

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

To be voted on at 8/3/2025 GPI meeting

Key: ~~Text being removed~~ *Text being added*

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Amendment 1: Intergroup Purpose

FROM:

Article II-Purpose, *Section 1*. The purpose of Greater Pittsburgh 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 and/or intergroups.

TO:

Article II-Purpose, *Section 1*. The purpose of Greater Pittsburgh 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 and/or intergroups.

Rationale: To align GPI bylaws with the World Service template, making the lists more convenient to access.

Amendment 2: Qualifications for GPI membership

FROM: Article III-Members, *Section 2*. Qualifications or eligibility for membership in GPI

- A. Those groups within the geographic definition of GPI that have formally registered with the World Service Office (WSO) per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Art. V, Section 1 and indicated their intention to belong to GPI may be considered members.

B. OA Groups are defined by OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, Section 1.

TO: Article III-Members, *Section 2*. Qualifications or eligibility for membership in GPI

A. Those groups within the geographic definition of GPI *that have defined themselves as an OA group* and have formally registered with the World Service Office (WSO) *per the current version of* OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Art. V, Section 1 and indicated their intention to belong to GPI may be considered members.

B. These points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:

- 1. As a group, they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.***
- 2. All who have the 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.***
- 5. It has affiliated as an Overeaters Anonymous group by registering with the World Service Office.***

Rationale: Outline the definition of an OA group in alignment with the WSO template.

Amendment 3: Role of the Intergroup Representative (IR)

FROM: Article III-Members, *Section 3*. Intergroup Representatives (IRs)

- A. IRs shall be selected by the group conscience of the group they represent.
- B. An IR may only represent one group at a GPI meeting.

TO: Article III-Members, *Section 3*. Intergroup Representatives (IRs)

- A. IRs shall be selected by the group conscience of the group they represent.
- B. An IR may only represent one group at a GPI meeting.
- C. ***The role of the IR is to represent the group at intergroup meetings and to serve as a contact to carry communications between the intergroup and the represented group.***

Rationale: Outline the role of the IR in alignment with the WSO template.

Amendment 4: Roles of the Executive Board

FROM: nonexistent (no roles outlined)

TO: ***Article IV-Executive Board, Section 2. Roles of the Executive Board***

- A. Serves as guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts with respect to the functions of the intergroup.***
- B. Each member performs the duties of their offices in accordance with intergroup policies and procedures.***
- C. Serves as guardian of intergroup funds and oversees a quarterly financial audit.***
- D. Oversees the welfare and operation of GPI in the most effective and efficient manner.***
- E. Supports intergroup as a whole, providing a forum for the interchange of ideas and information among member groups.***

Rationale: Outline the roles of the executive board in alignment with the WSO template.

Amendment 5: Executive Board Qualifications

FROM:

Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 2*. A nominating committee may be formed by the Executive Board. Written applications will be required and submitted to the nominating committee.

Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 3*. Qualifications for the Executive Board:

- A. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of one (1) year.
- B. Shall have been actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than one (1) year.
- C. Shall be abstinent for no less than one (1) year.
- D. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.
- E. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup, for no less than one (1) year
 1. Minimum regular attendance shall be defined as attending at least six (6) GPI meetings within one election year within the last 3 years.
- F. Shall meet one of the following qualifications:
 1. Shall have served on at least one GPI committee for no less than one year
 2. Shall have served as chairperson of a standing committee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for one (1) year
 3. Shall have served as Regional Representative/WS Delegate of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for one (year).
- G. Shall have submitted a written application for the position.

