

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 Withdrawn 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) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 1980d by striking and inserting as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1980d It was adopted that: A Conference committee member can petition the Board of Trustees to consider by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees to remove a non-functioning chair of a specific Conference committee. The vice chair will then assume the chairmanship.	WSBC Policy 1980d It was adopted that: A Conference committee member can petition the Board of Trustees to consider by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees to remove a non-functioning chair of a specific Conference committee. The vice chair will then assume the <u>position of chairmanship</u> .

Submitted By

OA Sunlight Intergroup, Virtual Region
Charlotte G.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To remove the gendered language.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

Staff time.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

This motion supports OA's primary purpose by updating the language in OA literature and materials to be more inclusive and accessible to all individuals. By removing gendered language, OA ensures that every member feels welcomed, respected, and represented, regardless of their gender identity. This fosters an environment of unity and inclusiveness, strengthening OA's ability to carry its message of recovery to all who suffer from compulsive eating behaviors.

Rationale

Overeaters Anonymous serves a diverse fellowship, and the use of gender-neutral language aligns with OA's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. Removing gendered titles such as "chairman" ensures that OA literature and communications reflect the experiences of all members, fostering a more welcoming and supportive atmosphere. This change affirms the core OA principle that all who suffer from compulsive eating are welcome, regardless of gender identity. It also places OA in step with contemporary best practices in respectful and inclusive language, ensuring that every member feels equally valued and seen within the recovery community.

The term "chair" is already widely used and recognized as a gender-neutral alternative to "chairman." It applies equally to anyone serving in a leadership role and avoids assumptions about gender. Many organizations—both within the recovery community and in the wider nonprofit, governmental, and corporate sectors—have adopted gender neutral terminology to reflect evolving understandings of gender and equality. This shift does not affect the duties or authority of the role but simply updates the title to reflect respect and inclusion.

Adopting this change also aligns OA with current parliamentary procedure. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, the parliamentary authority followed by OA, uses "The Chair..." as a standard term for the presiding officer. The National Association of Parliamentarians also supports the use of "chair" over "chairman." This terminology is already common in procedural phrases such as "The Chair recognizes..." or "The Chair rules..." Updating OA's usage ensures consistency and clarity across all communications and meetings.

Finally, this is a small and simple change to implement, one that requires minimal effort but offers a lasting, positive impact. Replacing "chairman" with "chair" in this policy demonstrates OA's commitment to practicing the principles of the program in all its affairs, including service language. It reflects a compassionate and inclusive spirit and honors the dignity of everyone who seeks recovery through our Fellowship.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

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) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010a by inserting as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 2010a	WSBC Policy 2010a
The following policy statement was adopted:	The following policy statement was adopted:
Statement on Approved Literature In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest that OA groups maintain unity and honor our Traditions by using, selling, and displaying only approved books and pamphlets at their meetings. This includes OA Conference- and board-approved literature; AA Conference-approved books, booklets, and all future editions thereof, with original edition copyright 2010 or earlier; and locally produced OA literature. Although groups may choose to focus on only one piece of OA-approved literature, individuals and groups are encouraged to use any and all OA-approved literature. Locally produced literature must be developed according to the <i>OA Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature</i> , and should be used with the greatest discretion. Local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.	Statement on Approved Literature In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest that OA groups maintain unity and honor our Traditions by using, selling, and displaying only approved books and pamphlets at their meetings. This includes OA Conference- and board-approved literature; AA Conference-approved books, booklets, and all future editions thereof, with original edition copyright 2010 or earlier, <u>and the Plain Language Big Book</u> ; and locally produced OA literature. Although groups may choose to focus on only one piece of OA-approved literature, individuals and groups are encouraged to use any and all OA-approved literature. Locally produced literature must be developed according to the <i>OA Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature</i> , and should be used with the greatest discretion. Local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.

Submitted By

Orange County Intergroup, Region Two
Kalea M.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To allow OA meetings, if they choose, to use the Plain Language Big Book as OA-approved literature.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. Update the OA-Approved Literature List, including the Statement on Approved Literature, by adding the Plain Language Big Book to the AA Conference-approved literature section. Update the OA Literature List by Copyright Date(s)/Revision Date to include the Plain Language Big Book.

