

**BYLAWS**  
**GREATER ATLANTA OA INTERGROUP**  
**(GAOAIG – #09114)**

Revised 12/10/2016

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**ARTICLE I—NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Greater Atlanta Overeaters Anonymous Intergroup, also known as GAOAIG.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of Greater Atlanta Overeaters Anonymous (GAOAIG) 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 OA, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service; and to serve and represent member groups.

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 our 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

- A. IG meetings are open meetings. Visitors may have a voice (but not a vote) at the discretion of the person presiding over the meeting.
- B. Physically or virtually present members of IG with voice and vote include the following:  
(In no case shall any member have more than one vote.)
  - 1. The IG secretary and treasurer
  - 2. One IG representative or alternate from each registered group
  - 3. WSBC delegates and Region 8 representatives
  - 4. IG standing committee chairs or co-chairs
  - 5. The non-presiding IG co-chair
- C. Co-chairs
  - 1. Both co-chairs have a voice, but opinions should seldom be given by the presiding officer in an effort to remain impartial so that members on both sides of a debate can feel confident that they will receive fair treatment.
  - 2. The presiding officer does not have a vote unless the voting is by ballot or in the case that his/her vote would change the outcome.

## SECTION 2 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IG

- A. GAOAIG endorses the definition of an OA group in OA Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, Section 1 as written and as it may be amended by a future WSBC.
- B. Groups wishing to belong to GAOAIG may be members if they meet the following definition of an OA group:
  - 1. As a group, they meet together to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
  - 2. All who have a 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 OA.
  - 5. It has affiliated as an OA group by registering with the WSO.
- D. Composition of a Group
  - 1. A group may be formed by two (2) or more persons meeting together, either
    - (a) in the same physical location (face-to-face),
    - (b) through some form of electronic device (virtually); or
    - (c) both

## SECTION 3—IG REPS

- A. IG reps and alternates will be selected by the group conscience of the group they represent.
- B. The duties of the IG rep or alternate are to represent the group at IG meetings and to serve as a contact to carry communications between the IG and the represented group.
- C. IG reps and/or alternates shall serve for the period designated by their OA meeting. It is recommended that they have at least three (3) months in the Fellowship.

## ARTICLE IV – THE INTERGROUP BOARD

### SECTION 1 – THE IG BOARD DESCRIPTION

- A. The board consists of the following officers: two co-chairs, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- B. The IG board and board meetings may also include other positions such as paid IG office staff, standing committee chairs, WSBC delegates, and region reps.
- C. The IG parliamentarian attends both board and IG meetings in an advisory role only. S/he is not a member of the board and does not have a vote.
- D. The IG board will meet at a time and place decided upon by the board. (Currently, board meetings are being held at 12:15 on the last Saturday of the month before the IG meeting in order to set the agenda for the IG meeting.) The board meeting is chaired by either of the two co-chairs. In the event that neither of the co-chairs is able to chair a board meeting, another board member will lead the meeting.
- E. IG meetings shall be chaired by either of the co-chairs. In the event that neither of the co-chairs is able to chair a meeting, the secretary will open and lead the meeting.

### SECTION 2 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE INTERGROUP BOARD

To qualify for election to the IG board, an individual must:

- A. be working the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of his/her ability;
- B. have not less than one (1) year in the Fellowship; at least three (3) months experience giving service at the IG level; and have at least three (3) months of current continuous abstinence. (Each person shall be the sole judge of his/her abstinence.)
- C. be a regular member of an OA group affiliated with GAOAIG.

### SECTION 3 – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Nominations may be made by a nominating committee and/or from the floor at the time of election.

- B. Nominees must be physically or virtually present at the election meeting. The candidate must receive a majority vote to be elected.
- C. Voting will be by ballot if multiple candidates exist. When only one (1) candidate is running, a motion can be made to accept by acclamation.

It is suggested that one (1) co-chair and treasurer be elected in even years in September or October and the other co-chair and secretary be elected in odd years in September or October. All elected board members will take office the following January.

#### SECTION 4 – TERM OF OFFICE

- A. The term of office for a board member is two (2) years. The outgoing co-chair remains active as a board advisor for six (6) months.
- B. Board members may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position. A member may serve again after a leave of one (1) term in the position.
- C. It is recommended that once elected, a board member not serve as a group rep to the IG. If no one else is available to serve as IG rep, a board member may serve temporarily until someone can be found, but that person would have only one vote.

#### SECTION 5 – GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE IG BOARD MEMBERS (*See GAOAIG Policy & Procedure Manual* for specific officer responsibilities.)

