

**FEBRUARY INTERGROUP MEETING MINUTES & COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

**February 1, 2007 Meeting Minutes**  
**Westchester United Intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous**  
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30PM**

**Attending:** Roberta M (region 6 Delegate; Bryant Avenue Monday); Jan G (Corresponding Secretary); Larissa M (Hotline); Carol B (Public Information) Carol L (Wed Ossining); Bobbye H (Wed White Plains Mem Utd Meth Ch); David H (co IR Thursday Hartsdale); Margaret B (Thursday Yorktown Meth Ch); Kim D (Treasurer); Anne B (acting chair); John B (acting vice chair)

**Read:** Preamble; 12 steps; 12 traditions; 7-12 rules of service; sign in sheet & basket passed around

**Recording Secretary:** Position is again open. Request made for volunteer and reviewed the requirements as listed in the by-laws. Volunteer to take minutes for February meeting

**Newsletter Editor:** Present Newsletter Editor resigned position

**Discussed:** e-mail distribution list for all open positions and requirements to let OA members know what positions are available.

**Review of January Minutes:**

**Motion:** Approve Minutes from January:

**Vote:** 7 approved – 1 abstained.

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**World Service Business Conference – 2007**  
**(Proposed New Business Motions and By Laws Changes)**

**Discussion:**

Chair pointed out we had not had a discussion to extend the meeting to allow for time for discussion of the proposed by law changes. A proposed ballot was sent to all earlier in the week. Chair suggested we use the ballot for voting and limit discussion.

It was clarified that 30% of intergroups have to approve in order to have changes discussed at WSBC. Statement made that we need to discuss these New Business Motions and By Law changes in meeting in order to have better understanding of virtual meeting and intergroup representation.

**Motion:** Not to discuss the changes in detail in the meeting but to have intergroup reps vote with the use of the ballot.

**Vote:** 4 in favor; 4 opposed; 2 abstaining. Because of tie vote, chair voted not to discuss in the meeting and to use the ballot.

**Motion:** To have discussion on concept of virtual meetings and on-line meetings for those in remote areas or countries without access to meetings providing clarification on the need for the Virtual Media Groups in the OA service structure.

**Vote:** 7 in favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstain

**Discussion:** Need to change current wording to allow the forming of intergroups as on line meeting and telephone meetings continue to grow in remote areas and countries. There is a need to address this without geographical boundaries in order to meet the needs of these members and allow for representation. There is more of a concern that these members have representation than if they might be represented by both a meeting or virtual rep. Anyone of us at any time can attend a meeting either by phone or on-line. Clarification made that this is about the worthiness of this subject being discussed by World Service, not that as an intergroup, we are making any decision at this time that it will be discussed.

**Question** was raised on whether it is appropriate to go back to the individual groups for discussion on these by law changes and motions. This is appropriate and also any member of any group can read these proposals for by-law changes on the web site at any time.

Clarified the deadline is February 25 for intergroup reps to return ballot. A note will be sent to all reps again with the ballot, asking that they return to Jan G, Corresponding Secretary, either by mail or e-mail. Asking also to identify the group they are representing when returning the ballot.

### **Newsletter:**

Clarification on Chair's discussion with trustee on the interpretation of the "tradition" against using outside literature:

- Tradition 6 actually about being affiliated with outside organizations
- In this instance, not clear using poem violated this tradition
- Clarified Chair could ask for permission of the group to speak on subject if Chair has ideas or information not voiced by the group

### **Treasurer Report:**

- Review of January Financial Report
- 2007 Budget Worksheet discussed, but not yet finished
- Will pass out budget to committee heads. Question raised why it is not available to anyone (e.g. put it on the web site). Treasurer raised concern it would create questions on the money because people would not really understand what comprises the budget.
- Spent \$700.00 on movie ads in January
- Meeting List amount of \$37.50 will be increased to reflect increased number of meeting lists from 200 to 600
- Suggestion made to limit number of newsletters from six to four. Will want approval on this next month – may be moot if no newsletter editor found
- Pertaining to Public Information budget:
  - Can a donation be earmarked for a certain thing (e.g. Public Information)?
  - Treasurer will check this out with Region 6

**Motion:** To file Financial Reports for audit and post them on the web site

**Vote:** 10 in favor

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**Question:** Is it appropriate for a group to send around an additional basket to collect for Public Information. Two points:

1. Would Intergroup recommend this?
2. Would it be allowed?

**Discussion:** Collections are being made in some groups. Clearly indicated that the second basket is for this purpose. Concern raised that earmarking funds for Public Information might deprive another committee. If we allow for one, you would have to allow other committees.

