

2022 WSBC Delegate Report by Marlene B

Executive Summary: Many (???) hours spent, prepping and reviewing the WSBC materials; 37 hours screen time on Zoom; 9 motions and 15 bylaw amendments reviewed and of these 9 were passed, 5 were passed as amended, 5 failed, 2 were declared out of order and 4 were withdrawn.

Here are some of the things that stood out for me as we discussed and voted on the New Business Motions (NBM) and Bylaw Amendments (BA):

- Bylaw amendments (BA) 1, 11, 1 & 11 combined, and 3: dealt with location and format of future WSBC meetings. These amendments failed or were ruled out of order.
- New Business Motion D: Dealt with if Board of Trustees should return PPP money. Motion D failed.
- Bylaw Amendments (BA) 2, 5, 6, 7 dealt with term limits, size & qualifications of Board of Trustees (BOT). #2 on term limits failed; #5 passed as amended BOT remains at 17 trustees! #6 requires Regional experience for Trustees. & #7 revised process for Nomination of Trustees passed.
- New Business Motion H asked for regions to be studied. Ad Hoc Committee to study Regions was appointed last fall. Therefore, the motion was ruled out of order.
- New Business Motions C, F, G, I dealt with various ways of literature sharing, but only G passed which allows for PDFs of a list of newcomer-oriented literature.

How many people attended the 2022 WSBC Virtual Conference? What countries were represented? There were 218 eligible voters from the following 21 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom (Scotland), United States.

Officer reports, significant information:

Board Of Trustees Chair Report: The two issues that stood out for me was the Chair's statement about literature copyrights and the challenges of meeting more virtually and face to face.

"The Board has put out more than one letter laying out the problem and what can and cannot be done. The first letter generated a bit of commotion, and the board heard the protests. The board responded with an updated letter, adopted at its February meeting, and now distributed. The guideline in the updated letter loosens up things somewhat, while still protecting our copyrights through other means."

The Chair wrote: "We found that meetings work more smoothly when we can all be together, as we are able to get to know each other and work through issues before addressing them at the formal board meetings." **My comment:** Relationship. Relationship. Relationship. Virtual meetings, while helpful and valuable are not exactly comparable with face-to-face interactions and side conversations when issues need to be worked out/through.

Treasurer's Report gleanings:

1. The two streams of revenue for OA are contributions and literature. Contributions in 2021 were \$1,144,243.09. Literature purchases were \$616, 690.
2. **A first for WSBC:** Interpretation costs of \$5,000 were paid for Portuguese language interpretation.
3. **Special funds:** Were designated for creation of a new PSA and updating WSO equipment and facilities.

Managing Director Report highlights:

1. **Groups and Service Bodies:** “In 2021, the number of OA meetings worldwide, including virtual meetings, averaged 6,566 in over seventy-five countries, with 337 service bodies (including region offices).
2. **Translations:** “OA literature has been translated or is in the process of being translated into more than thirty languages.... More than thirty-three digital documents of translated OA literature were added to the WSO archives in 2021 with the greatest number of contributions being in the French (Quebec), Italian, Latvian, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish (Columbian) languages. For a list of translations in the WSO archives, see Guidelines for Translation of OA Literature and Materials at oa.org.”
3. **Social Media:** OA is on both Facebook and Instagram, but not very robustly.

WSBC PIPO Committee Meeting I attended:

The WSBC PIPO Committee met to discuss various tasks that needed to be completed or needed continuing work as follows:

1. PIPO Manual final editing.
2. 24-hour Welcome Room
3. Medical Professional Outreach (which I expect to be part of)

Workshops attended:

1. How National Service Boards can send the message of recovery in OA. “We can do together in our Service Boards what we could never do alone. See additional information from the Brazilian NSB via website, literature translation, social media and events.
2. Our Primary Purpose: How Do We Carry the Message?
3. All About the Conference.
4. Literature Q & A
5. Meet The Maker.
6. Using Spiritual Principles to Do Together What we could Never Do Alone.

