

WSBC: “Looking to the Future: One Day at a Time”

April 12 - April 26, 2021

There were 248 voting delegates and 20 countries present.

Countries present: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom (England, Scotland) United States.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING I

Credentials Report

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was

presented as follows: 246 eligible voters

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

Conference Standing Rules

Standing Rules Motion 1

Move to amend the Standing Rules to read as follows:

6) Recognition and Debate

- A) At the business meetings of the WSBC, a delegate will use the video/camera feature when speaking, unless accommodation for non-use of video has been requested, and: 1) Must be recognized by the chair before speaking, and
2) Give his or her name, office/title, and service body as appropriate.

Standing Rules Motion 1 **adopted**.

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

The Reference Subcommittee moved to withdraw Proposal Items **8, 9, and 10.**

Adopted.

Consent Agenda

New Business Motion **G** (WSBC Policy 2010d)

Proposal Item **4** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII, Section 2)

Proposal Item **6** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 1)

Proposal Item **7** (Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3)

Motion required 2/3 vote to adopt. The Consent Agenda was **adopted**.

Conference Agenda

The Conference agenda was **adopted** as distributed.

New Business Motion A-a

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *The Tools of*

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

New Business Motion A-b

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the pamphlet *A New Plan of Eating: A Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Journey*.

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

New Business Motion A-c

Move to grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised pamphlet *The Voices of Recovery*.

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

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of officers' reports and announcements.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING II

Credentials Report

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was

presented as follows: 248 eligible voters

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

New Business Motion I

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2019a to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 2019a

It was adopted that:

The term hybrid is used to describe a group composed of members attending a single meeting where all can hear and share but may be present either in the same physical location (face-to face) or through some form of electronic device (virtual).

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A hybrid group may register only once and is assigned one group number but may appear on the oa.org in both the face-to-face listing and the virtual listing and will clearly indicate that they are a hybrid meeting.

Motion required majority to adopt. New Business Motion I **adopted** as amended; 193 yes, 9 no.

Substitute New Business Motion E

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1984a by striking and inserting as follows:

WSBC Policy 1984a

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

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who through shared experience, strength, and hope are recovering from compulsive overeating and other compulsive food behaviors. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively engaging in these behaviors. 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.

Motion required a majority to adopt. Substitute New Business Motion E **failed** as substituted; 93 yes, 125 no.

New Business Motion H

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1992a to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 1984a

The following policy statement was adopted:

“Unity with Diversity” Policy

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous 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 attribute. We welcome all who share our compulsion. Everyone with the desire to stop eating compulsively is welcome in Overeaters Anonymous.

THE FELLOWSHIP 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(es) to recovery within our Fellowship need not divide us.

THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of members, groups, and service bodies to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group, and service body to respect those rights as they extend the hand of fellowship to those who still suffer.

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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.

Motion required a majority to adopt. New Business Motion H **adopted**; 137 yes, 62 no.

New Business Motion D

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2019c to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 2019c

The following policy statement was adopted:

The World Service Business Conference established the following annual events.

OA Birthday: The third full weekend (Friday included) of January as the annual celebration of the January 19, 1960 founding of Overeaters Anonymous.

Unity Day: The last Saturday in February in even years and the last Sunday in February in odd years at 11:30 a.m. local time.

Sponsorship Day: The third full weekend (Friday included) in August.

International Day Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA): The third full weekend (Friday included) in November.

Motion required a majority to adopt. New Business Motion D **adopted** as amended; 148 yes, 61 no.

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING III

Credentials Report

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was

presented as follows: 248 eligible voters

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

New Business Motion F

Move to adopt the following policy statement:

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 (i.e., reflect a

variety of compulsive food behaviors, belief systems, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, indigenous peoples, and peoples of color, etc.).

Motion required a majority to adopt. New Business Motion F **adopted**; 138 yes, 78 no.

Substitute New Business Motions A and C

Move to combine New Business Motions A and C and replace with the following:

WSBC 2021 accepts the following:

Abstinence 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 and working the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.

Motion required a majority to adopt. Substitute New Business Motions A and C **adopted** as substituted; 162 yes, 58 no.

New Business Motion B

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988b by inserting the following:

WSBC Policy 1988b

The following policy statement was adopted:

The WSBC 2019 accepts the following definitions:

- 1) Abstinence: the act of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.
- 2) Recovery: Removal of the need to engage in compulsive eating behaviors.

Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is achieved through working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step Program.

This policy shall be subject to change only in years ending in zero.

