

GREATER PITTSBURGH INTERGROUP BYLAWS

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Greater Pittsburgh Intergroup, hereinafter known as GPI.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1. The primary purpose of this intergroup is to carry the Overeaters Anonymous (OA) message of recovery through the service to member groups and to foster the practice of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts as stated in OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Articles I, II, and III.

Section 2. The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts cannot be amended by GPI or any meeting within GPI.

Section 3. 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 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Article III – Members

Section 1. Membership of GPI shall consist of the following with voice and vote:

- A. The Executive Board of GPI.
- B. Intergroup Representatives (IRs) which shall consist of one (1) member from each group, within the geographical area.
- C. Chairpersons of Standing Committees.
- D. Regional Representatives (RRs) and Alternates.
- E. World Service Delegates (WSDs) and Alternates.
- F. A member may hold more than one position, but may only have one vote.

Section 2. Qualifications or eligibility for membership in GPI

- A. Those groups within the geographic definition of GPI that have formally registered with the World Service Organization (WSO) and indicated their intention to belong to GPI may be considered members. (OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, Section 1a.)

Section 3. Intergroup Representatives (IRs)

- A. IRs shall be selected by the group conscience of the group they represent.
- B. IRs may only represent one group at an intergroup meeting.

Section 4. Membership with voice and no vote shall be:

- A. Any employee.
- B. Any member of the fellowship who does not hold an office; a visitor; a guest.

Article IV – Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, the immediate past Chairperson shall serve as an ex-officio member (voice but no vote) of the Executive Board for a period of one year.

Section 2. A nominating committee may be formed by the Executive Board. Written applications will be required and submitted to the nominating committee.

Section 3. Qualifications for the Executive Board:

- A. Shall have been actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than one (1) year.
- B. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.
- C. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup, for no less than one (1) year and have served as chairperson of a standing committee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for one (1) year, **or** Regional Representative/WS Delegate of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup.
- D. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Treasurer shall be abstinent for no less than one (1) year and the Recording Secretary must be abstinent no less than six (6) months.
- E. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of one (1) year.
- F. Shall have submitted a written application for the position.

Section 4. Method of Election

- A. Elections shall be held annually to fill vacancies.
- B. To be eligible for election, the nominee must meet the qualifications and have an understanding of the responsibilities of the position.
- C. In order to be elected to the Executive Board the nominee must:
 - 1. Present his/her intent to vie for the position in writing to the Board.
 - 2. Be present at the election meeting **if at all possible**.
 - 3. Receive a simple majority vote of fifth (50) percent plus one of the voting members present at the meeting.

Section 5. Term of Office

- A. Board members shall be elected to serve for a period of one (1) year.
- B. Board members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive years at one position.
- C. After interval of one (1) year, they may be again eligible for election to the same position.

- D. Upon election to the Board, members shall cease to be a Chairperson of any Standing Committee or an IR and their group may elect a new IR.

Section 6. Vacancies and Resignations

- A. Any Board Member may resign at any time by notifying the Chairperson of GPI.
B. Any Board Member of GPI may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the voting members at a special meeting announced for that purpose.
C. Should a vacancy, resignation, or removal occur, all pertinent information and data will be turned over to the GPI chairperson.

Section 7. Filling of Vacancies

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

Article V – Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings

- A. GPI shall meet monthly at a time and place designated by a Majority of the voting members.
B. The regular October meeting shall be for the election of Executive Board Officers, RRs, WSDs, Alternates, and Standing Committee Chairpersons. With the exception of emergency new business, all other standing agenda items will be eliminated at that meeting.
C. The number of RRs, WSDs, and Alternates to be chosen will be dependent on the available funds. The Financial Committee will make a recommendation as to the availability of funds.

Section 2. Special Meetings

- A. A special meeting may be called at any time by a majority vote of the Executive Board by giving notice as prescribed in Article V, Section 3.

Section 3. Method of Notification

- A. Notification of all meetings shall consist of notices prepared by the Recording Secretary and distributed to each Group Secretary and/or IR ten (10) days prior to date of the meeting. Notification may also be made by placing an announcement in the *Voice of Recovery (VOR)*, by mail, at the prior GPI meeting, or on the website.

Section 4. Quorum

- A. Shall consist of not less than two (2) IRs, not less than one-half (1/2) of the filled Executive Board voting members, and not less than one-third (1/3) of the filled Committee Chair positions and a minimum of seven (7) voting members.