Literature Considered:

136 yes/55 no. The Conference Approved Seal of Approval was granted to 12 Traditions for the OA Workbook.

2022 WSBC New Business Motions and Bylaw Amendments:

Groupings: 1. Miscellaneous, 2. WSBC related, 3. Restructuring Board of Trustees and OA, 4. Literature Sharing/Access

1. Miscellaneous: New Business Motions A, E, & Bylaw Amendment #8, 9, 10, 12, 14

Passed: 162 yes/32 no as amended. Proposal A: Move that the OA Responsibility Pledge be included in/on all published OA literature, social media, newsletters, and bulletins maintained by the World Service Office **except where space is prohibitive in a printed document. Intent:** To position OA’s Responsibility Pledge prominently and frequently in front of all OA members on a regular basis. Tradition Five focuses on group purpose, but individual responsibility is equally important in carrying the message. **Rationale:** If the Pledge becomes better known to the membership, it may encourage individuals to recognize the value and importance of their personal service. “OA Responsibility Pledge: Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion; for this I am responsible. “

Failed: 72 yes/120 no. Proposal E: Move to establish the month of July as OA Service month. **Intent:** To raise awareness of the importance of service as a Tool. Just like OA has other important dates to raise awareness to

abstinence, unity, and sponsorship, for example, 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. **Rationale:** Although we have to use the Tool of service every day 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 the Tool of service.

Passed: 185 yes/3 no. Bylaw Amendment 8: Amends OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Service Bodies, Section 1 – Composition by adding Special Focus Service Boards language. Permits states/provinces/territories/countries within a region, or intergroups/national/language service boards within a state/province/territory/country to transfer to a region that is more convenient, the body notifies its current region, the region it would like to join, and the Board of Trustees of its desire to transfer. The BOT then submits a motion to WSBC to amend Subpart B, Article VI, Section 1e of the bylaws **Intent:** Editorial changes to support 2021 creation of special focus service boards by only referring to all types of service boards including intergroups, national service boards, language service boards, and special focus service boards when referring to all four types of service boards. **Rationale:** WSBC 2021 adopted special focus service boards. This editorial change removes the differentiation for clarity.

Passed on Consent Agenda: Bylaw Amendment 9: Defines minimal requirement for registered service bodies to maintain their registration at the WSO: 5) Region assemblies whose members shall be called “region representatives” or “RRs” shall convene at least once a year, after prior notice has been given to all intergroups, national/language service boards, and unaffiliated registered groups, for the election of officers and/or the selection of nominees for regional trustee for that region. **Intent:** Editorial changes to support 2021 creation of special focus service boards by only referring to all types of service boards including intergroups, national service boards, language service boards, and special focus service boards when referring to all four types of service boards. **Rationale:** WSBC 2021 adopted special focus service boards. This editorial change removes the differentiation for clarity.

Passed: 180 yes/13 no. Bylaw Amendment 10: Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XII – Bylaw Amendments, Section 1 – Procedure by striking and inserting the following: For the purpose of amendments, the English version of official documents is considered the version of record, and all amendments shall be made to the version of record. **Rationale:** As OA grows internationally, full participation of delegates from outside of the English-speaking has become an issue that needs to be addressed. Translation and interpretation are actions that are being addressed. As service bodies become more involved in our service structure, it is a safe assumption that changes will be suggested by service bodies for whom English is NOT their first language. Change is welcome and encouraged, but a baseline for those changes is needed—that is naming a version of the record. This is the version that is the basis of translations, much like the English version of the Conference-approved literature is the basis of translated literature. This motion specifies this.