Motion required a majority to adopt. New Business Motion B **failed**; 68 yes, 153 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Sixteen

Move to combine OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Intergroups, Article VII – Regions, and Article VIII – Service Boards into Article VI to read as follows:

Article VI – Service Bodies

Service bodies are formed to support the groups in matters the group cannot accomplish on their own.

There shall be five types of service bodies to provide services beyond the group level. Service bodies provide support and representation of the groups and intergroups from which they are formed and act as guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service.

Service Bodies

- a) Intergroups
- b) National Service Boards
- c) Language Service Boards
- d) Special Focus Service Boards
- e) Regions

Section 1 – Composition

- a) Intergroups are composed of two or more groups that have formed a service body for the purpose of supporting and representing these groups that are affiliated with it. Each state/province/country may have at least one service body (intergroup or national service board). In a state/province/country having only one group, that group may function as an intergroup.
- b) National service boards are composed of groups and intergroups who share a common purpose; to deal with issues that require a combination of membership and financial resources of intergroups and groups established within a single country.
- c) Language service boards are composed of groups, intergroups, and national service boards to serve the common needs of a language group, regardless of geographic proximity.
- d) Special focus service boards are composed of two or more groups or intergroups to serve the common needs of groups/intergroups with the same special focus, regardless of geographic proximity.
- e) Regions. There shall be eleven regions, each composed of intergroups, groups, and service boards. 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.
 - 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, including all of Russia.
 - 10) Region No. 10 shall be composed of countries and territories in Australia,

11) Virtual Region is non geographic and is primarily composed of virtual groups and virtual intergroups.

Should states/provinces/territories/countries within a region, or intergroups/national/ language service boards within a state/province/territory/country wish to transfer to a region that is more convenient, the body notifies its current region, the region it would like to join, and the Board of Trustees of its desire to transfer. The BOT then submits a motion to WSBC to amend Subpart B, Article VI, Section 1d of the bylaws.

Section 2 – Registration

- a) Each service body 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 having problems with 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:
 - i) intergroups – each affiliated group;
 - ii) national service boards – each affiliated intergroup and group; and
 - iii) language service boards – each participating group, intergroup, and/or national service board.
 - iv) special focus boards – each participating group.
- b) Each service body shall submit a copy of its bylaws and/or summary of purpose to the WSO whenever either is updated or revised.
- c) Each service body 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 their bylaws do not conflict with OA, Inc. Bylaws. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by electronic transmission to the registered contact for each service body. Any updated bylaws shall be submitted to the World Service Office pursuant to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI, Section 2a) 2 above.

Section 3 – Affiliation and Participation

Purpose of Affiliation: to facilitate the count of the groups and service bodies of the Fellowship and to encourage the flow of support and information to all.

Purpose of Participation: To facilitate the support and the flow of information within groups and service bodies that have a common need.

For the purpose of registration and WSBC representation:

- a) An intergroup may affiliate with one national service board if it exists, shall be affiliated with one region, and may participate in one or more language service boards. b) A national service board is affiliated with the region where their nation exists and may participate in one or more language service boards.

- c) A language service board may affiliate with one region. When the language service board spans more than one region, it may choose which region to affiliate with. Should a language service board choose to not affiliate with a region, the BOT chair shall assign a trustee to serve as liaison to that language service board. The service bodies,

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and groups acting as service bodies that participate in a language service board retain their original affiliation.

- d) A special focus service board may affiliate with one region. When the special focus service board spans more than one region, it may choose which region to affiliate with. Should a special focus service board choose to not affiliate with a region, the BOT chair shall assign a trustee to serve as liaison to that special focus service board. The groups that participate in a special focus service board retain their original affiliation.

A group may choose to affiliate with an intergroup. The group shall be affiliated with the intergroup's region.

Should a group choose not to affiliate with an intergroup, but affiliates with a national service board, that group shall be affiliated with that national service board's region.

Groups that choose not to affiliate with an intergroup or a national service board shall be affiliated with the region where the group exists, either the geographic region or the Virtual Region.

Any group or service body may participate in the activities (including voting) of another intergroup, national service board, and/or language service board and region with their permission.

Section 4 – Functioning and WSBC Representation

a) Service bodies may conduct their business by any method they choose. b) Minimal requirement for registered service bodies to maintain their registration at the WSO:

- 1) Intergroups shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all affiliated member groups, and for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- 2) National service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all affiliated member groups and intergroups for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- 3) Language service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all member groups, intergroups, and national service boards for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of one delegate/alternate to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
- 4) Special focus service boards shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all member groups for election of officers and

selection, when necessary, of one delegate/alternate to the World Service Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.