Cost

Staff time.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

The original AA Big Book has been a substantial part of OA's history and foundation. The Plain Language Big Book has been created to further extend that history and foundation by acting as a more current version of the original AA Big Book to help in reaching a wider audience in understanding the original intent.

Rationale

The meeting that I am the intergroup representative for is a literature meeting. We voted on which OA-approved book to read next within our meeting and the Plain Language Big Book was voted on to read next. We were originally under the impression that the Plain Language Big Book was OA approved, however, later we discovered that it was not approved.

History

2023 – World Service Business Conference Policy (paraphrased)

Encouraged individuals and groups to use any and all OA-approved literature. (Adopted 103 yes, 54 no)

Conference 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) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to combine World Service Business Conference Policies 1979c and 1986b by striking and inserting as follow:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1979c It was adopted that: The treasurer's report be prepared and sent out to delegate prior to the Business Conference to allow each person time to study, assimilate, and prepare any questions they might have for the Board of Trustees.	WSBC Policy 1979c It was adopted that: The treasurer's report be prepared and sent out to delegate prior to the Business Conference to allow each person time to study, assimilate, and prepare any questions they might have for the Board of Trustees. <u>The annual World Service Business Conference Delegate Binder will include a copy of the current fiscal year budget overview and treasurer's report, allowing sufficient time to review, assimilate, and prepare any questions for the Conference.</u>
WSBC Policy 1986b It was adopted that: The annual World Service Business Conference Delegate Binders include a copy of the current fiscal year budget as adopted by the Board of Trustees.	WSBC Policy 1986b It was adopted that: The annual World Service Business Conference Delegate Binders include a copy of the current fiscal year budget as adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Submitted By

Region Nine

Loudovika P.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To combine Conference Policies 1979c and 1986b into a single, clearly worded policy so that all financial reporting materials (the budget and the treasurer's report) appear together for simplicity, consistency, and ease of use.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

Staff time; minor additional administrative hours to review and update.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

By making our financial information easier for members to understand and use and by combining the budget and treasurer's report into one clear document, members can make informed decisions more quickly and confidently, allowing the delegation to focus more time on carrying the message rather than navigating unnecessary administrative complexity.

Rationale

At present, members must review two separate financial documents that often repeat or overlap. Merging the budget and treasurer's report into one unified financial report reduces confusion, saves time, and presents a clearer picture of our financial position. This simple change improves transparency, consistency, and efficiency for everyone involved.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: D
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

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

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend World Service Business Conference Policy 2011b by striking and inserting as follow:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 2011b	WSBC Policy 2011b
It was adopted to: Include the Tools of recovery of OA in the Conference Policy Manual.	It was adopted to: Include the Tools of recovery of OA in the <u>Business</u> Conference Policy Manual.
The following are the Tools of recovery of OA: A Plan of Eating, Sponsorship, Meetings, Telephone, Writing, Literature, Anonymity, Service, and Action Plan.	The following are the Tools of recovery of OA: A Plan of Eating, Sponsorship, Meetings, Telephone <u>Outreach</u> , Writing, Literature, Anonymity, Service, and Action Plan.

Submitted By

Conference-Approved Literature Committee

Cindy C.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To update the name of the Telephone Tool to align with the various methods of one-to-one communication between members outside of meeting times.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The name of the Telephone Tool would need to be changed to "Outreach" wherever it appears online and in print. Print materials can be changed as they are reprinted.

Cost

Staff time. As print material is updated, corresponding digital material (e-books, etc.) will be updated. The cost to update e-books ranges from approximately US\$30 to US\$150 per publication.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

More than 80 percent of recovering members who responded to the 2024 *Recovery: What Works for You?* survey reported using one or more of the Tools of recovery.

Rationale

This motion is being submitted upon the recommendation of the board Literature Review Committee. They suggested that the Conference-Approved Literature Committee (CLC) review and update *The Tools of Recovery* pamphlet with particular attention to and possible rewrite of the Telephone Tool.

After much discussion, the CLC Tool Pamphlet Revision Subcommittee felt the Tool name “Telephone” implies only one form of communication, yet the true value of this Tool in our recovery can be realized in many forms. In addition to telephone calls, one-to-one connections are made through the mail, text messages, email, and social media applications—all are common practices today. The Tools of recovery should reflect actual practice by the Fellowship. “Outreach” encompasses the methods members use to make one-to-one personal connections for fellowship and support outside of meeting times, and “Outreach” is a less limiting and more comprehensive word.

