

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 Withdrawn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) 2024
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1988b by striking as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1988b (Amended 2002, 2009, 2011, 2019, and 2021)	WSBC Policy 1988b (Amended 2002, 2009, 2011, 2019, and 2021)
The following policy statement was adopted:	The following policy statement was adopted:
The World Service Business Conference 2021 accepts the following definitions: Abstinence is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors while working towards or maintaining a healthy body weight.	The World Service Business Conference 2021 accepts the following definitions: Abstinence 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 the result of living and working the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.	Spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery is the result of living and working the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve Step program on a daily basis.

Submitted By

Contact WSO for submitter's contact information.

Intent

To change the definition of abstinence in OA by striking the word “weight” and focusing the attention of recovery on returning to a **healthy body**.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. Striking the word “weight” from the definition of abstinence in meeting formats, which are predominantly online and downloadable, would be immediate. Changes to OA literature and pamphlets would occur as they are reprinted on a regular basis.

Cost

Unknown. This will require staff time to make this change.

How Does This Motion Support OA’s Primary Purpose?

Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the compulsive eater who still suffers. When OA added the “Introduction to the Twelve Steps” to the *Second Edition of The Twelve Steps and*

Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous (2018), OA made it clear that we are welcoming people with all types of eating disorders, regardless of weight. If compulsive eating is a problem for you—if your life revolves around binges, hiding food, eating secretly, purging, starving, gorging, and the other behaviors we have experienced—we welcome you. We are trying to achieve not only physical healing, but also emotional and spiritual healing, as well. We are trying to help the entire person recover.

Rationale

The current definition of abstinence in OA emphasizes a focus on **weight**, which does not foster recovery from an eating disorder. For example, those with bulimia may already be at a healthy body weight but suffering, nonetheless, from the devastating effects of the disease.

Research studies have shown that a focus on weight for any type of eating disorder can be shown to have a **negative** effect on recovery. A focus on the number on the scale is not effective for most people for two reasons: 1) high rates of weight regain and cycling from weight loss interventions (yo-yo dieting) are linked to adverse health and well-being; and 2) the predominant focus on weight may also foster stigma in health care and society. Data show that weight stigma is also linked to adverse health and well-being. As an alternative to the weight-focused paradigm, a weight-inclusive approach rests on the assumption that everybody is capable of achieving health and well-being independent of weight.

Recovery is not one-size-fits-all; nor can health be measured by a single pre-determined number on a scale.

Body image is another important aspect to the disease of compulsive eating, and we must also recover from distorted thinking about our bodies. In recovery, we achieve not only a healthy body but also a healthy mind. By the time many people get to Overeaters Anonymous, weight and body size have been an unhealthy and counterproductive focus. Persons who are underweight due to a health condition like an eating disorder, cancer, or Crohn's disease may have a negative body image due to the effects of their condition. If they are under-weight without another health condition, they may also have a negative body image if others comment negatively on their weight or express other negative attitudes. Those who are obese are more likely to have a negative body image, but not all who are described as obese or overweight are dissatisfied with their bodies. Persons with a healthy weight can also have a negative body image, although obesity can make a person's negative body image more severe.

Moreover, weight is not the only part of a person's body that determines body image. Self-esteem, past history, daily habits such as grooming, and the particular shape of your body all contribute to body image. Weight is an important part of body image, but it is not the only part.

The changed definition carries the message of recovery to all eating disordered members and removes the unhealthy focus on weight which is actually counterproductive to the process of recovery from our addiction.

Specific references are available upon request.

History

2021 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

Remove the recovery definition from the abstinence definition. (Adopted)

2019 – WSBC Policy (paraphrased)

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

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

Process to update literature.