- 5) Region assemblies whose members shall be called “region 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.
- c) To send delegates to the WSBC a service body must be formally registered, along with its delegate information, thirty days prior to Conference opening. (See Article X, Section 3c for qualifications and selection of delegates.)

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- d) In order to deregister, a service body must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair, and region trustee; or in the case of a language or special focus service board that is not affiliated with a region, the World Service Office and the trustee liaison.

Motion required a 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Sixteen **adopted** as amended; 175 yes, 35 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eleven

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Eleven **ruled out of order** due to passage of Proposal Sixteen.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seventeen

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seventeen **withdrawn**.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Fifteen

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

Article X – Meetings of Delegates
Section 3 – Delegates

c) Qualifications/Selection

- 2) Each intergroup or national 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 national service board shall not represent the same groups as intergroups represent.
- 3) Countries without intergroups or national service boards that 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) Each language service board is entitled to have one qualified delegate only, regardless of the number of groups or service bodies (at least two meetings) that compose the language service board.

Motion required a 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Fifteen **adopted** as amended; 198 yes, 8 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Twelve

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 2 – Composition, to read as follows:

Article V– Overeaters Anonymous Groups
Section 2 – Composition

- a) A group may be formed, as set forth in Article V, Section 1, by two or more persons meeting together, either
- 1) in the same physical location (land-based);
 - 2) through some form of electronic device (virtual); or
 - 3) both (hybrid).

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- b) Groups compose the intergroups and service boards set forth in Articles VI and VIII hereof. c) Affiliation/Participation:
- 1) A group may affiliate with only one intergroup or national service board.
 - 2) Groups may also participate in the activities (including voting) of another service body (intergroup, national service board, language service board, special focus service board and/or region) with their permission.

Motion required a 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Twelve **adopted**; 192 yes, 18 no.

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING IV

Credentials Report

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was

presented as follows: 248 eligible voters

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

Region Trustee Elections

The results of the region trustee elections were as follows:

Region Three – Neva S.

Region Six – Beth B.

Virtual Region – Dora P.

General Service Trustee Elections

The results of the general service trustee elections were as follows:

CJ M.

Judy H.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal One

Bylaw Amendment Proposal One **withdrawn**.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Two

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX – Board of Trustees, Section 3 – Term of Office, by striking and inserting as follows:

Article IX – 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.

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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 total service as a trustee.

Terms of office for regional trustees shall be staggered according to the following rotation: Regions One, Four and Seven
Regions Three, Six, Nine, and Virtual
Regions Two, Five, Eight and Ten

Motion required a 2/3 vote to adopt. Bylaw Amendment Proposal Two **failed**; 101 yes, 120 no.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Three

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Three **withdrawn**.

Remaining Business

The remainder of business consisted of announcements.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING V

Credentials Report

The first item of business was to adopt the Credentials Report. The report was presented as follows: 241 eligible voters

The Credentials Report was **adopted** as presented.

New Business Motion G

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010d to read as follows:

WSBC Policy 2010d

It was adopted to:

Establish an OA Young People's Conference Committee.

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

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Regions, Section 2 – Composition, to read as follows:

Article VII – Regions

Section 2 – Composition

- a) There shall be eleven regions: one virtual region and ten geographic regions each composed of intergroups, groups, and service boards that fall within its region. Subject to regional and BOT approval, language service boards that span more than one region may choose to affiliate with any single region or choose not to be affiliated with a region.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Four **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six

Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference, to read as follows:

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 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.

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).

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Six **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seven

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

Article X – Meetings of Delegates
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:

- 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. When selecting these delegates, the region shall give preference to delegates from intergroups and service bodies which would not otherwise be represented.

Bylaw Amendment Proposal Seven **adopted** on the consent agenda.

Emergency New Business Motion One

Move to plan for and provide real-time language translation, including ASL interpretation, potentially via assistive technology, as needed for the entirety of the World Service Business Conference business meetings and committee meetings in time for the 2022 Conference.

Emergency New Business Motion One **failed** as amended; 87 yes, 132 no.

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Remaining Business

The remaining business consisted of recognition of green dots and acknowledgements.

Applications for Region Two, and two General Service Trustee vacancies are due at the World Service office by June 1, 2021.

Future Conference:2022

2023 Embassy Suites Albuquerque Hotel, Albuquerque, NM April 24-29