Passed: 164 yes/26 no. Bylaw Amendment 12: Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI – Service Bodies, Section 1 – Composition by inserting the following underlined words: Region No. 8 shall be the Southeast Region composed of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, the US Virgin Islands, the Caribbean Islands, Central America, and South America. **Intent:** To more accurately reflect Region Eight’s commitment to inclusivity and equanimity. **Rationale:** The current wording does not reflect the way that the Region Eight body identifies itself.

Passed as amended: 127 yes/6 no. Bylaw Amendment 14: Clarifies that groups may be affiliated with only one IG or service board and how unaffiliated groups may affiliate with an IG or nearest service board that produces literature in their language. Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups, Section 2 – Composition by inserting the following: Proposed Wording Article V – Overeaters Anonymous Groups Section 2 – Composition c) Affiliation/Participation 1) A group may affiliate with only one intergroup or national service board through the registration process. 2) Unaffiliated groups that are not ready to form a service body or new groups in areas without any intergroup or national service board in their language may affiliate with the nearest intergroup or national service board that produces translated OA literature in their language. 3) Groups may also participate in the activities (including voting) of another service body (intergroup, national service board, language service board, special focus

service board, and/or region) with their permission. **Intent** To clarify affiliation/participation opportunities for all groups, particularly those that are currently unaffiliated, in order to access OA literature and materials in their local language and to affiliate with an OA service body offering support in that language. **Rationale** Close to 1,000 groups, more than one in seven groups in the Fellowship, are unaffiliated and therefore isolated, often without access to translated literature and support in the group's language. The pandemic change of so many meetings going virtual highlighted the existing situation. Sometimes, in areas without a service body, groups have remained unaffiliated from ten to twenty-five years. While unaffiliated, groups are isolated and struggle in the same way that compulsive eaters who don't experience and don't trust the OA resources, and the benefits for recovery we get from the Traditions and service structure. This situation promotes inequality in recovery by limiting the flow of information and ESH to and from unaffiliated group, hand harms OA as a whole. Clarifying through the bylaws that benefits and opportunities of affiliation from the beginning of a group will educate and offer a better change of connection and fair representation at all levels of the service structure, as well as access to translated literature.

2. WSBC related: New Business Motion B and Bylaw Amendments #1, 11, and 1 & 11 comb., 3, 4, 13, 15.

Passed: 179 yes/11 no. New Business Motion B: To Amend the Wording of Subpart B Article IX of the OA Bylaws:

Intent: To more evenly split an increased number of delegates from all the regions available to serve on WSBC committees. **Rationale:** With the increase of delegates available to serve on the committees due to the virtual WSBC, the limit of thirty delegates is too restrictive as more delegates may be available to serve.

Failed: 89 yes/95 no. Bylaw Amendment 1: The Conference shall be held as an online hybrid with the board live in Albuquerque and the rest participating through a web-based video teleconferencing service. **Intent:** To move the WSBC from a geographical to a virtual location. **Rationale:** The 2021 WSBC demonstrated that such a virtual Conference is possible. The amount of money saved by service bodies and the World Service Office is substantial and frees up funds for better carrying the message. This also makes it possible for more delegates to attend and more service bodies to participate.

