World Service Business Conference Questionnaire, 2024

Santa Cruz Intergroup will hold two meetings to review and vote on the proposals for the agenda of the 2024 World Service Business Conference. We will tally the votes from the meetings and submit one set of answers to World Service.

Sunday February 4:		
Time	Meeting ID	Passcode
10:30-11:45am	821 9478 1886	765703
7:00-8:15pm	848 4137 9720	763797

Background: Every year, members and service groups of OA submit proposals they want discussed at the World Service Business Conference. World Service then asks its service bodies to vote "yes" or "no" on whether or not to add these proposals to the agenda of the Business Conference. This is NOT a "yes" or "no" vote on the motion itself – it is only a "yes" or "no" vote on taking the time and effort to DISCUSS and vote on the motion at the Conference.

After reading all the related detailed documents that describe these motions, I have attempted to re-organize the 2024 WSBC Agenda Questionnaire Summary so that related items are clustered in groups for better understanding. In addition, I have added my own comments and those from the "WSBC Motions Review Committee if I thought they would aid in understanding the impacts."

Everyone is encouraged to look at the detailed documents at https://oa.org/world-service-business-conference/

You are welcome to email chrisweir@baymoon.com, with questions or comments.

(Annotated and Reorganized) WSBC Agenda Questionnaire January 2024 Summarized by Chris W., 2024 WSBC Delegate

New Business Motions

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to
				WSBC?
				Yes/No
A	Miami-Dade and the Keys of OA IG, R8 Andrea K. COMMENT: This will have a large ripple effect through the literature. Most	Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988b by striking as follows: The following policy statement was adopted: The World Service Business Conference 2021 accepts the following definitions: Abstinence is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive	Intent: To change the definition of abstinence in OA by striking the word "weight" and focusing the attention of recovery on returning to a healthy body. Rationale: The current definition of abstinence in OA emphasizes a focus on weight, which does not foster recovery from an eating disorder. For example, those with bulimia may already be at a healthy	
	updates will be done when re-printing is ordered.	food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.	body weight but suffering, nonetheless, from the devastating effects of the disease.	

D NSB OA of Greece, P9 Kika 1. **Note that when planning the World Service Business Conference or or or the meetings scheduled in accordance with OA, inc. Bysway, Subpart B, Artice VIII, Sections 1 and 2, the Board of Trustees they program on a daily basis. Intent: To support inclusivity and equality in service, allowing OA members to participate in World Service Business Conference or other meetings and the planning the World Service Business Conference or other meetings for program on a daily basis. Intent: To support inclusivity and equality in service, allowing OA members to participate in World Service Business Conference, specially those living far from New Mexico, in countries with different and the World Service Business Conference has offered the World Service Countries that are following the Christian Ordinary through Easter Sunday (Western radition), Cool of field the World Service Business Conference has offered the World Service Publication of the World Service Business Conference has offered the World Service Countries that are following the Christian Ordinary Publication of the World Service Business Conference has offered the World Service Business Conference and World Service Decisions of the World Service Business Conference and World Service Decisions of the World Service Business Conference and World Service Business Conference Busines		1			
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		"housekeeping"	, , ,		
two years. A one year rotation out of					
			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.	
World Service Business Conference	
delegate service is limited to no more	
than six continuous years before	
requiring a minimum of one-year	
rotation out of service. Request for	
waiver of this limitation shall be	
submitted to the Board of Trustees.	
Should the individual be elected as	
either a region chair or trustee, the	
one-year rotation out of service would	
not apply.	

Proposed Bylaw Amendments to remove masculine pronouns from 12 Steps and Traditions

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC?
				Yes/No
4	Miami-Dade and the Keys of OA IG, R8 Terri M. COMMENT: The WSBC Motions Review Committee notes a proposal to change the gender in the Steps has failed to make the agenda before. It also notes the extensive literature changes needed, with questions on when they would need to be reprinted. Alcoholics Anonymous has previously given permission to OA to make changes to the Steps and Traditions, with proper crediting.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article I – Twelve Steps, Steps 3, 7, and 11 by striking and inserting as follows: 3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him-God. 7) Humbly asked Him God to remove our short-comings. 11) Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him God, praying only for knowledge of His God's will for us and the power to carry that out.	Intent: In the 21 st Century, using masculine pronouns in reference to a common deity is simply inappropriate, and many languages have not yet adopted a gender-neutral pronoun to replace it. Eliminating the pronouns altogether and replacing them with the proper noun addresses these issues without altering the meaning of the Steps in any way. Rationale: Most importantly, a large number of groups have already started changing the wording of the Steps themselves to avoid gender assignment. This adoption by individual groups violates Traditions One, Four, and Ten, yet demonstrates a need for a change that is only properly addressed by the Fellowship as a whole.	
5	Miami-Dade and the Keys of OA IG, R8 Terri M. COMMENT: See note above for 4.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article II – Twelve Traditions, Tradition 2 by striking and inserting as follows: 2) For our purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He-God may express Himself God's self in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.	Intent: In the 21 st Century, using masculine pronouns in reference to a common deity is simply inappropriate, and many languages have not yet adopted a gender-neutral pronoun to replace it. Eliminating the pronouns altogether and replacing them with the proper noun addresses these issues without altering the meaning of the Traditions in any way. Rationale: Most importantly, a large number of groups have already started changing the wording of the Traditions themselves to avoid gender assignment. This adoption by individual groups violates Traditions One, Four, and Ten, yet demonstrates a need for a change that is	

