

Bylaws of the Milwaukee Area Intergroup, Inc. of Overeaters Anonymous

Revised January 2015

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Milwaukee Area Intergroup, Inc., hereinafter known as MAI.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1 The specific and primary purpose of this organization is to aid those with the problem of compulsive eating through the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service, and to serve and represent the OA groups from which it formed.

This intergroup is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Section 2 The Twelve Steps

The Twelve Steps suggested for recovery in the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous (OA) 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 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.

(These Twelve Steps cannot be amended by an Intergroup except as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XIV, Section 1e.)

Section 3 The 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 nonprofessional, 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

(These Twelve Traditions cannot be amended by an Intergroup except as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XIV, Section 1e)

Section 4 The Twelve Concepts of OA Service

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 the World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, the 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 acts of government, and each shall always remain democratic in thought and action.

(These Twelve Concepts cannot be amended by an Intergroup except as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XIV, Section 1)

Article III – Members

Section 1 Membership of MAI shall consist of the following:

A. The Intergroup Board.

B. Intergroup Representative (IR) shall consist of up to 2 members from each group that has registered with WSO to be a part of MAI affiliated.

1) Groups located in other areas may petition to join the intergroup.

C. Standing Committee Chairperson.

Section 2 Qualifications or eligibility for membership in MAI:

A. Those groups within the geographic definition of MAI that have formally registered with the World Service Office and indicated their intention to belong to MAI may be considered members.

B. The MAI 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 future World Service Business Conference

C. Each group shall be entitled to two (2) votes through its elected IRs. D. No group may be registered with another intergroup.

Section 3 Intergroup Representatives (IR)

A. Intergroup representatives shall be selected by the group conscience of the group they shall represent. Each IR shall be selected by any method deemed appropriate by their group. These IRs shall serve for a period designated by their group, always subject to recall by the group they represent. Each group shall be free to designate an alternate delegate when the necessity arises.

B. It is suggested that IRs be selected for stability, length of time in program and their commitment to abstinence.

C. The primary responsibility of the IRs, or alternate, is to represent their group at all meetings of the Intergroup, to act as a liaison between MAI and their group, to see that all

communications pertaining to MAI are made available and, where requested, read aloud to the group.

D. An IR may represent only one (1) group.

Section 4 Vacancies or Resignations of Intergroup Representatives (IRs)

A. Action on vacancies or resignations of IRs is up to the discretion of the group the IR represents.

Section 5 Membership with voice and no vote may be

A. Any employee of MAI.

B. Any member of the fellowship who is not a duly elected representative or alternate.

Article IV – The Intergroup Board

Section 1 Intergroup Board

A. The Board shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Regional Representatives/World Service Conference Delegates (RR/WSCD). The immediate past Chairperson shall serve as an ex-officio member of the MAI Board for one year. The MAI Board shall serve as the executive committee.

Section 2 Nominations to the Intergroup Board

A. Nominations to the Board may be made from the floor at the time of election. A nominating committee may also be formed, at the discretion of the Intergroup.

B. Members seeking nomination for RR/WSCD shall prepare a nomination form as specified by the Intergroup.

Section 3 Qualifications for the Intergroup Board

A. Member of OA for two (2) years or longer and working the Twelve Step Recovery Program.

B. Familiarity with the twelve traditions.

C. One year current abstinence.

D. Regular attendee of an active group, current or past IR, and one year of service above the group level. The qualifications for Region Reps and/or alternates as well as WSBC Delegates and/or alternates are at least one year of abstinence and two years of service beyond the group

level. The RR/WSCD may also be an intergroup officer, i.e., Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer.

Section 4 Method of Election

- A. Elections shall be held annually at a meeting specified for that purpose.
- B. To be eligible for election to the board, nominee must:
 - 1) meet all qualifications as defined in Article IV, Section 3.
 - 2) understand responsibilities of the position as defined in Article IV, Section 6.
- C. In order to be elected to membership on the MAI Board, a nominee must be present at the election meeting and must receive a majority vote of the IRs.
- D. Selection of RR/WSCDs when MAI is eligible for more than one shall be in alternate years for more continuity of service, so that there will always be at least one delegate with one year of experience.

Section 5 Term of Office

- A. Board members shall be selected to serve for a period of one (1) year, with the exception of the RR/WSCD who shall be elected for a two (2) year term.
- B. Board members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in an office.
- C. Upon election to the Board, members shall cease to be a representative of their group; and that group shall select a new IR.
- D. Board members terms shall begin effective with the closing of the meeting in which the election was held.

Section 6 Vacancies and Resignations

- A. If a member of the Intergroup Board fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without prior notice or has more than two (2) unexcused absences during the year, his/her office may be declared vacant by a majority of those members present and voting.
- B. Any board member may resign at any time for any reason by giving the Chairperson of the Intergroup written notice.
- C. Any board member of this Intergroup may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the IRs at the meeting announced for that purpose.