The Conference-Approved Literature Committee gave serious consideration to many possible names, keeping translation of the new Tool name into other languages in mind.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: E
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:
☐ Adopted
☐ Failed
☐ Amended
☐ Withdrawn
☐ Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend World Service Business Conference Policy 1984a by striking as follow:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
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.	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 over eating. 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.

Submitted By

Anorexic/Bulimic Specific Focus Service Board, Virtual Region

Ethyl M.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To welcome all people with compulsive eating disorders.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. Change the Preamble in all online material immediately; change the Preamble in all printed OA materials once the current stock is used up.

Cost

Unknown.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

Our Preamble says, "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." The opening line should be just as welcoming to compulsive eaters of all types.

The opening line in our Preamble should be consistent with the rest of the Preamble, which includes, "We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. Our primary purpose is to abstain from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors."

This would also make the Preamble consistent with the Third Tradition, "The only requirement for OA membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively."

Rationale

OA serves a much broader membership than just those who suffer from compulsive overeating. Anorexics and bulimics are a significant part of the Fellowship of OA.

Our Third Tradition states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. This change would make our Preamble internally consistent, and consistent with the Third Tradition.

History

2021 – World Service Business Conference Policy (paraphrased)

Add "other compulsive food behaviors" and change "eating compulsively" to "engaging in these food behaviors." (Failed 93 yes, 125 no)

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

The cost to update e-books ranges from approximately US\$30 to US\$150 per publication.

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) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend World Service Business Conference Policy 2010e by inserting as follow:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 2010e It was adopted to: Require all groups and service bodies wishing to register with the World Service Office to provide at least one email address and name when submitting their registration request. The required email address is for use within the OA organization and will not be published.	WSBC Policy 2010e It was adopted to: Require all groups and service bodies wishing to register with the World Service Office to provide at least one email address and name when submitting their registration request. The required email address is for use within the OA organization and will not be published <u>unless the contact has given permission.</u>

Submitted By

Board Website Review Committee

Cyndy L.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To allow the contact person (OA member) to choose email as a way of communicating with those who are interested in attending the meeting they represent.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. This permission will be managed through the Find a Meeting database. On the Find a Meeting registration form, the contact person will be given a choice of communication methods. The email address will only be published in the search results if permission is granted. When a contact is changed or no longer wishes to receive emails, this permission can be withdrawn.

Cost

US\$185

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

This allows those seeking information an alternative way to reach the meeting contact and find their way to recovery.

Rationale

Newcomers are often intimidated by having to make direct contact with a stranger. Email is only one of the methods of communication used on the website; telephone and text are also available. Allowing the meeting contact to grant permission to be contacted through email increases the chance they will reach out and ask for help.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: G
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

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

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend World Service Business Conference Policy 1979e by striking and inserting as follow:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1979e It was adopted to: Ensure personal anonymity be maintained, the online version of the Final World Service Business Conference Report will only include first names and last initials in minutes and reports. The contact section of the report, which includes names, phone numbers, and email addresses of delegates will be emailed to all service bodies and delegates following Conference. “For Use Within OA Only” will appear at the top of this list.	WSBC Policy 1979e It was adopted to: Ensure personal anonymity be <u>is</u> maintained, the online version of the Final World Service Business Conference Report will only include first names and last initials in minutes and reports. The contact section of the report, which includes names, phone numbers, and email addresses of delegates will be emailed to all service bodies and delegates <u>before or at the start of Conference and</u> following Conference. <u>Delegates who have opted out of distributing their contact information will not be included in the contact list.</u> “For Use Within OA Only” will appear at the top of this list.

Submitted By

World Service Business Conference Bylaws Committee

Cyndy L.

Diane D.

Contact the World Service Office for maker’s contact information.

Intent

To make it easier for delegates and trustees to collaborate during Conference.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual.

Cost

Staff time.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

This allows for easier collaboration among Conference participants in doing the work of Conference.

