

Motion to submit Proposal to Update Bylaws at the WSBC 2022

To Amend:

Move to amend WSBC Bylaws Subpart B Article VIII, Section 1 Part B as follows: Move that WSBC be held hybrid each year from 2023 to be more inclusive of a worldwide fellowship.

Current:

| CURRENT WORDING (WSBC) | PROPOSED WORDING |
|--|---|
| <p>Article VIII, Section 1 Part B -- Time and Location</p> <p>B. The Conference shall be held during the month of May or on such dates as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference shall be held in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area or at such place as the Board of Trustees may designate.</p> | <p>Article VIII, Section 1 Part B -- Time and Location</p> <p>B. The Conference shall be held during the month of May or on such dates as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Conference shall be held in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area, <u>to include hybrid participants,</u> or at such any place as the Board of Trustees may designate.</p> |

Proposed:

To submit this proposed motion to the WSBC 2022 in conjunction with the United Kingdom, Europe and Beyond intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous (OAUKEB) Virtual Intergroup to allow for a hybrid business conference in 2023.

Intent:

According to OA’s Unity with Diversity Policy The Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous encourages and promotes acceptance and inclusivity. All are welcome to join OA and are not excluded because of ... nationality, ... gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other attribute [which many include persons with disabilities]. The current format of the WSBC does not allow for all intergroups to send their nominated delegates to WSBC, due to several factors as detailed below

Cost: The cost of sending a single delegate to WSBC for intergroups outside of The United States is cost prohibitive with a single delegate costing in some cases in excess of \$US2000. While service bodies including regions and the World service office of OA provide financial assistance to Intergroups this is limited to 1 delegate per intergroup. Intergroups within the Continental United States and intergroups with a high net-worth have an increased voice in the running of the Fellowship as a whole. It is therefore not inclusive of those intergroups that have a lower threshold of available 7th tradition contributions.

Disabilities: In keeping with the spirit of the Inclusivity statement, persons with a disability or multiple health conditions are often prohibited from participating as a WSBC representative as they are unable to either a)

secure necessary travel insurance, b) leave their home country due to needing to access essential healthcare and health services, c) the ability to leave their home for mental, physical, or other health related reasons.

LGBTQ+: Many individuals within the LGBTQ+ spectrum feel unsafe either outside their home country as well as travelling to the United States of America, which does not have the best rights available to LGBTQ+ individuals especially when we include persons who identify within the transgender and non-binary spectrum.

Impact on the planet: While it may be considered an outside issue, the impact on the planet of unnecessary travel, continues to do harm to a world which is straining under the current ecological crisis.

Rationale:

Outside of WSBC Bylaws Part B, Article VIII, Section 1, Part B there is not known to be any impact on other part of either WSBC Bylaws Part A or WSBC Bylaws Part B.

Due to an increased presence of the Virtual Region, as well as virtual meetings affiliated with all other regions of OA during the last several years, alongside the approval of hybrid meetings registered with WSO of OA, it would appear that the next logical step to be fully inclusive of all parts of the fellowship around the world, would be to move the WSBC from a in-person only event, into a mixed mode, hybrid event, which would allow a greater ability for land based as well as virtual intergroups around the world to be part of the WSBC and therefore be able to shape the future of the fellowship as a whole.

Implementation:

During 2022 in preparation for WSBC 2023

Cost:

Unknown, but compared to the current lack of appropriate use of 7th tradition contributions it is logical to conclude this would not be cost prohibitive.

Time Frame:

December 10, 2021, is the postmarked deadline to submit New Business Motions or Amendments for OA, Inc. Bylaws. Motions may be mailed or submitted through electronic transmission. If the submitted motion is postmarked or electronically date-stamped after December 10, 2021, it will NOT be considered.

Submitted By:

Alix S. {Treasurer}

ATTACHED DOCUMENT: Proposal to Update Bylaws at the WSBC 2022.pdf

