

(Taxpayer Id #592-02-2996)

BRIG Group # 09064 (part of Region #8)

## Bylaws of Baton Rouge Intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous

### Article I-Name

The name of this organization shall be Baton Rouge Intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. (OA), hereinafter referred to as BRIG or Intergroup.

### Article II-Purpose

#### 1) Section 1-Purpose

a)The primary purpose of BRIG is to aid those with the problem of compulsive eating through the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., and to serve and represent the OA groups from which the Intergroup is formed in accordance with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions set by the bylaws of the World Service Business Conference (WSBC) of Overeaters Anonymous. This Intergroup is in compliance with and qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 5010 (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 7954 (or the corresponding section of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

#### 2) Section 2-The Twelve Steps

a)The Twelve Steps are suggested for recovery in the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., and are included in OA, Inc., Bylaws, Subpart B, Article I

#### 3) Section 3- The Twelve Traditions

a)The Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous are included in OA, Inc., Bylaws, Subpart B, Article II

#### 4) Section 4- The Twelve Concepts

a)The Twelve Concepts of OA Service are included in OA, Inc., Bylaws, Subpart B, Article III

### Article III- Members

#### 1) Section 1- Membership

a)Membership of the Intergroup shall consist of the following:

- i) The Intergroup Board.
- ii) Intergroup representatives (IRs), which shall consist of l(one) member(s) from each group within the geographic area. Visitors are welcome and are encouraged to participate in the discussion.  
(1) Geographic area shall be defined as the Baton Rouge Metro and surrounding area.
- iii) Group members not acting as IRs but elected or appointed to carry out specific

duties, e.g., PI chairman.

- 2) Section 2-Qualifications
  - a)Qualifications of eligibility for membership in the Intergroup
    - i) Those groups within the region or the geographic definition of Intergroup that have formally registered with World Service Office and indicated their intention to belong to Intergroup may be considered members. An OA group is defined as the following:
      - (1) As a group, they meet together to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA.
      - (2) All that 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.
    - ii) Each group shall be entitled to 1 (one) vote through its elected IR
    - iii) No group shall be registered with another intergroup.
- 3) Section 3 - Intergroup Representatives
  - a)Intergroup representatives shall be elected by the group conscience of the group they represent. Each IR shall be selected by any method deemed appropriate by their group. These IRs shall serve for a period designated by their group, always subject to recall by the group they represent. Each group shall be free to designate an alternate delegate when the necessity arrives.
  - b)IRs should be elected for their willingness to serve, desire for membership in BRIG, commitment to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA and length of time in Program and length of service.
  - c)The primary responsibility of the IR, or alternate, is to represent their group at all meetings of the Intergroup, to act as a liaison between this Intergroup and their group, to see that all communications pertaining to Intergroup are made available and, where requested, read aloud to the group.
- 4) Section 4 - Absences of Intergroup Representatives
 

The Intergroup secretary shall notify representative group of any IRs' absences.
- 5) Section 5 - Membership with no vote may be:
  - a)Any employee.
  - b)Any member of the Fellowship who is not a duly elected representative or alternate

## ARTICLE IV - THE INTERGROUP BOARD

- 1) Section 1 - The Intergroup Board
  - a)The Intergroup Board members are trusted servants: they do not govern. The board shall consist OF: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, WSO Conference Delegate or alternate and a Regional Representative or alternate.
  - b)This Intergroup shall serve as the executive board. In the event the chairman of the board should be unable to attend any meeting of the board, the next highest ranking executive officer in attendance shall serve as chair for that meeting. The ranking of these officers shall serve as follows: 1) Vice chairman 2) Treasurer 3) Secretary, etc.
  - c)Term of office for each officer shall be for 1 (one) year. No person shall be elected to the same Board position for more than two(2) consecutive terms. Any Board member may resign for any reason by giving the chair of the Intergroup written notice.