Rationale

Delegates can be more effective servants when they can work together.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: H
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:
☐ Adopted
☐ Failed
☐ Amended
☐ Withdrawn
☐ Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend World Service Business Conference Policy 1993a by striking and inserting as follow:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1993a It was adopted that: We, the 1993 Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, suggest that OA meetings and events be closed with one of the following: the Serenity Prayer, the Seventh-Step Prayer, the Third-Step Prayer, or the OA Promise <i>I Put My Hand in Yours</i> .	WSBC Policy 1993a It was adopted that: We, the 1993 Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, suggest that OA meetings and events be closed with one use any of the following: the Serenity Prayer, the Seventh-Step Prayer, the Third-Step Prayer, or the OA Promise <i>I Put My Hand in Yours</i> .

Submitted By

Conference-Approved Literature Committee

Melanie B.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To bring the policy into alignment with the current practice.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The wording would need to be changed wherever it appears online.

Cost

Staff time.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

Updating the Policy helps promote clarity and unity within the Fellowship. When void of these spiritual principles it does not attract newcomers to the Fellowship or to service.

Rationale

This motion was submitted after seeing the confinement of using the suggestions only at the close of meetings and events. To keep the Policy clear and concise on suggestions for meetings and events, we felt it was time to omit that confinement within the Policy since current practices are not reflective within the Policy.

Cleaning up the Policy promotes the clarity we all need when doing service in meetings and events, no matter at what level we serve.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: I
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:
☐ Adopted
☐ Failed
☐ Amended
☐ Withdrawn
☐ Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend World Service Business Conference Policy 1993a by inserting as follow:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1993a It was adopted that: We, the 1993 Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, suggest that OA meetings and events be closed with one of the following: the Serenity Prayer, the Seventh-Step Prayer, the Third-Step Prayer, or the OA Promise <i>I Put My Hand in Yours</i> .	WSBC Policy 1993a It was adopted that: We, the 1993 <u>2026</u> Business Conference of Overeaters Anonymous, suggest that OA meetings and events be closed with one of the following: the Serenity Prayer, the Seventh-Step Prayer, <u>the Serenity Statement</u> , the Third-Step Prayer, or the OA Promise <i>I Put My Hand in Yours</i> .

Submitted By

Conference-Approved Literature Committee

Claire H.

Cindy C.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To bring the Policy into alignment with the current practice by adding a secular option for meetings and events.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The wording would need to be changed wherever it appears online.

Cost

Staff time.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

OA is a spiritual program, not a religious fellowship. The proposed change will help us succeed in our primary purpose, support inclusivity, and reach more newcomers (i.e., help carry the message of recovery). The proposed change is in line with the Unity with Diversity Policy.

Rationale

OA members who are part of the secular, atheist, agnostic, freethinker, and/or nontraditional belief community struggle to translate religious language into something that makes sense to them. To have the Serenity Statement approved as an option to use in meetings and at events would help a lot. The Serenity Statement is already currently being practiced in some meetings.

The Conference-Approved Literature Committee, including the Secular Daily Reader Subcommittee, intends to include the secular statement in the upcoming secular daily reader if this motion passes. The Secular Specific Focus Service Board supports this motion as it is important to those members and meetings the service board represents.

In OA, we are invited to define a power of our own understanding, and to relate to that power in whatever way works for each individual. This motion expands that invitation to all members of our Fellowship.

As referenced in the *Second Edition of The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*, page 12, "Ours is a spiritual program, not a religious one. We have no creeds or doctrines, only our own experiences of recovery. Atheists and agnostics are welcome in OA and have found recovery."

The Serenity Statement reads: I seek the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: J
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

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

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move that the World Service Business Conference direct the Board of Trustees to create a specific focus category titled, “Ethnically Jewish.”

Submitted By

Virtual Region

Cee Z.

Contact the World Service Office for maker’s contact information.

Intent

To formally recognize and support the cultural diversity within Overeaters Anonymous by establishing “Ethnically Jewish” as a valid and distinct specific focus category.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. Add the specific focus to the Find a Meeting database on oa.org. Updates to literature will be made as part of the standard review process.

Cost

Unknown.

How Does This Motion Support OA’s Primary Purpose?

OA’s primary purpose, as stated in Tradition Five, is to “carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.” This motion directly supports that purpose by improving the visibility and accessibility of meetings that may be particularly helpful to a segment of the OA population: those who identify as ethnically Jewish.

