

Proposal Item: A  
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	Withdrawn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) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

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

Current Wording

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.

Proposed Wording

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.~~

Statement on Abstinence and Recovery

Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous 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 achieved through working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program.

Submitted By

San Francisco Intergroup, Region Two  
Aishlin O.  
Phone: 415-221-8968 (USA)

Email: deltsh19@gmail.com

Intent

To revert to the earlier version of the Statement on Abstinence and Recovery.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

### Cost

Unknown.

### Primary Purpose

The revised definition would allow all members to feel included and be more approachable for newcomers.

### Rationale

Our concerns are twofold. Firstly, the impact on and damage to Tradition One, “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on OA unity.” We have for decades lived in the wonderful democracy that the only requirement for membership in OA was the desire to stop eating compulsively. Further that anyone who came to the Fellowship was choosing to be in or to seek recovery. Then as stated “spiritual, emotional and physical recovery is the result of living the Overeaters Anonymous twelve step program.”

What now is the status of the fellows not conforming to this definition of recovery to those still bingeing, vomiting, taking laxatives, undereating, etc.? They have membership status but are not in recovery? Further a fellow might have many years of abstinence of refraining from compulsive eating and food behaviors, yet the desire may and will return. We have known members using both the Steps and the Tools and the desire has returned, this was one of the reasons underlying the “one day at a time” approach to recovery. These members found comfort in the knowledge that Dr. Bob, one of the founders of AA, was troubled by the desire to drink for three years despite prodigious efforts at carrying the message. There are members who continue to deal with the desire, especially newcomers, but with this new definition they could not consider themselves after herculean efforts not to take that first compulsive bite to be in recovery.

Secondly, our concern is that the cunning, powerful destructive compulsion we have labored so to defeat is also now reclassified as “the need to engage in compulsive eating behaviors.”

The English definition of compulsion is “an irresistible urge to behave in a certain way, especially against one’s conscious wishes.” The English definition of a need is “required because it is essential or very important.” Again, we see the promise to newcomers and the inclusive fellowship weakened a fellowship of insiders and outsiders.

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### History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Add a recovery definition to the abstinence definition. (Adopted)*

### WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

Below is a list of where the statement is printed.

Abstinence and a Plan of Eating Workshop – Handout

Abstinence and a Plan of Eating Workshop—Leader’s Guide

*OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies pamphlet\**

*Tools of Recovery pamphlet*

*To the Family pamphlet*

*Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight pamphlet*

*Twelfth-Step-Within Handbook*

Recovery from Relapse Meeting Format\*

*Public Information Service Manual*

*Professional Outreach Manual*

*Twelve Step Workshop and Study Guide, Second Edition\**

*Abstinence, Second Edition*  
*Where Do I Start?\**

\* indicates that the statement has been updated to reflect the WSBC 2019 decision.

Proposal Item: B  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
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World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

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Current Wording

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.

Proposed Wording

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.

Submitted By

MetroWest Intergroup, Region Six  
Steve M.

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

Intent

To provide stability, certainty, and substantial unanimity in the understanding around these key OA definitions by permitting changes only once every ten years.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. Each year when new policy motions are submitted, any changing of this policy would be ruled out of order except in years ending in zero.

Cost

Little or no expense is involved in this change.

Primary Purpose

Maintaining abstinence is a key action toward achieving recovery. To have a clear and consistent statement about what abstinence and recovery mean in OA can only aid in helping the still suffering compulsive eater.

Rationale

This change only affects WSBC Policy 1988b. WSBC Policy 1988b has been amended four times in the last twenty years (2002, 2009, 2011, 2019), including the addition of the definition of recovery in 2019. It does the Fellowship no service to change these definitions frequently. These are key definitions that take time to settle into our Fellowship. Let them take that time by subjecting them to change only once a decade.

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History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Add a recovery definition to the abstinence definition. (Adopted)*

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: C  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

<b>Status:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended
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World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

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

Current Wording

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.

Proposed Wording

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.~~ Relief from the compulsion to engage in self-destructive food behaviors.

~~Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is achieved through working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program.~~  
Working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program lead to spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery.

