

WORLD SERVICE BUSINESS CONFERENCE: April 2023 - Vote on whether item is to be discussed or not discussed. This is not a vote to adopt the proposal or amendment.

Santa Cruz County OA Intergroup, Region 2
AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

PROPOSALS:

- A. In all official documents and communications, avoid where possible, the use of acronyms and abbreviations. The acronym for Overeaters Anonymous, "OA," will be exempt from this policy.
- B. **Housekeeping** - Edit OA public communications policy. The purpose of the policy is to assist OA to continue to grow the Fellowship and to carry its message to the compulsive eater who still suffers. Consolidate four policies into 1; without making any changes to original language.
- C. Amend WSBC Policy 1978 to read as follows - "Service bodies may obtain permission to translate and/or print translated OA literature through the established licensing process. Translated printed literature shall conform to existing OA-approved literature. (new wording) In no case should OA-approved material be amended or modified. "
- D. **Housekeeping** - To ensure personal anonymity be maintained, the online version of the Final World Service Business Conference Report will not include a member's street address; only names, phone numbers and email addresses.
- E. Clarify definitions of open and closed meetings; and to add the definition of focus meeting and topic meeting so they exist in the policy manual. (pg 3)
- F. **Housekeeping** - Amend WSBC Policy 1992a to ensure the Unity with Diversity policy uses gender neutral language so all are included. Paragraph affected -- >
"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*) THEIR experience, strength, and hope in meetings regardless of the individual approach or specific concept that member may follow.
- G. **Housekeeping** - Move to rescind WSBC Policy 1992e because there is no longer a general service trustee position.
- H. **Housekeeping** - Move to amend WSBC Policy 1993c by replacing the word "mail" with "contact," which allows the World Service Office to determine the best way to send the annual appeal. Add the name of the fund to the policy and update the reference to our current use of service bodies rather than spell out each level of service eligible for funding.

- I. Remove the list of special-focus topics from the policies. Directs the user to where the list is maintained, rather than having to continually update this policy. Simplify the policy.
- J. **Housekeeping** - Remove an unnecessary reference to an old registration fee.
- K. Remove the requirement for the WSO to manage website templates since it has never done this.
- L. Add to WSBC Policy 2019c - Establish the following annual events. Simplifying so all special event days are put in one policy: (pg 6&7)
- M. Increase the maximum contribution from a member in each year; from US\$5,000 to US\$7,500. 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.
- N. **Housekeeping** - *Meetings of Delegates* - Annual Business Conference
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 four weeks following the close of the Business Conference.
- O. **Housekeeping** - To remove the policy which has been fulfilled. The Spanish language service board has been established, is recognized, and is giving service.
- P. **Housekeeping** - To remove the policy which has been fulfilled. The OA website was updated, and the Board of Trustees budget allowances have been made to ensure the website is reviewed and updated on a more routine basis.
- Q. **Housekeeping** - To remove the Google Custom search portion which has been fulfilled. The Google Custom Search directive was completed so this portion of the policy is no longer needed.
- R. The following policy statement was adopted: **Diverse Voices Policy** -
“When developing new and updating existing literature published by Overeaters Anonymous World Service, the Literature committees will make a concerted effort to include stories and/or quotes from members of diverse populations that are underrepresented in OA .” **AMEND** - Exclude in the statement the specific groups: “*a variety of compulsive food behaviors, belief systems, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, indigenous peoples, and peoples of color, etc.*” We’re going to strike out examples of underrepresented groups because we cannot be all inclusive; examples might limit under-represented groups.

- S. Amend as follows - The Overeaters Anonymous World Service Office (WSO) sell recovery chips marked with years from 1 to (20, 25, 30, 35, 40) 50. This means 23 new medallions would have to be produced; and it will cost money.
- T. Statement on Approved Literature - remove all AA books from the Approved Literature List with the sole exception of the Big Book. This motion was submitted in order to discuss the issue of what is and what should be considered OA literature.
- U. Statement on Approved Literature - Insert: "Although groups may choose to focus on only one piece of OA- approved literature, individuals and groups are encouraged to use any and all OA-approved literature. "
- V. Move that the Board of Trustees investigates and, if appropriate, establishes a digital lending library to serve new and returning members. Access to the lending library will be limited to no more than ninety days per member. Licensed translated literature will be provided through the lending library if the license holder chooses to participate. The Board of Trustees will determine which OA literature will be available through the lending library.

AMENDMENTS:

1. The WSO 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 as an online hybrid with the board live in Albuquerque and the rest participating through a web-based video teleconferencing service.
2. To clarify the procedure for disbanding a committee established by the World Service Business Conference. If a committee is found not to have been working or meeting outside of WSBC for more than one year, this can be reported by the trustee CoChair and can be disbanded by an act of the WSBC. However, there is no urgency to disband the committee prior to the next Conference.
3. **Housekeeping** - Composition of OA Groups - make the language consistent with the new structure definitions. Service board was changed to *service body* and encompassed Intergroup, national service board, language service board, special-focus service board, and/or region. Example - amend: "Any group or service body may participate in the activities (including voting) of another service body with their permission. "
4. **Housekeeping** - Delete the word "special" from one of the definitions of Service Bodies - instead of "Special Focus Service Boards", should read "Focus Service Boards."

5. **Housekeeping** - Allow all Intergroups to register and be able to participate in special focus service boards. IG are allowed to participate at other service boards so this change will keep them equal.
6. The Board of Trustees will oversee making the decision of how the World Service Business Conference will be managed. With the choices of how the meeting will be conducted, either in person, virtually, or hybrid, the selection of location and digital methods will be left with the board. *Removing requirement to have it somewhere in the US.*
7. Amend qualifications for Board of Trustee: "Each person shall be the *sole* judge of their recovery including abstinence and maintenance of a healthy body weight. "
8. Delegates section: Change the wording from *other special* needs to *additional* needs - "...interpreters for individual non-English speaking delegates and those with *additional* needs."
9. **Housekeeping** - Meetings of delegates: To update and broaden language to **current practice** (electronic notice of meetings) and to announce how meetings can be held (hybrid, in-person, virtual/videoconferencing).
10. To remove the option and the ability of a single trustee to propose an amendment.
11. The Conference shall be held during the month of May or on such dates as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference shall be held in rotation as follows:
 - 1) In person in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate,
 - 2) Virtually,
 - 3) Hybrid with a mix of in person and virtual.c) Emergency. In the event of an emergency, as determined by the Board of Trustees, the board may call the Conference, or any part of it, by virtual method(s) in years that would normally be in person or hybrid.
12. Delegates section: "...interpreters for individual non-English speaking delegates. Any delegate eligible to address the WSBC may choose another person to speak for them if they are unable to speak due to **communication issues*. Service bodies shall provide such a speaker from their delegation. " **Remove the term special needs*
13. To provide clarification and flexibility for intergroups who wish to affiliate with the National Service Boards region or stay within their region.
14. If an intergroup chooses to affiliate with a national service board, the intergroup shall be affiliated with the national service board's region.
15. Delegates section: "...interpreters for individual non-English speaking delegates and those with other **additional support* needs." **Remove the term special.*

16. To ensure the assignment of a trustee to the region who has affirmed them, whenever possible. First consideration will be given for liaison assignment to the region that affirmed the new trustee.
17. Unaffiliated virtual groups that are not ready to form a service body may affiliate with a geographic region if it is more convenient for them.
18. To allow unaffiliated virtual intergroups to affiliate with a geographic region and to have the choice to make the decision themselves.

Submitted by Debbie B., WSBC delegate, 2023