

MBI Intergroup Inventory completed 11-30-17

This inventory is divided into three parts:

- *A look at the function of the intergroup or service board*
- *Twelfth-Step work within the Fellowship*
- *Carrying the message to the still-suffering compulsive overeater*

When you have completed the inventory, you will probably discover that your intergroup or service board has more strengths than you realized. After all, it takes commitment to be willing to do an inventory in the first place. You may also find some weaknesses. Just as in your personal recovery, appreciate your strengths. As for your weaknesses, remember that help is available to you from your region, your regional trustee and the World Service Office.

a. Preliminary Questions

1. Are we satisfied with the function of our intergroup/service board? If not, why not?
Rate ourselves 7 out of 10. We go to WS and Region 6, have newsletter, website, phone list updated every other month. Not geographically limited. Expanded notion of participating, Designated Downloaders sent info monthly by Chair.
2. Have we ever taken an intergroup/service board inventory? If not, why not? If so, what were the results? **Done in 2013. See Chair Report 2/14 MBI Newsletter.**

b. Part 1: The Function of the Intergroup/Service Board

1. What is the purpose of our intergroup/service board?
Stated in ByLaws—to reach out to those who are still suffering. . .
2. Do we have a Statement of Purpose or Bylaws? **Both.**
3. Do we use *Robert's Rules of Order* and our bylaws during our business meetings? **Yes.**
4. Do the Twelve Traditions take precedence over “Robert’s Rules” in our intergroup/service board’s bylaws? **Yes.**
5. Do intergroup/service board bylaws and policies protect and/or extend the tenure of certain “trusted servants”? **No.**
6. Does our intergroup/service board dictate or suggest? **Suggest with group conscience.**
7. Are we incorporated? Do we have a nonprofit tax status? **Yes.**
8. Do we set realistic short- and long-term goals? **Yes.**
9. Does our intergroup/service board have a need for regular steering committee meetings or board meetings? **Yes, as needed and monthly.**
10. Are there frequent steering committee meetings for discussions and decisions beyond the purview of the entire group conscience? **No.**
11. Does a select group make most of our intergroup/service board’s “important” decisions? **No.** Is ours an exclusive club or an inclusive intergroup/service board? **Inclusive.**
12. Are all our intergroup/service board’s activities open to the scrutiny of each member of the Fellowship? **Yes,**
13. How can we keep the WSO group registrations up-to-date? **Annually compare our meeting list to list on OA.org website.**
14. Are committee meetings open to all members? **Yes.**

15. Are committees' recommendations presented to the entire intergroup/service board for consideration and deliberation? **Yes—reports.**
16. Do we choose our service people with care and consideration, placing principles before personalities? **Yes, the best we are able.**
17. Is anonymity honored within our intergroup/service board? **Yes.**
18. Is an opportunity given to each member to participate in the intergroup/service board's activities? **Yes, but vote is limited to 90 day abstinence.**
19. Do we have a budget which includes a prudent reserve and contributions to region and WSO? **Yes.**
20. Have we done all we can to provide an attractive and convenient meeting place? **Yes.**
21. Are we committed to participating in the region and world service structure? **Yes.**
22. Do we make every effort to fund our representatives to regional assemblies and the World Service Business Conference? **Yes.**
23. How often do our "trusted servants" say, "Trust me, I know what's best"? **Never.**
24. Is there a frequent need for quick decisions? **No, this is rare.**
25. Is there a place on our intergroup/service board's agenda for open sharing and expressing group concerns? **Yes.**
26. Who decides how our intergroup/service board spends money? **Treasurer + group conscience.**
27. Do we see complete monthly financial reports, or just the general fund's beginning and ending balance? **Complete.**
28. Does our intergroup/service board have special savings accounts? **One savings account which is prudent reserve.**
29. Are funds readily available, or are they invested? **All readily available.**
30. Is the prudent reserve really prudent, or is it a hedge against a worldwide recession? **It is prudent.**
31. Are the requests for intergroup/service board contributions consistent with expenditures shown on the financial reports? **Income + expenses balance, reports are accurate.**
32. How long has the treasurer been in control of the books? **Since 12/12.**
33. Are there multiple signatories on all accounts? **Two signatories + office worker who does not sign checks.**
34. Does someone other than the treasurer reconcile bank accounts? **Our tax preparer.**
35. Have the books been audited lately? **No.**

c. Part 2: The Twelfth Step Within

1. Do all the groups in our geographic area know about our intergroup/service board and the services we provide? **Yes, through our newsletter and announcements.**
2. Do all the groups in the area belong to an intergroup/service board? **As far as we know.**
3. Do we keep in touch with groups who don't send representatives or contributions to intergroup/service board? **Yes, through Designated Downloaders.**
4. Do we let all groups know how they can support the intergroup/service board through service and financial contributions? **Yes.**
5. Do we encourage the Seventh Tradition's 60/30/10 contribution formula, making sure our area groups know about it? **We could do better on this.**
6. Do we inform all members and groups of the structure of OA? **We talk about WS and Region 6. Could do better with educating all.**
7. Do we sponsor OA workshops and marathons for OA's in our area? **Yes.**
8. Do we keep our meeting list current? **Yes, updated every other month.**
9. Do we publish a newsletter for the groups in our area? **Yes.**
10. Do we maintain a stock of OA-approved literature for sale? **No.** Do we encourage subscriptions and written contributions to *Lifeline*? **Yes, in MBI Newsletter.**
11. Do we help new members find sponsors? **Not right now.**
12. Do we arrange a system for groups to obtain abstinent OA speakers? **Not right now.**
13. How do we help floundering groups? **Not right now.**
14. Do we assist unaffiliated groups in nearby areas to form their own intergroup/service boards? **No.**
15. Do we address the special needs of our members, e.g., young people or the physically challenged, and try to find ways to meet their needs without isolating them? **No.**

