

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 updates will be done when re-printing is ordered.	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 food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight .	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 body weight but suffering, nonetheless, from the devastating effects of the disease.	

		Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is the result of living and working the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.		
D	NSB OA of Greece, R9 Kika I.	Move that when planning the World Service Business Conference or other meetings scheduled in accordance with OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2, the Board of Trustees shall not arrange such meetings during major religious holidays (including three days either side), such as but not limited to Good Friday through Easter Sunday (Western tradition), Good Friday through Easter Sunday (Eastern tradition), Passover, Hanuman Jayanti, Vesak, and Ramadan.	Intent: To support inclusivity and equality in service, allowing OA members to participate in World Service Business Conference, especially those living far from New Mexico, in countries with different cultures and religious practices. Rationale: In recent years, the beginning of the World Service Business Conference has often coincided with Easter Monday for the countries that are following the Christian Orthodox religion. This means that delegates from these countries would have to start the long journey to Albuquerque either on Easter day or Easter Monday. For some of us these holidays are sacred because they are connected to our faith, while for others they are significant simply because they are a unique opportunity to be with family and friends. The same may occur for other countries with other religions.	
E	Region 9 Loudovika P. COMMENT: The WSBC Motions Review Committee estimates this will cost about \$51,000.	Move to revise the meeting registration process on oa.org in the Find a Meeting section by adding a feature that will enable meetings to indicate if they meet once a week or several times a week, and if they meet several times a week, whether all occurrences should be registered under one meeting number or multiple meeting numbers.	Intent: To align the way the World Service Office recognizes and counts meetings with the way some groups operate in practice. Rationale: Our bylaws make no reference to how often a group meets. Traditionally it was assumed that groups met once a week. Every meeting is registered separately. However, there are cases in which single groups hold several meetings a week and consider these meetings to be one group. In recent years, the virtual meeting platform has made it easy for a single group to meet often, sometimes daily. It has truly revolutionized the way meetings function.	
B	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M. COMMENT: I consider this "housekeeping" to eliminate references to obsolete publications.	Move to amend WSBC Policy 1982e by striking and inserting as follows: It was adopted that: Through announcements in Lifeline and A Step Ahead The Fellowship be invited to attend and observe the open Board of Trustees' meetings held at prior to the annual <u>World Service Business Conference and World Service Convention</u> . The board is to make available sufficient facilities to accommodate all who choose to attend.	Intent: To update how the policy will be disseminated. Rationale: <i>Lifeline</i> and <i>A Step Ahead</i> are no longer published so the reference is no longer accurate. This change allows the staff to determine the best way to disseminate the information.	
C	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M. COMMENT: I consider this "housekeeping"	Move to amend WSBC Policy 2012d by striking and adding as follows: It was adopted that: The terms of World Service Business Conference 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	Intent: To clarify term limits of delegates. Rationale: This is to clarify that term limits apply to the individual regardless of which service body(ies) they are representing.	

		<p><u>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.</u></p> <p><u>Should the individual be elected as either a region chair or trustee, the one-year rotation out of service would not apply.</u></p>	
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Proposed Bylaw Amendments to remove masculine pronouns from 12 Steps and Traditions

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC? Yes/No
4	<p>Miami-Dade and the Keys of OA IG, R8 Terri M.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article I – Twelve Steps, Steps 3, 7, and 11 by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God <i>as we understood Him God.</i></p> <p>7) Humbly asked Him <u>God</u> to remove our short-comings.</p> <p>11) Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him <u>God</u>, praying only for knowledge of His <u>God's</u> will for us and the power to carry that out.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
5	<p>Miami-Dade and the Keys of OA IG, R8 Terri M.</p> <p>COMMENT: See note above for 4.</p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article II – Twelve Traditions, Tradition 2 by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>2) For our purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He <u>God</u> may express Himself <u>God's self</u> in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.</p>	<p>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</p>	

			only properly addressed by the Fellowship as a whole.	
3	<p>Miami-Dade and the Keys of OA IG, R8 Terri M.</p> <p>COMMENT: I clustered this with the proposals 4 and 5 to change the Steps and Traditions. Approval of this motion makes it possible to change the Steps and Traditions with a super-majority vote of 75% of responding service bodies.</p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XII – Bylaw Amendments, Section 1 – Procedure, Part f by striking as follows:</p> <p>d) 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 World Service Office by sixty days prior to the Conference.</p> <p>f) 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.</p>	<p>Intent: Particularly since COVID and the growth of virtual meetings, it has become nearly impossible to keep up with which registered groups continue to actually exist and which do not so, that 55 percent of all registered groups likely represents a much higher percentage of functioning groups. This motion seeks to remove unreasonable demands on the percentage of responses necessary to make appropriate 21st-Century changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. As with all OA business meetings, decisions are made by those who show up. Requiring 75 percent of groups that respond to ratify an amendment would serve as a global group conscience. Rationale: The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are the central focus of this Fellowship and the recovery movement. It should not be easy to change them, but it should also not be impossible. Asking 55 percent of registered groups to respond 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.</p>	

