

Agenda Questionnaire Summary

World Service Business Conference 2025

Please **DO NOT** return this summary. This summary is for tallying your members' responses. Your intergroup or service board should complete the Agenda Questionnaire online survey available at oa.org. Agenda Questionnaires are due by March 5, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. mountain time. **Please review each New Business Motion and Bylaw Amendment in its entirety. This is a summarized version.**

Proposal	Submitted By	Motion	Intent/Rationale	Bring to WSBC? Yes/No
A	South Jersey IG, R7 Elaine W. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010d by striking and inserting as follows: It was adopted to: Establish an OA Young People's <u>Adults</u> Conference Committee.	Intent: To change the name of the Young People's Conference Committee and all references to young people in Overeaters Anonymous to young adults. Rationale: Because the term "young people" can include children in many cultures and countries, it is necessary to change the term to "young adults" as it was originally intended to relate to people ages 18-30.	
B	Secular SFSB, VR Chia W. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	Move to amend WSBC Policy 1992a by inserting as follows: <i>(Note: To save space, the first, second, and fourth paragraphs are not included in this summary. Refer to the motion for specifics.)</i> The following policy statement was adopted: 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. <u>In particular, this means we do not try to convince any member or visitor to adopt a belief in God.</u>	Intent: To let all OA members know that proselytizing is inappropriate in OA. It is a religious activity, and we are not a religious organization. Attempts to convert them drive away atheists and agnostics who come to OA looking for recovery, not religion. This motion will help make OA welcoming to them instead. Rationale: The existing wording says that we respect the various approaches to recovery that people might take, but far too much proselytizing still goes on. Many people have been taught that converting nonbelievers is the right way to help them. Instead, it drives them away, as the pathetically small number of us in OA attests. We need to help the OA membership to a clear understanding of this fact. We can't wait for them to connect the dots in the	

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			generalized wording of the Unity with Diversity policy because compulsive eaters are dying while we wait.	
C	Board of Trustees Cyndy L. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	Move to amend WSBC Policy 2018b by striking and inserting as follows: The following policy statement was adopted: In keeping with Tradition Ten, Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on bariatric (weight loss) surgery <u>the various medically recommended methods of weight management</u> . In the spirit of Tradition Three, Overeaters Anonymous welcomes anyone with a desire to stop eating compulsively, including those who have had bariatric surgery or are contemplating it <u>who wants to stop eating compulsively</u> .	Intent: To expand the types of medically recommended methods beyond bariatric surgery as these days there are many new medications being prescribed to our members and we need to support the members who are using these methods under their doctor's care. No list of definitions is intentional as we do not want to further limit the scope of this policy. Rationale: With the continuing changes in how the medical world addresses our disease, it is important to remember that OA is here to support the member. All the methods are outside issues, and we have no opinion on them, but the members who have followed medical advice to help them in their physical recovery are welcome in our rooms.	
D	Online Persian Speakers, R9	This motion has been ruled out of order by the chair. Refer to the motion for specific details.		
1	Board of Trustees Cyndy L. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Service Bodies, Section 1 – Composition, Part e by striking and inserting as follows: e) There shall be eleven <u>ten</u> regions: one virtual region and ten <u>nine</u> geographic regions each composed of intergroups, groups, and service boards that fall within its region. Subject to region and Board of Trustees 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. 1) Region No. 1 shall be the Pacific Northwest Region composed of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Alberta, British	Intent: To reconfigure the geographic regions to affiliate the intergroups that were previously designated as Region Four. Rationale: Region Four, while desiring to serve their members and their area, was no longer self-supporting and the change is necessary to better fulfill the objectives of OA service.	

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		<p>Columbia, <u>Manitoba</u>, Northwest Territories, <u>Nunavut</u>, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.</p> <p>2) Region No. 2 shall be the Pacific Southwest Region composed of California, Hawaii, Reno/Tahoe area of Nevada, and Mexico.</p> <p>3) Region No. 3 shall be the Southwest Region composed of Arizona, Colorado, <u>Central and West Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska</u>, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, <u>South Dakota</u>, Texas, and Utah.</p> <p>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 was dissolved/disbanded in July 2024 and ratified at World Service Business Conference 2025.</p> <p>5) Region No. 5 shall be the Central Region composed of the Greater Chicago area and Central Illinois Intergroup, <u>East Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri (except Greater Ozarks Intergroup), North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin</u>, and Southwestern Ontario.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7) Region No. 7 shall be the Eastern Region composed of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.</p> <p>8) Region No. 8 shall be the Southeast Region composed of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, <u>Greater Ozarks Intergroup</u>, the US Virgin Islands, the</p>		

