

## 2021 World Service Business Conference Notes/Actions

Presented to SVIOA by WSBC Delegates  
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**4/17/21**

All About the Conference - started at 9 a.m. - discussions about how virtual conference will work. There was a Q&A about how the conference will run throughout the week - we started the morning with over 200 members from all over the world!

**4/20/21**

232 members present today! First session of business meeting. Reviewed status of all business motions and bylaw amendment motions.

Consent calendar for Business Motion G (changed Young **Persons'** Committee to Young **Peoples'** Committee; Bylaw Amendments 4 (added an 11th region - Virtual Region), 6 (gives Board of Trustees [BOT] power to have virtual WSBC in event of emergency), and 7 (selecting delegates from under-represented intergroups/service bodies) - passed.

Chair Report - BOT decided to contract with hotel to host A/V and internet of international convention as OA HQ did not have bandwidth.

Treasurer Report - OA had a net profit in FY 2020 of \$488,751. General contributions were the highest in the history of OA, \$948,957. Increased funding available to improve the "find a meeting" link, translations of literature, and equip for HQ and other projects. OA Inc utilized the federal PPP loan program for \$134,800 loan to protect the employees and maintained their employment. OA Inc was prepared to repay loan, then federal government forgave the loan. Increased funding available to improve the "find a meeting" link, translations of literature, and equip for HQ

Managing Director's Report - "Find a Meeting" database is in constant upgrade-working to include hybrid meetings.

### **Proposed Literature Motions:**

**A-a - The Tools of Recovery** - revised language adding context and clarification.  
**PASSED**

## 2021 World Service Business Conference Notes/Actions

**A-b - A New Plan of Eating - A Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Journey -** *replaces Dignity of Choice and A Plan of Eating* - comprehensive pamphlet re: all 3 parts of recovery - physical, emotional and spiritual; sample plans of eating moved to Appendix. **PASSED**

**A-c - 2nd Ed - Voices of Recovery** - review of quotes conform to references to 12&12 2nd edition language, as well as editorial and housekeeping items. **PASSED AT 67%**. (142-71)

### 4/21/21 - 238 delegates

Explanation of PPP loan from US government (@1% interest) - the money was used to maintain employment of OA WS employees during covid shutdown. The US government then forgave the loan. OA did not request forgiveness and was ready to repay the loan. During the very uncertain times, WS made the best decisions with known facts at the time.

### **Proposal I - defines Hybrid meeting and how to register with [OA.org](https://www.oa.org)**

Describes a group with members attending a single meeting where all can hear and share but may be physically present or virtually present. Meeting will be listed w/one group number and appear in both F2F and virtual meeting listings and listed as a hybrid meeting on [OA.org](https://www.oa.org). **PASSED/ADOPTED**

### **Proposal E - change wording in OA Preamble**

The current preamble provides: Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who ... are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. ...

Proposal changes preamble to: Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who ... are recovering from compulsive overeating *and other compulsive food behaviors*. We welcome everyone who wants to stop *engaging in these behaviors*. **FAILED/ ORIGINAL PREAMBLE REMAINS IN PLACE**

### **Proposal H - Amending language of Unity with Diversity Policy**

Adding more inclusive language - "Everyone with the desire to stop eating compulsively is welcome in Overeaters Anonymous." And clean up language. **PASSED**

## 2021 World Service Business Conference Notes/Actions

### **Proposal D - Defining weekend - (clarification) for annual events**

Some countries include Fridays(Middle East/Asia) in their definition of a weekend. A full weekend is now defined as a Friday, Saturday and Sunday to determine when OA Birthday, Sponsorship Day, and International Day occur.

**PASSED**

**4/22/21 - 248 eligible voters and 239 present**

### **Proposal F - Addition of a “Diverse Voices Policy”**

When developing new or updating literature, OA shall make a concerted effort to include stories/quotes from members of diverse populations that are under represented in OA. It is current practice but there is no written policy.

**PASSED 138-78**

### **Proposal A/C - Amend Definition of Abstinence & Recovery**

Proposal A & C were combined and recommended by Reference Committee

“Abstinence is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy weight.

Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is the result of working and living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.”

