present a motion to the Board of Trustees to approve further development of literature to address body image, sexuality, and relationships.
- 7) Elections were held for 2015-2016 positions
 - Delegate Cochair: Jill M.
 - Vice Chair: Barbara B.
 - Secretary: Neva S.
- 8) Tina explained the Literature Question & Answer session, the purpose of which is to allow delegates more time to ask questions and better understand the literature motions.
- 9) Subcommittees for 2015-2016 were explained.
 - Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step Workshop Guide (work currently in progress)
 - Small Meetings, Small Towns (work currently in progress)
 - Traditions 101/Principles (approved by 2014 CLC and BOT for development)
 - The Promises of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA (defeated in 2014; feedback was collected and the BOT approved of continuing work on the project)
 - Maintaining a Healthy Weight (revision per Strategic Publications Plan; needs updating)
 - Subcommittees were formed, subcommittee chairs selected, and goals and timelines established.
- 10) Trustee Cochair Linda J. was appointed by the BOT.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill M., Delegate Cochair
Tina C., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Helen D., delegate cochair and Gerri H., trustee cochair and treasurer, presided over the meeting. There were twelve members in attendance including delegates from eight different regions and Sarah Armstrong, WSO controller. The meeting was held on April 29, 2015.

REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- 1) Review of the budget with many questions for controller Sarah Armstrong.

REVIEW OF 2014-2015 COMMITTEE WORK

- 1) The Seventh Tradition Update Pamphlet Subcommittee has made approximately 80 percent of the planned updates. They recommend this year's committee continue and complete their work.
- 2) The Seventh Tradition Short Form Subcommittee provided three draft examples that could be downloaded from the OA website and also distributed with routine quarterly service body mailings. These have not been presented to the board nor approved yet. It is recommended that this year's committee complete this work.
- 3) The Finance Guidelines Review Subcommittee completed their goals for 2014-2015.

2014-2015 GOALS

- 1) Subcommittee 1 was assigned to continue working on the Seventh Tradition pamphlet update and Seventh Tradition short form.
- 2) Subcommittee 2 was assigned to work on a combination of items to get the message out about the need for Seventh Tradition.
 - Increase donations from non-face-to-face meetings by 25 percent
 - Survey membership for contribution data
 - Encourage members to give regularly/more
 - ARC (automatic recurring contributions) link to online meetings
 - Virtual meetings contributions
 - Alternate methods of communication (workshops, YouTube videos, etc.)

ELECTIONS

- 1) Delegate Cochair: Donna M., Arizona Serenity in the Desert IG (Region Three)
- 2) Delegate Vice Chair: Bill C., San Diego County IG (Region Two)
- 3) Secretary: Thomas F., South Bay IG (Region Two)
- 4) Trustee Cochair: Tina C., treasurer and GST

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen D., Delegate Cochair
Gerri H., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015
PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Pat O’C., delegate cochair and Faith M., trustee cochair, led this committee meeting of twenty enthusiastic delegates. Initially committee members shared successes, challenges, and tips from their local service bodies.

A review of the previous committee’s work was then presented.

- 1) The 2015 *Courier* included a variety of articles, including one focused on military veterans benefiting from OA, a physician’s story of coming to terms with food addiction, and others describing how OA complements professional care.
- 2) The Website Subcommittee focused on developing a more user-friendly framework on the OA website for service bodies and referring professionals. The tab on the website labeled Media/Professionals now has a Referring Professionals section. This includes basic information about the Fellowship, a link to the About OA page, a link to the 2010 Member Survey, and recovery stories from the audio series, *Hearing is Believing*.
- 3) The subcommittee working on the promotion of the *Professional Outreach Manual* updated a flyer about professional outreach to distribute to the Fellowship.

It was decided to continue with sourcing articles for the *Courier* in line with the committee’s purpose. Resources for the web were creatively addressed by three new subcommittees and work on revising the *Professional Outreach Manual* was deferred this year.

An overview of the subcommittee goals for 2015-2016 follows:

- 1) Professional Access Points Research: This subcommittee plans to research contact points for professionals who potentially could refer to OA. They aim to develop a preliminary report about how useful this information could be to OA, and then identify an action plan for utilizing any identified outreach opportunities.
- 2) Educate OA Members on How to Carry the Message to Health Care Professionals: This subcommittee plans to create a draft pocket guide of tips for members in time to be considered by the November BOT meeting.
- 3) Courier 2016: The entire committee will work on the goal of having articles ready for the 2016 *Courier*. To aid the development of articles, interview questions will be developed to use in a question and answer template.
- 4) Testimonials Quick Sheet: This subcommittee aims to create testimonial flyers targeted to various groups of the professional community. Quotes will be taken from past issues of the *Courier*. These flyers will be used to post or leave behind in professional settings and be accessible to professionals and OA members on the oa.org website.

ELECTIONS

- 1) Trustee Cochair: Faith M.
- 2) Delegate Cochair: Pat O’C.
- 3) Vice Chair: Dori B.
- 4) Secretary: Marcy R.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat O’C., Delegate Cochair
Faith M., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015 PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The trustee cochair, Vicki W., welcomed everyone, and the meeting started with readings including the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and the statement of purpose. Members of the committee introduced themselves, and then Lance was elected as the temporary delegate cochair and Jaye as the secretary.

The report from last year's committee was read and updates added. We brainstormed ideas for the committee to work on for the coming year. We ended up with five suggestions.

- 1) Literature review
- 2) PI mentor program
- 3) PI email group
- 4) PI starter kit
- 5) Using websites as PI tools

There was discussion on which proposals we should commit to working on. It was suggested that the literature review and PI starter kit could be bracketed together as well as the PI email group and using websites for PI, which would leave us with three projects.

We broke into three subcommittees and each set their goals for the coming year.

- 1) Literature Review and PI Starter Kit (Chair, Michael)
 - Review the *Health Fair Participation Guidelines*
 - Review *Public Information Manual*
 - Create PI starter kit
- 2) PI Mentor Program (Chair, Benis)
 - Establish a mentor bank
 - Find service bodies that need mentoring
 - Match up mentors with mentees
- 3) PI Email Group (Chair, David)
 - Establish whether to continue with current provider
 - Create regular content to post to the group
 - Promote the group to the OA Fellowship

The committee reconvened and shared their progress and their goals for the year ahead. Caroline was elected as the delegate cochair. The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer.

Caroline M., Delegate Cochair
Vicki W., Trustee Cochair
June 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015
REGION CHAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Merry R., Region One; Nancy J., Region Two; Roni B., Region Three; Meg M., secretary, Region Four; Denise O., vice chair, Region Five; Diana G., Region Six; Amy L., delegate cochair, Region Seven; Gloria L., Region Eight; Susan S., Region Nine; Letitia M., Region Ten; and Stephanie D., VST, trustee cochair were in attendance.

In addition to meeting at the WSBC, the Region Chairs Committee (RCC) met together with the Board of Trustees in August 2014 to participate in the strategic planning process. We also met in Merrillville, Indiana at the Region Five Assembly in November of 2014.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Among other things, the purpose of the RCC is to provide channels of information and communication among regions, and between the regions and the Board of Trustees, and to network among the regions for the purpose of sharing resources and solutions.

2014-2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

We met most of our goals for this past year:

- 1) Restructure the RCC: As a result of many insightful conversations, we restructured our committee meeting and conference call formats so we spend the majority of our time sharing resources and discussing ideas to help carry the message rather than on administrative minutiae. This seems to have had a positive effect on the committee's cohesiveness and direction.
- 2) Share Region Resources: The RCC improved how we share resources amongst each other for inspiration and ideas by better organizing our file sharing space and creating file and folder naming conventions.
- 3) Facilitate 2015 WSBC Forum: "There's No Place Like OA: Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Recovery" was the theme. The forum was designed to complement the overall theme of OA's new three-year Strategic Plan and WSBC 2015's Conference theme, The Importance of Working All Twelve Steps. The purpose of the forum was to help sponsors guide their sponsees through the challenges that often arise when working on each Step by having members share their solutions for the common challenges.
- 4) Conduct Quarterly Conference Calls by Skype: To increase our efficiency and camaraderie, we decided to have quarterly conference calls by Skype. We used Skype to hold a conference call each quarter of the past year.
- 5) Develop a List of Service Tasks Expected as a Member of the RCC (above and beyond serving as region chair): To better orient new region chairs to the committee and to help them know what to expect from the onset, we developed a list of service tasks RCC members are expected to take part in once they are on the committee.
- 6) Continue WSBC Mentor Program: We successfully continued the WSBC Mentor Program by matching all new WSBC delegates with experienced mentors. We welcome suggestions and ideas for mentorship.
- 7) Virtual Service Workshops Participation: We participated in the virtual service workshops organized by our VST and trustee cochair, Stephanie D., once a month in 2014. Recorded versions can be found under Podcasts on oa.org.
- 8) Assist BOT with Strategic Planning: A wonderful strategic planning session was held with the BOT at WSBC this year, and further planning will be done at the joint RCC/BOT August meeting. All of the region chairs will be working on disseminating information from year 2014 of the SOP to our service bodies. The RCC and the BOT are working together on virtual workshops,

an OA Quick Step Study, *12 Stepping a Life Problem*, and articles for *Lifeline* committees for 2015 where the focus is on the necessity of taking all Twelve Steps.