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		<p>Caribbean Islands, Central America, and South America.</p> <p>9) Region No. 9 shall be composed of countries and territories in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Western Asia, including all of Russia.</p> <p>10) Region No. 10 shall be composed of countries and territories in Australia, East Asia, New Zealand, South East <u>Southeast</u> Asia, and the Western Pacific Basin.</p> <p>11) Virtual Region is nongeographic and is primarily composed of virtual groups and virtual intergroups.</p>		
2	<p>MetroWest IG, R6 Michael P.</p> <p><i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i></p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 4 – Qualifications, Part b by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>b) Qualifications for trustee must be met at the time the application for trustee is submitted to the World Service Office. Specifically, such trustee nominees must also have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Worked through all Twelve Steps; 2) Declared themselves as practicing the Twelve Steps to the best of their ability; 3) Declared themselves as committed to the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous; and 4) <u>Stated two specific ideas, in writing, to improve the health and long-term survival of the Fellowship; and</u> 5) Affirmed these additional qualifications on their trustee application forms. 	<p>Intent: To ensure that ideas for the survival and growth of Overeaters Anonymous have a central role in discussions leading to elections for the Board of Trustees and to inform delegates' decisions during voting.</p> <p>Rationale: In our bottom-up hierarchy, it is the responsibility of individual OA members, through their elected representatives, to choose trusted servants who will best guide the Fellowship. Perhaps the most direct expression of the Fellowship's guidance lies in the selection of trusted servants. How can representatives choose trustees wisely if they don't know what candidates would try to achieve?</p>	
3	<p>Board of Trustees Bob F. Cyndy L.</p> <p><i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i></p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 1 – Composition by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>The Board of Trustees shall consist of between thirteen and seventeen <u>fifteen</u> trustees. Whenever possible, a minimum of two trustees shall come from outside of North America.</p>	<p>Intent: To reduce the size of the board by two trustees.</p> <p>Rationale: Over the past four years, the Board of Trustees has had fewer than seventeen trustees. The board made a decision not to fill the vacancies because the workload, although heavy, was manageable. In June 2024 there were seventeen trustees.</p>	

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		<u>Proviso: The number of trustees will be reduced by attrition as vacancies occur with no elected trustee being removed as a result of this amendment.</u>	By September 2024 there were sixteen trustees. With the dissolution of Region Four, there was no longer a need for eleven region trustee liaisons. The Executive Committee expanded to nine. The financial cost is high. It was very expensive to bring in eight trustees for the budget meeting in October. Four virtual meetings plus a dozen virtual Executive Committee meetings do not foster a strong connection. The range stated in the motion allows the board to determine the need to fill the vacancies, should they occur, based on the anticipated workload for the coming year. Fifteen is optimal but the board will have flexibility should there not be sufficient nominees or an unexpected resignation.	
4	WSBC Unity with Diversity Committee Gary D. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XII – Bylaw Amendments, Section 1 – Procedure by striking as follows: 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. 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.	Intent: To remove the provision added in 1995 and restore the bylaw to its original standard. Rationale: The provision that 55 percent of all registered groups had to respond was added to this bylaw in 1995 and makes it impossible for the deliberative body of OA to ever make any changes to the Steps or Traditions. It should never be easy to change these as they are the basis of our recovery, but it should not be impossible. Both the Steps and Traditions are based on experience, and it is likely that over the course of the life of OA there will be changes to our experiences. On average, about 30 percent of service bodies respond to the Agenda Questionnaire sent out each year. In truth, we have no idea how many of the registered groups actually exist. To insist on a 55 percent response from all the registered groups makes any change	

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			impossible. The original bylaw was stringent enough to protect us from frivolous changes. Ratification of any changes would still require a yes vote from 75 percent of all responding groups, in addition to being passed by the body at the World Service Business Conference. This would clearly indicate the will of the body and a global group conscience.	
5	WSBC Unity with Diversity Committee Gary D. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article I – Twelve Steps, Steps Three, Seven, Eleven and Article II – Twelve Traditions, Tradition Two by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>Article I – Twelve Steps The Twelve Steps suggested for recovery in the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous are as follows: 3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God <i>as we understood His God.</i> 7) Humbly asked His God to remove our shortcomings. 11) Sought through prayer and meditation to im-prove our conscious contact with God as we understood His God, praying only for knowledge of His God's will for us and the power to carry that out.</p> <p>Article II – Twelve Traditions The Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous are: 2) For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He God's will may be expressed Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.</p>	<p>Intent: To remove application of gender to God without altering the meaning of the Steps or Traditions in any way; to simply remove the pronouns and replace them with their antecedent.</p> <p>Rationale: Many groups have already taken it upon themselves to make this change, which is a violation of the copyright arrangement we have with Alcoholics Anonymous. OA, Inc. has been given permission to alter the Steps and Traditions, not individual groups. More importantly, the language use in our Steps has become archaic. Written this way today they would be considered disrespectful and offensive. Other fellowships have made this change with AA's permission, and we have been given permission to do the same. It is time.</p>	
6	90 Day Phone Meeting VIG, VR Robert L. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>b) Time and Location The Conference shall be held on such dates as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference</p>	<p>Intent: To stop holding the World Service Business Conference in person and solely use an online videoconferencing venue.</p> <p>Rationale: This recognizes that Overeaters Anonymous is a global organization. The ability for members distant from this continent to participate on an equal footing</p>	

