

Minutes of the 2021 National Assembly of the OAGB

Date: Saturday 16th October 2021

Host: Caledonian Intergroup

Venue: Zoom conference room

Abbreviations used:

NSA = National Service Assembly of Overeaters Anonymous Great Britain

IG = Intergroup

OAGB = Overeaters Anonymous of Great Britain

NSB = National Service Board of OAGB

WSBC = Overeaters Anonymous World Service Business Conference

WSO = World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous

Agenda

1. Welcome

Sandra (chair) welcomed all to the 36th NSA and called the meeting to order. She advised the assembly that a professional minute taker was present and asked for any objections – none received. The meeting was recorded for accuracy.

2. Housekeeping

Richard of Caledonian IG welcomed all to the NSA and went through the housekeeping for the zoom conference.

3. Serenity prayer, Preamble, 12 Steps traditions and 12 concepts

Serenity prayer led by Sandra (chair)

Preamble read by Karen

12 Steps read by Sharon K

12 Traditions read by Heidi

12 Concepts by William D

4. Establish Quorum

25% from groups and IG's are required to establish quorum. There are currently:

- 165 groups registered
- 8 Intergroups
- 4 Board members
- Total = 177 eligible to vote

Therefore, 45 are needed to conduct business today.

Secretary checked the credential slip from Caledonian IG = 51 voting delegates

49 affiliated groups and IG's + 1 out of area

4 board members present

Unaffiliated groups = 2

Total voting delegates = 56 (majority of 29 needed)

Chair declared the meeting quorate.

Apologies:

Chair extended the apologies from Caroline who stepped down from the Board and thanks were extended to her for her contributions.

Chair (Sandra) introduced herself and advised that the NSA will follow parliamentary procedure as per the bylaws and went through the role as Chair, reiterated the bylaws and the purpose of the assembly.

5. Agreement of Agenda

No proposed amendments were received, and the agenda was adopted with an unanimous vote.

6. Approval of minutes from 2020 Assembly

Q: if we were not at the assembly how can we say it is accurate?

Chair: by having faith and you can raise objections and participate in the votes.

The minutes were proposed and accepted as an accurate record.

7. Appointment of Minutes Review Committee for 2021 Assembly

Sharon – professional and confidential minute taker; Charlotte – comms officer; Teresa – Secretary; IG rep volunteers Pat H and Stella from HOE

8. Appointment of timekeeper

Yvonne volunteered as timekeeper for the morning business.

9. Introduction of NSB Officers, Minute taker, Parliamentarian and Centre Mic person

Sandra introduced herself as Chair and Company Secretary and welcomed the other board members and assembly officers:

Charlotte – Communications officer, R9 delegate & WSBC delegate

Janet – Treasurer

Teresa – Secretary, Professional Outreach officer and Literature Liaison officer

Sharon – Minute Taker

Francene – Centre mic

Caroline – Parliamentarian

10. Review of Special Rules of Order and Parliamentary procedure

Caroline (parliamentarian) referred to the rules of order and guidelines provided in pack 2, pages 38 & 39 and all questions and messages to go through to Centre Mic (Francene)

11. Motions

Chair advised there would be four motions presented this year and quorum had been established.

Motion A - a bylaw amendment – the ability to hold a virtual assembly was detailed in pack 1 on pages 5-7 with current wording on the left and the proposed wording on the right and was proposed by the Board members. Janet was called to outline and speak on the Board's behalf.

Pro – Janet – proposing this as a housekeeping amendment to update the bylaws. A further pro was received and no cons

Q: with last years assembly held virtually is it counted as a one-off unusual circumstance?
A: Yes, with the agenda adopted at the start and all virtual it is a given reflection of this board it should be in the by laws
Q: as a motion for an option to be held virtually who will make the decision?
A: at the Board meeting in June in consultation with the IG Chairs
Q: would this amendment mean that a hybrid NA can go ahead?
A: no this is only for virtual, but hybrid can be looked at by future boards

The Assembly voted on the amendment to the motion by anonymous poll:
60 votes were cast
For = 98% with 59 votes
Against = 2% with 1 vote

Motion A was adopted

12. NSB Officer Elections

Chair advised Board is small with only 4 members.
End of term members = Janet, Charlotte and Sandra who was co opted as Chair for part of the year.
No applications had been received and therefore the elections were moved to the afternoon agenda and members were encouraged to think, as the board needs a minimum of 3 members to stay open, if they can and would like to provide service to the OAGB Board. Anyone coming forward would need an IG endorsement and invited any interested candidates to chat over lunchtime.

13. Board member Reports

Chair report

No questions

Communications report

No questions

Company Secretary report

Q: In relation to the audit around GDPR is there a report that can be accessed and reviewed by the fellowship?