Rationale

OA has successfully created specific focus categories for other ethnic communities, such as “Asian Pacific Islander Desi” and “Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.” There remains no category specifically acknowledging members who identify as ethnically Jewish. This identity is not about religious belief or practice; it is a shared cultural, historical, and ethnic experience. Many individuals identify as ethnically Jewish without participating in Jewish religious observance. They may be secular, cultural, interfaith, or even nonbelieving Jews who nonetheless share a background, family history, and relationship with food shaped by Jewish ethnicity. These experiences often include intergenerational trauma, communal food customs, cultural norms surrounding body image, and family expectations—all of which can deeply influence patterns of compulsive eating and recovery.

This motion is not about promoting any faith tradition within OA, nor does it ask OA to make religious accommodations. Rather, it mirrors existing specific focus categories that reflect cultural and demographic experience without reference to belief systems. This category affirms the lived reality of ethnically Jewish members who may otherwise feel invisible or misunderstood within broader meetings.

Adding “Ethnically Jewish” as a specific focus category allows for greater visibility, empowerment, and outreach. It offers newcomers a clearer path to connection and helps current members find recovery spaces where they feel culturally safe and understood. It also empowers groups to self-identify in a way that aligns with their members’ experiences, while remaining fully compliant with OA’s Traditions, including the requirement that groups have no outside affiliations.

Inclusion of this category promotes OA’s values of unity in diversity. It signals to Jewish-identifying members who may have felt excluded or isolated that they are seen, welcomed, and supported in their recovery journey. It strengthens our Fellowship by ensuring that all compulsive eaters, regardless of their cultural background, can find a space where the message of recovery resonates with their lived experience. This is a simple, low-cost, and high-impact way to extend the hand and heart of OA to those who still suffer.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: K
Total Percentage:
Total Voting:

Status:
☐ Adopted
☐ Failed
☐ Amended
☐ Withdrawn
☐ Referred to Committee

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend World Service Business Conference Policy 1984b by striking and inserting as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 1984b It was adopted that: The World Service Convention will be held at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Trustees.	WSBC Policy 1984b It was adopted that: <u>Every two years Overeaters Anonymous will hold a virtual retreat, which all members are encouraged to attend.</u> The <u>Additionally</u> , World Service Conventions will be held <u>scheduled</u> at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Submitted By

Virtual Region

Cee Z.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To establish a recurring virtual retreat every two years, building upon the proven success of virtual events within several regions of OA, including the Virtual Region. By creating a consistent, global gathering, this retreat will provide a space for members from all countries and languages to connect; share their experience, strength, and hope; and deepen their recovery beyond the region level.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The Board of Trustees will assign a committee, which will oversee the planning and execution of the retreat, forming a dedicated committee responsible for logistics, programming, and multilingual accessibility. Utilizing proven virtual event platforms, the committee will ensure seamless participation across time zones and languages, providing live translations (as far as practicable), recordings, and interactive engagement tools to maximize inclusivity.

Cost

Costs will primarily cover platform hosting, technical support, translation services, and promotional efforts. These expenses will be offset by voluntary contributions, possible registration fees, and potential fundraising initiatives, ensuring financial sustainability while keeping the retreat accessible to all members.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

This motion directly supports OA's primary purpose by creating a unique opportunity for members worldwide to engage in fellowship, strengthen their recovery, and carry the message to those who still suffer. By offering an accessible and inclusive space for connection and service, this retreat fosters unity and extends the reach of OA beyond local and region levels.

Rationale

Expanding Global Fellowship: Overeaters Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship, yet many members, especially those in remote or underrepresented areas, lack opportunities for large-scale engagement. A virtual world service retreat held every two years provides a consistent and structured space where members from diverse backgrounds can connect, share their journeys, and find support beyond their immediate communities. This event fosters a greater sense of unity and belonging within OA as a whole.

Proven Success of Virtual Events: The Virtual Region amongst others has demonstrated that virtual gatherings can be effectively executed and highly beneficial for members. Previous virtual conventions and workshops have successfully brought together hundreds of participants, proving that technology can bridge distances and create meaningful connections. This motion builds on that success, ensuring that a well-organized and engaging event becomes a regular part of OA's global offering.

Overcoming Barriers to Participation: Traditional in-person events often present financial and logistical challenges, including travel, lodging, and accessibility concerns. A virtual format eliminates these barriers, making it easier for members with financial constraints, disabilities, or caregiving responsibilities to participate. Additionally, multilingual support will ensure that more members can engage fully, regardless of their primary language.