- A. Serve as guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts with respect to the functions of the IG.
- B. Perform the duties of their offices in accordance with *GAOAIG Bylaws* and *P&P*.
- C. Serve as guardian of IG funds; participate in an annual financial audit if needed. (For financial information see *GAOAIG P&P* at [www.atlantaoa.org](http://www.atlantaoa.org).)
- D. Provide a forum for the interchange of ideas and information between member groups.
- E. Attend board and IG meetings
- F. Each IG co-chair shall serve as one (1) of the allotted Region 8 (SOAR) representatives and WSBC delegates.
- G. Keep the *GAOAIG Bylaws* and *P&P* up to date by bringing any changes to IG for approval.

#### SECTION 6 – VACANCIES AND RESIGNATIONS

- A. If a board member shall fail to attend two (2) consecutive board or IG meetings without prior notification to the secretary, or fail to respond to communication attempts by the board, he/she may be removed from the position by a majority vote of the ballots cast either at a regular IG meeting or a meeting announced for that purpose.
- B. Any board member may resign at any time for any reason by giving the chairman of the IG written notice.

- C. Any board member of this IG may be removed from office for due cause by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members physically or virtually present at a regular or special IG meeting announced for that purpose.

#### SECTION 7 – FILLING OF VACANCIES

Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of members physically or virtually present at the next meeting or special meeting of the IG after the vacancy occurs. Such persons chosen to fill vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and are eligible to run for another two (2) terms.

- A. A person chosen to fill any vacancy on the board shall meet the qualifications as defined in Article IV, Section 2.

### ARTICLE V—WSBC DELEGATES AND REGION 8 (SOAR) REPRESENTATIVES

#### SECTION 1—QUALIFICATIONS (Each person shall be the sole judge of his/her abstinence.)

- A. Candidates must be working the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of his/her ability.
- B. Candidates must be a regular member of a registered OA group affiliated with GAOAIG.
- C. WSBC delegates must comply with the abstinence and length of service requirements in the World Service Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3c. (Current requirements are one (1) year of current abstinence and at least two (2) years of service beyond the group level.)
- D. Region reps must comply with the abstinence and length of service specified in Region 8 (SOAR) Bylaws, Article III, Section 3B. (Current requirements are a minimum of six (6) months of consecutive current abstinence and at least one (1) year of service beyond the group level.)

#### SECTION 2—ELECTION OF WSBC DELEGATES AND REGION 8 (SOAR) REPS

- A. Nominations may be made by a nominating committee and/or from the floor at the time of election.
- B. Nominees must be physically or virtually present at the election meeting. The candidate must receive a majority vote for election.
- C. Voting will be by ballot if multiple candidates exist. When only one (1) candidate is running, a motion can be made to accept by acclamation.
- D. It is suggested that representatives and delegates be elected in September or October to take office the following January.

- E. There shall be one (1) representative to Region 8 (SOAR) for each ten (10) WSO registered OA meetings (or any part thereof) currently a member of GAOAIG. It is suggested that alternates be elected. They must meet the same qualifications. The IG may elect as many alternates as they would like. Each January a new Certificate of Eligibility for all of the Region-8 reps and alternates should be sent to the Region-8 secretary and throughout the year as changes occur.
- F. There shall be (1) delegate to WSBC for the first ten (10) WSO registered OA meetings and one (1) for every additional fifteen (15) or any part thereof. Only those delegates actually attending WSBC in May are registered with the WSO, usually in December (120 days prior to WSBC.) Qualified alternates may also be elected.

### SECTION 3 – TERM OF OFFICE

- A. The term of office is two (2) years.
- B. Delegates and region reps may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same position. A member may serve again after a leave of one (1) year in the position.
- C. It is recommended that once elected, a delegate or rep not serve as a group rep to the IG. If no one else is available to serve as IG rep, a delegate or region rep may serve temporarily until someone can be found, but that person would have only one vote.

### SECTION 4—GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Attend monthly IG meetings.
- B. Attend Region 8 (SOAR) Assemblies and/or WSBC as IG funds allow. When reps or delegates are not able to attend, an alternate may represent the IG.
- C. After attending an event, a written and oral report shall be presented at the next intergroup meeting.
- D. It is recommended that reps and delegates serve on an IG standing committee or perform some other IG service related to their experience at an Assembly and/or WSBC.

### SECTION 5– VACANCIES AND RESIGNATIONS

- A. Any delegate or region rep may resign at any time for any reason by giving the chairman of the IG notice.
- B. They may be removed from office at any time by the board if they do not follow the guidelines. The board may appoint an IG member or hold an election to fill the position.

### SECTION 6 – FILLING OF VACANCIES

Alternates chosen to fill vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term is eligible to run for another two (2) terms.