**Motion:** We would allow second collection and be willing to accept earmarked funds for Public Information

**Vote:** 7 favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstain

**Hot-Line Report:**

**Discussion/Question:** Reviewed the list of who is on the hot line. Question raised on how do people get added or removed. This will be a new business item.

**Motion:** To amend the last month's minutes to reflect the requirements of six months abstinence and a year in program to be on the hot-line

**Vote:** 7 favor; 2 abstain

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**12 Step Within Committee: Announcement**

Marathon will be on Saturday, March 31 from 1:00-6:00PM at Presbyterian Church on Broadway and Barker Avenue in White Plains.

- Two rooms (\$200) within budget for committee
- \$7.00 suggested donation
- Topic: Prayer & Meditation

**REPORTS:**

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**Report of the acting chair regarding conversations with Region 6 Trustee (Anne B.)**  
Feb. 2007

After our meeting last month, I had a conversation with the Region 6 Trustee. This is the person we commonly turn to when we have questions about procedure and tradition. I would like to summarize that discussion here.

Point #1, Questions regarding our decision to edit the newsletter

There was a group decision last month to edit the newsletter to remove a poem. This decision created some controversy afterwards. I had felt a bit uncomfortable during the making of the decision, because I did not feel I could block the motion or comment on it, under our Intergroup rules, but I was not at all confident that the motion represented a correct interpretation of traditions and I was concerned it would hurt someone's feelings. This made me feel fairly helpless.

First, our trustee said that the "tradition" against using outside literature is actually a tradition against being affiliated with outside organizations – tradition 6. We are not supposed to distribute literature that promotes outside organizations. It is not clear that a poem that is used in an artistic way to illustrate a point violates any tradition.

She recommends that when tradition questions come up we should read the tradition in the OA 12 & 12, to make sure we understand it, before making any decision. She also says that her experience is that discussing traditions in the Intergroup can be very rewarding and informative, especially because the traditions are often not exactly what we think they are.

Second, she says that if the chair has an opinion that is not being voiced by anyone else in a discussion, the chair should ask permission of the group to speak. She also said that not all Intergroups do prohibit the chair from speaking.

Point #2, World Service business proposals

Since we have no World Service Business Representative in our Intergroup at this time, we have not been keeping up with World Service issues. Every year at about this time, business proposals come up that are proposed for discussion at the World Service business meeting in May. We are expected to vote on whether these proposals will reach the floor of the World Service business meeting. This is not a decision of whether the proposals will pass or not, but only whether they will be considered.

Normally, we have been devoting almost our entire February business meeting to these proposals and even extending the business meeting to 2 hours so that we can discuss them. This year, we did not even get the business proposals until too close to the business meeting to be sure that everyone will have a chance to read them. Plus we did not decide to meet for two hours instead of one and a half hours.

The trustee told me that in her personal Intergroup, someone had prepared a digest of the proposals. She had that sent to me and it has now been sent on to the IRs.

I would like to propose that we all consider the proposals at home, fill out the “yes”/”no” answers on the form from the other Intergroup and send our responses to our corresponding secretary. I believe that this will make our business meeting much shorter and more pleasant & also will allow more people enough time to actually read the proposals. If someone would make a motion to proceed in this way, I would appreciate it.