A: No, it was an audit of the website to check on data being held on the website and it being compliant

Literature report

Q: There have been updates to pamphlets from WSO when will they be seen coming into GB Literature shop and there is out of stock material in the GB shop what is happening with that as fellows have been trying to buy things and not able to?

A: A lot of things have been happening with the literature service which has affected efficiency and effectiveness, authorisation is being waited on to reprint for welcome packs, there are timing issues of getting stock in and we are looking to improve. Moving to QBO (Quick Books Online) has created interesting opportunities in terms of managing the book shop processes, the Paypal outage was a legacy issue and now resolved.

Q: The literature service is set up as an organisation will it continue if the Board folded?

A: There are technical issues around that the literature service. It is part of the company that is OAGB and part of the charity that is OAGB and employs someone. If the OAGB ceases to exist who or what organisation would employ that person? Any staff member has to be employed by a legal entity so the folding of OAGB would create a possible dilemma

Q: What new system provides clarification on what possibilities it might be and with PayPal are both board members and board able to access the account?

A: Paypal has ascertained that 50% of sales are returning customers and sales are 6% down to last year. Please note that this was wrongly reported (Typo) in the report in pack 2. All members of the board could access the Paypal account and the QBO account. A minimum of 2 board members will have access.

Literature admin report was shared on screen as not included in the packs.

Q: The report says it is imperative that OA members support the service rather than other sources, why?

A: As it cross subsidises other things in the literature service workbooks bought from the OA literature service can subsidise newcomer packs and it is part of our 7th tradition of support

Q: What happens with the surplus money?

A: Its in the bank

Q: Can the literature admin role be filled by a service volunteer?

A: The admin role is employed for 16 hours a week and needs that level of work so is a big ask to for someone to do that amount of work and when employed covers the legal responsibility

Q: If OAGB closes where does the money go?

A: This will be a board decision

Q: Years ago, it was proposed that the paid member of literature be paid through the surplus has this changed as now a limited company or is the literature person paid by OAGB?

A: The literature person is paid through the literature service what is declared shows the surplus after payment of their salary.

Public Information/Professional Outreach report

Q: If the board falls would the consultation with NICE cease?

A: Yes

Region 9 Delegate Report

No questions

Secretary Report

No questions

Treasurer Report

Q: The line item in the accounts “ Trustee expenses other” for the year end 31st Aug 21 was £5010 larger than previous year and budget please explain?

A: This was one item. A posting of money that was part of the reserve was posted to trustee expenses. This was for £5K and the remaining small amount of £10 was for printing costs. Confirmation that it was not trustee expenses but the moving of reserve monies. The only other large item was the word had a large surplus and decided that majority would pass to R9 and WSO.

Q: If the board goes and you have resigned who will hand the monies and treasurer account?

A: We would follow plan B where Janet would put herself forward to be elected to close it in an orderly manner or co opt to an IG

Q: Can the trustee expenses be renamed for clarity?

A: It can be looked at as a movement of cash

World Service Delegate Report

Q Given that you couldn't be involved in the actual session of the sub committee, but you are keeping up via email, is there anything important that you need to communicate to the wider fellowship as a whole?

A: The subcommittee does the work throughout the year, then reports back at the next WSBC.

14. Motions

Motion D – reduction of service beyond the group level requirement for board members (pack 1, pages 13 & 14)

Proposed by Caledonian IG

Sharlotte spoke for Caledonian IG and in summary proposed the reduction of 6 months from the service of board position so only 18 months would be served to encourage more people into service

Three cons were received and no further pros.

Q: It is implied that someone with potential could they be accepted if they do not have the required service or abstinence?

A: Down to individual and can be discussed with the board.

Q: How can roles be filled if 2 years' service is required and if you are struggling to get board members 18 months seems reasonable

A: It was set up at 2 years to show commitment before taking on any further service responsibility.

Vote was conducted in an anonymous poll and requires two thirds of the majority to be carried

Result:

For = 38% with 38 votes

Against = 63% with 63 votes

Motion D failed

End of the morning business.

Chair welcomed all back to the afternoon session and brought the meeting to order.

15. Serenity prayer & Preamble

Prayer led by the chair and the preamble read by Sheena

16. Special Rules of Order Review

Recapped by the parliamentarian.

No emergency business motions were received.

Justine volunteered as timekeeper for the afternoon business.

17. Motions

Motion B – resolution to create a budget for and instigate GB wide public information initiatives. Proposed by Heart of England(HOE)

Ellen spoke on behalf of HOE and outlined the work HOE have done with public information and could the OAGB board hold a bigger budget to do a more nationwide reach?

No cons received.

Pro – another speaker feels the younger people are underrepresented and access to this age group can be reach via social media with paid ads

First Amendment

Janet from the board proposed an amendment *'that OAGB board should create a budget for the ability to provide funds for GB wide PI initiatives'* seconded by Robbie T

One con received and also one other pro.

Second Amendment

Charlotte from the board proposed a second amendment *'that OAGB board should create a budget for GB wide PI initiatives for all groups affiliated with the OAGB and should have access to these funds'* .

Charlotte spoke as a pro to keep this budget as nationwide where anyone can apply to use.

Pro received and a con.

Teresa addressed the concerns from the con.

Q: Would the initiative have to be GB wide in order to access the budget?

A: Yes as understood but does not stop for one local area

Q: If the request supersedes the budget what happens?

A: This will be determined by the future board

The members involved in the amendments speaking for and against went to a break out room to finalise the wording on the final draft of the amendment to be voted on. They were brought back into the main room by the chair and the parliamentarian. As the discussion was not allowable within the bylaws of OAGB.

Vote – do we accept the 2nd amendment as written?

For = 85% with 47 votes
Against = 15% with 8 votes

The second amendment was adopted into the main motion.

Debate continued for the main amendment.
One con received and one further pro.

Motion now stands as *'That OAGB board should create a budget for GB wide PI initiatives for all groups affiliated with the OAGB should have access to these funds'*

Q: Original motion was for OAGB to do national campaign work centrally and if passed for them to do this as well as the IG's?

A: Yes if the board had the capacity

Q: Can we clarify if access to funds is to create a GB wide initiative?

A: Yes

Q: Are the funds also available for professional outreach or a separate budget?

A: The wording is for PI initiatives

Q: Can the 3 lines in pack 2 page 14 be used regarding this new budget?

A: This will be discussed in the board meeting tomorrow

Q: Who would be responsible for compiling the data of the initiatives?

A: the question will be raised at the AGM tomorrow and taken forward as an action for the new board

Vote on main motion with an anonymous poll

For = 93% with 55 votes

Against = 7% with 4 votes

Motion D was adopted

Motion E – resolution to investigate web hosting and email services as detailed in pack 1, pages 15 & 16

Chair advised there is no further time for debating motions and proposed this to be moved to the time slot for emergency new business

No objections were received.

NSB Officer elections – previously set out as agenda item 12

Two people applied as board members and the legal matter for election was read out.

Candidate C (Charlotte from the OAGB Board) spoke about why she has applied to stay on and answered questions.

Candidate S (Stella from Heart of England) spoke about her application and no questions were asked.

With the two nominees, this takes the board to 3 and the minimum requirement to keep the OAGB open. Votes were cast anonymously via a poll.

Charlotte was elected to the Board with 52 votes (3 x no)
Stella was elected to the Board with 56 votes (1 x no)

18. National Assembly bid 2022

One bid had been received by South East England Intergroup (SEEIG) and their bid is detailed in pack 2, pages 21 & 22.

No other interests were declared.

Darren spoke on the behalf of the SEEIG and answered questions arising from their bid.

Proposal – for the NA for 2022 to be hosted by the SEE G

56 votes received in favour – **The 2022 assembly will be hosted by SEE IG.**

19. Intergroup reports

Each IG took questions in turn of their respective reports, but these were not minuted.

20. Discussion – OAGB phone service

Chair advised the assembly on how the phone service has been running and wanted any thoughts on how to improve the service?

Suggestions included moving to a digital phone system; setting up a free phone number and spreadsheet of contact numbers; is a phone service needed with contact only via email.

A poll was run on initial thoughts to the phone service being kept.

Results:

Yes = 89% with 47 votes

No = 6% with 3 votes

Unsure = 6% with 3 votes

Phone service to be continued.

21. AOB

None received.

Motion E was moved to debate – Caledonian IG proposed – Resolution to investigate web hosting and email services (pack 1, pages 15 & 16)

Sharlotte from Caledonian IG proposed this motion.

One other pro was received, and 3 cons were received. The floor was opened up for questions.

Q: Would this be an overlap and duplication of effort?

A: Purely an investigation and a number of things would be considered as to how it would be implemented

Q: Could Caledonian do this instead of asking the board?

A: Yes, can carry out an investigation and present at a national assembly

Q: If this motion was passed the board would procrastinate until they had the resources and wouldn't give it precedence

A: If you vote in favour by more than two thirds it is binding and has to be done by the board

Vote results:

For = 41% with 22 votes

Against = 59% with 32 votes

Motion E failed

22. 7th Tradition and thanks

Chair reminded the assembly of the 7th tradition and any funds received get sent directly to the OAGB and extended thanks to all attendees for today and all year.

Thanks were extended to all the volunteers – email responder, literature packers, proof-readers and to the assembly volunteers and to Caledonian IG as hosts.

The 'green dots' were recognised.

2021 National Assembly was closed with Serenity Prayer.

Minutes Review Committee
2nd November 2021