- 1) Post announcement and PDF on oa.org.
- 2) Update and repost Our Invitation to You (paragraph six).
- 3) Update/repost eight suggested meeting formats, including Our Invitation to You.
- 4) Update *Where Do I Start?* and repost on oa.org. The printed pamphlet will not be updated before it is reordered (approximately September 2024). The International Publications/Translation Committee may want to consider if it would like to take on the project of updating the twenty translations of this pamphlet (funding/contacting the group that translated).
- 5) Update/repost other oa.org documents that include the policy and/or Our Invitation to You.
 - a) Document Library category “Abstinence”: <https://oa.org/document-library/>.
 - b) The Abstinence Literature Resource Guide is another list of resources: <https://oa.org/app/uploads/2021/08/abstinence-literature-resource-guide.pdf>.
- 6) As OA literature that includes the policy and/or Our Invitation to You is reordered to restock the OA bookstore, update the wording for reprint.
- 7) As print literature is updated, literature distributed by third-party vendors in other formats is updated. The cost to update e-books is approximately US\$10 to \$150.
- 8) Pocket Reference for OA Members features Our Invitation to You. The Executive Committee may want to consider if the current cards should be replaced. OA has stock through November 2029 (11/23 inventory report). Shrinkage for Pocket Reference for OA Members is not budgeted in 2024.

Proposal Item: B
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) 2024
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1982e by striking and inserting as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1982e It was adopted that: Through announcements in <i>Lifeline</i> and <i>A Step Ahead</i> the Fellowship be invited to attend and observe the Board of Trustees' meetings held prior to the annual Business Conference and Convention. The board is to make available sufficient facilities to accommodate all who choose to attend.	WSBC Policy 1982e It was adopted that: Through announcements in <i>Lifeline</i> and <i>A Step Ahead</i> The Fellowship be invited to attend and observe the <u>open</u> Board of Trustees' meetings held at prior to the annual <u>World Service Business Conference and World Service Convention</u> . The board is to make available sufficient facilities to accommodate all who choose to attend.

Submitted By

Contact WSO for submitter's contact information.

Intent

To update how the policy will be disseminated.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

Staff time.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

To ensure the Fellowship has visibility into the transactions of the Board of Trustees.

Rationale

Lifeline and *A Step Ahead* are no longer published so the reference is no longer accurate. This change allows the staff to determine the best way to disseminate the information.

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) 2024
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2012d by striking and adding as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 2012d (Amended 2014) It was adopted that: The terms of World Service Business Conference delegates from service bodies shall be limited. After completing four consecutive years, service shall not exceed an additional two years. A one-year rotation out of service shall then be observed. Request for a waiver of this limitation shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees.	WSBC Policy 2012d (Amended 2014) It was adopted that: The terms of World Service Business Conference delegates from service bodies shall be limited. After completing four consecutive years, service shall not exceed an additional two years. A one-year rotation out of service shall then be observed. Request for a waiver of this limitation shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees. <u>World Service Business Conference delegate service is limited to no more than six continuous years before requiring a minimum of one-year rotation out of service. Request for waiver of this limitation shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees.</u> <u>Should the individual be elected as either a region chair or trustee, the one-year rotation out of service would not apply.</u>

Submitted By

Contact WSO for submitter's contact information.

Intent

To clarify term limits of delegates.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

Staff time.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

To ensure that delegate representation is consistent with Tradition Nine.

Rationale

This is to clarify that term limits apply to the individual regardless of which service body(ies) they are representing.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: D
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
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World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2024
New Business Motion

Motion

Move that when planning the World Service Business Conference or other meetings scheduled in accordance with OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2, the Board of Trustees shall not arrange such meetings during major religious holidays (including three days either side), such as but not limited to Good Friday through Easter Sunday (Western tradition), Good Friday through Easter Sunday (Eastern tradition), Passover, Hanuman Jayanti, Vesak, and Ramadan.

Submitted By

Contact WSO for submitter's contact information.

Intent

To support inclusivity and equality in service, allowing OA members to participate in World Service Business Conference, especially those living far from New Mexico, in countries with different cultures and religious practices.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

No cost.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

To attract more delegates to the World Service Business Conference by giving equal opportunities of service to all OA members around the world in order to carry more efficiently the OA message of recovery worldwide.