- 9) Service Body Building Training: This goal was to create training materials for service bodies to use that help facilitate efficient and effective meetings as well as strengthen the recovery and service experience of members. We've had some logistical and time constraint issues prevent us from completing this goal. As a result, we asked the BOT to incorporate this item into the 2016 Strategic Plan, and that idea was accepted and agreed upon by all. We will now be working on this as a joint strategic plan item this upcoming year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 1) RCC/BOT meeting in Albuquerque, NM in August 2015.
- 2) RCC will attend the Region Ten Assembly in Brisbane, Australia in October 2015.

2015-2016 OFFICERS

- 1) Delegate Cochair: Meg M., Region Four
- 2) Trustee Cochair: Karin H., Region Six Trustee
- 3) Vice Chair: Amy L., Region Seven
- 4) Secretary: Roni B., Region Three

GOALS/ONGOING ACTIVITIES FOR 2015-2016

In addition to the tasks assigned to the region chairs from the Strategic Plan, the RCC will focus on:

- 1) Continued scheduled quarterly conference calls.
- 2) Creating the 2016 Forum for WSBC.
- 3) Continuing to share our ideas for effective region infrastructures.

Respectfully submitted by,
Amy L., Delegate Cochair
Stephanie D., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015 TWELFTH STEP WITHIN COMMITTEE REPORT

In the past year there were four subcommittees: Speakers List, Ideas That Work, Online Survey, and Simplicity Project.

- 1) Speakers List Subcommittee: Members continued to contact people on the speakers list to verify and update speaker contact details. The subcommittee was able to make progress on the speakers list and provided their updates to the new subcommittee.
- 2) Ideas That Work Subcommittee: Members worked together to create a script for a video to help members in relapse. The script and a recorded version have been submitted to the Board of Trustees for feedback. The script has been revised and is very nearly ready to be resubmitted to the Board or Trustees for approval.
- 3) Online Survey Subcommittee: Members worked to develop a draft of a survey of what has helped members in recovery. This subcommittee was not able to complete their goal.
- 4) Simplicity Project Subcommittee: Members created a sampling of simple index cards that a member could personalize with the basics of their program. These cards are intended to help a member when they are struggling or need a reminder of what their recovery means to them. The cards for the Simplicity Project were submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. The Board of Trustees approved the project and the Simplicity Project has been distributed to the Fellowship through electronic distribution in *Lifeline Weekly* and is also available on the website.

BRAINSTORM SESSION

The committee members were very enthusiastic and generated many potential ways to carry OA's message to the still-suffering member within the Fellowship. After discussion and consideration, two subcommittees were retained: Ideas That Work and Speakers List. Two new subcommittees were suggested by the World Service Office: Review and Update Appendix A – Suggested Recovery from Relapse Meeting Format in the *Twelfth Step Within Handbook* and Update Appendix D in the *Twelfth Step Within Handbook* – Been Slipping and Sliding? A Reading and Writing Tool to refer to readings in *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*.

2015-2016 GOALS

- 1) Speakers List: Maintain the accuracy of the speaker list. Continue with the ongoing annual review. Compile all current and available information, coordinate efforts with the Region Chairs Committee, and suggest adding the speakers list application form to *Lifeline* and RCC. Write a *Lifeline* article relevant to the benefits and “how to” of the speakers list. Work with the BOT and WSO staff to establish an “automated renewal” notification process to be completed by 2017 WSBC.
- 2) Ideas that Work: Prepare a new “Relapse to Renewal” document. Review, edit, and create the document to include Section 1 – Looking Back, Section 2 – Going Forward, Section 3 – Action Prevention Plan, Final Video – “Relapse Intervention,” update PowerPoint presentation for video, submit to BOT for review, and rerecord video.
- 3) Review and Update Appendix A – Suggested Recovery from Relapse Meeting Format: Review and update Appendix A in the *Twelfth Step Within Handbook*. Update meeting format to conform to current literature. Update meeting format to be consistent with current terminology. Make sure revised text is compatible with Strategic Plan for 2015. Seek more information from members recovering from relapse. Present clear solutions to the format (i.e., working all Twelve Steps).
- 4) Update Been Slipping and Sliding? Appendix D in the Twelfth Step Within Handbook: Update Been Slipping and Sliding? A Reading and Writing tool to refer to reading in *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*. Work with a sponsee through the current format to become familiar

with the questions and reading content. Review the thirty questions and find stories to speak to the issues in *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*. Coordinate efforts of all committee members and compile a completed format for submission to the BOT. Review results in time for WSBC 2016.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2015-2016

- Delegate Cochair: CJ M.
- Vice Chair: Mary T.
- Trustee Cochair: Bonnie L.

Respectfully submitted by,
CJ M., Delegate Cochair
Linda H., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015
WEB/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To assess technology and make general recommendation available to service bodies about efficient and effective uses of technology to carry the message in accordance with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA. To serve as the hub for the exchange of technology information within OA.

OFFICERS

Trustee Cochair: Margie G., Region One Trustee
Delegate Cochair: Wallace M., Region Three
Vice Chair: Gerri M., Region Five
Secretary: Julie M., Region Four

STRUCTURE

There are five subcommittees comprised of four committee members each (including one international member). They are:

- 1) Next General Technology
- 2) Service Body Support
- 3) Technical Guidance
- 4) AIM (Anonymity Integrity Management)
- 5) Translation

2015-2016 GOALS AND ACTIONS

- 1) Form a technology relationship with the Young Persons' Committee.
- 2) Create a contact list of web persons for disseminating technical information.
- 3) Continue last year's effort of identifying service body website needs via survey.
- 4) Define suggested content for websites.
- 5) Develop and make accessible website support documents.
- 6) Perform feasibility study of different digital technologies.
- 7) Develop how to guidelines for most requested (issue) areas.
- 8) Inventory service body websites worldwide and in the process ID obsolete.
- 9) Identify security needs and develop a basic tips education document.
- 10) Develop and disseminate translation technology recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,
Wallace M., Delegate Cochair
Margie G., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015
YOUNG PERSONS' COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2015-2016

- 1) Secretary: Evangelyn R.
- 2) Vice Chair: Meike V.
- 3) Delegate Cochair: Matt S.
- 4) Trustee Cochair: Stephanie D.

ITEMS DISCUSSED AT COMMITTEE MEETING

- 1) Reviewed tasks from the past four years and updated current committee on the history.
- 2) Bridging the age gap and how we can approach those under eighteen.
- 3) Service bodies are in need of resources when contacted by parents.
- 4) Developing membership retention workshops geared towards young people.
- 5) Carrying the message in relatable ways by looking at current aesthetic trends.
- 6) Committee discussed at length the difficulties and concerns service bodies have in relation to young persons.

SHORT-TERM GOALS AND TASKS

- 1) Parent Outreach Resources for Service Bodies
 - Create letter with easily translatable words that members can use when responding to inquiries from parents.
 - Create letter and outreach suggestions to reach out to hospitals, schools, colleges, and professionals regarding young people.
 - Resources will include past emails Janice and Matt have sent, professional outreach resources and committee suggestions.
 - Drafts of letters to be completed by August 2015.
- 2) Public Information
 - Research current media/Internet practices and aesthetics. Find examples that are currently being used to support suggestions we take to WSO.
 - Research Facebook and possible options for a Facebook page.
 - Review current Facebook ads.
 - Review PSAs and consider creating options for new ones.
- 3) Twelfth Step Within Campaign Urgency
 - Review past Twelfth Step Within and OA-related slogans and table tents.
 - Come up with new tent and one-sheet ideas to be used at meetings, service bodies, and on websites.

LONG-TERM GOALS

- 1) More young persons in service positions.
- 2) Focus on rotation of service.
- 3) Membership retention.
- 4) Workshop geared toward young persons, "How OA helped ALL aspects of their life."

Submitted by,
Matt S. Delegate Cochair
Janice S., Trustee Cochair
May 2015

APRIL/MAY 2015
ALL ABOUT CONFERENCE
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Karen B., Center Microphone Monitor
Barbara B., Conference Support Committee Chair
Bob F., Bylaws Committee Trustee Cochair
Karin H., Conference Planning Committee Chair

The All About Conference workshop is intended to prepare green dots (new delegates) for the best experience possible at the World Service Business Conference. In addition to new delegates, several mentors also attended to provide support to their green dots.

Karin gave an overview of the week's activities and emphasized the importance of attending all of the business meetings as well as making a one-year commitment to their committee work. She briefly reviewed the delegate binder and encouraged the delegates to familiarize themselves with it. Karin encouraged the new delegates to take advantage of their mentors, attend some of the OA meetings offered throughout the day, have some fun, and to take care of themselves and their abstinence. We handed out a new document "Carrying the Message Back Home" to the delegates. This document gives helpful suggestions of what to include in writing up a delegate report to their service body.