- d) All outgoing officers shall deliver to incoming officers all materials in their possession, pertaining to their particular office at the January Meeting.
- 2) Section 2 - Nominations of the Intergroup Board
  - a) A nominating committee may be formed at the discretion of the Intergroup and nominations to the Board may be made from the floor at the October regular meeting, elected at the November regular meeting and assume office at the January regular meeting.
- 3) Section 3 - Qualifications of the Intergroup Board
  - a) Working the Twelve Steps of OA for 6 months.
  - b) Familiarity with the Twelve Traditions of OA.
  - c) Six (6) months of current abstinence.
  - d) Six (6) months of service beyond the group level.
  - e) Each nominee shall be the sole judge of her/his Qualifications.
- 4) Section 4 - Method of Election
  - a) Elections shall be held at the November regular meeting.
  - b) To be eligible for election to the board, a nominee must:
    - i) Meet all qualifications as defined in Article IV, Section 3.
    - ii) Understand responsibilities of the position as defined in Article IV, Section 6, and as defined in the Intergroup job description.
    - iii) In order to be elected to membership on the Intergroup Board, a nominee must be present at the election meetings, present their statement of qualification and must receive a majority vote of the IRs present and voting.
- 5) Section 5 - Term of Office
  - a) Board members shall be elected to serve for a period of 1 (one) year.
  - b) No board member shall serve in the same Board position for more than 2 (two) consecutive terms.
  - c) If a member of the Intergroup Board fails to attend 2 (two) consecutive meetings, his or her office may be declared vacant by a majority of those members present and voting. Any board member may resign for any reason giving the Chair of the Intergroup written notice.
  - d) After an interval of two (2) years a member may again be eligible for election to their prior held office.
- 6) Section 6 - Responsibilities of the Intergroup Board
  - a) Chair:
    - i) Shall preside at the regular and special meetings of Intergroup.
    - ii) Shall be responsible for establishing the agenda for all Intergroup meetings.
    - iii) May cast the deciding vote to break a tie but on regular ballot has no vote.
    - iv) Shall ensure that the Intergroup general account(s) is audited no less than every three years.
    - v) May attend all standing committee meetings.
    - vi) Shall call for special meetings in case of emergencies and/or between meetings in order to conduct the Intergroup business.
  - b) Vice Chair:
    - i) Shall serve in the absence of the Chair.
    - ii) Shall assist the Chair whenever needed.
    - iii) May attend all standing committee meetings.
  - c) Secretary:
    - i) Shall see that minutes are kept of all Intergroup meetings and Board meetings and that a copy of the Intergroup minutes is printed and sent to each Intergroup representative. As a cooperative gesture, a copy may be sent to the regional trustee.

- ii) Shall maintain a file of all minutes of past meetings.
  - iii) Shall direct correspondence to the appropriate officer or committee chair and maintain a file of outgoing correspondence.
  - iv) Shall keep WS informed of all changes to the group information.
  - v) May attend all standing committee meetings
- d) Treasurer.
- i) Shall maintain a checking and savings account for dispersal of intergroup funds
  - ii) Shall submit financial reports each month at Intergroup meetings.
  - iii) Shall be the cosignatory with one (1) other board member on all Intergroup accounts
  - iv) May attend all standing committee meetings
- e) World Service Conference Delegate(s) or alternate(s):
- i) Shall attend the World Service Conference of Overeaters Anonymous and submit a written report to Intergroup
  - ii) Shall have one(1) year current abstinence.
  - iii) Shall have two years of service above group level.
  - iv) Shall be willing to report, either orally or in writing the actions of the Conference to the Intergroup and to each group the Intergroup represents; to keep the Intergroup and represented groups aware of WS information; to communicate important information to the area.
  - v) The term of office for a WS delegate shall be two years for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
  - vi) May attend all standing committee meetings.
- f) Regional Representative(s) or alternate(s):
- i) Shall attend all region assembly meetings and submit a written report to Intergroup.
  - ii) Shall have one (1) year current abstinence.
  - iii) Shall have two years of service above group level.
  - iv) Shall be willing to report, either orally or in writing the actions of the region assembly to the Intergroup and to each group the Intergroup represents; to keep the Intergroup and represented groups aware of region information; to communicate important information to the area.
- g) Parliamentarian:
- i) Shall advise the chair on questions of Parliamentary procedure and interpretations of by-laws.
  - ii) Shall preside as chair of any committee established or called upon to change or amend any of the by-laws.
  - iii) May attend all standing committee meetings.
- 7) Section 7 - Vacancies and Resignations
- a) If a member of the Intergroup Board fails to attend two(2) consecutive meetings without prior notice, his/her office may be declared vacant by a majority vote of the Intergroup Representatives present and voting.
  - b) Any board member may resign at any time for any reason by giving the chair written notice.
  - c) Any board member of this Intergroup may be removed from office for due cause by a majority vote of the IRs at a special meeting announced for that purpose.
- 8) Section 8- 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 of the Intergroup. Such persons chosen to fill said vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the un-expired 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 Article IV, Section 6.
- c) In the event that the board seat for any office shall go unfilled in the course of normal service to the Intergroup, and no other officer is able or willing to fulfill that position, then the Intergroup may choose a candidate by election who is deemed to fill the spirit of the requirements listed in Article IV, section 3 "Qualifications of the Intergroup Board."
  - i) "Normal Service," shall be defined as the condition where there are enough able and willing candidates to fill the positions of the Intergroup Board so as to meet the requirements listed in Article IV, section 3 for election. Furthermore, an absence of this condition constitutes a threat to the continuity of leadership and jeopardizes the long term stability and effectiveness of the primary purpose of BRIG as stated in Article II, section 1.
  - ii) Any candidate using this provision, Part C. (Filling of Vacancies), to be elected to office may only do so if there are no other candidates or currently serving officers willing or able to serve in the vacant post, and are not to serve more than one term consecutively.

