

Proposal Item: A

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988b by 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.

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 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.

History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

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

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: B

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020 New Business Motion

Motion

Move that WSBC 2020 adopt the following policy statement:

The term hybrid will be 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). This type of meeting is assigned one group number but appears in both a face-to-face and a virtual listing on oa.org.

Submitted By

Board of Trustees

Dora P.

Contact 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.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual and OA Business Glossary.

Cost

Staff time.

Primary Purpose

This meeting platform is another way of reaching out and carrying the message.

Rationale

To clarify the way this meeting platform fits into the OA service structure and how it is managed in the Find a Meeting database.

History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Create a policy statement on hybrid meetings and how those may be registered with the WSO. (Adopted)

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: C

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to define the month of July as the month of OA Service.

Submitted By

Israel National Service Board, Region Nine

Esti O.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To raise awareness to the importance of the service Tool. Just like OA has other important dates to raise awareness to abstinence, unity, and sponsorship, it is critical to encourage the Fellowship to do service. This can be accomplished by discussing service at meetings, conducting special workshops and events, and emphasizing the Tool of service in any possible way.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. Every service body would recognize the subject "OA Service" during the month of July as they choose. The WSO will develop and implement a campaign to raise awareness to OA service.

Cost

None.

Primary Purpose

Service is critical in our journey to recovery and an essential tool for keeping meetings stable and growing. Service helps in the recovery of those who give it and those who receive it. By raising more awareness to this tool and encouraging more members to do service, we can help many members in their recovery.

Rationale

Although we have to use the Tool of service everyday to reach and maintain our recovery, its importance cannot be stressed enough. Since the month of July does not have any special OA events, it is suggested to dedicate it to celebrate service.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

It is unclear on the type of campaign and costs that would be involved for the WSO.

Proposal Item: D

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to rescind the amendment to WSBC Policy 1988b adopted 2019.

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

Allison W.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

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 binging, 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.

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: E

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020
New Business Motion

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

Margie G., Delegate Cochair

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Neva S., Trustee Cochair

Contact 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.

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: F

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) 2020 New Business Motion

Motion

Move to add a tenth Tool: Pause.

Submitted By

Ocean and Bay Intergroup, Region Six

Sandy M.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To practice Step Eleven, “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Pausing helps to connect with a Higher Power, facilitates “paying attention to purpose,” and practicing discernment with food choices as well as many other moments of decision. Pausing promotes consciousness, awareness, mindfulness, and “staying in the present moment,” especially at mealtimes.

We learn to pause in order to connect to our Higher Power and to abstain from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors. As stated in the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, pg. 87, “As we go through the day we pause, when agitated or doubtful, and ask for the right thought or action.”

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The Conference-Approved Literature Committee would develop a section on the tenth Tool (pause) for the *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet. The tenth Tool would be included in relevant OA print literature as old supplies become depleted and new supplies are ordered.

The pause Tool would also be immediately added to online resources such as the *Suggested Meeting Format*. Articles would be written for *A Step Ahead* and *Lifeline*.

Cost

Minimal, except for the cost of adding the pause Tool to the *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet.

Primary Purpose

Carrying the message is our primary purpose. If we are to achieve lasting recovery, we must rely on a power greater than ourselves. Pausing could help OA members stop before eating compulsively, bring a Higher Power into mealtime or food shopping situations, release judgmental thoughts or preconceived ideas, and arrest the disease one day at a time.

Rationale

In addition to working the Twelve Steps, all the Tools aid in abstaining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors. Pausing may help OA members become more cognitive of their thought patterns and behaviors, take the time to call another OA member, or put the fork down between bites, or wait for direction from our Higher Power.

The idea behind this motion is to further guide us to work Step Eleven, improve our conscious contact with a Higher Power, and create compassion for ourselves. Therefore, this potential new Tool supports the Principle of Spiritual Awareness.

Pausing can be used for prayer, meditation, reflection, intentional awareness, mindfulness practices, deep breathing, and/or self-care. In recovery circles, the acronym “PAUSE” can stand for “Pray and Use Spiritual Energy” or “Pray and Use Step Eleven.”

History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add a tenth Tool: pausing. (Failed to make agenda)

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add meditation as a Tool. (Failed to make agenda)

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add physical activity as a Tool. (Failed to make agenda)

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add prayer as a Tool. (Failed to make agenda)

2017 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Create a Tool on mindfulness. (Failed)

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

It would be US\$140 for a flyer to go out with each Tools pamphlet for two years until a new one is printed (assumes 1/3 page note). There is a US\$500 for redesign of a new pamphlet. If a flyer is included each copy of *Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition* sold, another US\$400 should be added to the total. This is one hour of staff time weekly to prepare and distribute the flyer.

Below is a list of where the Tools are printed.

