

Bylaws Of Channel Islands Intergroup (OACII)
Of Overeaters Anonymous
Amended September/October 2016

1. Object of Organization

- a. To coordinate all OACII activities common to the various groups (as defined per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V) comprising its membership.
- b. To further the Overeaters Anonymous program in accordance with the twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous. Permission to use the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous for adaptation granted by AA World Services, Inc.
 - i. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon OA unity.
 - ii. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
 - iii. The only requirement for OA membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively.
 - iv. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole.
 - v. Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.
 - vi. An OA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the OA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
 - vii. Every OA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
 - viii. Overeaters Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
 - ix. OA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
 - x. Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the OA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
 - xi. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, television and other public media of communication.
 - xii. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all these Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.
- c. To further the Overeaters Anonymous program in accordance with the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous. Permission to use the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous for adaptation granted by AA World Services, Inc.
 - i. We admitted we were powerless over food — that our lives had become unmanageable.
 - ii. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
 - iii. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
 - iv. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
 - v. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
 - vi. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
 - vii. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
 - viii. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
 - ix. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
 - x. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

- xi. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
 - xii. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to compulsive overeaters and to practice these principles in all our affairs.
- d. To further the Overeaters Anonymous program in accordance with the Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous Service.
- i. The ultimate responsibility and authority for OA world services reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
 - ii. The OA groups have delegated to the World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, the World Service Business Conference is the voice, authority and effective conscience of OA as a whole.
 - iii. The right of decision, based on trust, makes effective leadership possible.
 - iv. The right of participation ensures equality of opportunity for all in the decision-making process.
 - v. Individuals have the right of appeal and petition in order to ensure that their opinions and personal grievances will be carefully considered.
 - vi. The World Service Business Conference has entrusted the Board of Trustees with the primary responsibility for the administration of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - vii. The Board of Trustees has legal rights and responsibilities accorded to them by OA Bylaws, Subpart A; the rights and responsibilities of the World Service Business Conference are accorded to it by Tradition and by OA Bylaws, Subpart B.
 - viii. The Board of Trustees has delegated to its Executive Committee the responsibility to administer the OA World Service Office.
 - ix. Able, trusted servants, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are indispensable for effective functioning at all service levels.
 - x. Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority; therefore, duplication of efforts is avoided.
 - xi. Trustee administration of the World Service Office should always be assisted by the best standing committees, executives, staffs and consultants.
 - xii. The spiritual foundation for OA service ensures that:
 - (a) no OA committee or service body shall ever become the seat of perilous wealth or power;
 - (b) sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, shall be OA's prudent financial principle;
 - (c) no OA member shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority;
 - (d) all important decisions shall be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;
 - (e) no service action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; and
 - (f) no OA service committee or service board shall ever perform acts of government, and each shall always remain democratic in thought and action.
- e. To maintain a way to contact the Intergroup (either via answering service, email or other method) for assistance and referral for compulsive overeaters within the area.
- f. As finances allow, to publish a monthly newsletter including, but not limited to, an up-to-date directory of meetings in the service area and announcements of upcoming Overeaters Anonymous activities.
- g. As finances allow, to publish a website containing, but not limited to, information about the OACII, upcoming events in the CIIG and other areas, meeting directory, contact information for service members, 7th tradition receipts and other OA-related announcements.

2. Elected Positions

- a. Service Board – Election of these officers to the Board of OACII will be held at the regular OACII meeting in October, unless otherwise changed by majority of the voting body of a meeting of the OACII. Terms for one year, with a maximum of one re-election to the same office (i.e., an officer may not serve more than two (2) years in a single office without interruption).
 - i. CHAIRPERSON: Chairs all OACII meetings, is unofficial member of all committees and all OACII-sponsored activities.
 - ii. VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Fills in for absent chairperson, helps to oversee all OACII-sponsored activities and updates group registration in cooperation with Overeaters Anonymous World Service Office (WSO).
 - iii. RECORDING SECRETARY: Takes minutes at OACII meetings and brings copies of minutes to the following meeting for distribution.
 - iv. BUSINESS SECRETARY: Handles incoming and outgoing correspondence of the OACII Board.
 - v. TREASURER: Handles the financial statements and pays expenses of the OACII.
- b. Delegates and Alternate Delegates of the Region 2 and World Service (R2/WS) Business Conferences – they shall be elected for a two year term. No delegate or alternate may run for re-election more than once in succession (i.e. a delegate may serve no more than a total of 4 years without interruption.) The WS delegates will be elected on the formula of one (1) delegate for every 15 registered groups within the OACII, and one delegate for every fraction thereof. The R2 delegates will be elected on the formula of one (1) delegate for every 10 registered groups within the OACII, and one delegate for every fraction thereof. Alternate delegates will be elected using the same formulas, in the event the registered delegates are unable to attend the R2/WS business conferences. WS Business Conference Delegates shall have at least one year of current abstinence and at least two (2) years of service beyond the group level. (Permission for an exception in qualification for valid reasons, if deemed credible by the Trustees, may be received by application to the WSO.)