Rationale

In recent years, the beginning of the World Service Business Conference has often coincided with Easter Monday for the countries that are following the Christian Orthodox religion. This means that delegates from these countries would have to start the long journey to Albuquerque either on Easter day or Easter Monday. For some of us these holidays are sacred because they are connected to our faith, while for others they are significant simply because they are a unique opportunity to be with family and friends. The same may occur for other countries with other religions.

To give equal opportunities for all delegates it is important to take this into consideration. None of us would want to be in the position of having to choose between our faith or our social life and service. It is important to show people who are willing to do service that we take these important and fundamental issues into account, that we care.

This is most important because it affects the Principle of equality and also our Unity with Diversity policy. It will also cultivate the awareness that a large number of members from around the world do not have the same possibilities and opportunities as the American and Canadian members and that this diversity exists and must be recognized. The program teaches us to value people’s cultures and religious practices, so we would make sure to amend such discriminations when we recognize them.

Below is a table listing the dates for Good Friday through Easter Sunday in the Western and Eastern Orthodox traditions, along with Passover, Hanuman Jayanti, Vesak, and Ramadan for the next four years (2024-2027).

Year	Good Friday (Western)	Easter Sunday (Western)	Good Friday (Eastern)	Easter Sunday (Eastern)	Passover	Hanuman Jayanti	Vesak	Ramadan
2023	April 7	April 9	April 14	April 16	April 5-13	April 6	May 5	March 23 – April 21
2024	March 29	March 31	May 3	May 5	April 22-30	April 23	May 23	April 10 – May 10
2025	April 18	April 20	April 18	April 20	April 12-20	April 12	May 12	March 1-31
2026	April 3	April 5	April 10	April 12	April 1-9	April 1	May 31 – June 1	February 17 – March 18
2027	March 26	March 28	April 30	May 2	April 21-29	April 20	May 20	February 7 – March 8

Please note that the dates for Passover may vary slightly each year, as it is based on the Hebrew calendar. Additionally, the dates for Ramadan are based on the Islamic lunar calendar and may also vary each year. Additionally, the dates for Western Easter and Eastern Easter are based on different calendars and may vary each year. Always check specific calendars for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: E
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted
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World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2024
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to revise the meeting registration process on oa.org in the Find a Meeting section by adding a feature that will enable meetings to indicate if they meet once a week or several times a week, and if they meet several times a week, whether all occurrences should be registered under one meeting number or multiple meeting numbers.

Submitted By

Contact WSO for submitter's contact information.

Intent

To align the way the World Service Office recognizes and counts meetings with the way some groups operate in practice.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. Changes to the meeting registration process which includes changing the meeting registration forms and adjusting the listing reports generated by the World Service Office to reflect the new information.

Cost

Cost will be provided by the World Service Office.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

More accurate information leads to accurate reflection of the meetings and contributes to OA unity and respect of group autonomy.

Rationale

According to OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, a group meets to practice the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service. The concept "meeting" is not defined and is presumed to be the same as "group."

Our bylaws make no reference to how often a group meets. Traditionally it was assumed that groups met once a week. Every meeting is registered separately. However, there are cases in which single groups hold several meetings a week and consider these meetings to be one group. In recent years, the virtual meeting platform has made it easy for a single group to meet often, sometimes daily. It has truly revolutionized the way meetings function.

How are these groups different to the traditional group type? These groups consider themselves as one group holding multiple meetings. They are characterized by having the same service officers for each

meeting, including a single group representative, holding a single/combined group conscience, and sending a single/combined contribution to the different OA service boards.

In countries where the local service board's bylaws call for a quorum of a minimum number of meetings to be represented, the accurate counting of these groups is particularly important.

Tradition Four (autonomy) supports the need for the structure to be flexible and register groups as they function in practice. The current registration process does not support the accurate recording of these meetings, as it creates a different group number for every single meeting with no recognition of the possible connection between meetings. It is important that all the meetings are registered on the website to provide complete meeting information in the Find a Meeting tool. At the same time, it is important to recognize that if a set of meetings consider themselves as one group, it will be recognized in the OA structure.

History

No history in the past five years.

WSBC Motions Review Committee Comments

Cost to establish a system where multiple meetings are hosted under one meeting number is estimated at US\$51,000.