TO: Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 3*: A nominating committee may be formed by the Executive Board. Written applications will be required and submitted to the nominating committee. ***Qualifications for and responsibilities of the Executive Board are located in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual Article III: Executive Board, Section B: Qualifications for Executive Board Members***

~~Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 3*. Qualifications for the Executive Board:~~

- ~~A. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of one (1) year.~~
- ~~B. Shall have been actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than one (1) year.~~
- ~~C. Shall be abstinent for no less than one (1) year.~~
- ~~D. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.~~
- ~~E. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup, for no less than one (1) year~~
 - ~~1. Minimum regular attendance shall be defined as attending at least six (6) GPI meetings within one election year within the last 3 years.~~
- ~~G. Shall meet one of the following qualifications:~~
 - ~~1. Shall have served on at least one GPI committee for no less than one year~~
 - ~~2. Shall have served as chairperson of a standing committee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for one (1) year~~
 - ~~3. Shall have served as Regional Representative/WS Delegate of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for one (year).~~
- ~~G. Shall have submitted a written application for the position.~~

Rationale: Locate qualifications for all GPI positions in the GPI PnP manual.

Amendment 6: Method of Elections

FROM: Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 4. Method of Election*

- A. Elections shall be held annually to fill vacancies.
 - 1. Election for the Chairperson and Secretary shall be held in odd numbered years.
 - 2. Election for the Vice Chairperson and Treasurer shall be held in even numbered years.
- B. To be eligible for election, the nominee must meet the qualifications and have an understanding of the responsibilities of the position.
- C. In order to be elected to the Executive Board the nominee must:
 - 1. Present his/her intent to vie for the position in writing to the Board.
 - 2. Be present at the election meeting **if at all possible**.
 - 3. Receive a simple majority vote of fifty (50) percent plus one of the voting members present at the meeting.

TO: Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 4. Method of Election*

- A. Elections shall be held annually to fill vacancies.
 - 1. Election for the Chairperson and Secretary shall be held in odd numbered years.
 - 2. Election for the Vice Chairperson and Treasurer shall be held in even numbered years.
- B. To be eligible for election, the nominee must **confirm that they** meet the qualifications and have an understanding of the responsibilities of the position.
- C. In order to be elected to the Executive Board the nominee must:
 - 1. Present his/her intent to vie for the position in writing to the Board.
 - 2. Be present at the election meeting **if at all possible**.
 - 3. Receive a simple majority vote ~~of~~ (fifty (50) percent plus one) of the voting members present at the meeting **following the voting procedure as described in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual Article II: Guidelines to the GPI Meeting, Section D: GPI Elections.**

Rationale: Reflect that applicants confirm that they meet the qualifications on the application form and that election procedures are outlined in the PnP. Define simple majority.

Amendment 7: Executive Board Terms of Office

FROM: Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 5. Terms of Office*

- A. Board Members shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years.

TO: Article IV-Executive Board, *Section 5. Terms of Office*

- A. Board Members shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years. ***Terms begin and end at the end of the conclusion of the October election meeting.***

Rationale: Specify when the Executive Board terms begin and end.

Amendment 8: Fix Error

FROM: Article V-Meetings, *Section 1. Regular Meetings*

- A. GPI shall meet monthly at a time and place designated by a Majority of the voting members.
- B. The regular October meeting shall be for the election of Executive Board Officers, RRs, WSDs, Alternates, and Standing Committee Chairpersons. With the exception of emergency new business, all other standing agenda items will be eliminated at that meeting.

- C. The number of RRs, WSDs, and Alternates who may attend Regional Assemblies or the WSBC will be dependent on the available funds. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation as to the availability of funds.

TO: Article V-Meetings, *Section 1*. Regular Meetings

- A. GPI shall meet monthly at a time and place designated by a Majority of the voting members.
- B. The regular October meeting shall be for the election of Executive Board Officers, RRs, WSDs, Alternates, and Standing Committee Chairpersons. With the exception of emergency new business, all other standing agenda items will be eliminated at that meeting.
- ~~C. The number of RRs, WSDs, and Alternates who may attend Regional Assemblies or the WSBC will be dependent on the available funds. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation as to the availability of funds.~~

Rationale: Item C is located in the wrong part of the Bylaws, it should be in Article VI, *Section 1*. Amendment 10 places it in the correct location in the Bylaws, which is Article VI-Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates, *Section 1*.

Amendment 9: Method of Notification

FROM: Article V-Meetings, *Section 3*. Method of Notification

- A. Notification of all meetings shall consist of an e-mail sent to the GPI email list at least ten (10) days prior to date of the meeting. Notification may also be made by placing an announcement in the *Voice of Recovery (VOR)*, at the prior GPI meeting, or on the website.