Website

Abridged Tools of Recovery
From Slip or Relapse to Recovery
The Simplicity Project
Suggested Young Person’s Meeting Format
Suggested Meeting Format
Suggested Reading and Writing Meeting Format
Suggested Step-Study Meeting Format
Newcomer Meeting Guidelines and Format
Suggested Telephone Meeting Format
Suggested Recovery-from-Relapse Meeting Format

Bookstore

Sponsorship Kit
Tools of Recovery pamphlet
Welcome Back, We Care! packet
Where Do I Start? pamphlet
OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies
The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition
Commitment to Abstinence
A Plan of Eating

*Welcome Back: Suggestions for Members in
Relapse and for Those Who Care
To the Family of the Compulsive Eater
Twelfth Step Within Handbook*

Recovery from Relapse Kit
New Group Starter Kit
Newcomer Meeting Leader Kit

Proposal Item: G

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020 New Business Motion

Motion

Move that the World Service Business Conference 2020 directs the Board of Trustees to establish the support mechanisms/logistics needed to allow virtual attendance by visitors to WSBC 2021.

Submitted By

Oregon OA Intergroup, Region One

Liz S.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To build experience and interest in virtual attendance.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. This may involve renting or purchasing meeting equipment to effect virtual attendance.

Cost

Estimated US\$500 to US\$800 per WSBC.

Primary Purpose

WSBC is the group conscience of OA as a whole. The closer we can come to full representation, the stronger we are as a Fellowship. This added feature will allow participation by more members, initially as silent watchers. Down the road our ESH will help us to expand the service to allow full participation by virtual delegates from all over the OA world.

Rationale

Merely allowing silent virtual guests does NOT affect the bylaws or policies as guests are allowed at WSBC now. Later, as we gradually move to full virtual interactivity for remote delegates, part of that progress will involve changes to our bylaws and policies.

History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Direct the BOT to host all BOT meetings and BOT committee meetings virtually, except for those meetings at WSBC. (Failed)

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

The approximate cost to allow guests to virtually attend is US\$12,000. This cost is specific only to the business meetings over a 3-day period and includes video/webinar software, internet access, four cameras

(pro, con, center mic, and dais), four technicians to operate the cameras, and laptop and switcher to switch between the camera and the onsite screens. This cost could be reduced if less cameras/technicians were used.

Proposal Item: H

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to add a tenth Tool: Spiritual Plan.

Submitted By

Seaway District Intergroup, Region Six

Susan P.

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To provide members with a plan to establish or improve our conscious contact with our Higher Power.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The Conference-Approved Literature Committee would develop a section on the tenth Tool (spiritual plan) for the *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet. The tenth Tool would be included in relevant OA print literature as old supplies become depleted and new supplies are ordered.

The spiritual plan Tool would also be immediately added to online resources such as the *Suggested Meeting Format*.

Cost

Minimal for adding the spiritual plan Tool to the *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet as it would be included when the pamphlet comes up for review. The cost of adding to the existing stock of the *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet would depend on the amount of stock on hand.

Primary Purpose

“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.” It is only possible to achieve recovery through the Twelve Steps when we rely on a power greater than ourselves. Only then can we carry the message to those who still suffer.

Rationale

OA is a spiritual program. In Step Two, we came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity and in Step Three, we turn our will and our lives over to the care of that power. In order to continue turning our will and our lives over to a power greater than ourselves and work the Steps, we must have a relationship with that power by maintaining daily contact.

It is said that the Tools are the handrails for the Steps. They are not a substitute for the Steps, but aids in working the Steps. The ways to maintain a relationship with our Higher Power/God are as varied as the individual members' concepts of their Higher Power. Having this Tool would help members focus on this most important aspect of our program by providing suggestions from members' experience, strength, and hope in the section of the Tools pamphlet. This motion supports the Principle of Spiritual Awareness.

History

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add a tenth Tool: pausing. (Failed to make agenda)

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add meditation as a Tool. (Failed to make agenda)

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add physical activity as a Tool. (Failed to make agenda)

2018 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Add prayer as a Tool. (Failed to make agenda)

2017 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Create a Tool on mindfulness. (Failed)

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

It would be US\$140 for a flyer to go out with each Tools pamphlet for two years until a new one is printed (assumes 1/3 page note). There is a US\$500 for redesign of a new pamphlet. If a flyer is included each copy of *Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition* sold, another US\$400 should be added to the total. This is one hour of staff time weekly to prepare and distribute the flyer.

Below is a list of where the Tools are printed.

Website

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Suggested Young Person's Meeting Format
Suggested Meeting Format
Suggested Reading and Writing Meeting Format
Suggested Step-Study Meeting Format
Newcomer Meeting Guidelines and Format
Suggested Telephone Meeting Format
Suggested Recovery-from-Relapse Meeting Format

Bookstore

Sponsorship Kit
Tools of Recovery pamphlet
Welcome Back, We Care! packet
Where Do I Start? pamphlet
OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies
The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition
Commitment to Abstinence
A Plan of Eating
Welcome Back: Suggestions for Members in Relapse and for Those Who Care
To the Family of the Compulsive Eater
Twelfth Step Within Handbook
Recovery from Relapse Kit
New Group Starter Kit
Newcomer Meeting Leader Kit

Proposal Item: I

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020 New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1992a by striking 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 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~~

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

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

Submitted By

Ron P., General Service Trustee

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To put the focus back on Tradition Five in particular and the rest of the spiritual principles of the program. Traditions are not subject to anyone's interpretation; they just are.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual and the *Suggested Meeting Format*.