Ruled Out of Order: Bylaw Amendment 11: Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference by inserting the following: "... The Conference will be held in such a way as to include hybrid participants." **Intent:** To include hybrid representation at the Conference beginning in 2023 to be more inclusive of a worldwide and virtual fellowship. **Rationale:** According to OA's Unity with Diversity policy, "The Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous encourages and promotes acceptance and inclusivity. All are welcome to join OA and are not excluded because of race, creed, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other attribute." This may include persons with disabilities. The current format of the WSBC does not allow for all service bodies to send their nominated delegates to WSBC due to several factors listed below. • **Cost:** The cost of sending a single delegate to WSBC for service bodies outside of the United States is cost prohibitive with a single delegate costing, in some cases, in excess of US\$2,000. While service bodies and OA, Inc. provide financial assistance to intergroups and service boards, this is limited to one delegate per intergroup/service board. Intergroups within the continental US and service bodies with a high net worth have an increased voice in the running of the Fellowship as a whole. It is therefore not inclusive of those service bodies that have a lower threshold of available Seventh Tradition contributions. • **Disabilities:** In keeping with the spirit of the inclusivity statement, persons with a disability or multiple health conditions are often prohibited from participating as a WSBC representative as they are unable to either a) secure necessary travel insurance, b) leave their home country due to needing access to essential healthcare and health services, and/or c) the ability to leave their home for mental, physical, or other health-related reasons. • **LGBTQ+:** Many individuals within the LGBTQ+ spectrum feel unsafe either outside their home country as well as traveling to the USA, which does not have the best rights available to LGBTQ+ individuals especially when we include persons who identify within the transgender and non-binary spectrum. • **Environmental Impact:** While it may be considered an outside issue, the impact on the planet of unnecessary travel continues to do harm to a world which is straining under the current ecological crisis. • **Virtual Presence:** Due to an increased presence of the Virtual Region, as well as virtual meetings affiliated with all other regions of OA during the last several years, alongside the approval of hybrid meetings registered with the WSO, it would appear

that the next logical step to be fully inclusive of all parts of the Fellowship around the world would be to move the WSBC from an in-person only event into a mixed mode or hybrid event, which would allow a greater ability for land-based service bodies as well as virtual intergroups around the world to be part of the WSBC, and therefore be able to shape the future of the Fellowship as a whole.

Failed: 109 yes/85 no. Substitute Bylaw Amendment Proposal One and Eleven Combined.

Withdrawn by Maker: Bylaw Amendment 3: Proposed changes are underlined: Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 1 – World Service Business Conference by inserting the following: Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates Section 1 – World Service Business Conference b) Time and Location: "....The Conference shall be held in person in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate in even numbered years and held virtually in odd numbered years. c) Emergency In the event of an emergency, as determined by the Board of Trustees, the board may call the Conference, or any part of it, by virtual method(s) in years that would normally be in person." **Intent:** To increase worldwide participation in WSBC and the group conscience of OA as a whole. **Rationale:** WSBC held a very successful virtual meeting in 2021. We had the largest WSBC in years thanks to virtual participation. It was effective and cost efficient for the Fellowship. We know how to do this now. Alternating virtual and in person WSBCs will grow participation by the full worldwide Fellowship. The WSO now has the expertise to seek the most cost-effective ways to implement this change. **Participation:** To increase the actual number of delegates, geographic, and language areas covered. Participation in the virtual WSBC 2021 was the first increase seen in attendance at WSBC in many years. With a predictable alternate schedule, service bodies can plan how and when to attend in a way that suits the volunteers willing to give service and the service body's budget. **Functionality:** A the virtual WSBC 2021, voting was simplified and efficient. Participating in the meetings was straightforward and well executed. The meeting materials were easy to access and did not require large printing costs. Debate was clear. The customary way that WSBC is conducted using Robert's Rules of Order lends itself to the virtual setting. **Common Sense:** We are THERE now. The world has opened to virtual communication and connection. It saved our Fellowship during the pandemic. There is no reason not to continue this progress since it clearly benefits the Fellowship to do so. **Budget:** It saves OA money, yes. However, that is not the main reason to make this change. This approach is a game changer in a worldwide fellowship. It allows us to connect cost effectively from all corners of the globe to hold our group conscience. Alternate years of virtual WSBCs provide an unparalleled opportunity to include many more diverse fellows. With the ease of translation and reduced barriers of time and space, it is a wonderful example of serving OA.

Passed: 166 yes/30 no as amended. Bylaw Amendment 4: Allows interpreters to speak for individual non-English-speaking delegates during WSBC. **Intent:** Delegates who do not speak English really have no voice or vote at WSBC, unless an interpreter is present and can speak on their behalf. Being able to speak through an interpreter gives them effective voice and vote. **Rationale:** This will allow non-English-speaking delegates to have an effective voice at the Conference with the use of interpreters.