Submitted By

Central New Mexico Intergroup, Region Three  
Kathy M.

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

Intent

To a) use more accurate words to express the meaning of recovery and b) make the wording of the sentence following the recovery definition grammatically correct without changing the meaning expressed in the previous definition.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual and any documents that contain the definitions of abstinence and recovery.

### Cost

Cost of staff time to update. No other cost if updates occur as literature is routinely reprinted.

### Primary Purpose

To prevent distraction from the ideas conveyed in this definition, which arises from the incorrect grammar and awkward wording.

### Rationale

- a) “Removal” simply means “taking away.” “Relief” means “alleviation, ease, or deliverance through the removal of pain, distress, oppression, etc.,” which better expresses the experience of recovery than the word “removal.” The word “need” is defined as “to require (something) because it is essential or very important” and “expressing necessity or obligation.” There is no actual requirement to engage in these food behaviors, nor are these behaviors essential to our lives. “Compulsion” is defined as “a strong, usually irresistible impulse to perform an act, especially one that is irrational or contrary to one’s will.” The compulsion is what is removed, or from which we experience relief in recovery. To avoid using the word “compulsion” or “compulsive” twice in the sentence, the word “self-destructive” is used, since our disease and the attendant food behaviors are destructive to our bodies, minds, and spirits.
- b) Three words for the three aspects of recovery are listed in the sentence following the definitions. As such, the correct verb to follow these three words would be “are.” However, since the question of whether to use “is” or “are” apparently created controversy when this definition was initially considered, changing the order of the wording eliminates the “is/are” choice while conveying the same meaning: that the various aspects of recovery can be achieved by working the Twelve Steps.

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### History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Add a recovery definition to the abstinence definition. (Adopted)*

### WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: D  
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) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2019c by inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2019c

The following policy statement was adopted:  
The World Service Business Conference established the following annual events.

OA Birthday: The third weekend 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 weekend in August.

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

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 2019c

The following policy statement was adopted:  
The World Service Business Conference established the following annual events.

OA Birthday: The third two-day weekend 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 two-day weekend in August.

International Day Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA): The third two-day weekend in November.

Submitted By

WSBC Bylaws Committee

Mary T., Delegate Cochair

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

Karen B., Trustee Cochair

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

Intent

To avoid confusion when the first of the month is on Sunday.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.



Cost

Minimal staff time.

Primary Purpose

To state clearly when OA observes these events.

Rationale

When the first of the month is on a Sunday, there is confusion about whether to count that as the first weekend in that month.

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History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Combine all OA events into one policy. (Adopted)*

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Change Unity Day to fall on the last Saturday in February in even years and last Sunday in odd years; change OA Birthday to fall on the third weekend in January. (Adopted)*

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Change IDEA to fall on the third weekend of November. (Adopted)*

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Change Sponsorship Day to fall on the third weekend of August. (Adopted)*

2017 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Create a Sponsorship Day. (Adopted)*

2016 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Change Unity Day to last Saturday in June. (Failed)*

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) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1984a by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 1984a

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

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

Proposed Wording

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 food behaviors~~. We welcome everyone who wants to stop ~~eating compulsively~~ compulsive eating and other compulsive food 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.

Submitted By

Ron P., General Service Trustee

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

Intent

To communicate that our shared disease is broader than compulsive eating.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual and Suggested Meeting Formats.

Cost

Staff time to update material.

Primary Purpose

This may help some who do not identify with the term “overeater” and/or “compulsive overeater” to see that they can be part of OA.

Rationale

The wordings “Overeaters Anonymous” and “compulsive overeater” do not reflect the whole spectrum of our disease and an under eater, bulimic, or over exerciser may go away or not even go to an OA meeting, thinking it will not apply to them. At the same time, this approach avoids mentioning multiple manifestations of our disease without leave any out.

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History

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) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to adopt the following policy statement.

Current Wording

None.

Proposed Wording

Diverse Voices Policy

When developing new and updating existing literature published by Overeaters Anonymous World Service, the Literature Committee 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.).

Submitted By

Ron P., General Service Trustee

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

Intent

To build stronger unity through better understanding of our differences with more inclusive literature.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The Literature Committee would assess how diverse and inclusive the voices in existing literature are, when conducting their ongoing review. Plans for publishing new and for updating existing literature would include the solicitation of diverse voices from the membership.

Cost

Staff time to update material.

Primary Purpose

To make our program and Fellowship attractive to more diverse groups and greater numbers of compulsive eaters and increase the possibility that underrepresented groups will be more likely to stay and themselves carry the message to others who still suffer.

### Rationale

Including more diverse voices in our literature enables all members to better understand each other's unique issues that frame our approach to achieving abstinence and recovery from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors. Members of underrepresented groups in OA have expressed their difficulty in relating to most of the stories in OA published literature (printed and electronic) because the great majority of stories currently included come from straight, white, American women, and compulsive overeaters. At the same time, many of us lack the understanding that our way of working the OA program may not acknowledge the particular issues that some underrepresented groups face with food. Having diverse voices included in OA literature can convey the message that people from all cultural backgrounds and manifestations of our disease are welcome, have found recovery in OA, but may have particular cultural or eating disorder issues that need to be considered when working the program.

A strategy of relying mainly on pamphlets that are addressed to underrepresented communities (black, LGBTQ, men, agnostics) is insufficient to carry the message to compulsive eaters in those communities. It continues many people's experience of social marginalization because they are not well represented in the mainstays of our program literature. Those pamphlets attempt to convince members with different issues that their issues are no different than ours yet does nothing to help the majority understand why we tend to be a monolithic Fellowship. Nor are they the topic of discussions at most OA meetings.

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### History

No history in the past five years.

### WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

This is already standard practice. This motion is redundant.

Proposal Item: G  
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) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010d by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2010d

It was adopted to:

Establish an OA Young Persons' Conference Committee.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 2010d

It was adopted to:

Establish an OA Young ~~Persons'~~ Peoples' Conference Committee.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Barb K.

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

Intent

To bring the language of the policy manual up to date.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

None.

Primary Purpose

The use of the term "Young Persons" is outdated and may turn young people away.

Rationale

The term "Young Persons" was discussed by the WSBC Young Persons' Committee and they unanimously voted to write a motion to change the term to "Young People."

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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:

<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) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

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

Current Wording  
WSBC Policy 1992a

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.

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

Proposed Wording  
WSBC Policy 1992a

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

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

THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of ~~individuals~~ members, 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.

THE FELLOWSHIP encourages each duly registered group and service body to affirm and maintain the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters

concept that member may follow. Duly registered is defined as being in full compliance with Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V.

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.

#### Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Ron P.

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

#### Intent

These editing changes seek to make the language consistent with existing OA content (e.g., referring to “members” of OA and “extending the hand”).

#### Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual, the Suggested Meeting Formats, and other publications that draw language from this policy.

#### Cost

Staff time to update material.

#### Primary Purpose

To use language that better expresses the intent of the policy and is consistent with established language in OA (i.e., the OA Responsibility Pledge). The word “attribute” has a broader meaning and a more appropriate application in this case than “trait.” The word “trait” has a common definition meaning “physical characteristic,” which is not the intent of the policy.

#### Rationale

The wordings “Overeaters Anonymous” and “compulsive overeater” do not reflect the whole spectrum of our disease and an under eater, bulimic, or over exerciser may go away or not even go to an OA meeting, thinking it will not apply to them.

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#### History

2017 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

*Revised policy to recommend using a meeting format. (Withdrawn)*

#### WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.



Proposal Item: I  
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) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2019a by striking and inserting the following:

Current Wording

WSBC Policy 2019a

It was adopted that:

Groups known as hybrid meetings may register only once. The hybrid groups may be included on the oa.org meeting list under the appropriate meeting categories.

Proposed Wording

WSBC Policy 2019a

It was adopted that:

~~Groups known as hybrid meetings may register only once. The hybrid groups may be included on the oa.org meeting list under the appropriate meeting categories.~~ 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).

A hybrid group may register only once and is assigned one group number but may appear on oa.org in both the face-to-face listing and the virtual listing.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees  
Letitia M.

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

Dora P.

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

Intent

To define a hybrid group, which has become a part of the OA language as this type of meeting has become available to our members. To also ensure these meetings may be found.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual and the OA Business Glossary.

Cost

Staff time to update material.

Primary Purpose

The hybrid meeting is another way of reaching out and carrying the message and is a way to strengthen small meetings.

Rationale

As technology advances, so must we. We need to ensure that members find a meeting whether they wish to attend in person or through virtual means. We must, at the same time, to the best of our ability, retain the integrity of the number of meetings in our Fellowship.

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History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: J  
Total Percentage:  
Total Voting:

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

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2021  
New Business Motion

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Motion

Move that the World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2021 directs the Board of Trustees (BOT) to make a policy that all BOT meetings and any BOT committee meetings become virtual meetings. The exceptions being 1) the meeting that takes place during the WSBC and 2) those meetings that might require the physical presence of the members of the BOT in exceptional and extenuating circumstances. This change can only be done by the BOT. This changes OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A. Meetings are specifically addressed in Article V, Sections 6a and 11.

Current Wording

Subpart A  
Article – Directors/Management  
Section 6 - Meetings

a) Immediately following each annual World Service Business Conference meeting held pursuant to Article X of Subpart B of these bylaws, the board shall hold a regular meeting to elect officers and transact other business. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least quarterly, at such place and time as it may designate from time to time by resolution of the board. In the absence of a resolution, regular meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation. Special meetings may be called by the chair of the board or any three trustees, and such meetings shall be held at the time, place, and hour designated by the person or persons calling this meeting.

Proposed Wording

Subpart A  
Article – Directors/Management  
Section 6 - Meetings

a) Immediately following each annual World Service Business Conference meeting held pursuant to Article X of Subpart B of these bylaws, the board shall hold a regular meeting in person to elect officers and transact other business. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least ~~quarterly~~ three times a year virtually, at such ~~place and~~ time as it may designate from time to time by resolution of the board. ~~In the absence of a resolution, regular meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation.~~ Special meetings may be called by the chair of the board or any three trustees, and such meetings shall be held virtually at the time, ~~place, and hour~~ designated by the person or persons calling this meeting.

Article V – Directors/Management, Section 11 – Meetings by Virtual Conference remains unchanged and established the precedent for virtual meetings.

**This motion has been ruled out of order by the chair. See WSBC Motions Review Comments.**

Submitted By

HOW-OA Northern California Intergroup, Region Two  
Margaret S.

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

### Intent

To reallocate limited resources to fulfill our mission of carrying the message of recovery through the Twelve Steps to the compulsive eater who still suffers.

### Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The new virtual schedule would be implemented starting January 2022. The BOT currently meets virtually once a year. They may continue using the virtual meeting platform of their discretion. These necessary technology skills should be added to the job description for all future volunteers.

### Cost

No cost if the Business Conference Policy Manual is updated electronically. The only incurred cost would be subscribing to a virtual meeting platform.

### Primary Purpose

By significantly reducing the travel and lodging expense incurred by our dedicated volunteer BOT, we can confidently commit monies to the ongoing expense of spreading the message through digital means to those who still suffer.

### Rationale

“...there are specific tools used to reach those who share our compulsion that do cost money. These tools include oa.org and ads on digital media, such as Facebook and YouTube. Unfortunately, these ended up neglected when the revenue from literature sales goes down.” Cyndy L., Treasurer’s Report, pg. 12, Final Conference Report, WSBC 2020

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### History

None.

### WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

**Ruled out of order by the chair.** OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A, Article XI – Amendments, Section 1 – Board of Trustees states:

Except as expressly stated in Subpart A, and provided there is no conflict in Subpart B, the bylaws of Subpart A may be amended by the Board of Trustees as follows:

- a) Two-thirds vote of the board provided the amendment has been given in writing to the board administrator twenty-five days prior to the next board meeting.
- b) Seven-eighths vote of the board provided the amendment has been given in writing to the chair of the board at least one hour prior to the vote.

Mandating specific changes to Subpart A is outside of the defined authority of the WSBC, its delegates, and/or its committees. The board will address and discuss taking action as they deem appropriate.