

Proposal Item: A  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to rescind WSBC Policy 2014a.

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2014a

It was adopted that:

Overeaters Anonymous email groups, commonly called loops (groups that do not meet in real time), may list their group on www.oa.org as a courtesy with the following criteria:

- 1) Email groups must comply with the definition of an Overeaters Anonymous group as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition a) 1-4.
- 2) The topic and/or focus of the email group are consistent with those listed on oa.org for Overeaters Anonymous face-to-face and virtual groups.
- 3) New members must be informed of the loop’s policies, norms, and practices.
- 4) Archives are to be deleted at least once a month unless the loop’s policies dictate otherwise.
- 5) Email groups are moderated to stay on topic.
- 6) The format of the email groups is structured similarly to a registered OA group. Postings to email groups are limited to the topic, the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, or the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. Feedback, crosstalk, and advice-giving are discouraged.
- 7) Each email group will have a coordinator who registers the loop with an email service provider and a secretary who will liaise with the OA World Service Office.

Proposed Wording

~~WSBC Policy 2014a~~

~~It was adopted that:~~

~~Overeaters Anonymous email groups, commonly called loops (groups that do not meet in real time), may list their group on www.oa.org as a courtesy with the following criteria:~~

- ~~1) Email groups must comply with the definition of an Overeaters Anonymous group as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition a) 1-4.~~
- ~~2) The topic and/or focus of the email group are consistent with those listed on oa.org for Overeaters Anonymous face-to-face and virtual groups.~~
- ~~3) New members must be informed of the loop’s policies, norms, and practices.~~
- ~~4) Archives are to be deleted at least once a month unless the loop’s policies dictate otherwise.~~
- ~~5) Email groups are moderated to stay on topic.~~
- ~~6) The format of the email groups is structured similarly to a registered OA group. Postings to email groups are limited to the topic, the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, or the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. Feedback, crosstalk, and advice giving are discouraged.~~
- ~~7) Each email group will have a coordinator who registers the loop with an email service provider and a secretary who will liaise with the OA World Service Office.~~

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Cyndy L., Bylaws Committee Trustee Cochair

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

Because of the change to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition, an email loop may register as a meeting and the courtesy listing is not required.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

The courtesy listing was necessary because of the restrictions placed on virtual meetings of being in real time. When the definition of a meeting was updated in 2016, this restriction was removed and a loop may now register as a meeting.

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History

2016 – Bylaws B, Article V, Section 1 (paraphrased)

*Eliminate virtual groups definition. (Adopted)*

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: B  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to establish the following policy statement.

**Statement on Copyright and Ownership of Creative Works**

The copyright of all works of authorship, created in the course of volunteer service to Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., and submitted to the WSO or the WSBC shall be owned by Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Works of authorship include, but are not limited to, literary works, musical works, including any accompanying words, dramatic works, including any accompanying music, pantomimes, and choreographic works, pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, motion pictures, and audio visual works, sound recordings, and architectural works.

In the spirit of Tradition Seven, all contributions of writing, images, and other creative works are given freely, without expectation of compensation, either monetary or attribution. This policy is an acknowledgement that ownership of the final product created for OA belongs exclusively to OA.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees  
Cyndy L.

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

Copyright release is a standard business practice which protects the WSO from legal claims of ownership for creative work performed by the individual.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

To establish a clear policy on ownership of all materials and work contributed to the WSO by members over the years.

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History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments  
None.

Proposal Item: C  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to add a tenth Tool: Mindfulness.

Submitted By

Western Mass IG, Region Six  
Lyn C.

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To help us abstain from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors by appreciating the moment, especially mealtime, and not living a distracted lifestyle.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The Conference-Approved Literature Committee would develop a segment on the tenth Tool, mindfulness, for *The Tools of Recovery* pamphlet. The tenth Tool would be added to relevant OA print literature as it becomes depleted and new supplies are ordered, and would be added immediately to online resources (ex. *Suggested Meeting Format*). Articles would be written for *A Step Ahead* and *Lifeline*.