Passed: 178 yes/18 no. Bylaw Amendment 13: Move to amend OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates, Section 4 – Delegates by inserting the following: Proposed Wording Article VIII – Meetings of Delegates Section 4 – Delegates 4) **Each language or special focus service board is entitled to have one qualified delegate only, regardless of the number of groups or service bodies (at least two meetings) that compose the language or special focus service board.** **Intent** Editorial change to support the 2021 creation of special focus service boards by overlooking the section providing for representation of those boards at WSBC.

Passed on Consent Agenda: Bylaw Amendment 15: Changes deadlines for submission of bylaw amendments to BOT and to delegates of the service board. Proposed Wording Article XII – Bylaw Amendments Section 1 – Procedure Subpart B of these bylaws may be amended as follows: a) Amendments to Subpart B of these bylaws may be

proposed by any registered service body, trustee, the Region Chairs Committee, or the Conference Bylaws Committee and shall be submitted to the chair of the Board of Trustees, postmarked or be date and time stamped through electronic transmission by December 10 1 before the annual meeting of the Conference. The Board of Trustees may also submit amendments to the bylaws. b) The chair of the board shall cause a copy of the proposed amendments to be communicated to each delegate whose name appears in the office of the secretary of the corporation and to each registered service body and trustee by January 10 5 prior to the annual Conference. **Intent** To increase the time for service bodies to review and send back their information for WSBC. Due to WSBC being scheduled in mid- to late-April rather than May, the date for motion submission needs to be earlier so that service bodies have time to review the motions, vote, and send them back in a timely manner. **Rationale:** This update is needed because these dates are set by the bylaws and require WSBC approval.

3. Board Of Trustees & OA Restructuring: New Business Motion D, H & Bylaw Amendments 2, 5, 6, 7

Failed: 48 yes/146 no. New Business Motion D: Move that the OA Board of Trustees refunds the US\$134,800 initially received from the Paycheck Protection Program and subsequently forgiven. **Intent:** As stated, these funds are now a tax-free gift from a non-OA source. **Rationale:** The contributions in 2020 were the highest in our history— US\$948,957 with a net profit of US\$488.751. The Fellowship accepting outside funds is a very public break in Tradition Seven “...to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions.” Also, this tax-free gift as stated in Concept Twelve, “...is an incitement to public controversy...” when these funds are investigated at the level of press, radio, and TV.

Ruled Out of Order: New Business Motion H: Move that the Board of Trustees instigates a review of the role, scope, membership, distribution, function, and structure of the regions of OA worldwide. **Intent:** To consider the tasks, scope, distribution, membership, form, roles, and functions across the separate regions, so that the complexity and “member reach” of each region is compatible and equitable. To strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the regions in OA. **Rationale:** To bring the structure of OA suitable and appropriate for the 21st Century as a worldwide fellowship. Refer to the map below. To embed the principles of the diversity policy into the structure. This would better carry the message of OA to the worldwide still-suffering compulsive overeater.

Withdrawn.: Bylaw Amendment 2: Term Limits for Trustees: Trustees shall serve no more than eight consecutive years and no more than twelve total years. A candidate may not run for election at WSBC if serving the full term of the proposed office would result in that candidate serving on the Board of Trustees for more than eight consecutive years. **Intent:** To encourage new voices and new points of view through rotation of trustee service. **Rationale:** This change affects only OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VIII, Section 3. Rotation of service is an essential element for the wellbeing of any OA group or service body, and OA’s Board of Trustees is certainly no exception. New trustees bring new experience, strength, and hope, and new energy to the board. Trustees are elected as WSBC, and today there is no limit on the number of years a trustee may serve. A trustee who has served eight consecutive years followed by a break, then running for a new term, will have an advantage over the newcomer. It’s an advantage that potentially deprives the willing new trusted servant of serving. As a Fellowship, we can be grateful that we have members willing to serve more than eight years, but we can also recognize that the Fellowship benefits from diversity and fresh voices. What if no one is running and the only available person has served their eight years? The Fellowship will survive an opening and the board can then look for qualified members to serve until the next WSBC (per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VII – Board of Trustees, Section 7 – Vacancies).