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

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC? Yes/No
1	<p>Miami-Dade and the Keys of OA IG, R8 Terri M.</p> <p>Oregon OA IG, R1 Pat O.</p> <p>OA Foot Steps Virtual IG, VR Renee D.</p> <p>COMMENT: This proposal had a lot of support in 2023, but ran out of time for consideration.</p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference, Part b by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>b) Time and Location 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 <u>on a two-year rotation as follows:</u> 1) <u>In person</u> in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate. 2) <u>Virtually.</u></p>	<p>Intent: To propose a modification to the scheduling format of the OA World Service Business Conference. The proposed change aims to enhance accessibility, flexibility, and inclusivity by alternating between in-person and virtual formats on a two-year rolling basis. Rationale: The motion being presented with a few minor tweaks in the proviso is that which the Reference Subcommittee of the World Service Business Conference referred back to the floor with 15 yes votes and 0 no votes to accept the motion and 17 yes votes and 0 no votes for a recommendation to adopt. Unfortunately, the motion was never considered due to time constraints, and we believe the motion is worthy of consideration for the following reasons. Note: Refer to motion for specific reasons.</p>	
14	<p>Sydney IG, R10 Maurene W.</p> <p>COMMENT: Similar to 1, but specifies video-conferencing and is less flexible.</p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference, Part a by inserting as follows:</p> <p>b) Time and Location The Conference shall be held during the month of May or on such dates as the</p>	<p>Intent: To commit to a rotating Conference location would more fully embrace the virtues of both in-person and virtual environments. An in-person Conference would preserve the many demonstrated benefits of in-person interaction, particularly the benefits of service. A hybrid Conference increases the</p>	

		Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference shall be held <u>in rotation as follows:</u> <u>1) In-person</u> in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate. <u>2) Online hybrid with the Board of Trustees in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the rest of the members participating through a web-based videoconferencing service.</u>	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: <u>4) In reference to Article VIII, Section 1,</u> To 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, Section 1 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 <u>Board of Trustees, the board</u> 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 under-represented 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 <u>Conference Bylaws Committee, or the Board of Trustees</u> 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.	

		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 Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M. COMMENT: "housekeeping"	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 4 – Notice by striking and inserting as follows: 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 delegates representing each service body. Such notice shall be sent no less than sixty days before each meeting, and shall specify the <u>place, day, and hour method and manner</u> 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.	Intent: To update language to current practice and to be less specific as the meetings can be held in a variety of ways. Rationale: This will reflect current practice.	

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 <u>nine consecutive</u> 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.	
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, <u>including at least two years of service within the last seven years as a region representative, region</u>	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 in decisions that may impact regions. It is reasonable to require all	

		<p><u>committee chair, region board member, or region trustee liaison;</u></p> <p>3) Attendance as a delegate to at least two World Service Business Conferences;</p> <p>4) Participation at the region level (the extent of participation to be determined by each region); and</p> <p>5) Five years of continuous recovery in Overeaters Anonymous as evidenced by:</p> <p>(i) five years of current continuous abstinence;</p> <p>(ii) current maintenance of a healthy body weight for at least two years; and</p> <p>(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.</p>	trustees have prior service at the region level, as this background an understanding will benefit the Fellowship as a whole.	
8	<p>WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M.</p> <p>COMMENT: More flexibility in becoming a nominee for a Trustee.</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>b) An incumbent trustee serving as liaison to a region different from the one which they were originally nominated may submit an application for re-election through either the region in which they regularly attend meetings, or the region they serve as a trustee liaison.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>dc) The (no more than three) nominees for trustee chosen by the each region assembly or affirmed by the currently registered region representatives shall be submitted to the Conference for election.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
16	<p>Virtual Region Claire M.</p> <p>COMMENT: Give preference to the Trustee</p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 7 – Vacancies by inserting a new Section 7, striking, and renumbering subsequent Sections as follows:</p>	<p>Intent: To ensure the assignment of a trustee to the region who has affirmed them, whenever possible.</p> <p>Rationale: This amendment acknowledges</p>	

	<p>“affirmed” by a region, to be their liaison Trustee.</p>	<p>a) After election or appointment of a new trustee, the Board of Trustees will give first consideration for liaison assignment to the region that affirmed the new trustee. b) Should the region affirm multiple 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.</p>	<p>input from the regions and encourages their active recruitment role for new trustees. Region affirmation helps broaden the representation to the Board of Trustees within the new framework.</p>	
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Proposed Bylaw Amendments that primarily clarify/simplify language (“Housekeeping”)

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC? Yes/No
6	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M.	<p>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 <u>service</u> boards—each participating group and intergroup.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
10	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M.	<p>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: <u>1) Delegates: All delegates as defined in Section a. Any delegate may choose another delegate to speak on their behalf.</u> <u>2) Nondelegates: Officers 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.</u></p>	<p>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.</p>	
11	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. & Beverly M.	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates, Part c by</p>	<p>Intent: To bring the language into current practice which allows</p>	

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