Strengthening Recovery and Service: A global world service retreat offers members opportunities for deeper learning, recovery, and service. Sessions will provide fresh perspectives on OA principles, strengthening individual recovery and inspiring greater participation in service roles. The event will also serve as a platform to train and encourage future trusted servants within the Fellowship.

Enhancing OA's Reach and Impact: By creating a worldwide virtual world service retreat, OA reinforces its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. This motion ensures that the message of recovery continues to reach members worldwide, providing a vital space for connection and growth that aligns with OA's core mission. A regular retreat will not only support existing members but also create opportunities to welcome newcomers, broadening OA's impact on a global scale.

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.

Proposal Item: L
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) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to create a special committee on the distribution of digital literature intended to replace the current Board of Trustees ad hoc committee on literature.

This special committee shall be empowered by the Conference to develop a fully integrated, OA-branded membership e-reader platform. The platform will include literature sales, OA content delivery, opportunities for digital group literature tables, links for Seventh Tradition contributions, and access to general OA resources.

The committee shall be formed following the 2026 Conference and will report to the next Conference. The platform is to be launched by end of 2027.

To carry out this work, the special committee is authorized to implement such changes as are necessary to fulfill the intent of this motion.

The committee shall consist of two trustees (selected by the Board of Trustees chair), two region chairs (selected by the Region Chairs Committee), and three additional voting members.

The committee may, by a two-thirds majority vote of its voting members, add other individuals to serve in an advisory capacity. Such advisory members shall have a voice but no vote.

The committee shall submit a budget line-item request for inclusion in the 2026 OA budget.

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

Submitted By

Virtual Region

Cee Z.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To create a committee that will implement an e-reader platform.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. The committee will review technologies previously presented to the board by the Virtual Region trustee and evaluate any new viable options. It will determine the content plan, design the site map, assess functionality needs, and develop a rollout plan for the platform.

The committee will prepare a request for proposal outlining development and maintenance costs, incorporating input into the content plan as needed.

Following the review and selection of bids, the committee will collaborate with the Board of Trustees to finalize contract terms. In accordance with OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart A, Article IX – Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 3 – Execution of Checks, Notes, Contracts:

- a) The Executive Committee shall authorize the appropriate person(s) to enter into the contract on behalf of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.

Thereafter, the committee will oversee the rollout of the platform.

Cost

A one-time fee of US\$15,000 to \$20,000, plus costs of \$6,000 to \$15,000 annually with the intent of costs to be recovered by a return on the investment from literature sales.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

It enables the Fellowship to reach members and newcomers directly where OA literature is accessed and purchased. By developing an OA-operated digital platform, the Fellowship can share recovery resources, encourage use of OA literature, and promote the Tool of Writing in a unified, recovery-centered environment.

This platform will strengthen connections, provide timely access to OA-approved materials, and support members in all stages of recovery, including newcomers and those returning from relapse, helping to carry the message of recovery more effectively to the compulsive eater who still suffers.

Rationale

A large and ever-growing percentage of OA meetings are now virtual. Every region includes virtual meetings, and three regions currently have virtual intergroups. However, the technologies used to distribute OA literature outside of oa.org are outdated and do not facilitate meaningful membership outreach or growth.

This motion responds to the need for OA to reach its virtual membership through a recovery-driven digital literature platform. The shared recovery experience once found at in-person literature tables or in one-on-one member exchanges is lost on commercial platforms such as Amazon and Apple, and even, in part, on oa.org. By developing an OA-operated platform, the Fellowship can carry the message more effectively to newcomers, returnees, and members in relapse, while also strengthening unity and accessibility.

The current Board of Trustees ad hoc committee on e-commerce has produced limited and inequitable results, with recommendations that do not fully address the needs of OA's global and virtual membership. A special committee empowered by the Conference can provide broader representation, ensure access across regions, and ensure a more forward-thinking, recovery-driven approach.

An OA-operated digital literature platform will:

- 1) Allow the World Service Office to integrate additional content from oa.org for membership participation and review (such as free recovery materials, podcasts, workshops, *Lifeline* articles, and event links).
- 2) Increase revenue for OA by reducing dependence on third-party sellers, avoiding standard marketplace fees (e.g., the 30 percent charged by Amazon).
- 3) Provide groups and service bodies with opportunities to create digital literature tables for their meetings.

