

MINUTES OF THE 2019 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF OAGB
On Saturday 19th October
Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, NEC Birmingham, B40 1PP

Abbreviations used:

NSA - National Service Assembly of Overeaters Anonymous Great Britain;

IG - Intergroup

OAGB – Overeaters Anonymous Great Britain;

NSB - National Service Board of OAGB;

WSBC - Overeaters Anonymous World Service Business Conference;

WSO - World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous.

1. Welcome

2. Housekeeping announcements -organising committee

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, especially members attending for the first time. Representatives from each Intergroup stood in turn and were welcomed. There was a celebration of the abstinence in the room, with attendees having from one day up to 30+ years of abstinence. The Assembly observed a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

3. Readings

OA Preamble –Yvonne, Glasgow Thursday group

12 Steps – Alison, Telford group

12 Traditions – Susie, South and East England IG

12 Concepts – Teresa, Paisley group

4. Establishing quorum

There are currently:

- **197** registered face to face groups, affiliated to Overeaters Anonymous Great Britain (OAGB)
- **4** registered non-face to face groups affiliated with 3 Intergroups within OAGB
- **9** Intergroups
- **4** members of the National Service Board
- Total eligible to vote = **214**

Therefore, a quorum of **54** voting members is required to conduct business

The credentials as recorded by the hosting Intergroup showed that the following numbers were present:

- **67** delegates from groups (including one non-face-to-face group)
- **8** delegates from Intergroups
- **4** members of the National Service Board

This gave a total of **79** voting members therefore the Chair declared the meeting quorate.

5. Purpose of the National Assembly and agreement of agenda

The Chair read from the OAGB Bylaws reminding everyone of the purpose of the National Assembly.

The agenda was reviewed by the Assembly, and after a unanimous vote, was adopted.

6. Approval of minutes from 2018 Assembly

Chic thanked the members of the Minutes Review Committee for 2018 –

Caroline (Minute-taker and outgoing NSB Communications Officer)

Sandra (NSB Chair)

Catherine (NSB Literature Liaison)

Juliet (Ashley Green group)

Sam (Manchester Tuesday group)

The minutes were proposed and seconded as an accurate record.

7. Appointment of the Minutes Review Committee for 2019

The 2019 Minutes Review Committee was appointed as follows:

Juliet (Minute taker and NSB Secretary)

Chic (NSB Chair)

Sam (NSB Communications Officer)

Suzi B (NW IG)

Alyson (South Wales IG)

Matters Arising:

The Chair stated that he had reviewed the minutes from last year and confirmed that there were no matters arising from the previous National Assembly minutes which would not be covered in the Board Reports later in the agenda.

8. Time keeper

Terri, visitor from Plymouth, Tuesday meeting was appointed as timekeeper for the morning session and Chic thanked her for her service.

9. Introductions

Chic introduced himself as Chair, Company Secretary and joint Literature Liaison Officer, and welcomed the other NSB Officers: -

Sam, Communications Officer, WSBC delegate and joint Literature Liaison Officer

Lisa, Treasurer

Juliet, Secretary

The Chair also introduced and welcomed Caroline, our Parliamentarian and Jacqueline, our Centre Mic. The Parliamentarian and Centre Mic gave a brief overview of their roles.

10. Rules of order

The Special Rules of Order were adopted as set out in NA Pack 2, p.40

11. Board Reports

The Chair invited questions on the officer reports which had been circulated in Pack 2 and explained that Treasurer and Communications Officer will both give brief additional verbal reports

Chair's Report

No questions

Company Secretary Report

Q. What is meant by the term "bolt-on role"?

A. As OAGB is a limited company, a Company Secretary is needed. If there were more members of the NSB this could be a role held by one person but because we are low on members, we have needed to combine roles and it makes sense for Company Secretary to be done by the Chair or Treasurer.

Communications Officer Report

Sam gave an overview of her report, highlighting the team of 10 people who give service to support this role and mentioning how to sign-up to Mailchimp mailers. Caroline P from Liverpool has offered her service in producing written shares for the Facebook page. Please speak to her or contact communications@oagb.org.uk who will pass information on to her.

Q. How would funding for translations of flyers etc into Welsh work?

A. R9 and WSO have translations funding available to apply for but OAGB does not, information can be found on their websites

World Service Business Conference Delegate Report

Q. WSO have notified us of an increase in the suggested contribution for 7th Tradition (to approximately £4) does OAGB have an opinion on this?

