

**The Bylaws  
of  
Smokers  
Anonymous**



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501

## Foreword

In May of 1985, *Reader's Digest* published an article by Maurice Z. about a group in Los Angeles that called itself Smokers Anonymous. The article elicited 6,000 responses, one of them from a group in San Francisco that called itself Smokers Anonymous.

The two groups met March 14-16, 1986 in Bakersfield for the first statewide SA Conference. By then, they had incorporated as California Smokers Anonymous, a name later shortened to Smokers Anonymous. Subsequent annual Conferences were held in Monterey and San Francisco. It was at the San Francisco Conference that delegates from California, Oregon, Washing-

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ton, Ohio and New York adopted the Bylaws published herein.

These Bylaws were required by law as part of our incorporation. They were derived by David M. and Bill H. from the Bylaws of Overeaters Anonymous. Their adoption was by unanimous vote.

At this writing, there are Intergroups in Los Angeles and San Francisco, serving southern and northern California respectively, and in New Orleans. Louisiana is the second state to incorporate.

The World Service Office is located in San Francisco and serves groups in more than 20 states.

Bill H.  
San Francisco  
January 27, 1989

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## Article I: The Twelve Steps

Recovery from nicotine addiction in Smokers Anonymous is based on taking these Twelve Steps under the guidance of a sponsor who has already done them.

1. We admitted we were powerless over nicotine - 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 nicotine users, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

The Twelve Steps reprinted and adapted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. The Twelve Steps of AA:

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - 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 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 alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

## Article II: The Twelve Traditions

The Twelve Traditions are the fundamental principles upon which the fellowship of Smokers Anonymous operates. They apply to all groups, Intergroups and service organizations and govern the activities of these bodies and their members.

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon SA 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 SA membership is a desire to stop using nicotine.

4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or SA as a whole.

5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the nicotine addict who still suffers.

6. A SA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the SA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money,

property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7. Every SA group ought to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

8. Smokers Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

9. SA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

10. Smokers Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the SA 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, television and films.

12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The Twelve Traditions reprinted and adapted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. 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 A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. 4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. 5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. 6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property

and prestige divert us from our primary purpose. 7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers. 9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. 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, and films. 12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

### Article III: Members

#### Section 1: Legal Status

The Corporation may have associated with it persons who are not members of the Corporation within the meaning of Section 5056 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, but who may be referred to as "members of Smokers Anonymous" or "members" in these Bylaws. The identity, rights and privileges of such members with respect to the Corporation shall be as set forth in these Bylaws. Reference in these Bylaws to "members" shall refer to such persons.

#### Section 2: Qualifications

Require-  
ment for  
membership

Any person may become a member of Smokers Anonymous who has a desire to stop using nicotine.

### Article IV: Smokers Anonymous Groups

#### Section 1: Composition

a) A group may be formed by two (2) or more persons meeting together who practice the Twelve Steps and maintain the Twelve Traditions of Smokers Anonymous.

b) Groups compose the Intergroups as set forth in Article V hereof.

### Article V: Intergroups

#### Section 1: Composition

a) Two (2) or more groups may form an Intergroup for the purpose of servicing and representing the groups of which they are composed and acting as the guardian of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Each Intergroup should be composed of groups within its region when feasible.

b) Each state or province may have at least one Intergroup. In a state or province having only one group, that group may function as an Intergroup.

**Inter-  
groups to  
register  
with WSO**

**Section 2: Registration**

Each Intergroup shall be duly registered with the World Service Office (WSO) of SA by submitting its Bylaws and/or a summary of its purpose and operating procedures if Bylaws have not yet been adopted, and by submitting full information on each group it represents.

**Section 3: Intergroup Representatives**

At a meeting of which members have been given notice, each group shall select its representative to the Intergroup to be called "Intergroup Representative" or "IR."

**Section 4: Functioning**

a) Intergroups may conduct the business of their groups by any method they choose.

b) Exception: With prior notice to all member groups, Intergroups shall convene at least once a year for election of officers and selection, when necessary, of delegate(s) to the World Service Conference of SA.

c) To send a Delegation to the current World Service Conference, an Intergroup must be formally registered and must have provided infor-

mation regarding number and name(s) of its Delegate(s) thirty (30) days prior to Conference opening.

d) For the purpose of numbers of Conference Delegates or for any other Conference business, only groups formally registered at the World Service Office (WSO) will be counted.

e) Intergroups may meet more often if necessary for the conduct of further business.

f) Intergroups may form service offices to assist them in communicating with the groups.

g) Intergroups may join together to create Intergroup Service Associations and service offices in order to help carry the message providing they adhere to the Traditions and do not alter or print any SA Conference-approved literature unless permitted by WSO.

**Section 5: Conference Delegates**

a) Each Intergroup shall be entitled to have one (1) Delegate for up to the first ten (10) groups it represents and one (1) for each additional ten (10) groups or fraction thereof.