- 4) Give OA control over its membership data. Commercial platforms use algorithms to market diet products and other materials to our members; instead, OA can offer recovery resources grounded in experience, strength, and hope.

This motion strengthens OA's ability to carry the message by meeting members where they are—online—providing direct access to literature, workshops, and recovery materials; supporting newcomer retention; and fostering connections across the Fellowship. OA will manage its own digital presence and membership data, while generating additional resources to sustain the Fellowship's growth and recovery

History

No history in the past five years.

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

Ruled out of order by the chair. OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities define the scope of the Board of Trustees, specifically items b) 3, 6, and 8. In addition, Item 3, defines the scope of the Executive committee, specifically item c), subsections i and ii.

A committee can only operate in an advisory capacity; it is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee to implement changes for Overeaters Anonymous.

Proposal Item: M
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) 2026
New Business Motion

Motion

Move to amend WSBC Policy 2010a by striking and inserting as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Proposed Wording</u>
WSBC Policy 2010a	WSBC Policy 2010a
The following policy statement was adopted:	The following policy statement was adopted:
Statement on Approved Literature In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest that OA groups maintain unity and honor our Traditions by using, selling, and displaying only approved books and pamphlets at their meetings. This includes OA Conference- and board-approved literature; AA Conference-approved books, booklets, and all future editions thereof, with original edition copyright 2010 or earlier; and locally produced OA literature. Although groups may choose to focus on only one piece of OA-approved literature, individuals and groups are encouraged to use any and all OA-approved literature. Locally produced literature must be developed according to the <i>OA Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature</i> , and should be used with the greatest discretion. Local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.	Statement on Approved Literature In accordance with our Traditions, we suggest that OA groups maintain unity and honor our Traditions by using, selling, and displaying only approved books and pamphlets at their meetings. This includes OA Conference- and board-approved literature; AA Conference-approved books, booklets, and all future editions thereof, with original edition copyright 2010 <u>2026</u> or earlier; and locally produced OA literature. <u>This also includes the Plain Language Big Book.</u> Although groups may choose to focus on only one piece of OA-approved literature, individuals and groups are encouraged to use any and all OA-approved literature. Locally produced literature must be developed according to the <i>OA Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature</i> , and should be used with the greatest discretion. Local literature should be considered temporary and discontinued when OA literature approved for general use is available to cover the topic.

Submitted By

Milwaukee Area Intergroup, Region Five
Joy M.

Contact the World Service Office for maker's contact information.

Intent

To include the Plain Language Big Book (approved by Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference in April 2024) in OA-approved literature, repair punctuation error (comma after "thereof" because it changes the meaning of the statement), and update the date of the Policy.

Implementation

Update the Business Conference Policy Manual. A motion to add the literature to the current policies and procedures about literature would go to the World Service Business Conference for a vote. Upon approval, the book would be added to the OA-approved literature list.

Cost

There is no cost anticipated. It would only require the rewriting of the policies and procedures.

How Does This Motion Support OA's Primary Purpose?

The Big Book follows the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous and is approved literature for OA and AA. It was written in 1939 and has been the foundational literature for most twelve-step programs, including Overeaters Anonymous. The Plain Language Big Book is patterned after the Big Book. It makes the AA Big Book accessible to all in recovery, and therefore, also follows the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA.

Rationale

The Plain Language Big Book is a new piece of AA-approved literature (April 2024) that simplifies the AA Big Book without changing the meaning of the original text. Its purpose is to be a companion to and enhance understanding of the Big Book. This makes it easier to understand. Antiquated and gender-specific terms have been removed from the *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Big Book) original text and replaced with simple and modern language making it more accessible to diverse populations. We feel the inclusion of the Plain Language Big Book would help to support our message of recovery in these current times. This literature was approved after 2010, which is the date of our current policy on literature. Our current policy is more than fifteen years old and needs to be updated. The original punctuation (the comma to remove) makes the statement incorrect.

History

2023 – World Service Business Conference Policy (paraphrased)

Removed all AA books copyrighted 2010 or earlier and added the Big Book only. (Failed)

2023 – World Service Business Conference Policy (paraphrased)

Encouraged members and groups to focus on all OA-approved literature. (Adopted 103 yes, 54 no)

Conference Motions Review Committee Comments

None.