A. Not discussed this as a Board but it is only a *suggested* contribution. The figure has not been raised for a number of years and WSO are currently producing a book on Body Image and Sexuality which, due to under-resourcing, will be their last piece of new literature for the next few years. They are aware that new literature sales are a significant source of funding and are therefore conscious that future income is likely to decrease

Literature Liaison Officer Report

Q. Can we confirm that although no further new literature is being produced, there are still projects being undertaken to combine leaflets into more succinct pieces of information?

A. Yes, that's correct

Q. Is OA Literature available in audio format or Braille? How would we go about producing this?

A. Not available in either of those formats at present and we currently do not have the resources to do it. WSO is aware of this though. Some progress has been made and large print versions are now available via an Amazon "print on demand" service.

Further information provided by previous Trustee - Braille is a language like any other, translation would involve the same process as with any language, so a committee of interested members would be formed and they could apply to WSO for translation funding.

Literature Administrator Report

Our Lit Admin- Deborah is not present to answer questions.

Sam stated that we no longer stock the AA Big Book because it is cheaper for members to buy straight from AA and less work for the Literature service.

No questions

Treasurer's Report

Lisa gave a brief overview of her report. There are two sets of figures, one from OAGB, one from the Literature Service. OAGB Literature is a separate part of the company so we have to keep them separate.

OAGB looks financially a bit healthier than it did last year. This is due to several legacies rather than regular payments. We may consider having a paid worker going forward as we have the budget for that.

Q. Was the legacy from someone's will or an anonymous donation?

A. It was left in a will.

Q. Your report mentions a small fund set aside for IGs doing PI work as part of the OA 60th Birthday celebrations. How much is the fund and how can it be applied for?

A. Will be able to say more about that following the Board meeting tomorrow.

Region 9 Delegate Report

The report in the NA Pack related to the Region 9 Assembly in 2018, and next year's report will be on the 2019 Assembly.

No questions

Secretary Report

Q. What has been the most challenging part of your role and what have you learned?

A. Getting to grips with Word and with formatting has been both challenging and interesting.

Q. How many hours per week do you spend doing your role?

A. As I've no particular admin skills it takes me longer to do things that it might take a trained person but the role gets easier the more I do it

A member offered a vote of thanks for all NSB Service and this was unanimously given.

12. Motions for discussion

Motion A – Reducing the quorum for National Assembly

Tommy on behalf of Caledonian IG proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Norrie from the Monday Glasgow meeting:

To increase the reduction from 15% to 20%

Rationale- Reducing quorum to 15% is sending a message that NA is not important, in 34 years we have never not reached quorum, last year was difficult but that highlights the importance of location

There was one con speaker and a further pro speaker

Questions on the motion:

Q. What is quorum for WSBC?

A. We tried to find this out but were unable to

Q. What have been the quorum figures for NA in the last 5 years?

A. We do not have that information available at present

Q. What do other National Service Boards have as their quorum figure? E.g. Spain

A. We do not have this information available

There were no further pro or con speakers on the motion.

Teresa from Hoe IG proposed deferring this motion to be debated next year when we have more information

Seconded by Stella

The Assembly voted by raised hand to defer Motion A to next year's Assembly.

Motion A was deferred to NA 2020

Motion B – Removal of Appendix II the Third Legacy Procedure

Lisa presented the motion on behalf of the NSB.

There were a further two pro speakers and two con speakers.

Questions on the motion:

Q. What impact does it have on the Board if this is left in the Bylaws?

A. No impact in a sense but it is a procedure we do not use or recommend so is not reflective of our current practice.

Q. Does everybody understand the Third Legacy procedure?

A. Chair asked the Assembly and the majority of delegates indicated that they did understand

The Assembly voted on Motion B by raised hand.

Motion B was adopted.

***Motion C – Formation of the National Service Board of OAGB
Removal of the provision for non-OA Board members***

Carol presented the motion on behalf of Alba Intergroup

There were a further 2 pro and 3 con speakers

Questions on the motion:

Q. How long has OAGB been a charity?

A. We believe it's been a charity since it started 34 years ago

Q. What kind of things does the Board vote on at meetings and would a non-OA Board member be voting on those same things?

A. We vote on things like policy and spending of OAGB funds, there are many decisions we have to make at Board meetings which any non-OA Board members would also be able to vote on.

Four amendments were proposed therefore an ad-hoc reference committee was formed containing all the proposers and seconders of the amendments with Carol as Chair.