- A. Alternates elected to fill a vacancy shall meet the qualifications as defined in the bylaws.

- B. If no elected Region 8 reps are available for a Region 8 (SOAR) Assembly or WSBC, the board may appoint a qualified substitute rep for that function only.

## ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

### SECTION 1 – REGULAR MEETINGS

The IG will meet monthly at a time and place designated by a majority of the voting members. (Currently IG meetings are held at 10:30 am on the second Saturday of each month at the OA office.)

### SECTION 2–SPECIAL MEETINGS

A special meeting may be called at any time by a majority of the IG board, or by a quorum of IG members provided at least nine (9) days’ notice is given to each member group.

### SECTION 3 –QUORUM

The quorum for voting purposes shall be, at a minimum, three (3) IG officer(s) and at least three (3) other voting members.

### SECTION 4 –MEETING PROCEDURE

The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts shall be read at the beginning of each meeting. For more information about GAOAIG meeting procedures see *Intergroup Documents* at [www.atlantaoa.org](http://www.atlantaoa.org): Click on *GAOAIG Standing Rules* and *P&P Manual*.

## ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

### SECTION 1—ESTABLISHING COMMITTEES

The board may establish standing and ad-hoc committees as needed for the welfare and operation of the IG. Each committee is responsible to the IG Board.

### SECTION 2—COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Committee chairs and committee co-chairs are appointed by the board generally to a one (1) year term and may be removed at the discretion of the board. (See *GAOAIG P&P Manual* at [www.atlantaoa.org](http://www.atlantaoa.org) for specific committee information.)

## ARTICLE VIII – PRUDENT RESERVE

The IG treasurer will maintain a prudent reserve of approximately four (4) to six (6) months expenses to cover expected operational needs. Excess funds will be donated to OA service bodies as determined by the IG. (See *GAOAIG Policy & Procedure Manual* for financial policies.)

## ARTICLE IX – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The IG meetings are conducted using *Robert's Rules of Order* and *GAOAIG Standing Rules*. In all deliberations the group conscience is more important than the technicalities of the actual motion.

## ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at any time by two-thirds a (2/3) vote of the voting members physically or virtually present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the IG. Any OA member may propose an amendment. The motion should be submitted in writing to the IG secretary by Friday before the board meeting. The proposed amendment must be communicated in writing to each member group at least thirty (30) days prior to the voting meeting. Amendments to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA may only be made as per OA, Inc. Subpart B Bylaws, Article XIV, Section 1e.

## ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

### SECTION 1 – DEREGISTRATION

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

### SECTION 2 – DISBURSEMENT OF REMAINING FUNDS

When this IG ceases operation and all debts have been paid, all remaining funds shall be distributed to other OA 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 WSO of OA, 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 OA Traditions, such non-profit fund, association, foundation or corporation should be either the OA WSO 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.

## GLOSSARY & ABBREVIATIONS

**Bylaws**— The document that governs. It describes the responsibilities of the officers and the policies that guide business meetings.

**Delegates**— Members elected by their IG to represent the IG at WSBC. Region chairs and trustees also serve as WSBC delegates.

**Group and Meeting** are used interchangeably in OA documents

**IG Reps** Intergroup Representatives- Members elected by their group (meeting) to attend IG meetings and be a liaison

**IG** Intergroup— The service body that supports local area groups. It is made up of reps or alternates from each group . IGs are managed by a board of officers. Our IG is GAOAIG Greater Atlanta Overeaters Anonymous Intergroup

**OA** Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.— The formal structure of the corporate organization made up of the board of trustees, the WSO and for the week that it is in session, WSBC

**P&P Policy and Procedure Manual**— A more detailed document that guides the operation of an IG or region

**Region Reps**— Members elected by the IG to represent the IG at the Region 8 Business Assembly

**SOAR 8** Southeastern Overeaters Anonymous Region 8— One of the 10 regions of OA worldwide comprised of the USA's southeast states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. It also includes Puerto Rico, South America, Central America, and all of the Caribbean Islands. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have long been a part of our region, and in July 2001 the rest of the Caribbean Islands were officially welcomed into Region 8 along with Central America and South America

**Trustees**— One trustee is elected by each of the 10 regions, 6 general service trustees guide the business of OA and recently added was one virtual services trustee

**WSBC** World Service Business Conference— The weeklong meeting held to elect trustees, amend bylaws, add new business policies and provide information to delegates through presentations and workshops

**WSO** World Service Office— the administrative headquarters for OA in Rio Rancho, NM. Staffed by 14 professionals who conduct day-to-day business operations. The WSO tracks OA groups worldwide, develops OA literature, produces newsletters, a magazine (Lifeline), maintains a website and sells and ships OA materials