Cost

Minimal, except for the cost of an additional page in *The Tools of Recovery* pamphlet.

Rationale

Food is not our enemy, nor is mealtime something to be rushed through while distracted. In the past food was used as a defense mechanism to stuff down feelings and pain; now it is a source of nutrition and health. Mealtime can still be enjoyed and be pleasing when mindful techniques are practiced.

The purpose of an OA Tool is to help us abstain from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors. "Mindfulness" may do that by helping OA members become aware of and appreciate their food, and help remove any past stigma possibly associated with weight loss or dysmorphia.

There are many ways to become mindful and this Tool can be as varied as our members. The point is to slow down, bring our Higher Power into our mealtime, and know that we are no longer hurting ourselves with food.

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### History

WSBC Policy 2010c (paraphrased)

*Rescind the ninth Tool: Action Plan. (adopted on consent agenda) **NOTE: The policy was removed from the Business Conference Policy Manual only. The policy was rescinded because the ninth Tool was included in OA literature and the reference was no longer needed in the manual.***

### WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

The addition of a new Tool does have costs associated with the implementation once the Tool is adopted and written. The process of writing the explanation of the Tool and getting Conference approval would take up to two years.

The Tools are mentioned or listed in at least five books and five pamphlets, which will need inserts added to explain the updated number of Tools and name of the new Tool. Then another insert that includes the text of the new Tool would need to be placed in these publications once it is created. Otherwise it is confusing when the information changes from one publication to another. This process would take several years as the existing pamphlets and books are reprinted and reviewed.

The costs would include:

- Printing of inserts
- Staff time ensuring the inserts are provided
- Staff time to update pages of oa.org

Proposal Item: D  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1991a by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 1991a (*Amended 2003, 2013, and 2015*)

It was adopted that:

The following Conference and board committees be restructured as follows, to begin with the 1992 WSBC:

- 1) The Conference committees listed in Subpart B, Article XI of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws should confer with the corresponding board committees.
- 2) Committee membership will be limited to a delegate cochairman, a trustee cochairman, and two or more delegates from each region, up to thirty members at WSBC. Additionally, a combination of up to six former trustees, current trustees, and nondelegate members may be appointed to participate in the work of the committee during the year.
- 3) Cochairmen consisting of a Conference delegate (elected by committee members at WSBC) and a trustee (appointed by the chairman of the BOT) will coordinate the efforts of the committee. The Conference delegate cochairman will preside over the committee meetings at WSBC. The trustee cochairman will act as liaison between the committee and the BOT and will report to the Board of Trustees regarding committee activities. The cochairmen will select the committee members from the delegates that have indicated interest on the committee

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 1991a (*Amended 2003, 2013, and 2015*)

It was adopted that:

The following Conference and board committees be restructured as follows, to begin with the 1992 WSBC:

- 1) The Conference committees listed in Subpart B, Article XI of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws should confer with the corresponding board committees.
- 2) Committee membership will be limited to a delegate cochairman, a trustee cochairman, and ~~two or more delegates from each region,~~ up to thirty ~~members~~ delegates at WSBC. Additionally, a combination of up to six former trustees, current trustees, and nondelegate members may be appointed to participate in the work of the committee during the year.
- 3) Cochair~~men~~ consisting of a Conference delegate (elected by committee members at WSBC) and a trustee (appointed by the chair~~man~~ of the BOT) will coordinate the efforts of the committee. The Conference delegate cochair~~man~~ will preside over the committee meetings at WSBC. The trustee cochair~~man~~ will act as liaison between the committee and the BOT and will report to the Board of Trustees regarding committee activities. ~~The cochairmen will select the committee members from the delegates that have indicated interest on the committee~~

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 1991a (*Amended 2003, 2013, and 2015*)