d. Part 3: Carrying the Message

1. Do we have a permanent address and phone number that is answered twenty-four hours a day? **Yes-address. Yes-phone number. Phone recording accepts messages.**
2. Is our intergroup/service board phone number listed in area phone books? **In some—there is a small fee in our phone bills to cover this.**
3. Are we reaching compulsive overeaters in our community through
 - meeting listings in local newspapers **Some, room for improvement.**
 - radio and TV public service announcements (PSAs) **Limited.**
 - calendar notices **Limited.**
 - newspaper and magazine articles **No.**
 - news releases about special OA events **No.**
 - bulletin board notices **Goldenrod flyers. Room for improvement.**
 - OA literature in libraries **Goldenrod flyers. No books.**
 - special newcomer meetings **No.**
 - speakers list for various community organizations **No.**
 - other _____
4. What have we done to bring the OA message to the attention of the professional community, such as:
 - medical professionals **Annual conference, mailings, flyers, packets**
 - physicians **Same as medical professionals**
 - nurses **Mailings to nursing schools. PO goal.**
 - Dietitians **Not currently**
 - Nutritionists **Not currently**
 - medical technicians **Not currently**
 - psychiatrists **Packets and addiction conference.**
 - Psychologists **Packets and addiction conference.**
 - Counselors **Packets**
 - Teachers **Not currently**
 - social workers **Packets and addiction conference.**
 - Clergy **Packets.**
 - Military **Not currently**
 - employee assistance counselors **Packets.**
 - other _____
5. What are we doing to carry the message into institutions, such as:
 - Schools **Nothing currently.**
 - prisons and detention centers **Books sent in past, nothing currently.**
 - Hospitals **PO mass mailings, goldenrod flyers.**
 - training facilities: **Nothing currently**
 - nursing homes and retirement communities **Nothing currently.**
 - other _____

e. Final question

Are there other alternatives to the present intergroup/service board structure that might be more useful in meeting the area's needs? If so, what? **We did not answer this question.**

*We all know, of course, how to identify dysfunction. So, it isn't so much an issue of not knowing there's a problem as it is about doing something. Being long on **wisdom**, do we opt for **serenity**, or **courage**? Do we accept it or change it? Intervention or avoidance? If not you, who?*

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See attached addendum from OA Handbook

The following is quoted from *OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies: Recovery Opportunities*, from the Section entitled **How Things Get Done in Your Intergroup or Service Board**, page 33 and 34.

1. How do intergroups/service boards start?

When several groups exist in a geographic area, they eventually realize there are functions they can perform better together than separately. Typically, intergroups/service boards form simply because they are the easiest, most efficient way of getting certain OA jobs done. They provide needed services with a minimum of organization. These intergroups/service boards, composed of representatives from interested meetings, are directly responsible to those they serve.

Intergroups/service boards may manage administrative functions, such as meeting lists, hotlines, and websites, but their primary purpose remains the same as every other group or service body in OA – to carry its message to the compulsive overeater who still suffers (Tradition Five). This includes those still suffering both inside and outside of OA. Intergroups are in a unique position to help those still suffering within OA. A few representatives working together on an intergroup/service board committee can organize recovery events, such as Unity, IDEA Day, retreats, and conventions, which may benefit large numbers of members.

2. What functions do intergroups/service board have?

Intergroups/service boards often handle such responsibilities as:

1. Acting as guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of OA Service as specified in the Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.
2. Creating and maintaining intergroup/service board websites. A majority of people coming to OA now find their way to a meeting through oa.org or a local intergroups website.
3. Maintaining OA listings in local telephone directories and handling telephone and mail inquiries.
4. Sponsoring and arranging workshops, marathons, and other special events aimed at educating, informing, and helping members strengthen their personal recovery, since everything in OA begins with personal recovery.
5. Publishing regular newsletters or bulletins to keep groups informed about each other and about upcoming OA events, distributing up-to-date directories of all nearby meetings, and providing other

necessary information.

6. Handling public information requests from local news media, arranging radio or TV public-service announcements or programs about OA, and furnishing OA speakers for outside organizations.
7. Maintaining contact with health care professionals in fields related to OA.
8. Arranging a system for groups to obtain abstaining OA speakers.
9. Helping to find sponsors for new members.
10. Maintaining a stock of OA literature and OA-approved AA literature for sale. Some groups and individuals also purchase literature for themselves directly from bookstore.oa.org.
11. Sending representatives to regional assemblies and delegates to the world Service Business Conference, OA's annual business meetings.
12. Maintaining an office, if there is a need and local groups can support it financially.