Passed as amended: 135 yes/58 no. Bylaw Amendment 5: The Board of Trustees shall consist of twelve trustees and whenever possible a minimum of two trustees shall come from outside of North America. **Intent:** To restructure the Board of Trustees. **Rationale:** These restructuring motions were approved by the Board of Trustees to be placed on the WSBC 2020 and 2021 agendas. This motion was supported for discussion by 97 percent of the responders to the Agenda Questionnaire. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this motion (along with all other non-literature motions) was not addressed in 2020 and withdrawn from consideration at our virtual WSBC 2021 for time considerations. This bylaw specifies an encouragement for participation on the Board of Trustees by OA members who live outside of North

America. However, it also allows the delegates to elect a full board of qualified members from those submitting an application for any term of office if needed. Specifics of election procedures are included in the Conference Standing Rules and can be discussed and adopted at future WSBCs if this motion is adopted. Please note that should this motion fail, the remaining motions and conforming motions will be withdrawn.

Passed: 164 yes/24 no. Bylaw Amendment 6: Qualifications of Trustees will include: Adds regional participation and experience and deletes the requirement of Trustees to physically reside in the region they represent. **Primary Purpose:** Restructuring the Board of Trustees will support efforts to be more effective, both with our volunteer board as well as financially. **Rationale:** These restructuring motions were approved by the Board of Trustees to be placed on the WSBC 2020 and 2021 agendas. This motion was supported for discussion by 96 percent of the responders to the Agenda Questionnaire. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this motion (along with all other non-literature motions) was not addressed in 2020 and withdrawn from consideration at our virtual WSBC 2021 for time considerations. Since most trustees will, in theory, be assigned as region liaisons, experience at the region level becomes more of a requirement than in the past. It will be up to each region to determine for themselves how to define what level of participation they want to adopt as part of their bylaws and policies.

Passed: 180 yes/11 no. Bylaw Amendment 7: Revises process for Nomination of Trustees to support re-structuring of the OA Board of Trustees **Intent:** To revise the process for nomination of trustees to support restructuring. **Rationale:** These restructuring motions were approved by the Board of Trustees to be placed on the WSBC 2020 and 2021 agendas. This motion was supported for discussion by 96 percent of the responders to the Agenda Questionnaire. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this motion (along with all other non-literature motions) was not addressed in 2020 and withdrawn from consideration at our virtual WSBC 2021 for time considerations. This motion supports restructuring.

4. Literature Sharing and Lit. fund: New Business Motions C, F, G, I.

Failed: 90 yes/97 no. New Business Motion Proposal C: Move that the OA Board of Trustees permits registered OA groups to Screen Share and Voice Share OA-copyrighted material during OA meetings. **Intent:** To assist registered OA groups in carrying the message through OA literature; to provide clarity to groups and service bodies as to the correct way to share OA literature in meetings without harming OA's copyright; to provide a way of using OA literature in meetings, while adhering to OA Traditions, Concepts, and Spiritual Principles while at the same time not infringing on copyright laws; to support recovery of each individual member of OA; and to protect and not to expose OA literature to exploitation in any way. **Rationale:** On August 25, 2021, the OA Board of Trustees distributed a letter that addressed the use of OA materials and OA literature especially by virtual meetings. There was a clear concern that screen sharing and voice sharing of literature would result in OA, Inc. receiving less money from literature sales.