Barbara discussed her role as the Conference Support Committee (CSC) chair. Her committee and all of the volunteers were here to help the delegates. Barbara stressed that all delegates must wear their badges in all Conference sessions. She explained the seating rotation for the business meetings, reviewed committee sign-up, the use of the bulletin board, and the Boutique room. If there were any problems with guestrooms, those should be addressed by hotel staff. Sandy Z., our WSO meeting planner, dealt with all meeting room inquiries. All other inquiries were handled by Karin or Barbara.

Karen talked about her role as center microphone monitor (CMM) with regard to conducting business in the Conference sessions. She reviewed the process for approaching the CMM and when it was appropriate to do so. She urged the delegates to ask questions whenever they were unsure or needed more clarification.

Bob discussed parliamentary procedures, the formal business practices with which the delegates should be familiar. He also discussed the Standing Rules, some of the terms in the binder, the types of motions, and how to make an amendment. He addressed the consent agenda which was sent out to the delegates in advance. He also talked about the role of the Reference Subcommittee and encouraged everyone to attend one of the subcommittee sessions to see how it worked.

We encouraged delegates to approach us with any questions throughout the week.

APRIL/MAY 2015
FORUM: FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO RECOVERY
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Roni B., Region Three
Stephanie D., Virtual Services Trustee
Bob F., General Service Trustee
Diana G., Region Six
Nancy J., Region Two
Amy L., Region Seven
Gloria L., Region Eight
Letitia McL., Region Ten
Meg M., Region Four
Denise O., Region Five
Merry R., Region One
Susan S., Region Nine

The Region Chairs Committee presented the 2015 forum titled “There’s No Place Like OA: Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Recovery!” The forum theme echoed the focus of OA’s Strategic Plan: Focus on the necessity of taking all Twelve Steps in order to experience and preserve the miracle of abstinence and recovery.

The forum was a take-off on an old popular movie, reenacting the tornado that blows Dorothy and her dog, Toto, to the entrance to the land of OA. This is really the jumping off place for Dorothy (referred to in the AA Big Book, A Vision for You) where she must decide between the certain death of compulsive eating or the path to recovery through OA and the Twelve Steps. Dorothy is looking for someone, perhaps a wizard, to solve all her problems. She thinks going home will solve all her problems, but she has to decide if she is ready to embark on the road to recovery through the OA Twelve Steps. She does decide to choose the yellow brick road—the Twelve-Step path of recovery!

As Dorothy begins to trudge the yellow brick road of recovery, she encounters Twelve-Step stations, each containing a list of common obstacles often faced when taking the Twelve Steps. Dorothy must work each Step and overcome each obstacle in order to advance along the road of recovery. She meets certain interesting characters who help her on her journey, including the WSBC delegates attending the forum.

Dorothy gets abstinent, works all Twelve Steps, and with her friends meets the wizard. When she meets the wizard, she learns the answers to her problems now lie within herself. She recognizes a Higher Power and that there is no magic, only the miracle of abstinence. She learns she is not alone; she is part of a worldwide Fellowship and together we get better.

The delegates attending the World Service Business Conference were asked to act as sponsors for Dorothy, offering her their experience, strength, and hope on how she might overcome the obstacles she faces on her Twelve-Step path. The delegate responses attending the forum and acting as Dorothy’s valued sponsors, helping her take the Twelve Steps, are summarized below.

OBSTACLE STEP ONE: WE ADMITTED WE WERE POWERLESS OVER FOOD

Dorothy doesn’t realize she is powerless over food. We know she is bulimic but, “I can stop bingeing and purging. I’ll stop tomorrow.” *How can we convince her she is powerless over food?*

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- 1) Always making resolutions but never a decision.
 - 2) How many times did you say you could stop?
 - 3) Try to come to meetings.
 - 4) Find someone who was doing what you are still doing and ask how he or she stopped doing it.
 - 5) Ask her to write her history with eating or purging.
 - 6) Ask her to come to a meeting and try six meetings.
 - 7) Share our experiences/struggling.
 - 8) Ask Dorothy to go to a workshop on Step One and pre-Step One thinking.
 - 9) Let her cry.
 - 10) Is purging normal behavior; do you want to continue?
 - 11) Suggest she try to stop for a week.

OBSTACLE STEP TWO(A): CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES

Dorothy has given up on God! “This won’t work! I tried that God stuff growing up but it never worked then so it won’t work now!” *Another one who has tried and failed! How can we help her find a God that works?*

OBSTACLE STEP TWO(B): CAME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS POWER COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY

Dorothy has no idea that she is suffering from a disease of the mind! “Could restore me to sanity? How dare you insinuate that I am insane!” *Oh dear! What examples can you give Dorothy of her insanity?*

- 1) Read and meditate daily on Conference-approved literature.
- 2) There is not a single Higher Power; alright to choose what the Higher Power could be.
- 3) We agnostics, we don’t have to choose any one concept of a Higher Power.
- 4) Ask how did they come to believe?
- 5) Stick around in OA; wait for your miracle.
- 6) Act as if. Act as if you believe; give it a try.
- 7) I grew up in a religion, but I did not have a personal God; disconnect between food and size. I had to learn that a God cared about me and I had to ask for help. I saw abstinence but I said, “I’ll take care of this.” I came to believe that God loves me. I had to trust in a power greater than me.
- 8) I have been there; we’ve all been a little crazy. Join the club. We’ve tried everything.
- 9) Clean out the shelves; eating dog food doesn’t mean you are insane in other things.
- 10) One meal a day, healthy food.
- 11) Get Toto to help her with her food.
- 12) Remember, insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.
- 13) Don’t wait for this day to be over to start to be accountable; start now.
- 14) Her dog talks to her! Don’t worry; we’ve all had our battles with insanity! Someday you’ll be able to quit on your own. Insane with food, not with everything in your life.

OBSTACLE STEP THREE: MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR LIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM

“It is one thing to turn my will over to this HP, but my life? Won’t I become a robot?” *Can you explain about the leap of faith required?*

- 1) How do I turn my will over to this Higher Power? The principle is faith. If I make that decision, won’t I be a robot? Do the footwork to solve the problem; turn over the outcome. There’s nothing robotic about that.
- 2) Turn life over to the care of God; the care helps us take the actions we need to take. Take the action after making the decision.
- 3) God has given us everything; our will is what we have to give Him.

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- 4) Need to take the action after making the decision (three frogs on a log decide to jump or ravens who decide to fly).
 - 5) If you are hesitating to turn your will, you're not turning it over.
 - 6) If you don't want to turn over your life, how's your life so far?
 - 7) Can you do it for today?
 - 8) Take one step out of your comfort zone; that is a leap of faith.
 - 9) Turning my will is my thoughts; my life has to do with my actions, the next right thing to do.
 - 10) Turn things over slowly, small things in the day. Don't look at your whole life today.
 - 11) Decision without action is delusion.
 - 12) A new set of instructions.
 - 13) Try acting as if for twenty-four hours, or even less time.
 - 14) Trust the group.
 - 15) I thought I had free will before, but it was an illusion. I was a captive of my addiction.
 - 16) Can you work it based on my faith and how it worked for me? Look at all of the happy people around you and how it worked for them.

OBSTACLE STEP FOUR: MADE A SEARCHING AND FEARLESS MORAL INVENTORY OF OURSELVES

"I am too scared to start this one! Dragging up all this stuff from the past seems like a waste of time and a lot of pain!" *Was it that bad for you? Please put Dorothy's fears to bed and show her how rewarding this Step really is – that the only wrong way is to procrastinate.*

- 1) You need to uncover the stuff you ate over and bring it to the light of day. Talk to someone who's done it before or your sponsor.
- 2) Do a bit every day.
- 3) Take it one step at a time, baby steps.
- 4) Do what you're willing to do now, more will follow, more will be revealed.
- 5) Use questions from OA 12 and 12, one at a time.
- 6) Return to Principles of Steps Two and Three. Fear is from lack of HP.
- 7) Use a form to list resentments and fears with sponsor.
- 8) Don't hurry, take it easy. It can be confusing.
- 9) Go deep to change your life.
- 10) You will heal emotionally; you will feel better. Shame will leave you.
- 11) You're not alone, think of thousands before you that have done it. It is achievable; you can do this.
- 12) Dear Dorothy, you don't have to like it, just do it!
- 13) Pray for willingness, then act.
- 14) We're only as sick as our secrets and how sick do you want to be?

OBSTACLE STEP FIVE: ADMITTED TO GOD, TO OURSELVES, AND TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING THE EXACT NATURE OF OUR WRONGS

"Maybe I could admit them to myself and to my HP, but to another person? What will they think of me? They might lock me away!" *Tell Dorothy the benefits of telling another human being who has been where she is.*

- 1) Tell Dorothy the benefits of telling another human being.
- 2) Breaking out of isolation relieves distress.
- 3) Relief of letting go of Fourth Step issues.
- 4) It's a humbling experience.
- 5) Gives sense of vulnerability, so closer to HP.