			only properly addressed by the Fellowship	
			as a whole.	
3	Miami-Dade and the	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart	Intent: Particularly since COVID and the	
	Keys of OA IG, R8	B, Article XII – Bylaw Amendments,	growth of virtual meetings, it has become	
	Terri M.	Section 1 – Procedure, Part f by	nearly impossible to keep up with which	
		striking as follows:	registered groups continue to actually	
	COMMENT:	d) In order for an amendment proposed	exist and which do not so, that 55 percent	
	I clustered this with	to be submitted to	of all registered groups likely represents a	
	the proposals 4 and 5	the World Service Business Conference,	much higher percentage of functioning	
	to change the Steps	these proposals will need to be	groups. This motion seeks to remove	
	and Traditions.	approved by 50 percent of all	unreasonable demands on the percentage	
	Approval of this	intergroups and service boards	of responses necessary to make	
	motion makes it	responding. The Agenda Questionnaire	appropriate 21st-Century changes to the	
	possible to change	must be returned to the World	Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. As	
	the Steps and	Service Office by sixty days prior to the	with all OA business meetings, decisions	
	Traditions with a	Conference.	are made by those who show up.	
	super-majority vote	f) Amendments to Article I (Twelve	Requiring 75 percent of groups	
	of 75% of responding	Steps) and Article II (Twelve Traditions)	that respond to ratify an amendment	
	service bodies.	of Subpart B of these Bylaws may only	would serve as a global group conscience.	
		be adopted if, in addition to d) above,	Rationale: The Twelve Steps and Twelve	
		they are ratified by three-fourths of the	Traditions are the central focus of this	
		registered Overeaters Anonymous	Fellowship and the recovery movement. It	
		groups responding within six months of	should not be easy to change them, but it	
		notification, provided at least 55 percent	should also not be impossible. Asking 55	
		of the registered groups have	percent of registered groups to respond	
		responded.	when we don't know how many of these	
			groups are still in operation seems like	
			asking for, if not the impossible, the highly	
			unlikely.	