3. Volunteer Positions – Other positions to be volunteered by attendees at the time of regular election, but not considered part of the Service Board:

- a. INTERVOICE EDITOR(S): publishes a monthly newsletter including, but not limited to, an up-to-date directory of meetings in the service area and announcements of upcoming Overeaters Anonymous activities.
- b. WEBMASTER: Maintains a website for OACII which contains those items set forth in Paragraph 1, Section g of these by-laws.
- c. PARLIMENTARIAN: may be appointed by the Service Board of OACII and will serve in said capacity when so needed.
- d. The Chairperson may appoint special committee chairperson(s) as needed (e.g., Public Information, Retreat and Marathon committee, Bylaws Committee, Hospitals, Institutions and Professionals [HI&P], etc.)

4. Meetings

- a. OACII shall hold monthly meetings at a time and place designated by a majority of the voting members.
- b. An alternate time can be arranged by a majority of the Service Board members. Members must be notified of the changed time at least ten (10) days in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting.
- c. A special meeting may be called at any time, other than the regular monthly meeting, by a majority vote of the OACII Service Board or called by petition of a two-thirds majority of OACII members. Members must be notified at least ten (10) days in advance of the special meeting.
- d. The 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts of OA Service will be read at the beginning of each OACII meeting.

5. Membership

- a. The OACII serves all Overeaters Anonymous groups in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties which choose CII affiliation. These points shall define an OA group: (1) As a group, they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous; (2) All who have a desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group; (3) No member is required to practice any actions in order to remain a member or to have a voice (share at a meeting); (4) As a group they have no affiliation other than Overeaters Anonymous.
- b. The Board of Trustees of Overeaters Anonymous shall be considered a participating group.
- c. Each group is entitled to one representative and one alternate representative (i.e. one vote.)
- d. Each group representative and alternate shall serve for a period designated by their group, always subject to recall by the group itself. Recommended term is one (1) year.
- e. No individual may simultaneously represent more than one group.

6. Voting

- a. The Chairperson or acting Chairperson only votes to break a tie.
- b. Board members have one vote each.
- c. R2/WS Delegates have one vote each.
- d. Alternate R2/WS Delegates will only have a vote if the Delegates are not present.
- e. Appointed, volunteer positions have one vote each.
- f. Group Representatives have one vote, providing they represent a registered group.
- g. A person has only one vote, despite the number of voting positions he/she may hold.
- h. Visitors cannot vote. They are more than welcome to attend meetings and participate in discussion.

7. Absenteeism – Any person elected and/or appointed at the Intergroup level who misses two (2) consecutive Intergroup meetings without notification in one year will have his/her position vacated. The vacated position will be filled by a majority vote at the next regular Intergroup meeting. The elected/appointed individual shall serve the remainder of the term and be subject to re-election/reappointment at the end of the term.

8. Financial Structure

- a. The activities of the Intergroup shall be financed primarily by the contributions of its member groups.
- b. Secondary sources of income to the OACII may be from such occasional projects or activities as may be authorized by the OACII; such as, but not limited to marathons, retreats and workshops in accordance with Tradition Six.
- c. The OACII Service Board may accept donations from individual Overeaters Anonymous members, which conform with the WSO limit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), subject to change by the Board of Trustees.
- d. The acceptance of bequests or donations from outside sources is prohibited.
- e. The OACII Service Board shall not accept the responsibility, Trusteeship, or enter into the distribution or allocation of funds set up outside of the OACII Service Board.
- f. Intergroup will pay, when possible, for all documented expenses related to its duties/activities, subject to prior or post approval of the voting body.

9. Amendments to Bylaws – These Bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Body present at any regular meeting or special meeting of the OACII, provided a copy of the proposed amendment(s) has been submitted to each group at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the action is to be taken on the amendment. Provided further, however, that no amendments shall be permitted to alter the content of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous and Twelve Concepts of OA Service, as set forth in paragraphs 1(b), (c) and (d) hereof, except as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XIV, Section 1.

10. Dissolution – In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written notice to the World Service Office, region chair, and region trustee.
 - a. Upon the dissolution of the OACII, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the OACII, the remaining assets shall be distributed to the WSO of Overeaters Anonymous and/or Region 2.
 - b. No part of the net earnings of the OACII shall ever inure to or be used for the benefit of or distribution to its members, trustees, or officers, or other private persons, except that the OACII shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distribution in furtherance of the express purposes for which it is formed.