Section 7 Filling of Vacancies

A. Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote at that meeting in which the vacancy occurred, or at the next meeting or special meeting of the Intergroup. 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 defined in Article IV, Section 3 and be aware of all responsibilities of that position as described and defined in The MAI Policies and Procedures

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 Regular Meetings

A. The Intergroup shall meet monthly at a time and place designated by a majority of the voting members.

Section 2 Annual Meetings

A. An annual meeting shall be held in the month of October for the election of officers. The RR/WSDs and alternates shall be elected in November.

Section 3 Special Meetings

A. A special meeting may be called at any time by a majority vote of the Intergroup Board by giving notice as prescribed in Article V, Section 4.

Section 4 Method of Notification

A. Notification of all regular meetings shall be made by placing an announcement in the Intergroup meeting, newsletter and/or email blast.

B. Notification of special meetings shall be made by the Intergroup Secretary by email blast at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date

Section 5 Quorum

A. Those voting members present at any meeting of this Intergroup shall constitute a quorum for all proceedings of the Intergroup.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1 Standing Committees

A. The following standing committees may be established as required to carry out the purposes of Intergroup in the most effective and efficient manner. Standing committees may include but are not limited to:

1. Newsletter
2. Lifeline
3. Public Information
4. Twelfth Step Within
5. Budget
6. Bylaws
7. Professional Outreach
8. Institutions
9. Other committees, standing or special, as deemed necessary

Section 2 Committee Appointments

A. The board shall designate such committees as deemed necessary for the welfare and operation of the Intergroup. The Chairperson shall appoint a committee chair from those IRs present. Any OA member present may be appointed to chair a standing committee with approval of the established quorum.

B. All standing committee chairpersons shall be appointed at the November Intergroup Meeting.

Section 3 Term of Office

A. Committee chairperson shall be appointed to serve a period of one (1) year.

B. Committee chairperson shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

C. Upon selection committee chairperson may cease to be representatives of their group and that group may then select a new IR.

Section 4 Committee Procedures

A. Each standing committee may prescribe its own rules for calling and holding meetings and its method of procedures, subject to the guidelines of the twelve traditions of OA.

Section 5 Committee Responsibility

A. Each standing committee chairperson shall submit a verbal or written report to the Intergroup monthly. A written report for any specific event coordinated by that committee shall be submitted following the event. If any money is expended, a detailed and itemized report shall be included.

Section 6 Committee Bank Account

A. If it is deemed necessary by the board that a committee shall open a bank account, the following procedure shall be followed:

- 1) The committee chairperson and the treasurer of the Intergroup shall be cosigners on the account. Two signatures shall be required on all checks.
- 2) The committee chairperson shall keep all financial records and shall present a detailed, itemized report of transactions to the Intergroup one (1) month following any event for which money is expended.
- 3) The committee chairperson shall arrange for an audit of the account. The audit shall take place at the same time as the audit for the general account of the Intergroup.

Section 7 Vacancies

A. Should a vacancy, resignation or removal occur in any standing committee, all pertinent information shall be turned over to the Intergroup chairperson. The chairperson shall then appoint a new committee chairperson to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

B. If a committee chair fails to submit a report for two (2) consecutive months, his/her position may be declared vacant by a majority of those members present and voting.

Article VII – Source of Funds

Section 1 Source of Funds

A. Voluntary contribution of the member groups shall be the primary source of funds.

B. Secondary source of income may be such occasional projects or activities as may be authorized by the Intergroup according to Tradition Six.

C. The Intergroup may accept donations or bequests from OA members. The maximum allowable bequest or annual donation by a member is to be limited to \$1,000.

D. The acceptance of bequests or donations from any outside source is prohibited.

E. The Intergroup shall not accept the responsibility for trusteeship over, or enter into the distribution or allocation of funds set up outside of Overeaters Anonymous.

Section 2 Prudent Reserve

A. There shall be no accumulation of funds beyond current necessities, with retention of only a prudent reserve for contingencies. Funds in excess shall be donated to Region 5 and the World Service Office as directed by the Intergroup.

Article VIII – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition” shall govern this Intergroup in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, the twelve traditions or any special rules of order this Intergroup may adopt.

Article IX – Amendments to These Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the IRs and board members present at any regular or special meeting of the Intergroup, provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and published in the MAI email blast and/or newsletter the month prior to the meeting in which action is to be taken on the amendment. No changes may be made to any section of Article II.

Article X – Major Policy Matters

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

Article XI – Dissolution

Section 1 In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, Region Chair and Region Trustee.

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 purpose and which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2 Net Earnings

A. No part of the net earnings of this association shall ever inure to or be used for the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, 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 is formed.