

**GOLD COAST INTERGROUP OF  
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS  
BYLAWS  
(Revision February 2023)**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Gold Coast Intergroup, Inc., hereinafter referred to as GCI.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1 –**

- A.** The primary purpose of this organization is to aid those with the problem of compulsive eating through the Twelve Steps of Overeaters Anonymous, and to serve and represent the OA groups from which GCI is formed. GCI is in compliance with and qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or the corresponding of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

**SECTION 2 – THE TWELVE STEPS**

- A.** The Twelve Steps<sup>1</sup> are suggested for recovery in the Fellowship of Overeaters Anonymous. The Twelve Steps are:
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 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 our affairs.

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<sup>1</sup> *Permission to use and adapt the Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous granted by A.A. World Services, Inc. The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions or Twelve Concepts cannot be amended by an Intergroup.*

### **SECTION 3 – THE TWELVE TRADITIONS**

- A.** The Twelve Traditions<sup>1</sup> 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 drawn 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.

### **SECTION 4 – THE TWELVE CONCEPTS**

- A.** The Twelve Concepts<sup>1</sup> 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 World Service Business Conference the active maintenance of our world services; thus, 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 the 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 grievance 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, executive, staffs 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 III – MEMBERS**

#### **SECTION 1 – MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of GCI shall consist of the following:

- A.** The GCI Board
- B.** Intergroup Representatives (IR), which shall consist of one member or one alternate within the geographic area. Visitors are welcomed and are encouraged to participate in the discussion.
  1. The Geographic area shall be defined as Broward, adjacent counties and groups which replicate face-to-face meetings through electronic media.
- C.** Committee Chairs

#### **SECTION 2 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN GCI**

- A.** Those groups within the region or geographic definitions of GCI that have formally registered with the World Service Office and indicated their intention to belong to GCI may be considered Members. An OA group is defined as the following:
  1. As a group, they meet to practice the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of OA.
  2. All who have a desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group.
  3. No member is required to practice any action 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.

5. A group may be formed by two (2) or more persons meeting together, as set forth in Article V, Section 1 of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws Subpart B.
  - a) Virtual groups (groups which replicate face-to-face meetings through electronic media) may be an Overeaters Anonymous group if they:
    - 1) Otherwise meet the definition of Overeaters Anonymous groups;
    - 2) Are fully interactive, and; meet in real time
- B. Each group shall be entitled to one (1) vote through its elected IR or Alternate, when applicable.
- C. No group may be registered with another Intergroup.

**SECTION 3 – INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES (IR)**

- A. GCI representatives shall be selected by the group conscience of the group they shall 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 IR when the necessity arises.
- B. Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of the IR, or in his absence, the Alternate IR, to:
  1. Attend GCI meetings
  2. Report all relevant matters to group represented.
  3. Deliver newsletters to group represented.
  4. Be responsible for getting group’s monthly donations to GCI.
- C. Limitations: No member shall serve as IR or Alternate IR for more than one group.

**Section 4 – ABSENCES OF GCI REPRESENTATIVES**

- A. The GCI Recording Secretary shall include in the monthly report to the Intergroup a listing of groups not represented at any of the three preceding monthly GCI meetings.

**Section 5 – MEMBERSHIP WITH VOICE AND NO VOTE**

- A. Any member of the fellowship who is not an elected IR, Committee Chair, or GCI Board Member.

**ARTICLE IV – THE GCI BOARD**

**SECTION 1 – THE GCI BOARD**

- A. The Board shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, World Service Delegates and Regional Representatives, and a Parliamentarian. The immediate past Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member of the GCI Board for one (1) year. The GCI Board shall serve as the Executive Board.
- B. In the event the Chair of the Board should be unable to attend any meeting, the next highest ranking Board Member in attendance shall serve as chair for that meeting. The ranking of officers shall serve as follows:
  1. Vice-Chair
  2. Treasurer
  3. Corresponding Secretary
  4. Recording Secretary

## **SECTION 2 – QUALIFICATIONS OF GCI BOARD**

- A. Working the Twelve Steps of the recovery program for one (1) year to the best of the individual's ability.
- B. Familiarity with the Twelve Traditions.
- C. One-year (12 months) back-to-back physical abstinence.
- D. Regular attendee of an active group for a period of one (1) year and to be or have been an IR.
- E. Attendance at GCI meetings for a minimum of 6 months prior to being nominated.
- F. Familiarity with the Twelve Concepts of OA service.
- G. The World Service Business Conference Delegate/Alternate shall meet the qualifications and requirements as outlined and defined in the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, Article X, Section 3, and as required for election to the GCI Board by Article IV, Section 4 of these bylaws.
- H. The regional representative/alternate shall meet the qualifications and requirements as outlined and defined in the Region 8 Bylaws, and as required for election to the GCI Board by Article IV, Section 4 of these bylaws.