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- 6) Gain acceptance with a nonjudgmental attitude so facing fear especially around childhood issues is healing.
 - 7) You will find out you are not terminally unique.
 - 8) We don't magnify our missteps or mistakes.
 - 9) You are not alone.
 - 10) Anonymity protects you; break right out of isolation.
 - 11) If you don't do it, you won't recover.
 - 12) The more we let go, the more we recover.
 - 13) Otherwise, if you don't let go, you will eat over your secrets because you're as sick as your secrets.
 - 14) Transparency equals freedom.
 - 15) Trust can be learned through admitting defects of character.
 - 16) Read the Promises before you work this Step; remember the Principles from the first five Steps.
 - 17) Keep in mind the spiritual principles of integrity, humility, and honesty.
 - 18) Don't do it perfectly. Just do it again. You can do it again.

OBSTACLE STEP SIX: WERE ENTIRELY READY TO HAVE GOD REMOVE ALL THESE DEFECTS OF CHARACTER

"I am willing but these defects are my comfort. Who/what will I be without them?" How can we help her to be ready to have God remove these to realize ready and willing are two different things?

- 1) I am willing but the defects are my comfort; my defect is fear.
- 2) Practice Steps Two and Three. God will help you.
- 3) You need a plan of action.
- 4) Identify the defect and why it is comfortable.
- 5) Create a positives/negatives list. If I do this, what is the bad and what is the good?
- 6) Defects can be a comfort for what will I be without them.
- 7) Envision what you will be without the defect.
- 8) Read Step Six and in the OA *12 and 12*.
- 9) Make your list and visualize that you are willing to have it removed.
- 10) Pray for willingness.
- 11) Comfort: is it really making you happy?
- 12) Remember that we need to be grounded in Steps One, Two, and Three.
- 13) Action: Pick the defect. What is its opposite?
- 14) Identify the defect; identify the payoff; find the opposite; visualize/imagine life without it.

OBSTACLE STEP SEVEN: HUMBLY ASKED HIM TO REMOVE OUR SHORTCOMINGS

"I have asked him to remove some and guess what? They are still there!" How can we help her to humbly ask God to remove these? To let God do it!

- 1) Go through AA and OA *12 and 12* and answer the questions. We have our own timetable but God does it in his timetable.
- 2) How willing is Dorothy to turn over her shortcomings?
- 3) Suggest she look at what her shortcomings do for her. Is perfectionism on her list?
- 4) What is Dorothy's definition of humility?
- 5) She should work on her shortcomings one at a time.
- 6) We're not telling God to remove them; we are asking him!
- 7) Go back to Step Six. Is she truly willing?
- 8) Share your own experience.
- 9) Have her define her Higher Power. Does she know who she's asking to remove the shortcomings?

-
- 10) If my cravings come back daily, why would I not expect my defects to come back?
 - 11) We are human; we are not perfect.
 - 12) There are only two things we have to remember about God. There is a god and you are not it.
 - 13) Seven-Step Prayer: Ask God to remove defects that stand in the way of my usefulness to my fellows.
 - 14) Consider your position in prayer. Is it a position of humility? Am I on my knees and asking or am I sitting back and being distracted thinking about other things? Is my ego getting in the way?
 - 15) Not all of my defects are removed; they are transformed.

OBSTACLE STEP EIGHT: MADE A LIST OF ALL PERSONS WE HAD HARMED AND BECAME WILLING TO MAKE AMENDS TO THEM ALL

“My list will be short because I’ve only done harm to myself.” *Explain to Dorothy what an Eighth-Step list looks like and who it involves.*

- 1) Praying for open-mindedness and willingness to work this Step. Praying for forgiveness for the harm that you have done to yourself and others.
- 2) Go back to your Step Four inventory. Look at who you resent and who you fear and your part.
- 3) It’s okay to have yourself on the list; you should, but it will be helpful for your recovery to look at what your part is in all your affairs.
- 4) Make a list of those you will make amends to, those to whom you may make amends, and those to whom you definitely are not making your amends to—Yes, Maybe/No List.
- 5) Important Side Note: It is suggested to do it with the direction of your sponsor; talk to your sponsor to know for sure if someone should be on the list or not.
- 6) After you finished your Step Eight list, pray to your Higher Power to see if it is complete or not.

OBSTACLE STEP NINE: MADE DIRECT AMENDS TO SUCH PEOPLE WHEREVER POSSIBLE, EXCEPT WHEN TO DO SO WOULD INJURE THEM OR OTHERS

“Where would I start? There are so many now. Some people hurt me too! Others, I have lost touch with.” *Help Dorothy start with a plan as we cannot do them all at once.*

- 1) Start with those I am comfortable with. This builds spiritual backbone.
- 2) Clarify with sponsor who do I need to make amends to?
- 3) Divide list into three: Willing/now or later/hell freezes over.
- 4) Make sure it matches the harm, action oriented.
- 5) Expect potential harm in return, own anonymity for yourself.
- 6) Pay attention to living amends.
- 7) Ownership of what you did to cause harm.
- 8) Resentment prayer.
- 9) List: Now/Later/Hell Freezes Over. Immediately start the resentment prayer.
- 10) God helps us decide on how and when to make amends. As Dorothy makes amends she becomes more willing to make the hell-freezes-over type amends.
- 11) The amends needs to match the harm (haunted house falling on the witch’s sister).
- 12) Living amends are done only when to make amends will cause more harm than good or cause hurt to them or others.
- 13) Finally if Dorothy feels like someone hurt her she needs to look at what she did first (her house fell on the witch; Dorothy was not in the house; she was supposed to be in the root cellar).
- 14) The Principle is love. Even the wicked witch of the east needs love.

OBSTACLE STEP TEN: CONTINUED TO TAKE PERSONAL INVENTORY AND WHEN WE WERE WRONG, PROMPTLY ADMITTED IT

“I don’t have time to do this every day. I’m already finished with Step Five!” Why does Dorothy need to do a daily inventory? Does she need to make amends promptly?

- 1) Look at the different options to doing Step Ten, finding what is right for you.
- 2) One day at a time; daily inventory to abate larger problems. Just for today.
- 3) Spot checks.
- 4) As a beginner, should do a more formal Tenth Step inventory, connect with a Step Ten sponsor or your sponsor.
- 5) Persevere and allow my Higher Power’s will to guide me.
- 6) Yes Dorothy needs to do an inventory and make amends, because it is helpful in freeing us to face our truth and humbles us. Ask other fellow OAers how they work Step Ten.

OBSTACLE STEP ELEVEN(B): PRAYING ONLY FOR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL FOR US AND THE POWER TO CARRY THAT OUT

“How do I know what his will for me is? How will I know what actions to take?” Tell Dorothy ways in which she can know what God’s will is for her what, her next action is.

- 1) When we continually do our own will even after getting directions, we still do our will. Suggest you use the tool of writing.
- 2) Take time for meditation and prayer in the day.
- 3) How do I know which voice is God’s? We know it’s God’s will when it comes out well for us, when it goes easy and not hard.
- 4) Turn over your fears to your Higher Power.
- 5) Share your insight with your sponsor.
- 6) After praying and meditating, turn it over to God.
- 7) Accept life’s outcomes and be open to what God has for you.

OBSTACLE STEP TWELVE: HAVING HAD A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AS THE RESULT OF THESE STEPS

“Will I know when I have had a spiritual awakening? Does this depend upon taking all Twelve Steps?” Everyone’s experience is different. Give Dorothy examples and explain what it takes.

- 1) Dorothy, I wish I could answer that for you but you’ll know in your heart that you feel differently after you have taken all Twelve Steps.
- 2) It starts when you walk in the door and realize you’re not alone.
- 3) When you wake up each morning, you’ve had your first spiritual awakening of the day.
- 4) We would tell Dorothy to read the spiritual experience in Appendix II in the AA Big Book.
- 5) Read The Doctor’s Opinion in the AA Big Book, XXVII.
- 6) If you still have doubts, write a letter to your Higher Power. The answer will come if you guard abstinence.
- 7) Let’s look at the Principle of service. If you are helping others and giving back what you have been given you will be able to keep it. You will never need to ask that question again. If you have had a spiritual experience, you will be living it.

APRIL/MAY 2015
HOW THE MIRACLE OF ABSTINENCE IS SUPPORTED BY THE FELLOWSHIP
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Beverly B., Region Five
Faith M., Region Ten Trustee
Neva S., Region Three

This was the first of the workshops for WSBC 2015 and was held on Monday night. There was a good turnout of delegates. There were three speakers for this workshop: Beverly B., Region Five; Faith M., Region Ten; and Neva S., Region Three.

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss how the Fellowship we crave replaces our need to use food and how the relationships we form in OA support our abstinence.

Key pieces of literature referred to were *Abstinence, Second Edition; A Guide for Sponsors; and Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition, Appendix D – A Disease of the Spirit.*

The first speaker shared how isolated she was when she arrived in OA, and how she noticed that people with long-term recovery used Fellowship. Recovery strengthened for her when she became part of the OA Fellowship by giving service.