### **Outgoing Corresponding Secretary Report: (Larissa M.)**

Meeting List Updated for February and 200 copies printed for distribution  
(changes made to reflect Jan's information & to remove Priscilla as meeting contact per her request)

Next meeting list print run March/April will be for 600 copies

World Service Website updated to reflect open/closed meeting status

World Service requires contact information for all meetings so our hotline number is listed where there is no contact

Transition to new Corresponding Secretary:

1. Jan has been emailed the Excel file of the Meeting List
2. World Service has been notified & Jan has been sent their files for confirmation
3. Royal Press notified & Jan emailed their Website information & instructions for next print run
4. PO Box key will be handed off at February's Intergroup Meeting

### **Hotline Report: (Larissa M.)**

New contact names and numbers will be added today.

No meeting closures reported so no other modifications made

### **IR/ Outreach Report (Tom S.)**

Outreach is in full effect, and we are down to only a couple of meeting without Reps due to Mike B volunteering for South Salem, and Carol H volunteering for Mt. Kisco.

Unfortunately both will be out of town this week, but are excited about being a part of operation going forward.

We still need:

Tarrytown: Sunday

White plains: Friday AM

Yonkers: Tuesday

IR Mentoring: New Packets are being put together and will be given to new reps. Please email Tom at [Rinjani44@gmail.com](mailto:Rinjani44@gmail.com) for pick up instructions.

## **Public Information Committee Report (Carol B.)**

### **Movie Ad:**

The OA public information ad continues to be shown at the White Plains City Center in 5 screens at the theater – screens 11 through 15. One or more committee members have gone to the theater three times to do a spot check. The movie personnel have always graciously let us view the pre-shows. Occasionally there has been difficulty in the pre-shows, either a projector is broken or missing a part. The staff has always responded quickly and assured us that the problem is being rectified. After consulting with the movie personnel, we displayed over 200 OA pamphlets (Fifteen Questions and About OA) in the lobby of the theater for public distribution. Unfortunately, yesterday we found out that the distribution of pamphlets needed prior corporate approval. If time permits we will seek this approval. The ad will run till March 1<sup>st</sup>. On the whole, the committee is positive about the ad and will consider continuing its placement at a later date.

### **Diner Placemats:**

The committee is considering the use of an OA informational ad in several diners for 3 months. During this month, we plan to evaluate the options.

## **12 STEP WITHIN COMMITTEE (REPORT FROM DECEMBER)**

1<sup>ST</sup> EVENT: Abstinence Marathon

Date: 11/11/06

Attendees: 80-82

Money Collected \$410

Rent \$100

Supplies \$50

Total Profit \$260

Overview: Marathon was received very well. Many positive phone calls talking about intimacy of the marathon and powerful recovery was shared by all.

Another marathon was requested to be had in late in Feb on prayer and meditation. If Intergroup says OK will gladly get moving on it.

2<sup>nd</sup> Project: Diane B.'s husband (New Rochelle) has recently passed away. Chair of committee plans to getting together groups of OA-ers to her home to see how we can support her, her family in their recovery from his death.

The true spirit of 12 step work will be achieved

Humbly,  
Debbie S.

## **REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY (Jan G.)**

To All Intergroup Representatives:

We need to review the proposed New Business Motions and By Law Changes and vote on what we believe should be included in discussion at the upcoming 2007 World Service Board Conference.

We need to submit our recommendations by March 1. Therefore, we will have to focus on this subject at our next Intergroup meeting. As this will take up the majority of our time, please prepare in writing any reports you might have on other subjects and submit to Ann prior to the meeting.

The attached document is a summary of each of the proposals we will be discussing and voting on. This ballot is being sent to you to help us through this process and we will vote on the use of this ballot at our next meeting.

In addition, however, we recommend you read both the Agenda Questionnaire Letter and the full document of the New Business Motion and Bylaw Amendments prior to our meeting this Thursday. The following link will take you to the World Service Business Conference page on the OA website which has a numbered list of items regarding the conference.

[http://www.oa.org/ws\\_business\\_conf.html#mailing2](http://www.oa.org/ws_business_conf.html#mailing2)

Please read:

Item #2 - Agenda Questionnaire Letter. This document is outlining how the voting for inclusion in the conference discussion works for each service body and the time frame for submission.

Item #4 - New Business Motion & Bylaw Amendments. This is a 24 page document which includes the eleven proposed changes to the bylaws with an explanation of the intent, cost, implementation and rationale behind the change.