## Article V-Meetings

- 1) Section 1- Regular Meetings
  - a) The Intergroup shall meet monthly, at a time and place designated by a majority of the voting members.
- 2) Section 2-Annual Meeting
  - a) An annual meeting shall be held in the month of November for the election of officers and must be at least 120 days prior to the World Service Business Conference allowing adequate time for the election of a WSBC Delegate(s).
- 3) Section 3-Special Meetings
  - a) A special meeting may be called at anytime by a majority vote of the Intergroup Board or by a Petition of five(5) Intergroup members, by giving notice as prescribed in Article V, Section 4. The chair may call a special meeting in case of emergencies and/or between meetings in order to conduct Intergroup business.
- 4) Section 4-Method of Notification
  - a) Notification of all meetings shall consist of notices prepared by the Intergroup Secretary and sent to each member. Special meeting notification can be sent by mail, e- mail or by phone if time does not permit for advance notice.
- 5) Section 5-Quorum The number of voting representatives present at the Intergroup meeting shall be the established quorum.
- 6) Section 6- Meeting Procedure
  - a) Each Intergroup meeting shall begin with the Serenity Prayer, the reading of the Step corresponding to the current month of the Twelve Steps of OA and the reading of the Concept corresponding to the current month of the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
  - b) Next, an introduction of each person present, and their office or the group which they represent in order to establish a quorum. Then the agenda of the meeting can be addressed.
  - c) Before adjournment, a Seventh tradition basket shall be passed according to the Seventh Tradition of OA.

## Article VI-Committees

### 1)Section 1 -Standing Committees

- a) The following standing committees shall be formed to carry out the purpose of the Intergroup in the most effective and efficient manner and other committees may be formed as needed to carry out the business of the Intergroup:
  - i) Newsletter
  - ii) Telephone
  - iii) Literature
  - iv) Webmaster
  - v) Twelve StePs Within
  - vi) Public Informational/Professional Outreach
  - vii) Retreat

### 2)Section 2-Special Committees

- a) The Board shall designate such special committees as are deemed necessary for the welfare of the Intergroup. These ad-hoc committees are temporary and are dissolved when their function is complete.

### 3)Section 4-Committee Appointments

- a) The chairman shall appoint a committee chairman from those present who meet IR qualifications. A board member or any OA member present meeting IR qualifications may be appointed to chair a standing or special committee with approval of the majority of the members present and voting.

### 4)Section 5-Committee Procedures

- a) Each standing or special committee shall be responsible for calling and holding meetings, and establishing its method of procedures, subject to the Intergroup Board and the guidelines of the Twelve Traditions of OA.

### 5)Section 6-Committee Responsibility

- a) Any committee decision and/or vote which establishes or changes a policy, sets a procedural plan for a special event, or expends funds in excess of the previously approved budget, shall require approval by the majority of the Intergroup prior to implementation. Each standing committee chairman shall submit a written report prior to each months meeting or be present to submit an oral report at the monthly meeting. At the end of any specific event handled by a committee, an itemized report shall be included with the final report of any monies expended from an approved budget and the chairman shall present it to the Intergroup.

### 6)Section 7-Nominating Committee The Intergroup chair may appoint a nominating committee for the sole purpose of recommending persons to serve as officers, WSBC delegates /alternates and Region Representatives/alternates or future nominating committee members. The number may vary from 3 to 5 members. The chairman may not serve on this committee but may provide background information and input as requested by the committee.

### 7)Section 8-Vacancies

- a) Should a vacancy, resignation, or removal of a committee chairman occur, all pertinent information shall be turned over to the Intergroup Chairman. The chairman shall then appoint a new committee chairman to serve the remainder of the term.

### 8)Section 9- Removal of a Committee Chairman

- a) A committee chairman may be removed from office with a two-thirds vote of

the Board.