Withdrawn by Maker: New Business Motion Proposal F: Move to create a policy that OA issue annual licenses for a fee to OA groups and service bodies that will allow screen sharing of selected Conference-approved literature. Annual licenses shall be issued only to groups and service bodies that are registered with the OA, Inc. World Service Office. Licenses will be issued for a period of one year from the date of purchase from the OA bookstore. Licenses will be issued for The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, Second Edition; Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition; For Today; Voices of Recovery; Abstinence, Second Edition; and any other titles OA so chooses. Pricing of these annual licenses shall not exceed three times the price of a single, physical copy of the literature. **Intent:** To allow newcomers, visitors, and members, who cannot afford or have not had the opportunity to purchase literature, to fully participate in online literature meetings while observing OA's copyrights. **Rationale:** It is in the spiritual interest as guided by Traditions One, Three, Five, Eleven, and Twelve for OA to use every means it can afford to carry the message to as many people who suffer from our disease. Screen sharing provides an effective way for all members to participate in online literature meetings. As the copyright holder, OA has wide discretion to offer licenses to display its copyrighted material and determine the terms of said licenses, including issuing licenses exclusively to registered OA groups and service bodies to display its content for temporary and limited use. Furthermore, OA groups and service bodies are a part of the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous and have the exact same purpose, which is to carry the message that is expressed in its literature. Screen sharing is comparable to projecting an image of content on a movie screen; it is not

possible to produce from this image a fully functional copy of the literature that could be used without permission. In addition, the watermark on the PDF file serves as a disincentive for a licensed meeting or its members to share the file beyond the licensed use, and therefore encumbers the pirating of literature. There is little evidence that screen sharing negatively impacts sales of OA literature. In fact, introducing members to literature through online meetings is just as likely to encourage them to purchase copies for further reading. In addition, the sale of annual licenses provides a new source of revenue to support the work of OA as an organization.

Passed as amended: 140 yes/52 no. New Business Motion G: Move to create a policy that OA make PDFs of 8 Conference-approved newcomer-oriented pamphlets: Where Do I Start?; To the Newcomer; Welcome Back; To the Family of the Compulsive Eater; A Common Solution: Diversity and Recovery; Black Members Share their Experience, Strength, and Hope; To the Young Person; and To the Man Who Wants to Stop Compulsive Overeating. Allow members to download and print one copy, free of charge, of those PDFs. **Intent:** The eight pamphlets listed introduce the OA program of recovery to newcomers across diverse populations and different forms of compulsive eating. A downloadable PDF that can be printed one time or read on a computer increases our commitment to Tradition Five, “Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.” The newcomer will have more information to help them get to their first meeting, come back to their second meeting, or make that first call. **Rationale:** For a newcomer to attend their first OA meeting it takes an act of courage, hope, and desperation. While the cost of the newcomer pamphlet is on US\$1, asking newcomers to go to the trouble of signing into the bookstore, and to pay for the pamphlet, plus the US\$5 cost of shipping, creates barriers of hesitancy to learning about the OA program of recovery. In addition, not everyone has an e-reader. Other twelve-step program, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Food Addicts in Recovery make PDFs of the new-comer oriented pamphlets available for free download and as a single printing. They have chosen to grant this service to newcomers without endangering their copyright privileges.

Withdrawn: New Business Motion Proposal I: Move that OA establish a member literature fund. The OA members’ literature fund will provide literature to members who may not otherwise have access to it. **Intent:** To carry the message to all who need it. To provide equal access to the most essential literature in our recovery. To expand the access to OA literature and to carry forward our Seventh Tradition in supporting the Fellowship from within. **Rationale:** There are difficult times for many. The member literature fund is a way of carrying our message within. There may be members or service bodies that are in a better position to support fellows and service bodies who lack the resources to purchase literature at this time.

Elections: Who are the new Trustees?

Region 5 Barb K

Region 9 Emilia

Bob L General Service Trustee

Sandra M General Service Trustee

Share about what you personally experienced.

Exhilaration, satisfaction, relief, exasperation and fatigue!