Proposed Bylaw Amendments regarding Motions and How/When to hold WSBC

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC?
				Yes/No
1	Miami-Dade and the	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart	Intent: To propose a modification to the	
_	Keys of OA IG, R8	B, Article VIII	scheduling format of the OA World	
	Terri M.	 Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – 	Service Business Conference. The	
		World Service	proposed change aims to enhance	
	Oregon OA IG, R1	Business Conference, Part b by striking	accessibility, flexibility, and inclusivity by	
	Pat O.	and inserting as follows:	alternating between in-person and virtual	
			formats on a two-year rolling basis.	
	OA Foot Steps Virtual	b) Time and Location	Rationale: The motion being presented	
	IG, VR	The Conference shall be held during the	with a few minor tweaks in the proviso is	
	Renee D.	month of May or on such dates as the	that which the Reference Subcommittee	
		Board of Trustees may determine. The	of the World Service Business Conference	
	COMMENT:	Conference shall be held on a two-year	referred back to the floor with 15 yes	
	This proposal had a	rotation as follows:	votes and 0 no votes to accept the motion	
	lot of support in	1) In person in the Albuquerque, New	and 17 yes votes and 0 no votes for a	
	2023, but ran out of	Mexico area or at such place as the	recommendation to adopt. Unfortunately,	
	time for	Board of Trustees may designate.	the motion was never considered due to	
	consideration.	2) Virtually.	time constraints, and we believe the	
			motion is worthy of consideration for the	
			following reasons.	
			Note: Refer to motion for specific reasons.	
14	Sydney IG, R10	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart	Intent: To commit to a rotating	
14	Maurene W.	B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates,	Conference location would more fully	
		Section 1 – World Service Business	embrace the virtues of both in-person and	
	COMMENT: Similar	Conference, Part a by inserting as	virtual environments. An in-person	
	to 1, but specifies	follows:	Conference would preserve the many	
	video-conferencing	b) Time and Location	demonstrated benefits of in-person	
	and is less flexible.	The Conference shall be held during the	interaction, particularly the benefits of	
		month of May or on such dates as the	service. A hybrid Conference increases 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) Online hybrid with the Board of Trustees in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the rest of the members participating through a web-based vidoconferencing service.	accessibility and participation by all members regardless of country, distance, travel and language limitations, and financial resources, and further demonstrates the Fellowship's commitment to promote diversity and inclusivity. Rationale: Refer to motion for specific reasons.	
7	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M. COMMENT: Adds flexibility to location, manner and method of holding delegate meetings.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities, Part b by striking and inserting as follows: 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: 4) In reference to Article VIII, Section 1, Tto designate a place within the United States manner or method for holding of any meeting or meetings of the delegates or any other meeting as required.	Intent: To make the language less specific. This allows for changes in the how and where without having to update this Section in the future. Rationale: The responsibility of organizing the meetings of delegates rests with the trustees. With the possibilities of how the meetings may be held, i.e., in person, hybrid, or virtual, the existing language is limited. Adding the reference to Article VIII, Section1 makes it clear the trustees refer to that Section of the Bylaws when they are making planning decisions.	
15	Northern Virginia Outreach IG, R7 Dan L. COMMENT: Allows more flexibility in how to call the Conference.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference, Part c by inserting as follows: c) Emergency Virtual Attendance In the event of an emergency, as determined by the Board of Trustees, the board The Board of Trustees may call the Conference, or any part of it, by virtual method(s).	Intent: To allow the Board of Trustees to call for virtual attendance at the World Service Business Conference, in addition to in-person attendance, without the need for the board to declare an emergency. Rationale: Providing a more flexible option for the WSBC to be attended virtually, should the board call for it, would allow greater attendance by delegates and service bodies who would otherwise be unable to attend due to travel costs, health, or other reasons. This greater representation by service bodies would allow those service bodies (through tighter coordination with World Service) to more effectively carry the message to current and potential members who are currently underrepresented at the World Service level.	
13	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M. COMMENT: Ensure any amendments to Bylaws come from a committee, not just an individual.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XII – Bylaw Amendments, Section 1 – Procedure, Part a by striking and inserting as follows: 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 any standing or ad hoc Conference Bylaws Committee, or the Board of Trustees and shall be submitted to the chair of	Intent: To remove the option for a single individual to submit a motion and expand the list of Conference committees who may submit a motion. Rationale: No individual makes decisions in OA. All motions require the support of a service body to be considered, with this one exception. Removing this position from the list ensures equality of all members.	

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		the Board of Trustees, postmarked or be		
		dated and time stamped through		
		electronic transmission by December		
		1 before the annual meeting of the		
		Conference. The Board of Trustees may		
		also submit amendments to the Bylaws.		
12	WSBC Bylaws	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart	Intent: To update language to current	
12	Committee	B, Article VIII	practice and to be less specific as the	
	Arthur G. & Beverly	– Meetings of Delegates, Section 4 –	meetings can be held in a variety of ways.	
	M.	Notice by striking and inserting as	Rationale: This will reflect current	
		follows:	practice.	
	COMMENT:	Notice of the regular annual Conference		
	"housekeeping"	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 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 method		
		and manner 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.		

Proposed Bylaw Amendments regarding Board of Trustee Qualifications & Assignments

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC? Yes/No
9	Saint Louis Bi-State IG, R4 Cyndy L. COMMENT: Establish a life-time term limit of 9 years for a Trustee.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 3 – Term of Office by striking and inserting as follows: Trustees shall be elected at the annual World Service Business Conference for a period of three years. Trustees may be elected at any annual Conference in order to fill the remaining term created by a vacancy except as specified in Section 7. Trustees shall serve no more than eight nine consecutive years. A candidate may not run for election at the World Service Business Conference if serving the full term of the proposed office would result in that candidate serving on the Board of Trustees for more than eight nine consecutive years.	Intent: To establish a lifetime limit for the position of trustee. Rationale: By changing the term to nine years, it allows a trustee to serve three terms, either consecutively or with a break in between terms.	resylvo
2	Board of Trustees Michael K. COMMENT: Require Region experience as pre-req. for being a Trustee.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 4 – Qualifications, Part a by striking, inserting, and renumbering as follows: a) Qualifications for trustee shall be: 1) Seven years in the Fellowship; 2) Five years of service beyond the meeting level, including at least two years of service within the last seven years as a region representative, region	Intent: To add specific requirements for service at the region level as a qualification to run for trustee. Rationale: We no longer have separate region trustee and general service trustee positions; any trustee may be called upon to serve as a region liaison. All trustees, whether a region liaison or not, participate indecisions that may impact regions. It is reasonable to require all	

