

**Bylaws
of
Te Waipounamu – South Island
Intergroup
of
Overeaters Anonymous**

**BYLAWS OF TE WAIPOUNAMU – SOUTH ISLAND INTERGROUP
OF
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**

April 2019

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Te Waipounamu – South Island Intergroup or Te Waipounamu – South Island IG.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Te Waipounamu – South Island Intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous is to carry the message of recovery to those with the problem of eating compulsively, by fostering the practice of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service; and to serve and represent member groups.

A) Twelve Steps

The Twelve Steps suggested for recovery in the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous are:

- 1) We admitted we were powerless over food—that our lives had become unmanageable.
- 2) Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- 3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
- 4) Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
- 5) Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
- 6) Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
- 7) Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
- 8) Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
- 9) Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
- 10) Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
- 11) 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.
- 12) 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.

B) Twelve Traditions

The Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous are:

- 1) Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon OA unity.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) The only requirement for OA membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively.
 - 4) Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole.
 - 5) Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers.
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- 6) 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.
- 7) Every OA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- 8) Overeaters Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
- 9) OA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- 10) Overeaters Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence, the OA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all these Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

C) Twelve Concepts

The Twelve Concepts of OA Service are:

- 1) The ultimate responsibility and authority for OA world services reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
 - 2) The OA groups have delegated to World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, World Service Business Conference is the voice, authority and effective conscience of OA as a whole.
 - 3) The right of decision, based on trust, makes effective leadership possible.
 - 4) The right of participation ensures equality of opportunity for all in the decision-making process.
 - 5) Individuals have the right of appeal and petition in order to ensure that their opinions and personal grievances will be carefully considered.
 - 6) The World Service Business Conference has entrusted the Board of Trustees with the primary responsibility for the administration of Overeaters Anonymous.
 - 7) 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.
 - 8) The Board of Trustees has delegated to its Executive Committee the responsibility to administer the OA World Service Office.
 - 9) Able, trusted servants, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are indispensable for effective functioning at all service levels.
 - 10) Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority; therefore, duplication of efforts is avoided.
 - 11) Trustee administration of the World Service Office should always be assisted by the best standing committees, executives, staffs and consultants.
 - 12) 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;
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- 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 any acts of government,
and each shall always remain democratic in thought and action.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

Section 1 – Membership

- A) Membership of the intergroup (IG) with voice and vote includes the following:
 - a. IG Officers (Executive): Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Literature Coordinator, Answerphone Coordinator, Region Representatives, World Service Business Conference Delegate.
 - b. Intergroup representatives (IRs), which consist of one member from each group.
 - c. Committee chairs or their nominated IG representative.
- B) A member may hold only one Intergroup Position (Officer, Intergroup Rep, or Committee Chair) at any one meeting, thus having one vote during decision-making.
- C) All other OA members who attend shall have a voice, but no vote.

Section 2 – Qualifications for Group Membership

- A) Groups registered with the World Service Office (WSO) that are within its region or geographic proximity may affiliate with the Intergroup, except that virtual groups registered with the WSO may affiliate without regard to geographic proximity.
- B) The Te Waipounamu – South Island Intergroup endorses the definition of an OA group in Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, Section 1, as written and as it may be amended by a future World Service Business Conference.
- C) No Group affiliated with another Intergroup may affiliate with this Intergroup.

Section 3 – Intergroup Representatives

- A) Intergroup representatives (IRs) will be selected by the group conscience of the group they represent.
- B)** The duty of the IR is to represent the group at IG meetings and to serve as a contact to carry communications between the IG and the represented group.

ARTICLE IV – THE INTERGROUP (IG) BOARD AND OFFICERS

Section 1 – The Intergroup Board

- A) The board consists of the following executive officers: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information Committee Coordinator, Region Representatives, and World Service Business Conference Delegate.

Section 2 – Qualifications for Intergroup Officers

To qualify for election to the Intergroup, an individual must:

- A) Be working the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of his/her ability.
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- B) Abstinance:
- 1) For Board members who are not Region Representatives or Conference Delegates, have one (1) year of current abstinance (each person shall be the sole judge of his or her abstinance).
 - 2) For other executive members, have six (6) months of current abstinance (each person shall be the sole judge of his or her abstinance).
 - 3) World Service Business Conference delegates must comply with the abstinance and length of service requirements in the OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3c). Current requirements are one-year current abstinance and at least two years of service beyond the group level.
 - 4) Region representatives must comply with the abstinance and length of service specified in the Region's bylaws. Current requirements are minimum of 6 month's current abstinance and experience beyond the group level.
- C) Be a regular member of an affiliated group.