- 3) preference form with input from the appropriate regional trustee based on involvement and experience in same/similar committee at local, regional, and past world service levels.
- 4) Committee members not responding to two consecutive mailings of the committee which require answers will not receive future mailings unless the member has notified one of the cochairmen of a reason for a temporary absence from committee work.
- 5) The committee meetings at WSBC will be open; however, only committee members will have a voice and vote. The BOT may plan other Conference-related activities during the committee meetings at WSBC for delegates not serving on committees.
- 6) Delegates should be registered by March 1 and have submitted a committee preference form by April 1. Delegates will be notified at or prior to WSBC to which committee they have been assigned. Service on a committee is expected and the commitment is maintained until the following WSBC.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 1991a (*Amended 2003, 2013, and 2015*)

- 3) ~~preference form with input from the appropriate regional trustee based on involvement and experience in same/similar committee at local, regional, and past world service levels.~~
- 4) Committee members not responding to two consecutive mailings of the committee which require answers will not receive future mailings unless the member has notified one of the cochairmen~~s~~ of a reason for a temporary absence from committee work.
- 5) The committee meetings at WSBC will be open; however, only committee members will have a voice and vote. ~~The BOT may plan other Conference-related activities during the committee meetings at WSBC for delegates not serving on committees.~~
- 6) Delegates should be registered by March 1 and have submitted a committee preference form by April 1. Committee assignment is made on a first come, first served basis with the exception of the Conference-Approved Literature Committee and the Reference Subcommittee (OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XI, Sections 1 and 2). Delegates will be notified of their committee assignment at or prior to WSBC ~~to which committee they have been assigned~~. Service on a committee is expected and the commitment is maintained until the following WSBC. It is recommended that those serving at the World Service level rotate committee assignments every two years.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Cyndy L., Bylaws Committee Trustee Cochair

**Contact WSO for maker's contact information.**

Intent

To update the WSBC policy to be in line with current practice.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

In Item 3, the staff assigns the delegate to a committee based on their preferences on the registration form. In Item 5, all delegates are expected to serve on a committee. There is no need for the BOT to plan alternate activities.

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History

2015 – WSBC Policy 1991a (paraphrased)

*Include delegates are expected to serve on a committee. (Adopted)*

2015 – WSBC Policy 1991a (paraphrased)

*Increase committee membership to 40. (Withdrawn)*

2013 – WSBC Policy 1991a (paraphrased)

*Remove special provisions for membership. (Adopted on consent)*

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: E  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2009b by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2009b

It was adopted that:

December 12 (12/12) each year be designated as OA's International Twelfth Step Within Day, the purpose of which will be to encourage OA service boards, meetings, and individual members to reach out to those within the Fellowship who are still suffering from compulsive eating behaviors.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 2009b

It was adopted that:

December 12 (12/12) each year be designated as OA's International Twelfth Step Within Day, the purpose of which will be to encourage OA service ~~boards~~ bodies, meetings, and individual members to reach out to those within the Fellowship who are still suffering from compulsive eating behaviors.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Cyndy L., Bylaws Committee Trustee Cochair

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To include intergroups, service boards, and regions in the policy.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

To correct the term from service board, which does not include intergroups or regions, to service bodies. The policy needs to reflect all service bodies of OA service beyond the group level, not just service boards.

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History

There is no history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments  
None.

Proposal Item: F  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010a by striking the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2010a (*Amended 2012*)

The following policy statement was adopted.

**Statement on Approved Literature**

In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest that OA groups maintain unity and honor our Traditions by using, selling, and displaying only approved books and pamphlets at their meetings. This includes OA Conference- and board-approved literature; AA Conference-approved books, booklets, and all future editions thereof, with original edition copyright 2010 or earlier; and locally produced OA literature. Locally produced literature must be developed according to the *OA Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature*, and should be used with the greatest discretion. Local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 2010a (*Amended 2012*)

The following policy statement was adopted.