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		<p>shall be held on a two year rotation as follows: via videoconferencing platform.</p> <p>1) In person in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate.</p> <p>2) Via videoconferencing platform with the Board of Trustees determining any hybrid elements at their discretion.</p> <p>e) Virtual Attendance</p> <p>The Board of Trustees may call the Conference, or any part of it, by virtual method(s).</p>	<p>will be greatly enhanced. In spite of limited offers of financial assistance, travel from many areas is onerously time consuming. Without this equal access, many in OA will continue to be disenfranchised. Indeed, geopolitical issues between nations sometimes preclude travel to the United States though members in those countries are able to participate in OA via online meetings. The current arrangement, to alternate from year-to-year between online and in-person, further acts to disenfranchise many. As deliberations at each Conference often refer to and build on work done in previous years, many delegates and the service bodies they represent will be deprived of full knowledge of this history, so crucial to fostering an informed conscience.</p>	
7	<p>WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. Beverly M.</p> <p><i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i></p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 3 – Delegates by inserting as follows:</p> <p>b) Those who may address the World Service Business Conference are:</p> <p>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, <u>volunteers</u>, and interpreters.</p>	<p>Intent: To grant volunteers the right to offer information during the annual Conference.</p> <p>Rationale: The motion brings the bylaws into line with current practice.</p>	
8	<p>WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. Beverly M.</p> <p><i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i></p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 4 – Notice by inserting as follows:</p> <p>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 electronic transmission. Such</p>	<p>Intent: To define full requirements for meeting scheduling.</p> <p>Rationale: The 2024 amendment did not stipulate that a scheduled meeting requires dates and times in addition to method and manner.</p>	

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		notice shall be sent no less than sixty days before each meeting and shall specify the <u>day(s)</u> , <u>hour(s)</u> , method, and manner of the meeting, and shall state the general nature of the business to be considered at such meeting.		
9	<p>WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. Beverly M.</p> <p><i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i></p>	<p>Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 5 – Nomination of Trustees by striking and inserting as follows:</p> <p>a) <u>Submission of Applications</u></p> <p>1) 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 to submit <u>their</u> nominations to the region.</p> <p>2) <u>Current trustees not serving as a region liaison may submit their applications for re-election to the Board of Trustees for affirmation.</u></p> <p>b) <u>Affirmation of Nominees</u></p> <p>1) 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 <u>may affirm</u> no more than three qualified nominees <u>from applications received.</u></p> <p>2) <u>At least ninety days prior to the annual Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, the Board of Trustees may affirm nominations received from current trustees not serving as region liaisons.</u></p> <p>c) Nominees for trustee chosen by each region shall be submitted to the Conference for election. <u>All affirmed nominee applications shall be submitted to the Conference for consideration.</u></p> <p>d) Copies of resumes <u>applications</u> must be sent to all Conference delegates at least forty-five days prior to the annual Conference (see exception, Section 8).</p>	<p>Intent: To rectify problems that have arisen in the trustee nomination process due to the changes that have occurred in the Board of Trustees structure.</p> <p>Rationale: Currently all trustee nominees must attend their region assembly for their nominations to be affirmed. Many region assemblies are held in person, which means that nominees require funding by their service bodies to attend the assembly for the affirmation process. If the nominee is already funded by their local or region service body, or if they are already serving as the trustee liaison to their region, then there is no additional cost for them to attend the assembly. However, if the nominee is currently serving as a trustee but not as a liaison for their region, then there is no funding for them to attend their region assembly. Last year, the Board of Trustees had to override the budget to fund three current trustees to attend their region assembly just for the purpose of being affirmed for re-election by their region. In addition to the funding issue, if a trustee has been active for a full or partial term on the Board of Trustees without any direct interaction with their regions during this time, it would seem that the group of members best qualified to affirm them would be the service body they are currently serving, namely the Board of Trustees.</p>	

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10	WSBC Bylaws Committee Arthur G. Beverly M. <i>Contact WSO for maker's contact information.</i>	Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Service Bodies, Section 3 – Affiliation and Participation by striking and inserting as follows: Groups that choose not to affiliate with an intergroup or a national service board shall be affiliated <u>may choose to affiliate</u> with the <u>geographic</u> region where the group exists; either the geographic region or the Virtual Region.	Intent: To allow groups not affiliated with intergroups or national service boards to choose the region they wish to be affiliated with. Rationale: The 2023 World Service Business Conference decided to allow service bodies to affiliate with the region of their choice, making it possible for service bodies supporting groups using the virtual format only, to affiliate with a geographic-based region should they so wish. This motion will extend the same choice to unaffiliated groups, which was not considered in 2023 by oversight.	
11	90 Day Phone Meeting VIG, VR Robert L.	This motion has been ruled out of order by the chair. Refer to the motion for specific details.		