Cost

Staff time to update material.

Primary Purpose

Simplifying this policy makes carrying the message more effective.

Rationale

Putting the emphasis on the Traditions will help simplify this policy.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: J

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020 New Business Motion

Motion

Move that the WSBC 2020 adopt the following policy statement.

When developing new and updating existing literature published by Overeaters Anonymous World Service, the literature committee will make every effort to include stories and/or quotes from members from diverse populations, especially those from groups (e.g., LGBTQ2, non-native speakers, people of color, anorexics, atheists, men, etc.) that are underrepresented in OA.

Submitted By

Ron P., General Service Trustee

Contact WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To make our program and Fellowship more attractive to more diverse groups of compulsive eaters through our literature, and thus help OA grow.

Implementation

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

Cost

Staff time as needed to update publications.

Primary Purpose

To make the message we carry more inclusive.

Rationale

Publications currently available can be updated to help some groups feel more included.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

The motion refers to "the literature committee." There are three literature committees: Literature Review (LRC), Conference Approved (CLC), and Board Approved (BAL).

The Board Reference Manual (BRM) defines each committee's responsibilities. The review of all literature will consist of checking for consistency with current OA policy, practice, statistics, and other relevant updates.

In practice, when the LRC reviews CLC literature, it often considers if the literature is inclusive, particularly if it includes different manifestations of the disease.

The LRC does not develop literature, however, it would not be the committee responsible for "making the effort to include stories and/or quotes from diverse populations..."

The CLC has issued three calls for stories in the past five years.

- Body Image, Relationships, Sexuality: the second call specifically asked for submissions from men, young persons, and LGBTQ.
- Maintaining a Healthy Body Weight: the call specifically asked for submissions from members who had gained weight to reach and maintain a healthy weight" and stories from members with anorexia and bulimia.
- To the Teen: the call was to young people ages 18 to 30.

In general, the BAL has responsibility for literature where member diversity is of less concern.

Regarding submissions and editing, please note, the CLC and Publications Department work with the submissions received. If a writer doesn't identify themselves as a member of a "diverse population" within the body of their story, there is no way of knowing more about the writer's identity than what the writer shares. The one criterion used in choosing and editing member stories is that the story must demonstrate recovery.

Proposal Item: K

Total Percentage:

Total Voting:

Status:

- Adopted
- Failed
- Amended
- Withdrawn
- Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2020
New Business Motion

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:~~

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength, and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating, under-eating, food addiction, anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, or overexercising. 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 WSO for maker's contact information.

Intent

To include the whole spectrum of the disease (bulimia, anorexia, overexercising, and overeating).

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual and the *Suggested Meeting Format*.

Cost

Staff time to update material.

Primary Purpose

To bring attention to the whole spectrum of this disease and more effectively carry the message.

Rationale

Even though we need to simplify and avoid mentioning more subgroups in OA, in this specific case we think the wordings “overeaters anonymous” and “compulsive overeaters” do not reflect the whole spectrum of this disease and under-eaters, bulimics, or overexercisers may go away or not even attend an OA meeting, thinking it will not apply to them.

History

2015 – WSBC Policy 1984a (paraphrased)
Include “restricting” or “purguing.” (Adopted)

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

The Preamble was revised in 2015. The WSO updated most/all of the online material that year and started with the suggested meeting formats. The discontinued literature was not updated, and there is now direction not to update discontinued literature with new policies (as stated on oa.org).

OA print literature is updated as it is reprinted, and this is an ongoing effort. Four years later, most print literature has been updated, but literature that sells slowly, such as *To the Man*, has not been updated and reprinted.

The Preamble is included in *Pocket Reference for OA Members* (#435). Adding words to this pocket card may require a smaller type size.

Below is a list of where the Preamble is printed.

Website

OA Translations Workshop
What Is OA About?
OA Preamble
Program Basics
Frequently Asked Questions
Suggested Meeting Format
Suggested Reading and Writing Meeting Format
Suggested Step-Study Meeting Format
Newcomer Meeting Guidelines and Format
Suggested Telephone Meeting Format
Suggested Recovery-from-Relapse Meeting Format
Growing OA Unity Worldwide
Issues of *Courier*
What If I Don't Believe in "God?"

Bookstore

Pocket Reference for OA Members
OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies
Every issue of *Lifeline*
A Program of Recovery
To the Man
Twelfth Step Within Handbook
The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition
The Twelve Step Workbook of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition
Abstinence, Second Edition
New Group Starter Kit
Newcomer Meeting Leader Kit
Fifteen Questions
Body Image, Relationships, Sexuality