**Statement on Approved Literature**

In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest that OA groups maintain unity and honor our Traditions by using, selling, and displaying only approved books and pamphlets at their meetings. This includes OA Conference- and board-approved literature; AA Conference-approved books, ~~booklets~~, and all future editions thereof, with original edition copyright 2010 or earlier; and locally produced OA literature. Locally produced literature must be developed according to the *OA Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature*, and should be used with the greatest discretion. Local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Cyndy L., Bylaws Committee Trustee Cochair

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To remove the word booklets as this term is no longer used by AA on their website or catalog.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost  
None.

Rationale  
To update the wording to reflect what is current.

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History  
2012 – WSBC Policy 2010a (paraphrased)  
*Include AA Conference-approved materials. (Adopted)*

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments  
None.

Proposal Item: G  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1985 by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 1985 (*Amended 1993*)

Upon the recommendation of the Literature Committee, the following revised procedure for granting the Conference Seal of Approval was adopted:

The Conference-approved seal that appears on the back of our literature means that the material has broad application to the Fellowship as a whole and is intended primarily to distinguish OA literature, not to censor other literature.

The Board of Trustees oversees the production of literature at the world service level. The Conference Seal of Approval shall be granted to OA literature upon receiving a two-thirds vote from the delegates present and voting at the annual World Service Business Conference.

All refining will be processed by the Conference-Approved Literature Committee (CLC), Board-Approved Literature Committee (BLC), and the Board of Trustees (BOT), according to their procedures prior to recommending any literature for approval of the delegates.

Prior to the Business Conference, pamphlets that are recommended for the Conference Seal of Approval will be mailed to all registered Conference delegates in press proof form. Recommended books will be mailed in manuscript form. At the Business Conference, delegates will vote either to approve or reject, rather than to edit or refine the material.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 1985 (*Amended 1993*)

Upon the recommendation of the Literature Committee, the following revised procedure for granting the Conference Seal of Approval was adopted:

The Conference-approved seal that appears on the back of our literature means that the material has broad application to the Fellowship as a whole and is intended primarily to distinguish OA literature, not to censor other literature.

The Board of Trustees oversees the production of literature at the world service level. The Conference Seal of Approval shall be granted to OA literature upon receiving a two-thirds vote from the delegates present and voting at the annual World Service Business Conference.

All refining will be processed by the Conference-Approved Literature Committee (CLC), Board-Approved Literature Committee (BLC), and the Board of Trustees (BOT), according to their procedures prior to recommending any literature for approval of the delegates.

Prior to the Business Conference, pamphlets and books that are recommended for the Conference Seal of Approval will be posted online as downloadable files. ~~mailed to all registered Conference delegates in press proof form. Recommended books will be mailed in manuscript form.~~ At the Business Conference, delegates will vote either to approve or reject, rather than to edit or refine the material.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Cyndy L., Bylaws Committee Trustee Cochair

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To update the policy to current practice.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

Pending literature drafts have not been mailed to delegates in hard copy for several years to save postage costs. The policy needs to reflect current practice.

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History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: H  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1992a by inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 1992a (*Amended 2013*)

The following policy statement was adopted.

**“Unity with Diversity” Policy**

THE FELLOWSHIP 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 trait. We welcome all who share our compulsion.

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous 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 to recovery within our Fellowship need not divide us.

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

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 1992a (*Amended 2013*)

The following policy statement was adopted.

**“Unity with Diversity” Policy**

THE FELLOWSHIP 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 trait. We welcome all who share our compulsion.

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous 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 to recovery within our Fellowship need not divide us.

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

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 1992a (*Amended 2013*)

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.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 1992a (*Amended 2013*)

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.

THE FELLOWSHIP recognizes the importance of using a meeting format that includes the OA Preamble, the Twelve Steps, and the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, and mentioning the Seventh Tradition contribution. By doing so, we as a Fellowship collectively acknowledge we will safeguard Overeaters Anonymous today and in the future.

Duly registered is defined as being in full compliance with Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees  
Stella C.

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To highlight within our unity policy that we have a collective responsibility to support the Traditions of our Fellowship.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

The proposed wording will clarify what unifies us as Overeaters Anonymous and the responsibility we share to carry the OA message of recovery from compulsive overeating.

