

Overeaters Anonymous WMI Business Meeting Minutes (Approved)

May 11, 2025

The meeting was opened at 6:01pm by Chair Beth with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Roll Call was by Beth.

Attendees:

Beth B, Chair; Deb T, Sec, Fri AM Longmeadow; Kim T, VR Mon 5:15; Joette S, Treasurer; Lynn W, Vice Chair & VR Fri 5 Longmeadow; Carol I, Thurs 4:30 Belchertown & Sat Chicopee 2:00; David B, VR Sat Longmeadow; Erika S, VR Greenfield 10 am; Anne H, VR Mon 10 Westfield; Carol Ch, Corr Sec; Julie B, VR Sat, South Amherst.

Tradition 5 was read by Anne H. with thoughts shared on the Spiritual Principle “**Purpose**”
Concept 5 was also read by Anne H. The Spiritual Principle being, “**Consideration**”

Board Member Reports

- **Chair Report:** Beth reported that she was grateful to have all the reports on time to get them out to committee members. She also has worked with the Google Ads Committee and the By-laws Committee.
- **Vice Chair Report:** Lynn reported that she continues to work with the Google Ads people, as well as the Google Ads Committee and the By-laws Committee.
- **Recording Secretary Minutes:** Motion made & voted to accept the “draft minutes” from April as amended by changing Carol I’s designation as a visitor. She is a voting member of WMI from the Belchertown Thurs 4:30 group.
- **Treasurer’s Report:** Motion made & voted to accept reports as submitted.
- **Corresponding Secretary Report:** Carol reported that there were no meeting list changes this month.

Standing Committee Reports

- **PIPO:** Ann reported that they are still distributing the pamphlets to libraries & health centers. Beth reminded us how easy it is to help whenever we’re going to the doctor or a library.
- **Phone Liaison:** Carol reported that she had 4 calls this past month on Google Voice. This position is still vacant with Carol only acting as interim liaison temporarily.
- **Donate Button/Website:** Lynn reported that there were 2 donations this month.
- **Share-A-Thon:** Lynn reported that the next committee meeting is on Saturday June 7 @ 10am.
- **Retreat:** Anne reported that registrations are slow coming in. The next meeting is scheduled for June 1
- **WSBC Delegate:** Joette reported that she attended the WSBC ZOOM conference all week and will have a full report for next month’s meeting. Thank you, Joette, for your service.
- **Archive:** Anne reported that Sue has all the archive material condensed into 5 boxes. She is looking for someone to take over her position which mainly means to hold the material in a safe place and eventually accomplish getting it digitized, etc.

- **Region 6:** Position still vacant.

- **Old Business:**

- **Transfer/Digitizing of Archives:** No progress; we'll need another scanner.

- **Status of Google Ads:** Lynn reported that this is coming along.

- **Discussion on Website—Some ideas for proposed changes to the OAWMASS.org website**

Overall, we agree that we love the website, appreciate its functionality, and think the content is great. We have had brief preliminary discussions that provided some ideas that might make it even better. We voted separately on each proposal listed below to see what the will of the group was on each of these ideas. The group has decided what its will is for the website, and the chair will work with the website liaison and the webmaster to ascertain the feasibility and cost of each change (see below).

Navigation:

1. The font size in the top navigation bar (the links across the top) might be larger to accommodate those with visual impairment and older adults who may not be able to read smaller print easily. This is also true for the dropdown links which show up when you mouse over the navigation bar, which are even smaller. **Change passed.**
2. The top-level links (buLons across the top that you can see without hovering your mouse over them) should only be linked to additional pages if there is content on them because it's frustrating to click somewhere only to see the menu you just saw. Would making them static instead of going to pages to help with this? **Change passed.**
3. Could we add a search function to the site to give yet another way to find what you're looking for quickly? **Change passed.**

Layout:

4. The content on the home page is good but we want people to see it faster. It takes approximately 2.5 seconds for a website visitor to get frustrated and leave if they can't find pertinent information. It has been suggested to remove the open door image or move it to the bottom in order to move the pertinent information – why you want to be a part of OA – to the top of the page. **Change to remove the door passed.**
5. Since the meeting list is our top sought content (it is consistently the top visited page), should we present that immediately when someone comes on the site? Could we add a "Find a Meeting" button to the top of the page that directs users to the meeting list? **Change passed.**
6. One proposal is to put a "Find a Meeting" button next to the "Member Contribution" button, but another proposal would be to take the "Member Contribution" button off the front page, or move it closer to the bottom. Although we appreciate contributions and they aid our ability to carry the message; contributions are not the purpose nor the message we want to carry. **Change passed.**
7. Along the same lines as # 4 above, could we put the WMI purpose into the box with the WMI meeting info and take the meeting list link out, and move the new box further down the page. **Change passed.**
8. On pages other than the home page, such as the Is OA for You and Special Focus Meeting pages, the images at the top move the content considerably down the page.

Could we position the images beside the content, or wrap the content around them, as is done on some other pages? **Change passed.**

9. Many websites these days are full page width and have a modern look to them which makes them easier to read, quicker to find information and faster to load – the OA.org and Connecticut Intergroup sites are examples of this. Is it time for a cosmetic makeover? **Change passed.**

Content:

10. Under For Professionals, the title “Member Survey” is confusing – one would expect to find a survey, not a report from the 2017 survey. Could we rename it Member Survey Report to make it clearer? **Change passed.**

11. Contact page –

- when someone clicks Contact, they want to get in touch. Should we move the WMI general info email address, phone and mailing address to the top? **Change passed.**
- Would a contact form make it easier for someone to contact us? **Making a contact form failed.**
- Additionally, we might move the Intergroup meeting information to a page under About WMI instead of on the contact page, or at least move it to the bottom below the ways to contact us. **Change passed.**

Committee Reports (cont)

- **Bank Accounts:** Joette reported that she needs more time to research this area, especially the cost of new checks, etc.
- **Month off in Summer:** Discussion & decision will be first item for New Business at June meeting.
- **Events Page:** Tabled till June meeting.

New Business:

The only item for New Business in May was bariatric surgery ideas from Beth from West Springfield, which is tabled until she shows up.

Group Concerns/Brainstorming:

- Brainstorming: Please get any ideas to Beth at least a week before the next WMI meeting.

Ideas for June meeting agenda:

- **Month off in Summer**
- **Events Page**
- **Joette’s WSBC Report**
- **Having the WMI Treasury audited annually.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:16pm with recitation of the Responsibility Pledge. **The next meeting is on June 8, 2025 at 6pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deb T.

Recording Secretary