TO: Article V-Meetings, *Section 3*. Method of Notification

- A. Notification ~~of all meetings shall consist of~~ **may be made by** an e-mail sent to the GPI email list, ~~at least ten (10) days prior to date of the meeting. Notification may also be made by~~ placing an announcement in the *Voice of Recovery (VOR)*, at the prior GPI meeting, or on the website.

Rationale: Clarify how GPI notifies members of meetings.

Amendment 10: Fix Error

FROM: Article VI-Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates, *Section 1* GPI will

- A. Determine the number of RRs and Alternates by the current information from Region 7. (Region 7, Inc. Bylaws Article IV, A.)
- B. Determine the number of WSDs and Alternates by the current information from Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. (Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws Subpart B, Article X Section 3 (c) 2.)

TO: Article VI-Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates, *Section 1* GPI will

- A. Determine the number of RRs and Alternates by the current information from Region 7. (Region 7, Inc. Bylaws Article IV, A.)
- B. Determine the number of WSDs and Alternates by the current information from Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. (Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws Subpart B, Article X Section 3 (c) 2.)
- C. The number of RRs, WSDs, and Alternates who may attend Regional Assemblies or the WSBC will be dependent on the available funds. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation as to the availability of funds.**

Amendment 11: Regional Representative & World Service Delegate Purpose

FROM: Article VI-Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates, *Section 2. Qualifications*

A. For RR:

1. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of one (1) year.
2. Shall be actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than one (1) year.
3. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.
4. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for no less than (1) year.
5. Shall have attended one meeting of GPI within the past six (6) months.
6. Shall have submitted a written application for the position.
7. Shall have a current abstinence of no less than one (1) year.
8. Shall have at least one (1) year of service above the group level.
9. Shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.

B. For WSD:

1. Must match RR qualifications 1 through 7 and in addition,
2. Shall have at least two (2) years of service above the group level.
3. Shall have attended at least one (1) Region 7 Assembly as a representative.
4. Shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.

C. For Alternates:

1. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of six (6) months.
2. Shall have been actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than six (6) months.
3. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.
4. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI or any other recognized intergroup for no less than six (6) months.
5. Shall have attended one meeting of GPI within the past six (6) months.
6. Shall have submitted a written application for the position.
7. Shall have a current abstinence of no less than one (1) year.
8. Shall have at least six (6) months of service above the group level for Region 7 Alternate Representative
9. Shall have at least two (2) years of service above the group level for WSD Alternate
10. Upon election, an Alternate shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.

TO: Article VI-Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates, *Section 2. Qualifications* ***The purpose of RRs and WSDs is to represent GPI at Region 7 Assemblies and World Service Business Conferences respectively and to carry communications between GPI and Region 7/World Service. Qualifications for and responsibilities of the RRs/Alts and WSDs/Alts are located in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual Article V and Article VI.***

~~A. For RR:~~

- ~~1. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of one (1) year.~~
- ~~2. Shall be actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than one (1) year.~~

- ~~3. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.~~
- ~~4. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for no less than (1) year.~~
- ~~5. Shall have attended one meeting of GPI within the past six (6) months.~~
- ~~6. Shall have submitted a written application for the position.~~
- ~~7. Shall have a current abstinence of no less than one (1) year.~~
- ~~8. Shall have at least one (1) year of service above the group level.~~
- ~~9. Shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.~~

~~B. For WSD:~~

- ~~1. Must match RR qualifications 1 through 7 and in addition,~~
- ~~2. Shall have at least two (2) years of service above the group level.~~
- ~~3. Shall have attended at least one (1) Region 7 Assembly as a representative.~~
- ~~4. Shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.~~