Another speaker shared how she picked sponsors who scared her a little as they challenged her to grow. Today she attracts the sponsees she needs to learn from.

After being reminded of the workshop questions, nineteen members of the audience came up and shared before the workshop had to finish.

- 1) How does being involved in my OA community support my abstinence?
- 2) Do I understand that the Fellowship, while important, is only a part of the solution?
- 3) How do I welcome others to participate and become involved in OA? What examples do I set?

The following quotes are just a few of the gems delegates shared during the open sharing time.

- 1) I phoned a member and said, "I could eat a house." And the person I called said, "I'll come over."
- 2) OA lets me practice being with people.
- 3) I can't do it alone.
- 4) Give service, go to meetings, and work the Steps.
- 5) I made a call to a meeting some distance from our local meetings. I found a lone member there who had never spoken to another OA member.
- 6) I need this Fellowship to share my truth.
- 7) When I'm part of OA, they don't let me be alone; they call me and give me things to do.
- 8) Fellowship is only part of the solution. I need to work the Steps.

We strongly recommend you purchase the MP3 and listen to more of the wisdom about how the miracle of abstinence is supported by the Fellowship.

APRIL/MAY 2015
HOW THE MIRACLE OF ABSTINENCE IS SUPPORTED BY USING THE TOOLS
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: David S., Region Nine
Charlene V., Region Six

SUMMARY

The session was the first of three early-bird workshops. We started and finished on time. The recommended literature was mentioned several times and quoted. The suggested questions were also quoted several times, and to a large degree, the speakers and the shares were all to topic.

The literature we referred to was:

- 1) *For Today*, January 10
- 2) *Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition*, Appendix A – The Role of Eating in Recovery from Compulsive Eating
- 3) *The Tools of Overeaters Anonymous*

On a personal note, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak here at my first WSBC, and it was an honor to share the lectern with Charlene from Region Six.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does using the Tools support working the Steps?
- 2) Which Tools will I use today to maintain my abstinence?

APRIL/MAY 2015
THE MIRACLE OF ABSTINENCE WITHIN INTERGROUPS/SERVICE BOARDS
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Gerri H., General Service Trustee
Virginia S., Region Seven
Mary T., Region Six

It was good to hear the presenters and all those who shared during this workshop agree that abstinence requirements are important at the level of intergroups and service boards.

The questions given to answer and discuss were as follows:

- 1) How important is abstinence at the intergroup/service board level? Are abstinence requirements needed?
- 2) How does serving on intergroups/service boards help preserve the miracle of abstinence?
- 3) What are some ways that intergroups/service boards can help members who are struggling?
- 4) What are ways to increase the health of the intergroups/service boards?

It was shared that much fear followed the decisions to make abstinent requirements in some intergroups and the realization that it was a good decision, and indeed “abstinence is catching” was exciting.

Many agreed that a clear head and dependability is more than just important at service levels; they are necessary and catching. Consistency is also included in the miracles of abstinence. You can't give it away, if you don't have it. Living the Principles of the program is a healthy way to enter the intergroup and service board level.

People giving service with continuous program/abstinence are dependable and willing to do service. Someone shared that when she says, “Because I said I would,” you can bank on it. That's what the miracle of abstinence gives us: dependability and willingness.

Abstinence attracts more abstinent people. Someone shared that their intergroup is working on strategic goals, which helps to increase new membership with stronger abstinence, and inspires more service. Usefulness is important for intergroup members. Abstinence is not only possible but it's catching. Motivation and clear thinking are just some results of abstinence. When you are abstinent, you have energy to carry the message.

Another shared that their intergroup sends out printed stories to all its meetings, including topics like working and living the Steps, how OA changed my life, it works if you work it, and how sponsorship strengthens my program. These are 500-word stories written by people from the intergroup with different levels of abstinence.

We stopped waiving the abstinence requirement and put our trust in the God of our understanding, and support each other with kindness. The results were phenomenal. We were directed to look for people who have qualities that we need, and ask them to help. Concepts: Clear thinking leaders and appropriate methods of choosing them. Without abstinence, there is no clear thinking.

Mini marathons and workshops were discussed with topics like sponsorship and living the Principles. Quick Step studies were also discussed. An intergroup talked about having videos available on their websites, including breaking out of relapse, newcomer videos, online testimonials from members showing

them only from the neck down to maintain their anonymity and support its members. Central Jersey Intergroup has a very active website with many speaker podcasts available for listening.

Retreats were discussed, with topics like sponsorship and the three-legged stool of recovery, as well as printing up “We Care” lists for an easy way to reach out. Health fairs and display racks for the *Fifteen Questions* were shown to the attendees that are being used in Westchester, NY and central Jersey. The work and dedication of our members was discussed, along with the energy behind creating workshops for Unity Day and IDEA Day. We talked about interactive workshops similar to our forum this year, and how they are enjoyed by many meetings, intergroups and service boards.

It was discussed that at the end of their intergroup or region meeting, some hard questions are asked. How can we help each other’s abstinence? Is anyone in danger of eating on their way home today? Because it is important for us to be realistic and understand that service can be stressful, we can be honest by asking these simple questions that will strengthen our service boards. We’ve learned that as we became healthier, enabling the behavior has ceased and support became stronger. Another group question was how did I use the program to not pick up this week?

It was mentioned on the 12th of each month, to support Twelfth Step Within, an emailed form goes out called “Call 5 and Keep them Alive.” It suggests that you look around the room or in your meeting’s “We Care” list and call people who you have not seen in the rooms for a while. Invite them to a meeting; let them know how important they are.

Email loops and traveling workshops on sponsorship and how we can support abstinence are being offered. It was suggested to bring workshops from intergroups or regions to your meetings in order to spread recovery. Print up seasonal “We Care” lists and share the copies at the intergroup level so they can be brought back to meetings for easy outreach calls. Some have had mini Twelve-Step workshops, celebrate meeting anniversaries with workshops, invite members to get out of their isolation by working with others in small groups on different topics, and attend a different meeting other than those they are comfortable with.

Some intergroups and regions have telephone hotlines with abstinent people available to take calls. A sponsor phone list was mentioned where available sponsors can be contacted. Some intergroups and service boards have speaker lists, so meetings looking for a speaker can find one easily.

It was recommended that we show our before pictures when sharing our story, because it really is hard to believe that many of us were ever morbidly obese.

A region meet-and-greet was discussed, where members of the different intergroups can share what works for them, and members can shamelessly steal ideas from each other, and take the information back to the intergroups and meetings.

Some service boards have train the trainer workshops at region assemblies so each committee has a turn to share their program knowledge with its members. It was mentioned that a Unity Committee brought the Traditions to life in a region train the trainer workshop. They also broke into small groups to answer questions and report back to the assembly with their ideas.

It was suggested that abstinent sponsors bring their abstinent sponsees to help train people for the service positions they take.

It was shared that intergroups and service boards have excellent bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order to keep personalities out of the equation. This attracts people who want to play by the rules.

Someone spoke about the health of their intergroup and region, how they are financially solvent and send the maximum number of representatives to region and delegates to WSBC. A healthy service board is well run, and holding events together with other intergroups to work together and share in the revenue was discussed.

The circle of abstinent friends and our OA community becomes larger. More support is an obvious result of healthy intergroups and service boards. Priorities become evident with abstinence and everything else.

We need to be more effective; we need to know the Concepts as members of a service board and that abstinence is very important.

This was a wonderful and informative ninety-minute workshop. The attendees and our speakers had wonderful ideas that I plan to shamelessly steal. I hope you do too.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of this workshop.

APRIL/MAY 2015
THE MIRACLE OF MAINTENANCE: HOW CONTINUED ABSTINENCE AND WORKING
ALL TWELVE STEPS KEEPS RECOVERY FRESH
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Viviana G., Region Eight
Judy H., Region Two

PURPOSE

To discuss the necessity of working through all Twelve Steps to achieve and maintain the miracle of abstinence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why is the continued use of all OA Twelve Steps necessary to maintain the miracle of abstinence?
- 2) How do I weave OA into the fabric of my life?
- 3) What are the ways I keep my recovery fresh?

JUDY'S HIGHLIGHTS

I was a person who controlled much of my life, but couldn't control my food. The obsession of the mind always won out over my willpower. Like the alcoholic, I couldn't stop overeating on the basis of self-knowledge. Today I can live in gratitude if I am working my program.

The Steps: Step One, I had the gift of desperation. Newcomers help me remember that. Step Two, I did have to reinvent my Higher Power. Step Three, I have found that if I let go of control and stay in touch with my HP, life goes way more smoothly. I have done several Step Fours/Fives, but mostly focus on daily Step Tens. If I'm in turmoil, I do go through the four-column exercise from the Big Book. Otherwise, I just flag things to discuss with my sponsor. I love Steps Six and Seven. The whole concept of humility (right-sizing) snaps me back to reality. The amends process is so healing. Steps Ten, Eleven, and Twelve are critically important to maintenance, to be able to stay emotionally balanced, to live 'to good purpose.' Regular self-appraisal is a healthy practice. Doing service helps me stay in the Steps, stay grounded. I hear things from sponsees that I need to hear.