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History

2013 – WSBC Policy 1992a (paraphrased)

*Include acceptance and inclusivity. (Adopted)*

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: I  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2014a by striking, inserting, and renumbering the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2014a

It was adopted that:

Overeaters Anonymous email groups, commonly called loops (groups that do not meet in real time), may list their group on www.oa.org as a courtesy with the following criteria:

- 1) Email groups must comply with the definition of an Overeaters Anonymous group as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition a) 1-4.
- 2) The topic and/or focus of the email group are consistent with those listed on oa.org for Overeaters Anonymous face-to-face and virtual groups.
- 3) New members must be informed of the loop’s policies, norms, and practices.
- 4) Archives are to be deleted at least once a month unless the loop’s policies dictate otherwise.
- 5) Email groups are moderated to stay on topic.
- 6) The format of the email groups is structured similarly to a registered OA group. Postings to email groups are limited to the topic, the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, or the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. Feedback, crosstalk, and advice-giving are discouraged.
- 7) Each email group will have a coordinator who registers the loop with an email service provider and a secretary who will liaise with the OA World Service Office.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 2014a

It was adopted that:

Overeaters Anonymous email groups, commonly called loops (~~groups that do not meet in real time~~), may list their group on www.oa.org as a courtesy with the following criteria: register as a group per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V. It is suggested that they also adopt the following practice:

- ~~1) Email groups must comply with the definition of an Overeaters Anonymous group as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 1 – Definition a) 1-4.~~
- ~~2) The topic and/or focus of the email group are consistent with those listed on oa.org for Overeaters Anonymous face to face and virtual groups.~~
- ~~3) New members must be informed of the loop’s policies, norms, and practices.~~
- ~~4) 1) Archives are to be deleted at least once a month unless the loop’s policies dictate otherwise.~~
- ~~5) 2) Email groups are moderated to stay on topic.~~
- ~~6) The format of the email groups is structured similarly to a registered OA group. Postings to email groups are limited to the topic, the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, or the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. Feedback, crosstalk, and advice giving are discouraged.~~
- ~~7) Each email group will have a coordinator who registers the loop with an email service provider and a secretary who will liaise with the OA World Service Office.~~

Submitted By

Stephanie D., Virtual Services Trustee

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

With the change to the definition of a group, email loops may register as meetings. This change is to amend the policy to reflect current practice.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

The information about archives and moderation is needed because it relates to this specific type of meeting, and it is important that members of the groups are aware of how the meeting is managed.

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History

2016 – Bylaws B, Article V, Section 1 (paraphrased)

*Eliminate virtual groups definition. (Adopted)*

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: J  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2005c by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2005c

It was adopted to:

Combine WSBC Policies 1987d, 1988c, and 1999b to read: The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) adopts as policy the following procedures for the submission and consideration of all a) new business motions, b) policy motions, and c) bylaw amendments to Subpart B of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws.

- 1) All submissions of proposed new business motions, policy motions, and/or amendments to Subpart B of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws shall include a) a statement of intent; b) a statement of the procedures necessary for the implementation of the proposal (if necessary); c) a statement of estimated cost associated with the proposal; d) a history of related new business items or bylaw amendments that were voted upon by the WSBC in the past five years and the results of those votes; and e) up to one page of arguments in favor of each new business item or bylaw amendment submitted by the maker of the motion at the time of submission.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 2014a

It was adopted to:

Combine WSBC Policies 1987d, 1988c, and 1999b to read: The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) adopts as policy the following procedures for the submission and consideration of all a) new business motions, b) policy motions, and c) bylaw amendments to Subpart B of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws.

- 1) All submissions of proposed new business motions, policy motions, and/or amendments to Subpart B of the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws shall include a) a statement of intent; b) a statement of the procedures necessary for the implementation of the proposal (if necessary); c) a statement of estimated cost associated with the proposal; d) a history of related new business items or bylaw amendments that were voted upon by the WSBC in the past five years and the results of those votes; ~~and~~ e) up to one page of arguments in favor of each new business item or bylaw amendment submitted by the maker of the motion at the time of submission; and f) an explanation of how this motion will help carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

Submitted By

Heart of Canada IG, Region Four  
Lawrie C.