Article VI – Regional Representatives/World Service Delegates and Alternates

Section 1. GPI will

- A. Determine the number of RRs and Alternates by the current information from Region 7. (Region 7, Inc. Bylaws Article IV, A.)
- B. Determine the number of WSDs and Alternates by the current information from Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. (Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws Subpart B, Article X Section 3 (c) 2.)

Section 2. Nominations for RRs/WSDs/Alternates may be made from the floor at the time of election. A nominating committee may also be formed, at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Qualifications:

A. For RR:

1. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of one (1) year.
2. Shall be actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than one (1) year.
3. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.
4. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI, or any other recognized intergroup for no less than (1) year.
5. Shall have a current abstinence of no less than one (1) year.
6. Shall have at least one (1) year of service above the group level.
7. Shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.

B. For WSD:

1. Must match RR qualifications 1 through 5 and in addition,
2. Shall have at least two (2) years of service above the group level.
3. Shall have attended at least one (1) Region 7 Assembly as a representative.
4. Shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.

C. For Alternates:

1. Shall be a regular attendee of a group for a period of six (6) months.
2. Shall have been actively working the Twelve Step program of recovery for a period of no less than six (6) months.
3. Shall have a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous.
4. Shall have been a regular attendee of GPI or any other recognized intergroup for no less than six (6) months.
5. Shall have a current abstinence of no less than six (6) months.
6. Shall have at least six (6) months of service above the group level.
7. Upon election, an Alternate shall cease to act as an IR and their group may elect a new IR.

Section 4. Method of Election.

- A. The election shall be held annually.

- B. To be eligible for election, the nominee must meet the qualifications and have an understanding of the responsibilities of the position. (See Policies and Procedures Manual.)
- C. In order to be elected to the position of RR/WSD the nominee must:
 - 1. Present his/her intent to vie for the position in writing to the Board.
 - 2. Be present at the election meeting **if at all possible**.
 - 3. Receive a simple majority vote of the voting members.

Section 5. Terms of Office

- A. Shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years.
- B. Shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- C. After an interval of two (2) years, an individual will again be eligible for election, provided they have remained active as defined in Section 3.

Section 6. Vacancies and Resignations

- A. Any RR, WSD, or Alternate may resign at any time by notifying the Chairperson of GPI.
- B. Any RR, WSD, or Alternate may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the voting members at a special meeting announced for that purpose.
- C. Should a vacancy, resignation, or removal occur, all pertinent information and data will be turned over to the GPI Chairperson.

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 GPI. Such persons chosen to fill said vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- B. A person chosen to fill any RR, WSD, or Alternate vacancy shall meet the qualifications as defined in Section 3 and be aware of all responsibilities of that position as described and defined in the GPI Policies and Procedures Manual.

Article VII – Standing Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

- A. Standing Committees may be established as required to carry out the purposes of the GPI in the most effective and efficient manner.
- B. Should a vacancy, resignation, or removal occur, all pertinent information and data will be turned over to the GPI Chairperson.
- C. The Executive Board will then appoint an acting committee chair to serve the remainder of the unexpired term until the next scheduled election.

Section 2. Committee Procedures

- A. Each committee may prescribe its own rules for calling and holding meetings and its method of procedures, subject to the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous and these Bylaws.

- B. Past committee chairpersons may serve in an ex-officio capacity in their respective committees.

Section 3. Ad hoc Committees

- A. Committees appointed to perform a particular task. These committees are not ongoing, but will disband when the task is completed to the satisfaction of GPI. The GPI Executive Board may appoint Ad hoc Committee members and a chairperson for it.

Article VIII – Source of Funds

Section 1. Source of Funds

- A. Voluntary contributions of the member groups shall be the primary source of funds.
- B. Secondary source of income may be such projects or activities as may be authorized by GPI according to Tradition Six.
- C. GPI may accept donations from OA members in accordance with guidelines from WSO.
- D. The acceptance of bequests or donations from any outside source is prohibited.
- E. GPI shall not accept the responsibility for trusteeship over, or enter into, the distribution or allocation of funds set up outside of Overeaters Anonymous.
- F. There shall be no accumulation of funds beyond current necessities with retention of only a prudent reserve for contingencies.

Article IX – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern GPI in all cases to which these are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, or any special rules of order GPI may adopt.

Article X – Amendments to Bylaws

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of GPI as long as there is a quorum. The proposed amendment must be communicated in writing to each member group at least 15 days prior to the voting meeting.

Article XI – Major Policy Matters

Section 1. Matters which affect GPI and/or groups within its service shall be referred to the Board of GPI. Matters which relate to Overeaters Anonymous as a whole shall be referred to the World Service Board of Trustees.