VIVIANA'S HIGHLIGHTS

A year after a serious relapse, my mind was clearer; I began to understand that I was suffering from a special condition of body and mind. For me there was only one solution: a faith that works.

This is a program of action. The Steps require a minimum of analysis and a maximum of action.

I took the first step because of my fears. I was afraid of dying and I was powerless over food. The absolute awareness of my powerlessness during all those years working in OA pushed me to practice the program.

Practicing the Steps in order gave me a new personality. That new personality demanded that I keep doing continuous action (by taking daily steps) to guarantee progress. Steps Ten through Twelve, because they mean continual action, and keep my recovery fresh. With Step Twelve, I see God acting on me.

My new way of life demands a different type of action to ensure my sobriety and my newly-found

happiness by trying to carry the message to other persons like me, compulsive eaters. It is not necessary that I succeed. Action is again the magic word. By trying I will be practicing the Twelve Steps. Even if I don't succeed, I have taken action. I have done God's will. The sobriety of others is in God's hands.

This is my real life today. Try. I believe trying is action and that is all that is necessary. Success is God's doing not mine.

ATTENDEES' HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) I cannot afford to be bored with my program. More will be revealed, both the good and the opportunity for growth.
- 2) Five-point plan: physical, food plan, emotional (inventory to put things right), spiritual (relationship with God), and service.
- 3) I am scared because in my area there are many members with more than twenty years in program. The rest have less than five years. Where are those in between? Because I weave the Steps into the fabric of each day, I am growing now. Five things that are critical to working my program: I watch, I pray, I tell, I amend (if needed), and I help.
- 4) Talking to newcomers is a good reminder of where I've come from. Keep your commitments to sponsees, service, and abstinence. When I'm in an emotional state, I need to go through the Steps again.

APRIL/MAY 2015
ONE ABSTINENCE, MANY FOOD PLANS THAT LEAD TO THE MIRACLE OF ABSTINENCE
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Charles A., Region Eight
Meg M. Region Four Chair

QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the difference between a plan of eating and abstinence?
- 2) How can we honor Tradition One with diversity in food plans?
- 3) Is a plan of eating necessary to maintain abstinence?

SUMMARY

- 1) Shared qualifications.
- 2) OA definitions of abstinence and food plan.
- 3) Shared their changing food plans.
 - What it looked like
 - What it is today
 - Transformation
- 4) Talked about how each of us has own food plan.
- 5) Each has the same abstinence.
- 6) Being open and aware of those two things.
- 7) Asked members to share their food plans and questions with each other.
 - Open the door to isolation
 - Travel
 - Variety
 - Holiday
- 8) People shared wonderful insights.
 - Shared evolving food plans

APRIL/MAY 2015
STRATEGIC PLANNING
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Meg H., Region Two Trustee

There were thirty-four attendees. We reviewed the current three-year 2014-2016 Strategic Plan and brainstormed in small groups on how to bring home to groups, intergroups, and service boards the importance of working ALL Twelve Steps.

Some ideas were:

- 1) Use Steps podcasts 0, 1, 2, 3 on oa.org.
- 2) Start Steps, if imperfectly, to help distinguish diet from abstinence.
- 3) Use the 12 Stepping a Problem tool to help newcomers understand.
- 4) Hold a workshop on *Sponsoring through the Twelve Steps* pamphlet.
- 5) An intergroup has a workshop on the Step of the month, speaker, or podcast (increases participation in the intergroup if held before or after the intergroup meeting).
- 6) Hold a speed dating workshop with people who have worked the Steps available to troubleshoot the Steps. Make it fun!
- 7) Create buttons: "Ask me what Step I'm on."
- 8) Use pitches at meetings to say which Step helped with a problem.
- 9) Hold a What Step Are You Stuck On workshop (back up to the previous Step; the answer is in the next Step workshop title).

The full list of ideas is posted on oa.org at http://www.oa.org/pdfs/strategic_planning_notes_15.pdf.

APRIL/MAY 2015
WE RECEIVE THE MIRACLE OF ABSTINENCE BY PRACTICING THE SPIRITUAL
PRINCIPLES OF THE PROGRAM
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Leaders: Francene A., Region Nine
Jason J., Region Eight

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the Principles associated with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The literature referenced was *The Spiritual Principles of the OA Program* on oa.org, *The 12 Concepts of OA Service*, and *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*.

Each leader shared briefly on their experience, strength, and hope with Principles of the program as related to their own recovery.

The session was opened for individual shares on the Principles with focus on the following questions.

- 1) How does practicing these Principles strengthen the miracle of abstinence?
- 2) We've all heard "We practice these principles in all our affairs" in Step Twelve and "principles before personalities" in Tradition Twelve. Give some examples of ways you live by these Principles.
- 3) How do the Principles of the Twelve Concepts help us apply the Steps and Traditions in our service work?

There was good participation. The sharing was powerful regarding the Principles of our program and how they related to individuals' abstinence, service, and ongoing recovery. There was also humor, hope, and encouragement to practice the Principles in all our affairs.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
WORLD SERVICE ATTENDING DELEGATES
FOR USE WITHIN OA ONLY

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

Region	# of Delegates
1	14
2	25
3	27
4	16
5	18
6	29
7	16
8	22
9	20
10	3
VSBs	3
TOTAL	193

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



**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
BUSINESS CONFERENCE POLICY MANUAL**

A Summary of Continuing Effect Motions

1962-2015

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

(Index begins on page 81)



**BUSINESS CONFERENCE POLICY MANUAL
A SUMMARY OF CONTINUING EFFECT MOTIONS
1962-2015**

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 X, 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, and 2012. It was adopted to:

Include names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of delegates only in the hard copy print version of the Final World Service Business Conference Report. “For Use Within OA Only” should appear at the top of this list. In the online version of the report, all names and contact information of delegates will be redacted; only first names and last initials will be used in minutes and reports.

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.

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- 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. 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.
- 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. 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 that are recommended for the Conference Seal of Approval will be mailed to all registered Conference delegates in press proof form. Recommended books will be mailed in manuscript form. 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, and 1993)

1986a Amended 1996 and 1998. It was adopted that:
Overeaters Anonymous celebrate an annual worldwide Unity Day on the last Saturday in February at 11:30 a.m. pacific standard time.

To designate the third Saturday of January as the annual celebration of the January 19, 1960 founding of Overeaters Anonymous.

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 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.

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, and 2014. It was adopted that:
These matters should be considered but are not binding upon service bodies:

1) Functioning

Service bodies may join together in order to help carry the message, providing they adhere to the Traditions and do not alter, print, or electronically transmit any OA-approved literature unless approved in writing by the World Service Office.

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.

1988b Amended 2002, 2009, and 2011. The following policy statement was adopted:

Statement on Abstinence and Recovery

Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous 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 the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step program.

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 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 cochairman, a trustee cochairman and two or more delegates from each region, up to thirty members 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) Cochairmen consisting of a Conference delegate (elected by committee members at WSBC) and a trustee (appointed by the chairman of the BOT) will coordinate the efforts of the committee. The Conference delegate cochairman will preside over the committee meetings at WSBC. The trustee cochairman will act as liaison between the committee and the BOT and will report to the Board of Trustees regarding committee activities. The cochairmen will select the committee members from the delegates that have indicated interest on the committee preference form with input from the appropriate regional trustee based on involvement and experience in same/similar committee at local, regional, and past world service levels.
- 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 cochairmen 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. The BOT may plan other Conference-related activities during the committee meetings at WSBC for delegates not serving on committees.
- 6) Delegates should be registered by March 1 and have submitted their committee preference form by April 1. Delegates will be notified at or prior to WSBC to which committee they have been assigned. Service on a committee is expected and the commitment is maintained until the following WSBC.

1991b Superseded by 2005c.

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 by the Literature Committee during the regular literature writing, editing, and approval process.

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.

1992a (continued)

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.

1992b It was adopted that:

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

1992c Amended 2002. It was adopted that:

We, the 2002 Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, ask that AA literature sold by the OA World Service Office also be available for purchase at all World Service Conventions and Business Conferences.

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 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.

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- 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 that:
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** 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.
- 2004b** Amended 2009 and 2014. 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 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) Each region will provide, at the time they submit their delegate information, a list of up to five individuals willing to serve on an Appeals Committee.
 - 3) The Appeals Review Committee shall be composed of two members of the Board of Trustees, two region chairs, and two representatives of the region bringing the appeal.
 - 4) Service body notifies the World Service Office if it wishes to appeal denial of delegate credentials.
 - 5) The Appeals Review Committee, via electronic and/or written communications, will consider relevant information and collectively decide the final disposition of each appeal with a deadline of one month prior to the first session of the upcoming WSBC.
 - 6) At the expense of the service body, a telephone conference call may be scheduled to review the findings of the committee within two weeks of notification of the Appeals Review Committee's disposition.

2005a It was adopted that:
Business Conference policies that have been completed, or have passed their “sunset” date, be presented by the Bylaws trustee cochair to the chairman of the Board of Trustees for removal at the next Business Conference.

2005b Rescinded 2011.

2005c 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.

- 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 It was adopted that:
The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees may discontinue printing Conference-approved literature for low-demand reasons when it is no longer cost effective to reprint and maintain in the OA literature inventory. Every August, an annual report of sales of Conference-approved literature will be provided to the Executive Committee. Discontinuation of printing does not remove the Conference Seal of Approval. Conference-approved literature which is no longer printed will be made available for downloading from the OA website.

2008a (continued)

WSBC delegates may remove the Conference Seal of Approval by a two-thirds vote. If the motion is approved by the Conference, the designated literature will not be reprinted. If the literature is discontinued for nonobservance of Traditions, sales of that literature will cease immediately; it will be removed from inventory and will not be distributed for any reason. Sales of literature that is discontinued for any reason other than noncompliance with Traditions will cease after the depletion of remaining inventory.

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 literature archives for duplication by the WSO in case of special requests. An appropriate amount will be charged for the time and cost of duplicating, mailing, etc.

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.

2008c (continued)

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 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 boards, meetings and individual members to reach out to those within the Fellowship who are still suffering from compulsive eating behaviors.

2009c Rescinded 2012.

2009d It was adopted to:

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

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. It was adopted to:
Establish an OA Young Persons' Conference Committee.

2010e Amended 2014. It was adopted to:
Require all groups and service bodies wishing to register electronically 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 The following policy statement was adopted:

Statement on Public Media

While Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, including social media, the delegates of the 2011 World Service Business Conference recommend against any OA member, group or service body endorsing (sponsoring, creating, funding or using) for OA purposes any public media of communication where the personal anonymity of OA members cannot be maintained.

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 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 do not alter or print any OA board- or Conference-approved literature unless approved by the World Service Office.

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:

- a) It has provided the Board of Trustees, in writing, the specific compelling reason.
- b) 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 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 a) 1-4 and b) 1-2.
- 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.

2014a (continued)

- 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.

2014b It was adopted that:

Meetings of Delegates

Annual Business Conference

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) Communications concerning the Business Conference from the trustees and the World Service Office shall be through the registered delegates and service bodies.

2015a 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.

****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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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

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BUSINESS CONFERENCE POLICY MANUAL
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BYLAWS
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
SUBPART A – CORPORATE ORGANIZATION

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BYLAWS
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
SUBPART A – CORPORATE ORGANIZATION

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

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 specific and primary purpose of the Corporation is to aid those with the problem of compulsive overeating to overcome that problem through a Twelve-step program of recovery. 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 IX, 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”, “general service trustees”, and a “virtual services trustee” 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 X 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.

Section 6 – Meetings (continued)

- 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, or any general service trustee who is absent from three Executive Committee meetings in a twelve-month period, beginning with the first such meeting following the adjournment (sine die) of the annual World Service Business Conference. Absences during 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. Any member of the Board of Trustees may present a motion that an absence from a meeting of the Board of Trustees, a meeting of the Executive Committee, and/or an Executive Committee teleconference be approved for good cause. 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. 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.
- d) 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.

Section 7 – Resignation and Removal of Trustees (continued)

- e) 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.
- f) 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 IX, Section 2 may constitute cause for removal.
- g) 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 IX, 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 to him/her, 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 Conference Telephone

Members of the Board of Trustees may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, 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

Any actions required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees may be taken without a meeting. A two-thirds vote of the board shall be required for approval. 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 or virtual services 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
- d) Secretary

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.

Section 14 – Executive Committee (continued)

- g) The expenditure of corporate funds to support a nominee for trustee after 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 chair of the board, first and second vice chairs of the board and treasurer of the Corporation shall be elected from among the trustees by the board at its first regular meeting following the annual Conference. Each nominated trustee will be allowed to speak (for up to five minutes) on what he/she hopes to bring to the position to which he/she is nominated. 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.
- e) The secretary need not be a trustee.

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.

Section 3 – Duties of Chair of the Board (continued)

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 to him 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 to him/her 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.

Section 4 – Annual Report (continued)

- 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.

**BYLAWS
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
SUBPART B**

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**BYLAWS
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
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.

ARTICLE II – TWELVE TRADITIONS (CONTINUED)

- 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.

ARTICLE III – TWELVE CONCEPTS (CONTINUED)

- 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 it 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

- a) These 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).

Section 1 – Definition (continued)

- 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.
 - b) Virtual groups (groups which replicate face-to-face meetings through electronic media) may be an Overeaters Anonymous group if they:
 - 1) otherwise meet the definition of Overeaters Anonymous groups;
 - 2) are fully interactive, and;
 - 3) meet in real time.

Section 2 – Composition

- a) A group may be formed by two or more persons meeting together as set forth in Article V, Section 1.
- b) Groups compose the intergroups and service boards set forth in Articles VI and VIII hereof.

ARTICLE VI – INTERGROUPS**Section 1 – 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. Each intergroup should be composed of groups within its region, or groups within its geographical proximity, except that virtual groups may affiliate with intergroups without regard to geographic proximity.
- b) Each state/province may have at least one intergroup. In a state/province having only one group, that group may function as an intergroup.

Section 2 – Registration

- a) Each intergroup shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting:
 - 1) a completed intergroup 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 with the problems of 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 each of its affiliated groups.
- b) Each intergroup shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.

Section 2 – Registration (continued)

- c) Each intergroup shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the intergroup bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the registered contact for each intergroup. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 2a) 2) above.

Section 3 – Functioning

- a) Intergroups may conduct the business of their groups by any method they choose.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups, intergroups shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- c) An intergroup must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written notice to the World Service Office, region chair, and region trustee.

ARTICLE VII – REGIONS**Section 1 – Composition**

- a) There shall be ten regions composed of intergroups, groups within each region and service boards that fall within regional boundaries. 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. Virtual service boards are not included in the regional structure.
- b) 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.

Section 1 – Composition (continued)

- 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.
 - 10) Region No. 10 shall be composed of countries and territories in Australia, the Far East, New Zealand, South East Asia, and the Western Pacific Basin.
- c) States/provinces/countries/territories within a region, or intergroups/national/language service boards within a state/province/country/territory may petition the Board of Trustees for transfer to another region that is geographically more convenient. The transfer will be in effect immediately upon BOT approval. The BOT shall submit a motion to WSBC to amend Subpart B, Article VII, Section 1 of the bylaws.

Section 2 – Regional Assemblies

Regional assemblies whose members shall be called “regional 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.

Section 3 – Registration

- a) Each region shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting 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 with the problems of 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.
- b) Each region shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) Each region shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the region bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the chair and/or secretary/coordinator representing each region. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 3a) above.

Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Regions may conduct the business of their organization by any method they choose.
- b) A region must be duly registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates specified in Article X, Section 3a) (5) to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)

ARTICLE VIII – SERVICE BOARDS

Section 1 – Definition

A service board shall be a duly registered service body with the purpose of dealing 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, language service boards or virtual 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 a language group, regardless of geographic proximity.
- c) Virtual service boards may be registered to serve the needs of virtual groups.

Section 3 – Registration

- a) Each service board 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 with the problems of 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 each of its affiliated groups and intergroups.
- b) Each service board shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) The intergroups shall register separately with the World Service Office as defined in Article VI – Intergroups.

Section 3 – Registration (continued)

- d) Each service board shall evaluate its bylaws upon receipt of notification from the World Service Office of amendments to OA, Inc. Bylaws adopted at the World Service Business Conference to ensure that the service board bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail and/or electronic transmission to the registered contact for each service board. Any updates shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 3a) 2) above.

Section 4 – Functioning

- a) Service boards shall conduct business under the bylaws and policies established by their intergroups and groups.
- b) With prior notice to all member groups and intergroups, service boards shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- c) A service board must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening to send delegates to the current Conference. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)
- d) In order to deregister, a service board must submit a written notice to the World Service Office and either the region chair and region trustee or the virtual services trustee, as applicable.

ARTICLE IX – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1 – Composition

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

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, insuring that they are not altered in any way, except as specified in Article XIV, Subpart B 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.

Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities (continued)

- 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 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.
 - 4) 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:

Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities (continued)

- (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. When the Conference elects a virtual services trustee, whether due to the expiration of the current VST three-year term or due to a vacancy, the term of office for the newly elected virtual services trustee will be three years.

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 and Nine
- 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.

Section 4 – Qualifications (continued)

- 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.)

Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees (continued)

- 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 Outside Regions One - Ten
- 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.
- d) Virtual Services Trustee
- 1) All applicants for the open position of virtual services trustee must submit their resumes 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, 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.
- 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 election at WSBC of the next category of trustee shall occur after the candidate(s) in the previous category have been elected or the position(s) have been declared vacant. The order of election shall be: regional trustee(s), virtual services trustee, general service trustee(s).
- f) 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 IX, 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 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.
- d) A vacancy created by action of the Conference delegates shall be filled for each category of trustee as stated in Section 7.

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 annual 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.

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 IX, Section 6 or Article X, 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. Preference shall be given to delegates selected from intergroups and service bodies which would not otherwise be represented by delegates.

6) Regional trustees.

7) General service trustees.

8) Virtual services trustee.

b) Non-delegates who may address the World Service Business Conference shall consist of officers of the corporation or any parent or subsidiary of the corporation who are not also trustees, the Conference parliamentarian, the managing director, and/or the managerial staff of the World Service Office.

Section 3 – Delegates (continued)

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 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 service board shall not represent the same groups as intergroups represent. A group shall be recognized as registered and represented by an intergroup or service board.
- 3) Countries without intergroups or national/language service boards which seek representation at the annual Conference shall have at least one delegate. Larger representation shall be determined by the Board of Trustees, with delegate approval in accordance with the number of groups in that country.
- 4) Delegates and alternates should be selected at least seventy days before the annual Conference, and the names forwarded immediately upon selection to the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous.
- 5) If a region, intergroup, or service board does not select its delegate(s) and alternate(s) or fails to inform the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous before the annual meeting, such delegate(s) and alternate(s) may appear at the Conference with evidence of their due selection deemed credible by the trustees, and such delegate(s) shall be seated.

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 XI – CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

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

Section 1 – Conference Literature Committee

- a) The Conference Literature Committee shall be composed of twelve or more delegates selected by the chair of the Literature Committee of the Board of Trustees from among delegates at the Conference, to obtain good geographic representation, strong abstinence and a willingness to serve.
- b) Outgoing delegates, if they desire, may 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. One or two delegates shall also be selected from the collective virtual service boards by a method practical to them. 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 and the virtual service boards 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 and virtual service boards 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 – 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 body treasurers with the performance of their responsibilities.

Section 4 – Region Chairs Committee

- a) The Region Chairs Committee shall provide a channel of information and communication between the members and the Board of Trustees through the regions and a network 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 6 of Article XI does not apply to this committee.

Section 5 – Other Conference Committees as may be needed and established by the Board of Trustees or the World Service Business Conference**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 XII – 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.

Section 1 – Procedure (continued)

- 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 XIII – 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 XIV – 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.

Section 1 – Procedure (continued)

- 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.



**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
FY2014 FINANCIAL REPORT**



PORCH & ASSOCIATES LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.

Financial Statements
and
Independent Auditor's Report

December 31, 2014 and 2013

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Trustees and Management
Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. (a not-for-profit corporation) which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, cash flows, and functional expenses for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Overaters Anonymous, Inc. as of December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matter – December 31, 2013 Financial Statements

The financial statements of Overaters Anonymous, Inc., as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013, were audited by other auditors whose report thereon, dated February 17, 2014, expressed an unqualified opinion.

Porch & Associates, LLC

Albuquerque, New Mexico

February 6, 2015

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2014 and 2013

ASSETS

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 229,499	117,728
Cash - restricted	43,126	28,359
Accounts receivable	240	7,566
Inventories	251,485	293,244
Prepaid expenses	39,332	31,908
Total current assets	<u>563,682</u>	<u>478,805</u>
Property and equipment, net	<u>726,159</u>	<u>726,225</u>
Other Assets		
Investments	546,797	526,427
Intangible assets, net	8,786	10,371
Total current assets	<u>555,583</u>	<u>536,798</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,845,424</u>	<u>1,741,828</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 30,216	24,384
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	31,241	17,043
Unearned subscription revenue	121,353	128,492
Total current liabilities	<u>182,810</u>	<u>169,919</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,619,488	1,543,550
Temporarily restricted	43,126	28,359
Total net assets	<u>1,662,614</u>	<u>1,571,909</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 1,845,424</u>	<u>1,741,828</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

	2014	2013
Revenues and Other Support		
Revenues:		
Sales of literature	\$ 1,061,457	1,042,357
Sales of magazines	148,097	167,410
Contributions	523,388	466,473
Conference registration fees, WSBC	20,389	21,859
Convention Income	-	103,337
Total revenue	1,753,331	1,801,436
Other Support:		
Investment income, net	19,419	38,297
Interest income	60	45
Other	13,669	9,351
Total other support	33,148	47,693
Total revenue and other support	1,786,479	1,849,129
Net assets released from restrictions	26,430	20,057
Total revenue and other support after release	1,812,909	1,869,186
Expenses		
Program Expenses:		
Literature production and distribution	605,865	655,783
Magazine production and distribution	199,974	205,495
Group support and referral services	466,397	561,369
Total program expenses	1,272,236	1,422,647
General and administrative	464,735	435,120
Total expenses	1,736,971	1,857,767
Change in net assets	75,938	11,419
Net assets at beginning of year	1,543,550	1,532,131
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,619,488	1,543,550

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (CONTINUED)
Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013**

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Contributions	\$ 41,197	14,272
Net assets released from restrictions	(26,430)	(20,057)
Total changes in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>14,767</u>	<u>(5,785)</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>28,359</u>	34,144
Net assets at end of year	<u><u>\$ 43,126</u></u>	<u>28,359</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Cash received from:		
Literature and magazine sales	\$ 1,209,741	1,193,569
Contributions	564,585	480,745
Conference and convention registration fees	20,389	125,196
Other sources	13,669	9,351
Interest and dividend income	30,499	27,541
Cash paid to employees and suppliers:	(1,626,037)	(1,854,701)
Net cash flows provided (used) by operating activities	212,846	(18,299)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Purchase of equipment	(64,663)	(3,944)
Reinvestment of interest and dividend:	(30,439)	(27,496)
Purchase of investments	(63,251)	(201,736)
Sale of investments	72,045	208,328
Investment in trademark	-	(779)
Net cash flows used by investing activities	(86,308)	(25,627)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	126,538	(43,926)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	146,087	190,013
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 272,625	146,087

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)
Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Reconciliation of the Change in Net Assets to Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities		
Change in net assets:		
Unrestricted	\$ 75,938	11,419
Temporarily restricted	14,767	(5,785)
	<u>90,705</u>	<u>5,634</u>
Adjustments to reconcile the change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Depreciation	64,729	66,658
Amortization	1,585	1,585
Realized and unrealized gain on investment	1,275	(18,958)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	7,326	(3,066)
Inventories	41,759	(61,353)
Prepaid expenses	(7,424)	28,682
Accounts payable	5,832	(17,245)
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	14,198	(7,104)
Unearned subscription revenue	(7,139)	(13,132)
Net cash flows provided (used) by operating activities	<u>\$ 212,846</u>	<u>(18,299)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, INC.
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Program Services			Total Program Services	General and Administrative	Total
	Literature Production and Distribution	Magazine Production and Distribution	Group Support & Referral Services			
Salary and Related Expenses						
Salaries	\$ 132,106	80,641	158,644	371,391	199,448	570,839
Employee benefits	31,462	19,454	35,417	86,333	44,390	130,723
Payroll taxes	10,673	6,600	12,015	29,288	14,420	43,708
Total salary and related expenses	174,241	106,695	206,076	487,012	258,258	745,270
Other expenses						
Banquet and entertainment	-	-	17,486	17,486	-	17,486
Delegate support payments	-	-	14,125	14,125	-	14,125
Equipment maintenance and repairs	-	-	-	-	1,247	1,247
Equipment rental	-	-	16,600	16,600	15,280	31,880
Insurance	-	-	2,611	2,611	23,717	26,328
Literature development	1,086	-	-	1,086	-	1,086
Miscellaneous	-	2,810	56,597	59,407	6,530	65,937
Occupancy	6,050	3,630	6,050	15,730	8,468	24,198
Outside services	5,092	-	-	5,092	29,436	34,528
Parliamentarian	-	-	3,674	3,674	-	3,674
Postage and shipping	148,858	24,243	5,376	178,477	3,484	181,961
Printing and duplicating	230,824	41,640	11,718	284,182	-	284,182
Professional exhibits	-	-	9,164	9,164	-	9,164
Promotions and attractions	-	4,003	357	4,360	49,631	53,991
Supplies	9,788	1,833	1,275	12,896	23,146	36,042
Taxes - other than payroll	-	-	-	-	545	545
Telephone	-	-	80	80	8,750	8,830
Translation	3,141	-	-	3,141	-	3,141
Travel, lodging, and meals	-	-	90,008	90,008	962	90,970
Utilities	6,203	3,722	6,203	16,128	8,685	24,813
Website maintenance	2,815	1,689	2,815	7,319	3,940	11,259
Total other expenses	413,857	83,570	244,139	741,566	183,821	925,387
Total salary and other expenses before non-cash expenses	588,098	190,265	450,215	1,228,578	442,079	1,670,657
Non-cash Expenses						
Depreciation expense	16,182	9,709	16,182	42,073	22,656	64,729
Amortization expense	1,585	-	-	1,585	-	1,585
Total non-cash expenses	17,767	9,709	16,182	43,658	22,656	66,314
Total functional expenses	\$ 605,865	199,974	466,397	1,272,236	464,735	1,736,971

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.