#### 9) Article VII - Financial Structure/ Source of Funds

- a) Section 1- Source of Funds
  - i) The activities of the Intergroup shall be financed by voluntary contributions of its member groups.
  - ii) The Board may authorize occasional projects or activities to provide a secondary source of financial income according to Tradition Six.
  - iii) The Intergroup may accept donations from OA members and groups in accordance with the principles of OA.
  - iv) The acceptance of bequests or donations from any outside source is prohibited.
  - v) The Intergroup shall not accept the responsibility for trusteeship over or enter into the distribution or allocation of, funds set up outside of OA.
  - vi) Except as otherwise provided by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes and ordered for payment of money shall be signed by the Treasurer and one (1) other Board Officer.
- b) Section 2- Prudent Reserve There shall be no accumulation of funds beyond current necessities, with retention of only a prudent reserve for contingencies. Funds in excess shall be donated to Region 8 and the World Service Office on an annual basis as decided by the majority of the Intergroup. Individual meetings or groups handle their own contributions to WSO and Region 8 before sending their portion to the Intergroup.
- c) Section 3 - Financial Record keeping
  - i) The treasurer shall keep all financial records for BRIG from the past five years to present.
  - ii) Once records become older than five years the treasurer may destroy them at his/her earliest convenience.

### Article VIII - Parliamentary Authority

- 1) The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this Intergroup in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B.

### Article IX - Amendments to these Bylaws

- 1) These Bylaws, representing the Intergroup, may be amended at anytime by a majority of the Intergroup representatives present at any regular meeting of the Intergroup, provided a copy of the proposed amendment(s) is made available to the representatives of registered groups at least 30 days prior to the Intergroup meeting at which a vote is to be taken.
- 2) Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any OA member. The amendment(s) shall be submitted in writing to any Intergroup Board member.

### Article X - Standing Policies

- 1) Each policy shall be submitted in writing and should include its main purpose and explanation of how it is to work. Upon approval by a vote of the Intergroup Board it shall be enacted and recorded on the date it was put into effect, and is to be kept

along with the current version of bylaws.

## Article XI - Major Policy Matters

- 1) Section 1.
  - a) Matters that affect this Intergroup and/or groups within its service area shall be referred to the board of this Intergroup
  - b) Matters which relate to Overeaters Anonymous as a whole, which affect Subpart A of the Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. shall be referred to the Board of Trustees.
  - c) Matters which affect Subpart B of the Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. or which relate to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts shall be referred to the World Service Business Conference.

## Article XII - Dissolution

- 1) Section 1. Upon the dissolution of this association, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the association, the remaining assets shall be distributed according to Tradition Six (6), which guides us to disperse funds only to other OA service bodies. Such distribution shall be made to the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous, and/or Region 8, and/or another registered OA service Body. If no registered OA service Body exists to which the assets can be transferred, distribution shall be made to a non-profit fund, association, foundation or corporation, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious and/or scientific purposes and which complies with applicable laws. For example, such organizations or entities within the United States must comply with Section 501 @ (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 2) Section 2. No part of the net earnings of this association shall ever revert to or be used for the benefit of, 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 express purposes for which it is formed.



Submission for addition to Article IV, section 8 (Filling of Vacancies)  
of the Bylaws of Baton Rouge Intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous.  
(Approved November 14,2009)

Part C. - In the event that the board seat for any office shall go unfilled in the course of normal service to the Intergroup, and no other officer is able or willing to fulfill that position, then the Intergroup may choose a candidate by election who is deemed to fill the spirit of the requirements listed in Article IV, section 3 "Qualifications of the Intergroup Board."

1. "Normal service," shall be defined as the condition where there are enough able and willing candidates to fill the positions of the Intergroup Board so as to meet the requirements listed in Article IV, section 3 for election. Furthermolq alt absence of this condition constitutes a thleat to the continuity of leadership and jeopardizes the long term stability and effectiveness of the primary purpose of BRIG as stated in Article II, section 1
2. Any candidate using this provision, Part C. (Filling of Vacancies), to be elected to office may only do so if there are no other candidates or currently serving officers willing or able to serve in the vacant post, and are not to serve more than one term consecutively'

Submission for elimination of Article IV (The Intergroup Board)  
Section 1, part D  
(Approved November 14,2009)

Part D reads :

Vacancies of officers shall be filled by a majority vote at that meeting in which the vacancy occurs, or at the next meeting or special meeting of the Intergroup. When a vacancy occurs in the Chair, the vice Chair fills the vacancy and a new vice Chair is elected. Such person chosen to fill said vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. A person chosen to fill any vacancy shall meet the qualifications as defined in Article IV, Section 3 and be knowledgeable of all responsibilities of that position.

Part D is redundant because it states filling of vacancies and Article IV, section 8 does the same thing in almost the same words.

*Section 8- Filling of Vacancies*

*Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote at the meeting in which the vacancy occurred, or at the next meeting of the Intergroup. Such persons chosen to fill said vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the un-expired term.*

*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 Article IV, Section 6.*