- *Select WSBC delegate(s) last quarter of the year for WSBC (early May).*
- *Select Region Representatives first quarter of the year for Assembly (September-October).*

Section 3 – Election of Officers

- A) Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of election. A nominating committee may be formed at the discretion of the IG board.
- B) Nominees must be present at the election meeting.
- C) Voting will be by ballot. For election, the candidate must receive a majority vote of ballots cast.

Section 4 – Term of Office

- A) The term of office for an executive member is one (1) year starting on day of election.
- B) Executive members may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position. A member may serve again after a leave of 6 months from the position.

Section 5 – Responsibilities

- A) Serve as guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts with respect to the functions of the intergroup.
- B) Perform the duties of their offices in accordance with IG policies and procedures. This includes the Board making essential decisions, when necessary, on behalf of Intergroup, between Intergroup meetings, with the right to include or consult other officers, committee chairs, and/or group reps.
- C) Serve as guardian of IG funds.
- D) Provide a forum for the interchange of ideas and information among member groups.

Section 7 – Vacancies and Resignations

- A) If an executive member is absent from an IG meeting more than two (2) times in any one year, he/she may be removed from the position by a majority vote of the ballots cast at a meeting.
 - B) Any executive member may resign at any time for any reason by giving the chair of the IG written notice.
 - C) Any member of this IG may be removed from office for due cause by a 2/3 majority vote at a meeting.
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Section 8 – Filling of Vacancies

- A) Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote at a meeting of the IG after the vacancy occurs. Such persons chosen to fill said vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- B) A person chosen to fill any vacancy on the board shall meet the qualifications as defined in Article IV, Section 2.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1 – Regular Meetings

The IG will meet bimonthly at a time and place designated by the majority of the voting members.

Section 2 – Special Meetings

A special meeting may be called at any time by a majority vote of the IG board, or by a quorum of IG members, provided sufficient notice to the membership as prescribed in Article V Section 4.

Section 3 – Meetings by Virtual Conference

Members of the IG may participate in a meeting through use of electronic means, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another and have a way to participate in any voting. Materials presented during the meeting shall be made available to those participating virtually. Participation by IG members in a meeting in the manner provided in this Section constitutes presence in person at such meeting.

Section 4 – Method of Notification

The IG will provide at least seven (7) days' notice in writing to each Intergroup voting member, and each member group via group reps.

Section 5 – Quorum

The quorum for voting purposes shall be, at a minimum, 2 (two) executive officers and at least 1/4 of other voting members.

Section 6 – Meeting Procedure

- A) Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Board. In the event the Chair is unable to chair any meeting, another Board member will open the meeting and hold an election for a temporary chair.
- B) A tradition and a concept shall be read and interpreted at the start of each meeting.
- C) The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts banners shall be hung at each meeting.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Intergroup may establish standing or temporary committees as are needed for the welfare and operation of the intergroup. Each committee is responsible to the IG board. Chairs of Standing Committees shall qualify, be elected, and serve, as for other IG Officers.

ARTICLE VII – PRUDENT RESERVE

The IG treasurer will maintain a prudent reserve of two (2) month's expenses to cover expected operational needs. Excess funds will be donated to Region Ten and World Service in the ratio of 2:1.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Intergroup shall conduct the business of their groups using Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, subject to not being inconsistent with these Bylaws, the bylaws of Region 10, the Bylaws of OA Inc, any standing rules of order this Intergroup may adopt, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

- A) These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at any meeting of the intergroup.
- B) The proposed amendment must be communicated in writing to each Intergroup member and member group, at least 30 days prior to the voting meeting. Amendments to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA may only be made as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XIV, Section 1.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

When this Intergroup ceases operation, and all debts have been paid, all remaining funds shall be distributed to other OA groups and/or Intergroups within New Zealand.

In such an event, in order to deregister, Intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, Region Chair and Region Trustee in line with OA Inc Bylaws, SubpartB, Article VI, Section 4d).