~~C. For Alternates:~~

- ~~1. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of six (6) months.~~
- ~~2. Shall have been actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than six (6) months.~~
- ~~3. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.~~
- ~~4. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI or any other recognized intergroup for no less than six (6) months.~~
- ~~5. Shall have attended one meeting of GPI within the past six (6) months.~~
- ~~6. Shall have submitted a written application for the position.~~
- ~~7. Shall have a current abstinence of no less than one (1) year.~~
- ~~8. Shall have at least six (6) months of service above the group level for Region 7 Alternate Representative~~
- ~~9. Shall have at least two (2) years of service above the group level for WSD Alternate~~
- ~~10. Upon election, an Alternate shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.~~

Rationale: To articulate the purpose of the RR/Alt and WSD/Alt and to move the qualifications to the PnP so that all GPI qualifications are in one location.

Amendment 12: RR & WSD Method of Election & Term of Office

FROM: Article VI-Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates, *Section 3. Method of Election*

- A. The election shall be held annually.
- B. To be eligible for election, the nominee must meet the qualifications and have an understanding of the responsibilities of the position. (See Policies and Procedures Manual.)
- C. In order to be elected to the position of RR/WSD the nominee must:
 1. Present his/her intent to vie for the position in writing to the Board.
 2. Be present at the election meeting **if at all possible**.
 3. Receive a simple majority vote of the voting members.

Section 4. Terms of Office

- A. Shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years.
- B. Shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- C. After an interval of two (2) years, an individual will again be eligible for election, provided they have remained active as defined in Section 3.

TO: Article VI-Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates, *Section 3. Method of Election*

- A. The election shall be held annually.
- B. To be eligible for election, the nominee must **confirm that they** meet the qualifications and have an understanding of the responsibilities of the position. (See Policies and Procedures Manual.)
- C. In order to be elected to the position of RR/WSD the nominee must:
 - 1. Present his/her intent to vie for the position in writing to the Board.
 - 2. Be present at the election meeting **if at all possible**.
 - 3. Receive a simple majority vote of the voting members **following the voting procedure as described in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual Article II: Guidelines to the GPI Meeting, Section D: GPI Elections**

Section 4. Terms of Office

- A. Shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years. **Term begins January 1 and ends at the completion of assigned committee work.**
- B. Shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- C. After an interval of two (2) years, an individual will again be eligible for election, provided they have remained ~~active~~ **qualified** as defined in Section 3.

Rationale: To reflect the actual GPI election process and the terms of these positions.

Amendment 13: Standing Committees

FROM: Article VII-Standing Committees, *Section 1. Standing Committees*

- A. Standing Committees may be established as required to carry out the purposes of the GPI in the most effective and efficient manner.
- B. Should a vacancy, resignation, or removal occur, all pertinent information and data will be turned over to the GPI Chairperson.
- C. The Executive Board will then appoint an interim committee chair to serve the remainder of the unexpired term until the next scheduled election.
- D. A person appointed as an interim committee chair shall meet the qualifications as defined in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual (Standing Committees Section 3: Qualifications) and be aware of all responsibilities of that position as described and defined in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual.

TO: Article VII-Standing Committees, *Section 1. Standing Committees*

- A. Standing Committees may be established as required ~~to carry out the purposes of~~ **for the welfare and operation of** GPI in the most effective and efficient manner.
- B. **Standing Committee chairs guide the Standing Committees and report to the Executive Board. Qualifications for and responsibilities of the Standing Committee chairs are located in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual Article VII: Standing Committees, Section 3: Qualifications and Article VII: Standing Committees, Section 5: Responsibilities of Individual Standing Committees.**
- C. Should a vacancy, resignation, or removal occur, all pertinent information and data will be turned over to the GPI Chairperson.
- D. The Executive Board will then appoint an interim committee chair to serve the remainder of the unexpired term until the next scheduled election.
- E. A person appointed as an interim committee chair shall meet the qualifications as defined in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual (**Article VII: Standing Committees, Section 3. Qualifications**) and be aware of all responsibilities of that position as described and defined in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual.

Rationale: Text has been modified to align with the WSO template.