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To focus attention on the primary purpose of every OA group, including the World Service Business Conference, to carry that message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous to those who still suffer, as set out in Tradition Five.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual and sample motions template.

Cost

None.

Rationale

Tradition Five sets out the primary purpose of every OA group, which includes the World Service Business Conference: To carry the message to those who still suffer. Clearly that message is the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous.

Therefore, the primary purpose of every WSBC and the major use of the time every delegate spends at WSBC should be to discuss how OA is carrying the message, and to explore ways of carrying the message better.

Discussing and voting on motions to change bylaws and to change or create new policies takes a great deal of time at WSBC. This proposal would encourage these discussions and motions to center on our primary purpose.

The change to the sample motions template would encourage the maker of the motion to consider the significance of the motion in light of Tradition Five.

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History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: K  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move that:

- a) WSBC 2017 request the Board of Trustees to investigate and develop proposals for submission to WSBC no later than WSBC 2019 that would encourage WSBC to conduct its business in accordance with Concept Twelve (c – to reach decisions by substantial unanimity).
- b) In doing so, the board examine the ways in which other twelve-step fellowships reach their decisions at their business meetings.
- c) In doing so, the board examine alternatives to the use of *Robert's Rules of Order*, including consensus methods of decision making.

Submitted By

Heart of Canada IG, Region Four  
Lawrie C.

**Contact WSO for maker's contact information.**

Intent

To find ways to reach truly substantial unanimity through discussion at WSBC.

Implementation

The Board of Trustees would decide how to do this, but presumably it would establish an ad-hoc committee to do the investigation and make the proposals.

Cost

The cost might include purchasing some books that provide consensus-building alternatives to *Robert's Rules of Order* and communicating with other twelve-step fellowships.

Rationale

Concept Twelve (c) encourages us to find ways of making decisions that ensure substantial unanimity. This proposal suggests that we examine methods of ensuring substantial unanimity and focuses on our primary purpose as set out in Tradition Five of carrying the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

Our current method of decision making:

- Uses *Robert's Rules of Order*, a book that in its most recent revision contains over 600 pages of rules on how to make decisions, which it is safe to say very few delegates attending WSBC have read in its entirety;
- Requires a non-OA parliamentarian to advise the person who chairs on how to deal with motions and points of order and amendments using *Robert's Rules of Order*;

- Requires a center microphone monitor who advises delegates on how to navigate the intricacies of *Robert's Rules of Order*;
- Uses a method of debate on motions that:
  - Pits pros against cons without providing for the input of persons who are undecided but have concerns and want to provide their input;
  - Limits the discussion of all motions to a limited number of debaters regardless of the relative importance or nonimportance of a particular issue; and
- Uses a method of changing and amending proposals that:
  - Involves complex rules of how to amend and what can be amended;
  - Uses a Reference Subcommittee with its own rules to find ways to resolve policies.

This method of decision making has had the following impacts:

- Although logical and traditional, it is complicated and requires specialized knowledge to navigate it (as evidenced by the need for a parliamentarian and a center microphone monitor).
- Debate about the proper procedures (whether something is a proper amendment to an amendment, or whether something is a point of personal privilege or point of order, or what takes precedence over that) can overshadow discussion of important matters relating to carrying the message of recovery to those who still suffer.
- Rather than encouraging substantial unanimity through consensus building, it ultimately puts issues up to votes, which can leave a significant minority dissatisfied with the outcome.
- It can inhibit developing simple ways to come up with creative policies that might arise from a spirited discussion of a motion but are not proper amendments according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

The primary purpose of every OA group, including the World Service Business Conference, is, as set out in Tradition Five, to carry its message to those who still suffer. The primary focus of every annual WSBC should therefore be how well we have carried our message in the past year and how we can improve carrying our message in succeeding years.

