

## **2025 World Service Business Conference Report**

This was my 5<sup>th</sup> WSBC and I really loved everything about it. Being part of an amazing community of people who are endeavouring to transform their lives and help others, was a huge boost to my recovery!

There were 199 voting delegates together with world service office staff, our **Parliamentarian**, and employees from the technical support company.

Members attended from 27 countries representing 17 languages. Most members speak English and only the Spanish speaking members requested simultaneous interpretation.

Following the World Service Business Conference delegates are required to participate in a Committee and commit to meeting with this committee during the 12 months up until the next Conference. The committees are:

- Bylaws Committee
- Conference-approved Literature Committee
- Public Information/Professional Outreach Committee
- Twelfth Step Within Committee
- Unity with Diversity Committee
- Young Adults Committee

### **Parliamentary Procedure:**

The world service office employs a Parliamentarian who is an expert in parliamentary procedure. He was present at all business meetings to assist the Chair and to answer questions from the delegates.

Parliamentary procedure is a set of rules regarding such things as time limits for delegates to speak for or against a Motion, and further time limits for question time. This ensures that we do not waste time and the business is completed during the 5 days. Each business meeting was 4 hours long with a break every hour.

Due to the time difference, I had to be awake and ready to start at 2am each morning and for Anne-Marie in New Zealand it was 4am.

### **Here is what we achieved:**

#### **Literature:**

1. All OA literature is reviewed every 10 years. Some are left as is and others go through a revision process.
2. Prior to WSBC delegates were given the chance to ask questions regarding the revised literature.

3. Three pieces of revised literature were presented for approval by the delegates:  
Sponsorship in OA: Guiding Others into Recovery; Just For Today wallet card; To The Man Who Wants To Stop Eating Compulsively, Welcome.
4. All these manuscripts were adopted – this required a 2/3rds vote

Here are some of the New Business Motions (If adopted they are added to the Business Conference Policy Manual). These are policies not ByLaw amendments and require greater than 50% to be adopted:

<https://oa.org/oa-bylaws-and-policies/business-conference-policy-manual/>

**New Business Motion A – To change the name of the Young People’s Committee to Young Adult’s Committee. Adopted – Y – 144, N - 36**

The purpose of this motion was to clarify that the group of members being served by this committee is people aged between 18 and 30. There was a lot of debate arising from confusion about what the motion was about but eventually it settled.

**New Business Motion B – Unity with Diversity Policy, paragraph 3: Adopted as amended. Y-131, N-49**

THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of members, groups, and service bodies to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group, or service body to respect those rights as they extend the hand of fellowship to those who still suffer. For example, this means we do not try to convince any member or visitor to adopt a belief in God.

There have been some cases where members were insisting that you must believe in God in order to work the steps. This Motion seeks to clarify that this is not the case.

**New Business Motion C – Clarifying the policy regarding various methods of weight management. Adopted as amended. Y-172, N-4**

In keeping with Tradition Ten, Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on surgical or other medically recommended methods of weight management. In the spirit of Tradition Three, Overeaters Anonymous welcomes anyone with a desire to stop eating compulsively.

This Motion replaced the words ‘bariatric (weight loss) surgery’ with surgical or other medically recommended methods of weight management. This expands the description to include all methods of weight loss including the drugs that are now being prescribed. OA has no opinion on any form of weight loss management. Tradition 10 states that OA has no opinion on outside issues – these are outside issues.

Here are some of the ByLaw Amendments (If adopted the OA Inc. ByLaws will be updated)

The vote must be a 2/3rds or 66.666% majority to be adopted.

<https://oa.org/oa-bylaws-and-policies/>

**ByLaw Amendment 5 - replacing 'Him' with 'God' in the Steps & Traditions: Failed: Y-87, N-84**

As you can imagine this was hotly debated but in the end it failed. The vote did not reach the 2/3rds majority. In the discussion it was mentioned that this is also being considered by AA, NA & DA but none have the required support from the members. Many members would like to change the gendered language but the vote did not reach the required 66.666%.

**ByLaw Amendment 4 – Procedure regarding any changes to the Steps or Traditions: Failed: Y-96, N-77**

Any amendments to the Steps & Traditions can only be adopted if they are ratified by 75% of the registered OA groups responding within six months, ~~provided at least 55% of registered groups have responded.~~

This Motion was to delete the words: provided at least 55% of registered groups have responded.

Most of the delegates were in favour of this change but it required a 2/3rds majority. Some members expressed concern about the process: How do we communicate with all groups? Is the information on the website up to date? There is no way to know if the information is up to date. The world service office relies on the members to keep their meeting information up to date. **A reminder to all groups to make sure they register with World Service and remember to update their meeting information especially if the meeting closes!**

**ByLaw Amendment 6 – all WSB conferences to be held virtually – Failed: Y-46, N-128**

This was a Motion that all WSB conferences be held virtually.

Most members are happy with the current timetable of alternating between in person and virtual. This Motion failed.

**ByLaw Amendment 2 – Trustee Nominee Qualifications – Failed: Y-24, N-146**

Add: that the Trustee must state two specific ideas in writing to improve the health and long-term survival of the fellowship.

Whilst many believed this might be a good idea, the consensus was that this requirement would be too onerous for a new Trustee.

**Wrap Up Report:**

For a full summary of all Motions, visit the link:

<https://oa.org/documents/2025-wrap-up-report/>

## **TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS:**

The Trustee Nominee speeches were inspiring and all four nominees were voted in. We now have 15 trustees. The term for a Trustee is 3 years with an option to nominate for another term of 3 years. After that, the member cannot apply again for the Trustee position.

There was one vacancy and this position has now been filled.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

### **Qualifications required to be a World Service Business Conference Delegate:**

OA Inc. Subpart B Article VIII Section 3 – Delegates– Qualifications for WSBC Delegate:

Qualifications for selection of World Service delegates/alternates shall be set by each intergroup, region (in the case of region delegates) or service board provided that each delegate/alternate shall have at least one year of current abstinence and at least two years of service beyond the group level.

Susan M - OA Trustee, Liaison to Region 10

<https://oa.org/documents/oa-business-glossary/>

**Parliamentarian:** : A paid professional who acts as a consultant to the meeting's chair in conducting the business of the meeting in an orderly and legal manner. At the world service level, the parliamentarian is available for consultation with the board chair at Board of Trustees and World Service Business Conference meetings as deemed necessary.

**Policy** : A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an entity. The introduction to the World Service Business Conference Policy Manual states, "until changed, these motions set self-imposed limits on the Fellowship."