

WSO News Bulletin **March 2023**

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WSBC 2023: Literature Order Deadline, New e-Documents, and Logo



WSBC 2023 is just six weeks away! Time for final preparations.

The Third Conference e-Documents were posted on March 13 and include completed applications from all trustee nominees, Agenda Questionnaire results, and new literature manuscripts submitted for the Conference Seal of Approval. Find all the e-Documents on the WSBC web page.

The delegate registration deadline is Friday, March 17. The World Service Office will accept registrations after this deadline; however, the delegate will not receive Conference materials until the registration process is completed and the fee is paid.

This year's Conference is a face-to-face event, which means the Forum is back! This year's theme is: "Service: The Heart of Recovery."

Delegates once again have the option to order OA literature for pick up at Conference. This includes OA's newest workbook, [The Twelve Traditions Workbook of Overeaters Anonymous](#)! The special order form can be found on the WSBC web page, and the deadline to place an order is April 17.

WSBC 2023 will convene April 25-29 in Albuquerque, New Mexico USA.

Calling All Translators! Significant Funds Available and a New Monthly Deadline



Applications for the Translation Assistance Fund are now accepted and reviewed monthly instead of twice a year. OA has more than US\$80,000 available to assist intergroups, service boards, and small groups of OA members who are working toward establishing OA in their area.

OA offers extensive guidance to help you translate efficiently. Read our [Guidelines for Translation of OA Materials](#), complete the [Translation Assistance Fund application](#), and send it to the World Service Office. Applications received in the current month are reviewed in the following month.

Let's carry the message in every language! Share this news with your fellow OA translators!

[Download the Translation Assistance Fund application](#)

Secretaries: Is Your Meeting Info Correct on OA.org?

Give the newcomer the best opportunity for recovery by making sure your meeting details are correct. Visit [Find a Meeting](#) to find your meeting details. If your information needs to be updated, go to [Edit a Meeting](#). Thank you for your service!

Important Dates and Deadlines

Planning an OA event? Send the details to our Event Calendar at oa.org! Your service will show newcomers and longtime OA members how active we are in our recovery—all around the world. [Browse OA events](#) and [use the submission form](#) to get your event posted. It's never been easier to submit or find an event!

World Service Business Conference

March 13—Third Conference e-Documents posted to the WSBC web page.

March 17—Registration deadline for delegates, alternates, and region chairs.

April 17—Literature order (for pick up) deadline using [these instructions](#).

April 25–29—World Service Business Conference 2023 in Albuquerque, New Mexico USA.

OA Board: “Let’s Welcome and Support Members Who Use a Variety of OA-Approved Literature”



OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

Embracing Our Differences

Beloved Members, Groups, and Service Bodies of Overeaters Anonymous,

Humility, of course, is one of the fundamental principles not only of individual recovery but of the practices of OA as a whole. Such humility is apparent in the readiness with which OA members, groups, and service bodies have embraced the first paragraph of OA's *Unity with Diversity Policy*: "THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeater's Anonymous *promotes acceptance and inclusivity* [italics added for emphasis]. All are welcome to join OA and are not excluded because of race, creed, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other attribute." The openness of OA, reflected in the acceptance of this policy, is something that brings solace to our members and demonstrates that our only concern is to carry the message and help heal the suffering compulsive eater.

We want to be sure we are exercising the same degree of humility and openness when it comes to the process by which we recover. It should be clear that OA promotes acceptance and inclusivity in approaches to the Twelve Steps just as much as it does on matters of race or religion. OA's policy on *Unity with Diversity* goes on to say, "THE FELLOWSHIP recognizes the existence of individual approaches and different structured concepts to working our Twelve Step program of recovery; that the Fellowship is united by our disease and our common purpose, and that individual differences in approach(es) to recovery need not divide us. THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of members, groups, and service bodies to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group, and service body to respect those rights as they extend the hand of fellowship to those who still suffer."

When we insist that there is only one way to recover, that there is only one piece of literature members should read, that the way we found to work the Steps is the way for everyone, we cease being accepting and inclusive. We surrender some of the humility and openness that marks our program of recovery, and we directly contradict our policy of *Unity with Diversity*.

OA is forever cognizant of the debt we owe Alcoholics Anonymous and celebrates the Big Book with admiration. It is just as important, however, to recognize the many members who use other OA-approved literature to guide their recovery and the many who have found a way to work the Steps and recover without using any literature.