The World Service Business Conference is the group conscience of Overeaters Anonymous. According to Tradition Two, our ultimate authority is “a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.” *Robert's Rules of Order* works well for groups that have people with strong opinions and that require clear decisions. The WSBC method of decision making should reflect trust in our Higher Power and not fear that we are so divided that we need *Robert's Rules of Order* to make decisions.

There are many methods of group consensus development which encourage creativity and free-flowing discussion, including a recent book which offers many helpful suggestions. Other twelve-step fellowships have also developed their own methods of achieving substantial unanimity which involve opportunities for creative discussion prior to formal adoption of policy motions.

This motion asks the Board of Trustees, as our trusted servants, to investigate those methods and come back to the WSBC with motions that would hopefully help ensure the WSBC to find creative ways to develop consensus and substantial unanimity.

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### History

No history in the past five years.

### WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: L  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move that the World Service Business Conference 2017 adopt the following policy:

Overeaters Anonymous will establish a special fund to assist in translating OA literature, forms, correspondence, website, and other materials to languages other than English. Money contributed to this fund is in addition to the International Publications/Translations Committee's budget. The BOT will establish guidelines to allocate the funds.

Submitted By

Stella C., Region Nine Trustee

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To create a dedicated fund that contributions can be received into to assist with translation.

Implementation

Dedicate fund established. Line item for the income established (expenditure line is already in existence).

Cost

Alteration of the contributions page on the website to state the fund in the dropdown menu.

Rationale

In 2009, the WSBC brought an emergency new business motion to create a policy to create a fund. This policy was rescinded in 2012 on the basis that it was not well used. Three years is not enough time for the Fellowship to begin to use the fund well.

There is a direct correlation between the growth of the Fellowship and recovery and the amount of translated OA literature available in any specific language. We translate our literature and materials in order to carry the message of OA recovery. We need adequate funds devoted to translation in order to serve all our Fellowship. In order to grow unity and strength in all of our Fellowship, we need to have our literature and recovery materials in as many languages as possible, and we need a fund to be able to do so.

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History

2012 – WSBC Policy 2009c (paraphrased)

*Rescind policy on translations special fund and include line in OA, Inc. budget for translations. (Adopted)*

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

The rationale for rescinding WSBC Policy 2009c reads as follows:

“The Translation Fund has served the Fellowship well in regards to highlighting the importance of translation within our worldwide Fellowship. Both the Fellowship and the BOT now have a heightened awareness of the need for translation. The BOT recommends that the WSBC remove the directive for the no longer necessary special fund, bearing in mind that all future translation will be funded from general revenues.”

Since WSBC Policy 2009c was rescinded in 2012, no service body application to the Translation Fund has been denied due to a lack of funds. All awards were honored by funds available through the general fund.

Proposal Item: M  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move that the World Service Business Conference 2017 adopt the following policy:

Overeaters Anonymous will establish an ad-hoc committee to consider the implementation/registration of a Spanish language service board (SLSB). The Spanish Fellowship will work with the BOT in order to establish how the SLSB will fit into the OA service structure.

Submitted By

Stella C., Region Nine Trustee

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To create a committee that will consider all aspects of how this service body will function.

Implementation

The committee will meet virtually to consider characteristics of how the SLSB will function.

Cost

None.

Rationale

The existing SLSB is currently in the process of registering as a service board in OA. The registration of such a service board which spans regions as well as the virtual world is a new step for OA. Special considerations, such as affiliation with a region, have not arisen before. The committee will consider all aspects so as to serve OA in this regard.

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History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: N  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2017  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move that the World Service Business Conference 2017 create a Sponsorship Day to be held annually on the third Saturday in August.

Submitted By

Junccab NSB, Region Eight  
Dora P.

*Contact WSO for maker's contact information.*

Intent

To create a day to pay attention in sponsorship to recovery.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Rationale

Sponsorship is very important to recovery. Creating this day will call members to work towards this.

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History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.