

BYLAWS OF THE UTAH SOARING INTERGROUP OF OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Utah Soaring Intergroup also known as USI.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The primary purpose of Utah Soaring 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.

A) Twelve Steps

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

- 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 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.
- 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;
- 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

Membership of the intergroup with voice and vote includes the following:

- A) The intergroup service board members.
- B) Intergroup representatives (IRs), which consist of one member from each group.
- C) Committee chairs. (NOTE: A committee chair, like every other intergroup member, will have only one vote even if also serving as an IR.)

Section 2 – Qualifications

- A) Qualifications for group membership in an intergroup: Groups registered with the World Service Office (WSO) that are within its region or geographic proximity may affiliate with an intergroup, except that virtual groups registered with the WSO may affiliate without regard to geographic proximity.

Each intergroup has the autonomy to determine which groups may affiliate with it; that decision should always be guided by OA Traditions and Concepts.

- B) The Utah Soaring 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) 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.
- D) Virtual groups (groups which replicate face-to-face meetings through electronic media) may be an Overeaters Anonymous group if they:
 - 1) Otherwise meet the definition of Overeaters Anonymous groups;
 - 2) Are fully interactive; and
 - 3) Meet in real time.

Section 3 – Intergroup Representatives

- A) Intergroup representatives (IR) will be selected by the group conscience of the group they represent.

- B) The duty 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.

ARTICLE IV – THE INTERGROUP SERVICE BOARD

Section 1 – The Intergroup Service Board

- A) The service board consists of the following positions: chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, delegate(s) and alternate delegate(s).
- B) The intergroup service board may be expanded to include other positions at the discretion of the service board.
- C) Meetings shall be chaired by the chair of the board. In the event the chair is unable to chair any meeting, the vice chair will lead the meeting. In the event the vice chair is not available, the secretary will open the meeting and hold an election for a temporary chair.

Section 2 – Nominations to the Intergroup Service Board

Nominations to the board may be made from the floor at the time of election. A nominating committee may be formed at the discretion of the intergroup board.

Section 3 – Qualifications for the Intergroup Board

- A) To qualify for election as secretary or treasurer, an individual must:
 - 1) Be working the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of his/her ability.
 - 2) Have current abstinence as defined by the individual.
- B) To qualify for election as chair, vice chair, delegate or alternate delegate, an individual must:
 - 1) Be working the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of his/her ability.
 - 2) Meet the abstinence and service requirements set for World Service Business Conference delegates or Region III representatives, whichever is more stringent.
 - a) World Service Business Conference delegates must comply with the abstinence and length of service requirements in the OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3c 1. Current requirements are one year current abstinence and at least two years of service beyond the group level.
 - b) Region representatives must comply with the abstinence and length of service specified in the region's bylaws. Current requirements are one year current abstinence and at least two years of service beyond the group level.
- C) Identify as a regular member of an affiliated group.

Section 4 – Election of Service Board Members

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

Section 5 – Term of Office

- A) The term of office for a service board member is one year starting on January 1 following the election.

- B) Service board members may serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same position. A member may serve again after a leave of one year from the position.
- C) Once elected, a service board member may not serve also as a group representative at the intergroup.

Section 6 – Responsibilities of the Intergroup Service Board Members

- 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 intergroup policies and procedures.
- C) Serve as guardian of intergroup funds; participate in an annual financial audit.
- D) Provide a forum for the interchange of ideas and information among member groups.

Section 7 – Vacancies and Resignations

- A) If a service board member is absent from an intergroup meeting more than three times in a calendar year, he/she may be removed from the position by a majority vote of the ballots cast either at a regular intergroup meeting or a meeting announced for that purpose.
- B) Any service board member may resign at any time for any reason by giving the chair of the intergroup written notice.
- C) Any service board member of this intergroup may be removed from office for due cause by 2/3 vote of the ballot cast at a regular or special meeting announced for that purpose.

Section 8 – Filling of Vacancies

- A) Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote at the next meeting or special meeting of the intergroup 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 3.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1 – Regular Meetings

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

Section 2 – Annual Meetings

An annual meeting shall be held in the month of November for the election of officers.

Section 3 – Special Meetings

A special meeting may be called at any time by a majority vote of the intergroup board, or by a quorum of intergroup members, provided sufficient notice is provided to the membership.

Section 4 – Method of Notification

The intergroup will provide at least seven days notice to each member group.

Section 5 – Quorum

The quorum for voting purposes shall be, at a minimum, three intergroup service board members(s) and at least three other voting members.

Section 6 – Meeting Procedure

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions shall be read at the beginning of each meeting. At the discretion of the USI, the Twelve Concepts and the Standing Rules of Order may be read in whole or in part.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

The service board may establish committees as are needed for the welfare and operation of the intergroup. Each committee is responsible to the intergroup service board.

ARTICLE VII – PRUDENT RESERVE

The intergroup treasurer will maintain a prudent reserve of an amount to be set by the intergroup to cover expected operational needs. Excess funds will be donated to OA service bodies as determined by the intergroup.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The USI will conduct its business according to the most current available edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the intergroup. The proposed amendment must be communicated in writing to each member group at least twenty 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

Section 1 – Deregistration

In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair and region trustee.

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 WSO 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 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.