## **SECTION 3 – METHOD OF ELECTION**

- A. Elections shall be held annually at the January meeting and elected officers will take office in February. All nominees must meet the qualifications of the GCI Board (See Section 2 )
- B. To be eligible for election to the Board, a nominee must:
  - 1. Meet all of the qualifications a defined in Article IV, Section 3.
  - 2. Understand responsibilities as defined in Article IV, Section 6.
- C. In order to be eligible to cast a vote at the annual election, an IR or alternate must meet requirements in Article III, Sections 2 and 3, and must have attended no less than one of the previous two GCI meetings.
- D. In order to be elected to membership on the GCI Board, a nominee must be present at the election meeting and must receive a majority vote of the IRs present and voting.

## **SECTION 4 – TERM OF OFFICE**

- A. Board members shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years.
- B. Board members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position, with the exception of the World Service Delegate/Region Representative or alternates who may serve for four (4) consecutive terms.
- C. After an interval of one (1) year they may be again eligible for election to the previously held position on the GCI Board.
- D. Upon election to the Board, members shall cease to be a Representative of their group; and that group shall elect a new IR.

## **SECTION 5 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GCI BOARD**

- A. **Chair**
  - 1. Shall preside at all regular and special meetings of GCI and GCI Board
  - 2. Shall be responsible for establishing the agenda for all GCI meetings.

3. May cast the deciding vote to break a tie.
  4. May attend all standing committee meetings.
  5. May appoint special standing committees.
  6. Shall be first delegate to World Service and first Region Representative.
  7. Shall ensure that the general account of GCI shall be audited annually as outlined in item 17 of the Policy and Procedure Manual. This audit shall consist of an internal Audit Committee of between two and four members, appointed by the Chair.
- B. Vice Chair**
1. Shall serve in the absence of the Chair.
  2. Shall assist the Chair whenever needed.
  3. May attend all standing committee meetings.
  4. Shall serve as the Chair of GCI functions (except for annual convention).
  5. Will serve as Chair of the Registration Committee for GCI's annual convention.
- C. Recording Secretary**
1. Shall see that minutes are kept of all GCI meetings and that a copy of said minutes is distributed to each IR.
  2. Shall maintain a file of all minutes of past meetings.
  3. Shall include in the monthly report to GCI a listing of groups unrepresented at GCI meetings during the past three or more months.
  4. May attend all standing committee meetings.
- D. Corresponding Secretary**
1. Shall direct correspondence to the appropriate officer or committee chair and maintain a file of outgoing and incoming correspondence.
  2. Shall distribute notice of all meetings of GCI as described in Article V.
  3. May attend all standing committee meetings.
- E. Treasurer**
1. Shall maintain a checking account as necessary for dispersal of GCI funds. Two signatures shall be required on all checks, one being the Treasurer, Chair, or Vice Chair of GCI, and the other being any Board Member unrelated to the first signator.
  2. Shall submit written financial reports each month at the GCI meetings.
  3. Shall serve as Chair of the Budget Committee.
  4. May attend all standing committee meetings.
- F. World Service Conference Delegates / Region Representatives**
1. Shall attend the World Service Conference of Overeaters Anonymous.
  2. Shall attend all Region Assembly meetings.
  3. In all areas the World Service Delegates / Region Representatives and Alternates shall meet qualifications and requirements outlined and defined in Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B. Article X, Section 3c.
  4. Shall serve Overeaters Anonymous, the World Service Conference and Region Assembly for one (1) year.
  5. Shall report in writing, at the first GCI meeting occurring after the World Service Business Conference and/or Region Assembly the actions of the Conference and

Region to all groups the GCI represents; to keep the GCI and represented groups aware of WSO/SOAR information.

6. May attend all standing committee meetings.
7. Alternates automatically assume this position, upon the vacating of the office by the Rep or Delegate, until the end of the present term. They do not automatically assume this position for the new term without a re-election.
8. The World Service Delegate and Region Rep may be one person.

**G. Parliamentarian**

1. Shall serve as Parliamentarian.
2. May attend all standing committee meetings.
3. Shall chair the By-Laws Committee.
4. Shall maintain copies of the By-Laws and the Policy and Procedures for the Fellowship as directed by the Board.

**H. Immediate Past Chair**

1. Ensure current information is updated to the Gold Coast Intergroup Outgoing Voice Message as needed.

**SECTION 6 – VACANCIES AND RESIGNATIONS**

- A. Any board member may resign at any time for any reason by giving the Chairman of the GCI written notice.
- B. Any Board Member of GCI may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the IRs at a regular Intergroup monthly meeting.
- C. If a member of the GCI Board fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings with prior notice, his/her office may be declared vacant by a majority of those members present and voting.
- D. Any member of GCI may be removed from office or membership for due cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the GCI Members present at a special meeting announced for that purpose.

**SECTION 7 – FILLING THE 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 GCI. Such persons chosen to fill said vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the expired term.
- B. A person chosen to fill any vacancy on the board shall meet the qualifications as defined in Article IV, Sections 2 and 3 and be aware of all responsibilities of that position as described and defined in Article IV.

**ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1 – REGULAR MEETINGS**

- A. The GCI shall meet virtually 10 times a year at a time designated by a majority of the voting members, or as otherwise approved by the Intergroup.

**SECTION 2 – ANNUAL MEETINGS**

- A. An annual meeting shall be held in the month of January for the election of Officers. Consideration shall be given to set such time of said meeting to be held prior to 120 days prior to the World Service Conference, allowing adequate time for election of World Service Delegates and Region Representatives.

**SECTION 3 – METHOD OF NOTIFICATION**

- A. Notification of all meetings shall consist of notices prepared by the GCI corresponding Secretary and distributed via email to each Group Secretary and / or IR seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. Minutes treasurer’s report and the agenda shall be distributed three (3) days prior to the meeting for review.

**SECTION 4 – QUORUM**

- A. A minimum of a total of five (5) will be considered a quorum. This will consist of two (2) elected GCI Board Members with one (1) must be either the chair or vice chair. The remaining three (3) shall be group representatives and or committee chairs.

**ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1 – STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. Standing Committees may be established as required to carry out the purpose of GCI in the most effective and efficient manner and may include, but not be limited to:
  - 1. Audit Committee
  - 2. Budget
  - 3. Bylaws
  - 4. Literature / Lifeline
  - 5. Newsletter
  - 6. Public Information and Professional Outreach
  - 7. Special Events (Retreats/Marathons/Workshops)
  - 8. Twelfth Step Within
  - 9. Ways and Means
  - 10. WebsiteOther Committees, standing or special, deemed necessary to carry on special work.

**SECTION 2 – COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- A. The Board shall designate such committees as are deemed necessary for the welfare and operation of the GCI. The GCI Chair shall appoint a committee chair from those IRs present who meet IR qualifications OR any OA member presently meeting IR qualifications with approval of an established quorum.
- B. Standing committee chairs shall have a voice and a vote.

**SECTION 3 – COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

- A. Each standing committee may prescribe its own rules for calling and holding meetings and its method of procedures, subject to the Bylaws of GCI.



**SECTION 4 – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Each standing committee chairman shall submit a report to the GCI monthly and at the end of any specific event coordinated by that committee. If any moneys are expended, a detailed and itemized report shall be included with the report.

**SECTION 5 – EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

- A. Past committee chair may serve in an ex-officio capacity in their respective committees.

**SECTION 6 – VACANCIES**

- A. Should a vacancy, resignation or removal occur in any standing Committee, all pertinent information shall be turned over to the GCI Chair. The GCI Chair shall then appoint a new Committee Chair to serve the remainder of the term.

**ARTICLE VII – SOURCE OF FUNDS**

**SECTION 1 – SOURCE OF FUNDS**

- A. Voluntary contributions of the member groups shall be the primary source of funds.
- B. Secondary sources of income may be such occasional projects or activities as may be authorized by the GCI according to Tradition Six.
- C. The GCI may accept donations from OA members, conforming with the general practices of OA.
- D. The maximum allowable annual donation to the GCI by OA members is to be limited to five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars.
- E. The acceptance of bequests or donations from any outside source is prohibited.
- F. The GCI shall not accept responsibility for trusteeship over or enter into the distribution or allocation of funds set up outside of Overeaters Anonymous.
- G. Charging for newsletters (not to exceed cost) is left to the discretion of individual OA groups and shall be reviewed semi-annually.
- H. The maximum allowable bequest to the GCI by OA members is to be limited to \$100,000.00.

**SECTION 2 – PRUDENT RESERVE**

- A. There shall be no accumulation of funds beyond current necessities, with retention of only a prudent reserve for contingencies. Funds in excess will be donated to Region 8 and World Service Office on a regular basis as directed by the GCI.

**ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

**SECTION 1 –**

Those rules contained in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern GCI in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. Bylaws, Subpart B, or any special rules of order GCI may adopt.

**ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS**

**SECTION 1 –**

GCI Bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the IRs and the board members present at any regular or special meeting of the GCI. The following procedures must be applied.

- A. The amendment must be presented in writing at a regular or special meeting of GCI.
- B. A copy of the amendment is to be mailed to each IR unless they waive their right to receive postal mail in favor of email or other electronic means of distribution to all members in attendance at the meeting along with the minutes.

**ARTICLE X – MAJOR POLICY MATTERS**

**SECTION 1 –**

- A. Matters which affect GCI and/or groups within its service area shall be referred to the Board of GCI.
- B. Matters which relate to Overeaters Anonymous as a whole shall be referred to the World Service Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION**

**SECTION 1 –**

- A. 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 to the World Service Office of Overeaters Anonymous and/or Region 8.
- B. In order to deregister, an intergroup must submit a written request to the World Service Office, region chair and region trustee.

**SECTION 2 –**

- A. No part of the net earnings of this association shall ever inure 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.