After our discussion on Thursday, please complete the attached ballot and either return to me by February 25 to either my e-mail [Gorbutt@aol.com](mailto:Gorbutt@aol.com) or by mail.

Thanks for your help and service.

Regards,

Jan G.  
Corresponding Secretary

## Summary of World Service Business Proposals & Ballot (Borrowed from Metrowest Intergroup – Massachusetts)

**Note:** Every year, OA meetings are asked to consider if the World Service Business Conference should discuss issues which are raised by members through their service bodies. The full 24 page document which details these proposed changes is available here:

[http://www.oa.org/pdf/Motions\\_and\\_Amendments\\_07.pdf](http://www.oa.org/pdf/Motions_and_Amendments_07.pdf)

MetroWest Intergroup encourages you to take a look at the full document, but to help our meetings get through this process, we provide this summary of the full document.

The letter from WSO asks us to:

Please carefully consider each proposed new business motion and bylaw amendment in order to decide if the delegates should discuss and vote on it at WSBC 2007. Does its debate benefit OA at this time? Your “yes” or “no” vote is not a vote to approve or disapprove the content of the business motion or bylaw amendment. Rather it is simply to determine whether or not it should be considered at Conference. Those agenda items discussed and voted on by the 2007 Conference delegates will affect OA as a whole for years to come; therefore, they should be important to the Fellowship as a whole.

Only those new business motions receiving a “yes” vote from at least 30% of the responding service bodies, and only those bylaw amendments receiving a “yes” vote from at least 40% of the responding service bodies, will be considered at WSBC 2007.

There are 11 items to consider this year. Some of the bylaws changes have been grouped together because they are related to the same objective. You'll see when you read them. **PLEASE** take the time to review these and provide your groups input to MWI Intergroup so that we may represent a true group conscience.

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### **Proposal Item:** A – New Business Motion

**Summary:** OA is not really widely known in the community as a solution for eating disorders including compulsive overeating. This proposal would have us raise funds from the membership (unique from the normal 7<sup>th</sup> tradition) to engage the services of an outside agency to conduct public awareness campaigns. We are an anonymous organization, not a secret one. The OA board of Trustees would oversee this to assure our Traditions are adhered to.

**Cost:** Estimated \$20,000 initial investment.

**YES, Discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO, Do not discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Bylaws Proposal Item:** 1 Bylaws Amendment

**Summary:** This change would carve out a section of Wyoming and Nebraska (which is organized by the Outstates Intergroup) from Region 1 & 4 and assign it to Region 3. This is an

accommodation to Outstates IG to lower it's cost of travel as costs to Denver (R3) are lower then where Region 1 and 4 meet.

**Cost:** None anticipated

**YES, Discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO, Do not discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bylaws Proposal Item:** 2 - 6 Bylaws Amendment

**Summary:** These 5 proposed bylaws changes have a single purpose: bring OA “Virtual Media Groups” into the OA service structure. A Virtual Media Group will be defined as: (groups which replicate face-to-face meetings through electronic media) may be Overeaters Anonymous group if they:

1. otherwise meet the definition of Overeaters Anonymous groups;
2. are fully interactive and;
3. meet in “real time.”

So why 5 bylaws changes? Lots of different parts of the bylaws need to be amended to accommodate the change. Here is a quick summary of those changes:

**Proposal 2:** Define Virtual Media Groups (as above).

**Proposal 3:** Allows Virtual Media Groups to form Intergroups without consideration of geographic proximity.

**Proposal 4:** Expands the definition of National/Language Service Boards so that Virtual Media Groups can form Virtual Media Service Board. At the same time, this proposal would change the general reference to these boards from National/Language Service Boards, to just Service Boards.

**Proposal 5:** Modifies the definition of OA regions to make clear that Virtual Media Groups and their Service Boards are not included in the Region structure.

**Proposal 6:** Modifies the wording on how delegates are allocated for voting on OA business so that it matches the new wording under Proposal 4 and thereby includes the Virtual Media Service Boards in addition to all the prior Service Boards.