		committee chair, region board member, or region trustee liaison; 3) Attendance as a delegate to at least two World Service Business Conferences; 4) Participation at the region level (the extent of participation to be determined by each region); and 54) Five years of continuous recovery in OvereatersAnonymous 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.	trustees have prior service at the region level, as this background an understanding will benefit the Fellowship as a whole.
8	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M. COMMENT: More flexibility in becoming a nominee for a Trustee.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees by striking, inserting, and relettering as follows: a) At least one-hundred twenty days prior to the scheduled opening of the annual Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, all groups within a region shall be notified by the region 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. b) An incumbent trustee serving as liaison to a region different from the one which they were originally nominated may submit an application for reelection through either the region in which they regularly attend meetings, or the region they serve as a trustee liaison. eb) At least ninety days prior to the annual Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, the region representatives of each region shall choose from the nominees submitted to it no more than three qualified nominees. Resumes of these nominees must be sent to the Board of Trustees within one week of their selection. ec) The (no more than three) nNominees for trustee chosen by the each region assembly or affirmed by the currently registered region representatives shall be submitted to the Conference for election. ed) Copies of resumes must be sent to all Conference delegates at least forty-five days prior to the annual of Conference (see exception Section 7).	Intent: To ensure the opportunity for everyone who wants to be considered for trustee positions, whether they would be liaisons to that region or serve in another Trustee role. To remove unnecessary wording from the Section. Rationale: All nominees need an avenue of consideration. Allowing nominees to be considered does not mean they will be affirmed, but it does open the possibility to a greater number of candidates for open positions.
16	Virtual Region Claire M.	Conference (see exception, Section 7). Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section	Intent: To ensure the assignment of a trustee to the region who has affirmed
	COMMENT: Give preference to the Trustee	7 – Vacancies by inserting a new Section 7, striking, and renumbering subsequent Sections as follows:	them, whenever possible. Rationale: This amendment acknowledges

"affirmed" by a	a) After election or appointment of a	input from the regions and encourages
region, to be their	new trustee, the Board of Trustees will	their active recruitment role for new
liason Trustee.	give first consideration for liaison	trustees.
	assignment to the region that affirmed	Region affirmation helps broaden the
	the new trustee.	representation to the Board of Trustees
	b) Should the region affirm multiple	within the new framework.
	candidates, the Board of Trustees will	
	select the liaison from those the region	
	affirmed.	
	Section 8 – Vacancies	
	a) Vacancies occurring among the	
	trustees may be filled by the Board of	
	Trustees to serve until the conclusion	
	of the next World Service Business	
	Conference. The Board of Trustees shall	
	solicit the names of eligible	
	candidates through the regions.	

Proposed Bylaw Amendments that primarily clarify/simplify language ("Housekeeping")

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC?
6	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Service Bodies, Section 2 – Registration, Part a by striking and inserting as follows: a) Each service body shall be duly registered with the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous by submitting: 3) complete registration information on: i) intergroups—each affiliated group; ii) national service boards— each affiliated intergroup and group; iii) language service boards—each participating group, intergroup, and/or national service board; and iv) specific focus service boards—each participating group and intergroup.	Intent: To correctly identify who may participate with a focus service board. Rationale: Intergroups are allowed to participate with other service boards, so this change will keep them all equal.	Yes/No
10	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates, Part b by striking and inserting as follows: b) Nondelegates-Those who may address the World Service Business Conference shall consist of are: 1) Delegates: All delegates as defined in Section a. Any delegate may choose another delegate to speak on their behalf. 2) Nondelegates: eOfficers of the Corporation or any parent or subsidiary of the Corporation who are not also trustees, the Conference parliamentarian, trustee nominees, the managing director, the managerial staff of the World Service Office, and interpreters for individual non-English speaking delegates and those with other special needs.	Intent: To clarify who may speak to the Conference. Rationale: This allows for the diverse needs of the delegates to be met. An interpreter is defined as someone who translates for individuals or groups conversing in different languages, so the additional conditions of non-English or special needs are not necessary.	
11	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M.	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates, Part c by	Intent: To bring the language into current practice which allows	

striking and inserting as follows:	registration of delegates and alternates
c) Qualifications/Selection	within fifty days of Conference.
5) Delegates and alternates should be	Rationale: The World Service Office has
selected at least seventy fifty days before	been accepting registrations later than
the annual Conference, and the names	seventy days for some time, so changing
forwarded immediately upon selection to	the requirement to fifty may make it
the World Service Office of Overeaters	easier for some service bodies to apply.
Anonymous.	