Amendment 14: Prudent Reserve

FROM: Article VIII-Source of Funds, *Section 1. Source of Funds*

- A. Voluntary contributions of the member groups shall be the primary source of funds.
- B. Secondary source of income may be such projects or activities as may be authorized by GPI according to Tradition Six.
- C. GPI may accept donations from OA members in accordance with guidelines from WSO.
- D. The acceptance of bequests or donations from any outside source is prohibited.
- E. GPI shall not accept the responsibility for trusteeship over, or enter into, the distribution or allocation of funds set up outside of Overeaters Anonymous.
- F. There shall be no accumulation of funds beyond current necessities with retention of only a prudent reserve for contingencies.

TO: Article VIII-Source of Funds, *Section 1. Source of Funds*

- A. Voluntary contributions of the member groups shall be the primary source of funds.
- B. Secondary source of income may be such projects or activities as may be authorized by GPI according to Tradition Six.
- C. GPI may accept donations from OA members in accordance with guidelines from WSO.
- D. The acceptance of bequests or donations from any outside source is prohibited.
- E. GPI shall not accept the responsibility for trusteeship over, or enter into, the distribution or allocation of funds set up outside of Overeaters Anonymous.
- F. There shall be no accumulation of funds beyond current necessities with retention of only a ***minimum*** prudent reserve ***of three (3) months expenses*** for contingencies.

Rationale: WSO template calls for specifying the amount of the prudent reserve.

Amendment 15: Notification of Bylaw Amendments

FROM: Article X – Amendments to Bylaws

Section 1. The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, as found in OA Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Articles I, II, and III, cannot be amended by GPI or any meeting within GPI except as per OA Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Art. XIV, Sec. 1.

Section 2. These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of GPI as long as there is a quorum. The proposed amendment must be communicated in writing to each member group at least 15 days prior to the voting meeting.

TO:

Article X – Amendments to Bylaws

Section 1. The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, as found in OA Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Articles I, II, and III, cannot be amended by GPI or any meeting within GPI except as per OA Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Art. ~~XIV~~XII, Sec. 1.

Section 2. These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of GPI as long as there is a quorum. The proposed amendment must be communicated in writing to each member group at ~~least 15 days~~ ***the GPI meeting*** prior to the voting meeting.

Rationale: Specifying advance notice of amendments.

Amendment 16: Dissolution

FROM: Article XI – Dissolution *Section 1*. In order to deregister, Greater Pittsburgh Intergroup must follow current guidelines as found in OA Inc. Bylaws Article VI Section 4C.

TO: *Section 1*. In order to deregister, Greater Pittsburgh Intergroup must ***submit written notice to the World Service Office, Region 7 chair and trustee liaison, following*** ~~follow~~ current guidelines as found in OA Inc. Bylaws Article VI Section 4C.

Section 2 – Disbursement of Remaining Funds

When this intergroup ceases operation and all debts have been paid, all remaining funds shall be distributed to other Overeaters Anonymous service bodies or the World Service Office in accordance with Tradition Six.

Section 3 – US Non-Profit with 501c (3) Status

Upon the dissolution of this association, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the association, the remaining assets shall be distributed to the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous, or to a non-profit fund, association, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious and/or scientific purposes, and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In accordance with Overeaters Anonymous Traditions, such non-profit fund, association, foundation, or corporation should be either the OA World Service Office or another OA service body.

No part of the net earnings of this association shall ever inure to be or be used for benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private person, except that the association shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distribution in furtherance of the expressed purpose for which it was formed.

Rationale: match WSO template

Amendment 17: Major Policy Matters

FROM: Article XII – Major Policy Matters

Section 1. Matters which affect GPI and/or groups within its service shall be referred to the Board of GPI. Matters which relate to Overeaters Anonymous as a whole shall be referred to the World Service Board of Trustees.

TO: Article XII – Major Policy Matters

Section 1. Matters which affect GPI and/or groups within its service shall be referred to the Board of GPI. Matters which relate to Overeaters Anonymous as a whole shall be referred to the ~~World Service Board of Trustees~~ ***OA Trustee assigned to GPI as an intergroup within Region 7.***

Rationale: Reflecting planned actual GPI practice.