**Cost:** No cost is indicated for most of these. The cost of Proposal 4 is borne by the affected groups, if at all.

**YES, Discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO, Do not discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bylaws Proposal Item:** 7 and 8

**Summary:** Today, OA World Service is in New Mexico but our organization is still incorporated in California. These two proposals would modify the bylaws to reflect the fact that we are reincorporating in New Mexico. This action will be complete by the end of 2007. These two changes are necessary.

**Cost:** The cost to move incorporation is about \$3000 but this will yield cost savings by not having to file taxes in two states. There are other benefits indicated but not outlined in the proposal.

**YES, Discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_                      **NO, Do not discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Bylaws Proposal Item:** 9 and 10

**Summary:** Modify the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous so that these read in a more inclusive way. Specifically, replace the word “Him” with “God” in Steps 3, 7 and 11 as well as doing the same in Tradition 2. The members proposing this believe that many OAs have issues with “Him” and changing to “God” makes the Steps and Traditions more inclusive while still keeping with the original intent.

**Cost:** \$7000 approximately. If this is approved at WSBC 2007, then the bylaws require that the question be submitted to all registered OA groups for their consideration and vote. An affirmative vote by ¾ of the voting groups is required to adopt the change. There is a 6 month deadline for voting.

**YES, Discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_                      **NO, Do not discuss this!** \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your careful consideration of these matters!*

**Treasurer Report**  
**Westchester United Intergroup**  
**2007 Financial Report**  
**January**

|   | 1Q                 |             |             |                    | 2Q          |             |             |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | January            | February    | March       | 1Q Total           | April       | May         | June        | 2Q Total    |
| <b>Opening Balance</b>                      | <b>\$ 9,202.43</b> |             |             |                    |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Credits</b>                              |                    |             |             |                    |             |             |             |             |
| Net WUIG Donations                          | \$ 480.00          |             |             | \$ 480.00          |             |             |             | \$          |
| Donations collected for WSO & R6            | \$ 180.00          |             |             | \$ 180.00          |             |             |             | \$          |
| Rent Collection                             | \$ 27.00           |             |             | \$ 27.00           |             |             |             | \$          |
| Retreats & Workshops                        |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                        | <b>\$ 687.00</b>   | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 687.00</b>   | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |
| <b>Debits</b>                               |                    |             |             |                    |             |             |             |             |
| Insurance                                   |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| P.O. Box                                    |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Website                                     |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| WSBC Delegate Travel (1 person*1 trip)      |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Region 6 Delegate Travel (2 people*2 trips) |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Rent  | \$ 13.00           |             |             | \$ 13.00           |             |             |             | \$          |
| Phone Service                               | \$ 64.01           |             |             | \$ 64.01           |             |             |             | \$          |
| Chair                                       |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Vice Chair                                  |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Treasury                                    | \$ 20.58           |             |             | \$ 20.58           |             |             |             | \$          |
| Recording Secretary (copies & postage)      | \$ 20.67           |             |             | \$ 20.67           |             |             |             | \$          |
| Corresponding Secretary (mtg lists)         | \$ 37.50           |             |             | \$ 37.50           |             |             |             | \$          |
| Newsletter                                  | \$ 125.00          |             |             | \$ 125.00          |             |             |             | \$          |
| Public Information                          | \$ 700.00          |             |             | \$ 700.00          |             |             |             | \$          |
| Twelfth Step Within                         |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| IR Mentoring Committee                      |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| New Group Start-Up (4 meetings)             |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Retreats & Workshops                        |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Special Projects                            |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| Donations to WSO & R6                       |                    |             |             | \$ -               |             |             |             | \$          |
| <b>Total Debits</b>                         | <b>\$ 980.76</b>   | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 980.76</b>   | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |
| <b>Balance</b>                              |                    |             |             |                    |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Credits-Debits</b>                       | <b>\$ (293.76)</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ (293.76)</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                      | <b>\$ 8,908.67</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |                    | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |             |

January Highlights:  
 >WUIG donations (details on reverse): \$480.00  
 >WSO & R6 donations (details on reverse): \$180.00  
 >Credits-Debits: -\$293.76  
 >Checkbook closed at: \$8,908.67

