

Intergroup Conundrums and their solutions as outlined in the Bylaws Document

- ✚ Intergroup receives notice that it's time to fill out the annual statement with the Australian Charities & Not-For-Profits Commission. There's been a recent election with new members in service positions. The legal name of the association is needed to complete the paperwork and these members are familiar with intergroup being known as some of the following: Intergroup, IG, Melbourne IG, OA Melbourne, OA Melbourne Intergroup including Regional Victoria & Tasmania, etc.

What is the legal name of our service group?

- Overeaters Anonymous Melbourne Intergroup Inc.
- Refer p.3, ARTICLE I

- ✚ The Intergroup Secretary wins a whopping, life-altering amount in the lottery and moves to live in an over-water bungalow in Bora Bora where they discover that the WIFI is unstable (or they become engrossed in fishing from the hole in their living room!). Much as they want to, they are no longer able to zoom in for IG and therefore vacate their position.

Can the business continue without them?

- No, the Intergroup may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership with the exception of Secretary.
- Refer p.13, ARTICLE IV, Section 10 e.

What does the Intergroup do next?

- If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Intergroup must appoint a member to the position ...
- Refer p.13, ARTICLE IV, Section 10 b.

How many days does IG have before the above action is required?

- Within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- Refer p.13, ARTICLE IV, Section 10 b.

- ✚ Old Olly Overeater dies after a long life of sane and happy usefulness. Intergroup hears from their lawyer to say that they left \$15,000 to IG in their will. The lawyer lets it slip during the conversation that the member also donated \$15,000 to Region Ten and a very generous \$50,000 to the World Service Office.

What does IG do with the money?

- Any balance in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000 AUD) will be donated to Region Ten and the WSO, as per the spirit of Tradition 7.
- Refer p.19, ARTICLE VII, Section 1: c, ii.

- ✚ Who's ever heard of a CCC or an AHCC? **What are these?**

- Core Committee Coordinator and Ad Hoc Committee Coordinator
- Refer p.5, ARTICLE III, Section 1c.
- Refer p.16-17, ARTICLE VI, Section 1c. and Section 2c.

- ✚ A group of fellows are chatting during a break at a recovery event and considering whether to attend the next session which is the Bi-Annual General Meeting of IG with elections. A newcomer asks, *'I thought OA events were supposed to be all about carrying the message? What's Intergroup got to do with it?'* An old-timer continues the conversation adding to the newcomers' sentiment, *"Yes! As Tradition 5 states, 'Every OA group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the Compulsive Overeater who stills suffers.'"*

What is the Primary Purpose of Intergroup?

- 'to carry the Overeaters Anonymous (OA) message of recovery to compulsive overeaters and those with compulsive food behaviours by being guardians of and fostering the practice of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA, guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service, and to serve the members and groups in its geographical boundaries and affiliated groups outside those geographical boundaries.'
- Refer p.3, ARTICLE II, Section 1.

- ✚ Member Moody and Member Sad disagree with the decisions being made at intergroup.

What can members who are unhappy with intergroup decisions do about this?

- As per Concept of OA Service 5 – Consideration, members of intergroup 'have the right of appeal and petition in order to ensure that their opinions and personal grievances will be carefully considered.'
- Refer p.7, ARTICLE III, Section 8.

- ✚ We are members of OA if we have 'a desire to stop eating compulsively' and choose to call ourselves a member. Every member who chooses to attend Intergroup is welcome. Does that mean they are an Intergroup member?

Who are the Intergroup members?

- Members who have a voice and a vote include: elected Executive Officers, Intergroup Representatives and Core Committee Coordinators
- Members who have a voice at intergroup: any member of Overeaters Anonymous
- Refer p.5, ARTICLE III, Sections 1 and 2.

- ✚ The Intergroup documents are out-of-date and not providing current information to new IG members about how to do their role. No one wants to do administrative paperwork and everyone prefers to be actively among the still sufferers carrying the message. **Who is responsible for ensuring that the information needed to do each service role is available?**

- The Executive Officers work collectively as part of the Executive Committee to ensure administrative tasks are undertaken on behalf of the Intergroup for which Ad Hoc Committees may be formed.
- Refer p.9, ARTICLE IV, Section 6a, iii.

- ✚ **Where are the Intergroup Bylaws kept and how can I access a copy?**

- as PDF file in Dropbox – email oa.melb@gmail.com for access information.