Yes, groups are autonomous, but when they insist on one way to recover, when they suggest that OA material isn't good enough, they affect other groups and OA as a whole. As an inclusive Fellowship, we embrace all our differences.

Please join us in this recommitment to inclusivity—it is a great act of love, one our Fellowship needs and deserves.

Respectfully,

World Service Board of Trustees

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The OA Board of Trustees has released a letter to the Fellowship and has updated a number of OA documents to highlight that we welcome and support OA members who use a wide variety of OA-approved literature.

We encourage you to read and share the letter [Embracing Our Differences](#) and note that the following documents have been updated to reflect this new awareness:

- [Strong Meeting Checklist](#)
- [OA Group Inventory](#)
- [OA Intergroup or Service Body Inventory](#)
- [OA Region Inventory](#)
- [Service, Traditions, and Concepts Workshop Manual](#)

When we say or hear that *only one piece of literature* is the way to work the Steps, the way to carry the message, the way to find recovery, OA stops being accepting, inclusive—*welcoming*. All are welcome in OA.

[Read Embracing Our Differences](#)

News Flash! *A Step Ahead* Moving to Blog Format

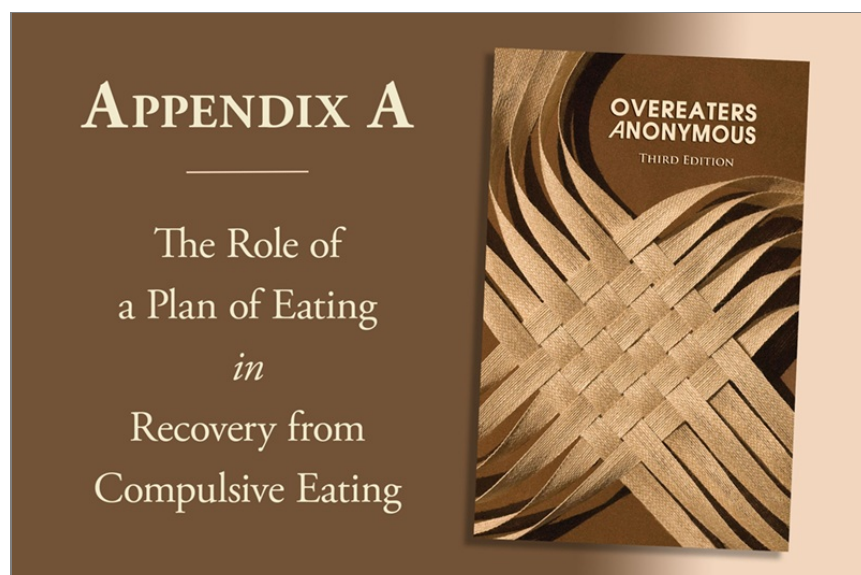
Good communication makes for a strong Fellowship, and there are WSO staff and OA volunteers at all service levels who work continually to inform OA members about important changes to all aspects of the OA program.

Today, the OA Board of Trustees and the WSO are announcing a streamlining of how world service news is delivered: *A Step Ahead* will no longer be published as a quarterly PDF newsletter. Instead, all news stories will be published throughout the year on our news blog at oa.org/news-events, which is accessible from our home page. When you want to catch up on the latest OA news, go to the newly renamed [A Step Ahead news blog](#).

The WSO will alert you of all new stories via this email newsletter and our social media pages, so you will always receive new announcements.

Thank you to the OA volunteers who reprint these stories on your websites and in your newsletters! We hope this change simplifies your efforts too!

Audio Recordings of *Appendices to Overeaters Anonymous Third Edition* Now on Lifeline.oa.org



We believe that the *Appendices to Overeaters Anonymous, Third Edition* offer such significant hope to the still-suffering compulsive eater that we added a [free PDF](#) to oa.org. Today, we are announcing that [audio recordings of these appendices](#) are now available at [lifeline.oa.org](#). Enjoy these recordings and make use of them as you carry the message.

In addition, [“The Importance of Working All Twelve Steps” podcast series](#) has also been added to [lifeline.oa.org](#). On Lifeline, these podcasts are enhanced with transcriptions of each episode’s writing prompts and links to referenced literature.

[Listen to the *Appendices* audio recordings](#)



Our Responsibility Pledge

Always to extend the hand and heart of OA
to all who share my compulsion;
for this I am responsible.

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