The Committee's proposed amendment was as follows:

“(b) The National Service Board will consist of a maximum of 15 members, not all of which places need to be filled at any one time, depending on the availability of appropriate candidates. All of the places on the National Service Board at any given time will be filled by committed members of the fellowship of OA”

Questions on the amendment to the main motion:

Q. Last year we voted to reduce the number of OA Board members to 10 but this bylaw amendment would mean that this number now increases to 15. Would we then need to change another section of the bylaws?

A. This amendment does not make any difference to that, it is a separate issue.

The Assembly voted on the amendment to the main motion by raised hand, which required a fifty percent majority to pass.

The amendment to the main motion passed

The Assembly then voted on the amended Motion C by standing vote, which required a two thirds majority

For - 50

Against -24

Motion C, as amended, was adopted

13. Time keeper

Terri from Plymouth continued as timekeeper for the afternoon session and Chic thanked her for her service

14. Emergency New Business Motions

No emergency new business motions were made.

15. NSB Officer Elections

The Chair explained that two nominations for the Board have been received, and reminded everyone that:

Any person elected to serve on the National Service Board will be required to become a Trustee of OA(GB). Trustees of OA(GB) will be subject to Section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (Appendix III). It will be the responsibility of the nominee to ensure this.

Candidate B (Janet from South and East IG) spoke about her application for the Board and answered questions.

Candidate D (Charlotte from South and East IG) spoke about her application for the Board and answered questions.

Candidates for the Board need to receive a majority of votes cast to be elected.
Votes were cast by ballot

Janet was elected to the Board with 75 votes (3 no, 1 abstention)
Charlotte was elected to the Board with 67 votes. (11 no, 1 abstention)

Lisa the NSB Treasurer, moved that the ballot papers be destroyed.
Sam the NSB Communications Officer, seconded the motion
The motion was adopted by voice vote.

16. Update from hosting committee for 2020 Assembly and Convention

Yvonne from Caledonian IG gave a review of the arrangements for next year's Assembly. The dates for the Assembly will be Fri 16th to Sun 18th October, and the theme will be finalised in January but it will be a celebration of recovery. The venue has been used previously to host NA and other IG events so they are familiar with OA requirements. Accommodation prices have been confirmed as £68 per night for a shared room and £98 for single occupancy. Early bird bonus, for delegates arriving by 12-1pm on the Friday, they can take the opportunity to see Loch Lomond and Glasgow city with a tour arranged by the hosting IG.

17. National Assembly 2021

No bids have been received so far.

The Chair encouraged all Intergroups to consider putting in a bid

Bea ex-Chair of Devon and Cornwall spoke about her IG's experience of hosting in 2018

18. Intergroup Reports

Intergroup chairs or their representatives were invited to speak for up to five minutes to give an update on their written reports, and then answered questions for up to two minutes.

19. Celebrating 60 Years of OA

Lisa lead a workshop session with groups generating ideas of ways to celebrate OA's 60th birthday

20. Any Other Business

Lines of communication – R9 and WSO have received direct enquiries from members of an OAGB Intergroup which would have been more appropriately addressed by the OAGB Board. They have requested members be reminded that when seeking information, go first to the members of your group, then to your IG, then to OAGB, then Region and finally to WSO.

21. 7th Tradition

£344.94 was collected, with the money going to OAGB.

Closing

The Chair asked all the green dots to come to the front of the room, he thanked them for coming and everyone gave them a round of applause.

The Chair thanked all the volunteers who are currently working to support the National Service Board:

Email Responder Coordinator: Suzi

Email Responders: Chris, Carol and Ros

Literature Packers: Phyll, Chrissie and Wendy

Literature (Newcomer Packs): Alex and Pauline

Literature Print Liaison Officer: Alison

Proof readers: Helen and Kathryn

Facebook Coordinator: Angela

Twitter Coordinator: Charlotte

Events Webpage Uploader: Daniela

Audio Shares Website Uploader: Margaret

Audio Shares Recorder: Tommy

Book Reviewers: Sheila and Claire

The Chair also thanked all the Intergroups who gave service taking the OAGB phone this year and all volunteers who have helped over the last year:

Kathleen, Claire D, Susie H, Veronica, Anna, Judy and Pam

The Chair thanked Jacqueline for her service as Centre Mic, Caroline for Parliamentarian, Juliet for taking minutes, Terri as timekeeper and all the volunteers who helped with handing out and counting ballots for voting.

The Chair thanked the organising committee from Heart of England Intergroup for all their hard work in making arrangements for the weekend.

The Chair thanked outgoing NSB officer Lisa for all her work in the Treasurer role on the Board.

The Chair thanked all the delegates for coming to the Assembly and for their participation.

The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer.