OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS®
CENTRAL FLORIDA INTERGROUP

BYLAWS MANUAL

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ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Central Florida Intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., a Florida Not For Profit Corporation, also known as Overeaters Anonymous of Central Florida Intergroup (OACFI).

ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE

Section 1 - Delivery of Purpose

The primary purpose of OACFI 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 Overeaters Anonymous, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service; and to serve and represent the member groups. These bylaws are supported and amplified by the Central Florida Intergroup Policies and Procedures Manual. ‘

Section 2 - The Twelve Steps

The 12 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 the 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 of our affairs.

Permission to use the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous for adaptation granted by AA World Services, Inc.

Section 3 - The 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 brought 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.

Permission to use the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous for adaptation granted by AA World Services, Inc.

Section 4 - The Twelve Concepts

The Twelve Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous 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 the World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, the 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 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, staff 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 3 – MEMBERS

Section 1- Membership

1. Elected voting membership in the intergroup with a voice and a vote consists of the following:
    a. Executive Board Officers
    b. One (1) elected Representatives from each registered meeting or alternate
    c. Committee chairs
    d. Established Service Positions
    e. Region 8 Representatives
    f. World Service Business Conference (WSBC) Delegates

2. Membership in the intergroup with only a voice consists of the following:
    a. Parliamentarian
    b. Any group member
3. Individuals with no Voice or Vote but who may address the Intergroup on behalf of the membership will be limited to Special Workers.
4. Any elected member of the fellowship who is not a duly elected representative may attend all Meetings of the Intergroup as a visitor and, at the discretion of the Chair, may have a voice, but no vote.
5. Each eligible member will have one (1) vote, regardless of the number of service roles held.
6. When a member serves in multiple voting roles, the vote shall be exercised in the following order of precedence:
    a. Executive Board Officer
    b. World Service Delegate
    c. Region Representative
    d. Intergroup Representative
    e. Committee Chairperson
    f. Established Service Position

Section 2- Qualifications

1. The Intergroup has the autonomy to determine which groups may affiliate with it.
2. Groups located primarily within the counties of Central Florida, or meeting virtually, that have formally registered with the World Service Office and indicated their intention to belong to OACFI may be considered members.

Section 3 – Group Definition

1. The intergroup endorses the definition of an Overeaters Anonymous group in Overeaters Anonymous Inc., Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V, p4, and as it may be amended by a future World Service Business Conference.
2. These points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:
    a. As a group they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA service.
    b. All who have the desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group.
    c. No member is required to practice any actions in order to remain a member or to have a voice and share at a meeting.
    d. It has affiliated as an Overeaters Anonymous group by registering with the World Service Office.

Section 4 – Service Body Definition

The intergroup endorses the definitions of an Overeaters Anonymous service body in the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., Bylaws, Subpart B, Article VI and as it may be amended by a future World Service Business Conference.

ARTICLE 4 – THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 - Composition

1. The Executive Board consists of the following officers:
    a. Chairperson
    b. Vice Chairperson
    c. Secretary
    d. Treasurer

Section 2 - Qualifications

1. Qualifications for the Executive Board are:
    a. Be working the OA Twelve Steps, the OA Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of their ability;
    b. Maintaining their abstinence as defined by OA World Service ;
    c. Be a regular member of an affiliated OACFI member group;
    d. Have attended (physically or virtually) at least three (3) Intergroup meetings;
    e. Have a willingness to learn how to use current technology.
2. When a Board position cannot be filled in line with these qualifications, the qualifications may be set aside by a two-thirds majority of a regular or special business meeting of the intergroup.

Section 3 - Elections of Executive Board Members

1. An annual election meeting shall be held during the month of December.
2. Elections for the offices of Chairperson, Treasurer will be held at the December OACFI meeting on odd-numbered years.
3. Elections for the offices of Vice Chairperson, Secretary will be held at the December OACFI meeting on even-numbered years.
4. Special elections to fill other vacancies may be held at other times as necessary.
5. Nominations shall be taken in accordance with the Policies and Procedures Manual (Article 4, Section 4)
6. Newly elected Board Members take office at the next intergroup meeting.

Section 4 – Term of Office

1. Executive Board members may serve no more than two (2) complete consecutive terms in the same position.
2. The term of office is two (2) years starting at the first intergroup business meeting in January.
3. If elected to fill a vacancy outside the fiscal year the term of office shall be extended for the balance of the year.
4. A member may serve again on the board in the same position after a leave of one (1) year.

Section 5 - Authority and Duties

1. The Executive Board carries out decisions of the Intergroup and handles administrative functions between meetings as defined in Article 4 - EXECUTIVE BOARD - Section 2 - Duties & Responsibilities of the OACFI Policies and Procedures manual.
2. The Executive Board does not govern and acts only within the authority granted by the Intergroup.
3. All intergroup business meetings will be chaired by the Chairperson.
4. In the event the Chairperson is unable to chair a business meeting, the chairing responsibilities will be assumed in the following order: Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, then Secretary.
5. In the event no officers are available, those present shall select a temporary chairperson and temporary recording secretary from among those in attendance. The selection will be by simple majority vote.

Section 6 – Resignation or Removal

1. Any Board member may resign at any time for any reason by giving written notice by emailing at minimum the Chairperson (or acting chair) and two other Board members.
2. If a member of the Board fails to attend (physically or virtually) two consecutive meetings without prior notification, the office will be declared vacant.

Section 7 - Filling the Vacancies

1. Vacancies may be temporarily filled by appointment of the Chairperson, subject to ratification by majority vote of the Intergroup at the next regular or special business meeting.
2. Vacancies shall be filled by majority vote of the Intergroup at a regular or special business meeting, or at a Special meeting.
3. Nominees shall meet the qualifications of the role as defined in ARTICLE 4, Section 2.

4. Individuals elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and remain eligible for nomination and election to subsequent full terms.
5. Persons elected to fill vacancies shall assume the responsibilities of the position as defined in these Bylaws, the Policies and Procedures Manual, and any applicable Operational Manuals.

ARTICLE 5 – PARLIAMENTARIAN

1. The Parliamentarian serves in an advisory capacity to the Intergroup and the Executive Board on matters of parliamentary procedure.
2. The Parliamentarian is a non-voting trusted servant and does not participate in debate.

ARTICLE 6 – VOTING MEMBERS

Section 1 - Intergroup Representative[s]

1. Intergroup representatives (IRs) will be selected by the group conscience of the group they represent.
2. Member groups may be land-based, virtual, or hybrid meetings as recognized by Overeaters Anonymous Inc.
3. The Intergroup Representative serves as the voting representative and communication link between the member group and the Intergroup.
4. A member group may designate an alternate representative to serve in the absence of the elected Intergroup Representative.
5. The term of service for Intergroup Representatives shall be determined by their member group.

Section 2 - Committee Chair[s]

1. The executive board of the Intergroup may establish Committees as are needed for the welfare and operation of the Intergroup.
2. Committees serve under the oversight of the Executive Board, operate within authority delegated by the Intergroup, and remain accountable through regular reporting and Board review.
3. To qualify for the election as a Committee Chairperson
    a. Be working the OA Twelve Steps, the OA Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of their ability;
    b. Maintaining their abstinence as defined by OA World Service;
    c. Be a regular member of an affiliated OACFI member group;
    d. Have attended at least three (3) Intergroup meetings.

Section 3 - Established Service Position[s]

1. The executive board of the Intergroup may establish Service Positions as are needed for the welfare and operation of the Intergroup.
2. Established service positions serve under the oversight of the Executive Board, operate within authority delegated by the Intergroup, and remain accountable through regular reporting and Board review.
3. To qualify for the role of an Established Service Position
    a. Be working the OA Twelve Steps, the OA Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of their ability;
    b. Maintaining their abstinence as defined by OA World Service;
    c. Be a regular member of an affiliated OACFI member group;
    d. Have attended at least three (3) Intergroup meetings.

Section 4- Region 8 Representative[s]

1. To qualify for election as a Region Eight Representative it is recommended that the candidate:
    a. Be working the OA Twelve Steps, the OA Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of their ability;
    b. Have six (6) months of current abstinence as defined by OA World Service;
    c. Be a regular member of an affiliated OACFI member group;
    d. Have attended at least three (3) Intergroup meetings.

Section 5 - World Service Business Conference (WSBC) Delegate[s]

1. World Service Business Conference Delegates represent the Intergroup at the World Service Business Conference and shall be elected by the Intergroup.
2. To qualify for election as a World Service Delegate, a candidate shall:
    a. Be working the OA Twelve Steps, the OA Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of OA Service to the best of their ability;
    b. Have one (1) year of current abstinence as defined by OA World Service;
    c. Be a regular member of an affiliated OACFI member group;
    d. Have attended at least six (6) Intergroup meetings;
    e. Have provided service beyond the group level for a minimum of two (2) years.

Section 6 - Term of Office

1. Voting members may serve no more than two (2) complete consecutive terms in the same position.
2. The term of office is two (2) years starting at the first intergroup business meeting in January.
3. A member may serve again in that role after a leave of one (1) year.

Section 7 - Resignation or Removal

1. Any individual holding a service position may be removed for due cause, including but not limited to non-attendance, failure to perform duties, or actions inconsistent with the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, or Twelve Concepts of Service.
2. Such individuals may be removed from office for due cause by a majority vote of the ballots cast at a regular or special meeting of the Board or Intergroup that has been announced for that purpose, or at any regular intergroup meeting.

ARTICLE 7 – MEETINGS

Section 1 - Meetings

1. The intergroup shall meet monthly at a time and place designated by a majority of the voting members.
2. An individual intergroup meeting may be cancelled or postponed by a majority vote at any regular or special IG meeting, or at the Board's discretion.
3. At no time will the membership meet less than 10 times per calendar year.
4. Reasonable notice of meetings shall be provided to members.

Section 2 - Special Meetings

A special meeting may be called at any time by a majority vote of the Executive Board, or by petition of at least ten (10) OACFI members by giving notice as prescribed in Article 10 Section 1 - Method of Notification of the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section 3 – Quorum

1. A quorum shall consist of a defined number of voting members as determined by Article 10 Section 3 - Quorum of the Policies and Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE 8 - PRUDENT RESERVE

1. Voluntary contributions of the member groups shall be the primary source of funds.
2. The Treasurer will maintain a Prudent Reserve determined by the group conscience of the Intergroup.
3. Funds in excess of the prudent reserve shall be distributed to Overeaters Anonymous service bodies, as directed by the Intergroup.

ARTICLE 9 - SPECIAL SERVICE WORKER[S]

In accordance with Tradition Eight of Overeaters Anonymous, the Intergroup may employ special workers when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the voting members at any regular or special business meeting, provided a quorum is present.

ARTICLE 10 - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be applicable only when not covered by these guidelines in the following order:
    a. U.S. nonprofit law
    b. Nonprofit corporation laws of the State of Florida
    c. Overeaters Anonymous Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service
    d. Overeaters Anonymous of Central Florida Bylaws
    e. Overeaters Anonymous of Central Florida Policies and Procedures
    f. Standing rules, meeting guidelines or any special rules of order the intergroup may adopt for their business meetings.

ARTICLE 11 - AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this Bylaws Manual, or the creation of new business motions, may be proposed by any registered meeting, the Executive Board, a committee or service position.
2. Proposed revisions or amendments to the Bylaws Manual shall be:
    a. submitted in writing no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken.
    b. shall be posted to all Intergroup members no less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken.
3. Motions shall be submitted in a format determined by the Executive Board.
4. Upon receipt of a motion, the Executive Board shall determine whether the matter requires immediate consideration or should be scheduled for a future meeting.
5. Proposed amendments and motions may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the eligible voting members present at any regular or special meeting of OACFI.
6. Amendments to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service may only be made as per OA, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article XII, Section 1e.
7. Such changes made in accordance with the Overeaters Anonymous Inc., Bylaws to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions or Twelve Concepts of OA Service will be automatically adopted in these Bylaws without the need for any further vote or action.
8. The Secretary and/or the Bylaws Committee may correct typographical, grammatical, formatting, numbering, and cross-reference errors, provided such corrections do not alter the intent or substance of the document.
9. Any required changes resulting from updates to World Service Office or Region 8 Bylaws or Policy Manuals shall be incorporated into this document and communicated at the next Intergroup meeting.

ARTICLE 12 – DISSOLUTION

1. In order to deregister, an Intergroup must submit a written notice to the World Service Office, the Region 8 Chair, and the Region 8 Trustee.
2. Upon the dissolution of OACFI and after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the Intergroup, the remaining assets shall be distributed to OA Region 8, and/or the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous.
3. Upon the dissolution of this association, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations, the remaining assets shall be distributed 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.
4. In accordance with Overeaters Anonymous Traditions, such a non profit fund, association, foundation, or corporation should be either the OA World Service Office or another OA service body.
5. No part of the net earnings of this association shall ever inure (to be or be used for benefit) or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, 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.