Removes the definition of “Recovery: Removal of the need to engage in compulsive eating behaviors.” and it incorporates the language of the definition in the second paragraph. Also changes heading from “Definition of Abstinence and Recovery” to “Statement on Abstinence and Recovery.” **PASSED - 162-58**

### **Proposal B - statements on abstinence/recovery can be considered for change on in years ending in 0.**

To provide stability, certainty, and substantial unanimity in the understanding around the definitions/statements of abstinence and recovery.

*Concerns about Concepts 4 and 5 - to participate fully and right of appeal - the fellowship and HP directs the path of discussion from members...not a Policy.*

**FAILED - 68-153**

### **Bylaw Proposal 16 - combines all 5 service bodies (intergroups, national language boards, ADDING special focus service boards, and regions) in one article from three articles in by-laws.**

Create one By-Law Article to list all service bodies - this bylaw proposal adds special focus service boards (men’s, LBGTQ, Young People, etc....)

**PASSED 175-35**

## **2021 World Service Business Conference Notes/Actions**

**Bylaw Proposal 11 - moot with passage of Bylaw Proposal 16**

**Bylaw Proposal 17 - withdrawn**

**Bylaw Proposal 15 - provides for number of WS delegates for language service boards and newly added special focus service boards**

To provide for fair representation at WSBC and prevent multiple representation from same service bodies.

**PASSED 198-8**

**Bylaw Proposal 12 - to define hybrid groups that include both face to face and virtual attendance meeting components and register as a single group.**

To help grow OA around the world and find hybrid meetings in 'Find a Meeting' database. Now will have land-based (face to face), virtual, and hybrid meetings. Hybrid meetings affiliate with only one intergroup or national service board, just like land or virtual meetings.

**PASSED 192-18**

**April 23, 2021 - 248 eligible voters and 236 delegates present**

**Election of Trustees:**

**Neva S. - Region 3 Trustee**

**Elizabeth Ann B. - Region 6 Trustee**

**Dora P. - Virtual Trustee**

**Judy H. - General Service Trustee**

**CJ M. - General Service Trustee**

**Bylaw Proposal 1 - when voting from Conference Floor at WSBC, the board shall vote last.**

The maker of the motion withdrew the motion from consideration, this rule will be added to conference standing rules for next year's conference.

**WITHDRAWN 154-6**

## 2021 World Service Business Conference Notes/Actions

### **Bylaw Proposal 2 - change term limits on Trustee service from 8 consecutive years to 8 years total service.**

This proposal is to encourage new voices and new points of view through rotation of Trustee service. Generated much discussion regarding rotation and members stepping up to service.....there are sometimes vacancies(currently a 2 year trustee position open)

**FAILED 101-120**

### **Bylaw Proposal 3 - change residency requirements for Region Trustees from physically reside in region no less than 6 months prior to vote to: be a permanent resident of region.**

This takes into consideration “snowbirds” and “rain birds” to represent regions where this is a common practice and expands the pool of members able to step up to this service. Given the growth of virtual region meetings in our fellowship to permit attendance and conduct business meetings, a regional trustee can be in touch with regional issues and represent the region adequately. Motion withdrawn due to problems with translation into foreign languages and how it affects countries outside of the US.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN**

FINISHED AGENDA ITEMS AT 10:10 A.M.

### **4/24/21 - 241 Eligible Voters and 224 Present**

There are 5 emergency business motions being considered by the reference committee this afternoon for tomorrow’s session. (Only 1 matter was deemed an emergency motion at reference committee.)

### **Emergency Business Motion: Plan and provide for real-time language translation, including ASL interpretation, potentially via assistive technology, as needed for business and committee meetings during the 2022 Conference.**

The Board of Trustees took action prior to start of WSBC to start an Ad Hoc Committee on this topic to research the costs and feasibility of providing translation services to foreign language members of OA at the next WSBC

**FAILED 87-132**

**Summary: 248 eligible voters(delegates) at conference and 20 countries represented: Australia, Columbia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Greece,**

**2021 World Service Business Conference Notes/Actions**

**Iceland, Iran, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom (England/Scotland), United States**

**CONFERENCE CONCLUDED AT 11:00 A.M. PST**