**Delegate  
allocation**



Delegate qualifications, terms, duties

tional ten (10) groups or fraction thereof.

b) Each Delegate may be elected for a term of two (2) years and, in addition to attending the annual Conference, should serve the Conference for such term.

c) A Delegate should not serve more than four (4) consecutive years, except for reasons to be decided by the local Intergroup with respect to its own Delegate.

d) Whenever possible, a Delegate should have a minimum of one (1) year's current and continuous freedom from nicotine prior to date of submitting qualifications and continuing to date of conference.

e) Delegates may be instructed as to the desires of the Intergroups they represent.

f) As participants, Delegates should not be bound by the wishes of their Intergroups, but should not vote against these wishes unless situations arise at the Conference that make it necessary for the best interests of SA as a whole.

g) Communications concerning the Conference from the World Service Office of SA to the Intergroups shall be through the Delegates, and each individual Intergroup shall receive duplicate communications.

#### Article VI: World Service Conference

The Corporation shall sponsor an annual meeting of Delegates of the members, which may be known as the World Service Conference ( sometimes herein referred to as "the Conference"). The Conference shall serve as the collective conscience of the fellowship of SA as a whole. The Delegates to the World Service Conference shall be as follows:

a) Voting Delegates shall consist of the following:

1) Delegates from Intergroups chosen in accordance with these Bylaws.

2) Delegates from countries not having any Intergroups chosen in accordance with these Bylaws.

b) Delegates having a voice but no vote shall consist of officers of the Corporation or any parent or subsidiary of the Corporation, **Officers have no vote**

and the General Manager and Publications Director of the WSO.

## Article VII: World Service Office (WSO)

World  
Service  
Office  
(WSO)

### Section 1: Composition

The World Service Office (WSO) of SA shall consist of all officers of the Corporation - Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and 3 Alternates - chosen from Delegates to the World Service Conference.

### Section 2: Duties and Responsibilities

Subject to the limitations of these Bylaws and to the action of the Delegates at the Conference, all powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of the Corporation shall be controlled by, the World Service Office (WSO). Without prejudice to such general powers but subject to the same limitations, it is hereby expressly declared that the officers shall have the following powers:

a) To act as guardians of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

b) To conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of the Corporation and any charitable foundation organized in conjunction with or allied with SA as they may deem best, and to make such rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, or with these Bylaws or the action of the Conference taken through the Delegates at the Conference.

c) To designate a place within the United States for holding of any meeting or meetings of the Delegates.

d) To manage in such manner as they may deem best all funds and real or personal property received and acquired by the Corporation, and to distribute, loan, or dispense with same and the income therefrom.

e) To call to the attention of any group or Intergroup any violation of the Twelve Traditions which it believes the group or Intergroup has made, but to act only in an advisory capacity in matters affecting SA as a whole.

f) To act as spokesperson for SA in all

matters affecting SA as a whole.

- g) To supervise and print SA publications.
- h) To furnish counsel and guidance to member groups and new groups.
- i) To supervise and guide education and attraction efforts of SA.
- j) To furnish a medium or media for the interchange of ideas between groups, and to be instrumental in carrying the message to persons and places where indicated. Through annual ratification at its World Service Conference, SA may adopt and recognize a publication that will, for the ensuing year, act as its official vehicle of communication.
- k) To perform such other duties as may be directed by the Delegates at the Conference.
- l) To prepare and present an Annual Report to the Delegates at the Conference.

WSO to  
submit  
minutes

Section 3: Minutes

The WSO shall submit written minutes to all Intergroups and Delegates.

Section 4: Limit to Term of Office.

No WSO officer shall serve more than five (5) consecutive years.

Article VIII: Meetings of Delegates

Section 1: Annual Conference

a) The annual World Service Conference shall be held during the month of April of each year, or on such other date as the WSO officers may fix, at such place as the officers may designate.

Annual  
World  
Service  
Conference

b) Special meetings of Delegates or Committees of Delegates during the Conference for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the Chairman or by a majority of the WSO officers and/or Delegates.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Delegates for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the Chairman of the WSO or by a majority of its officers.

Section 3: Notice

Notice of the annual World Service Confer-

ence and all special meetings of Delegates shall be given to each member Intergroup entitled to vote thereat by prepaid mail or telegram or in the official publication. Notices shall be deemed to have been given if sent by mail or telegram or official publication to the Delegates representing each Intergroup. Such notices shall be sent no less than sixty (60) days before each meeting and shall specify the place, day and hour of the meeting and shall state the general nature of the business to be considered at such meeting. The notice of the annual Conference shall designate it as the World Service Conference.

#### Section 4: Voting

No delegate may have more than one vote. Votes may be taken by voice, by show of hands or by ballot or as called for by the presiding officer of the meeting, provided that the Delegates may prescribe the method of voting desired on any question without regard to the method called for by the presiding officer.

#### Section 5: Presiding Official

All meetings of Delegates shall be presided over by the Chairman of the WSO. In absence of the Chairman, the Treasurer shall preside

over meetings of the Delegates.

#### Section 6: Parliamentary Authority

All meetings of Delegates shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* or such successor publication as may from time to time be published, where not in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, law, or special rules that Delegates may adopt.

#### Section 7: Business Agenda

a) The Chairman shall provide that the agenda for the annual Conference includes written reports of the Treasurer and the Chairman of WSO.

b) Notwithstanding any action of the Chairman or mandate of Section 6 above, questions of policy shall take precedence over proposed Bylaws amendments at all Conference meetings, except for such Bylaws amendments as may be required to conform with or be mandated by any action of State or Federal statute, code or law. The agenda of the Conference shall specifically provide for such consideration of policy questions before consideration of Bylaws amendments.

Written reports by Chairman & Treasurer

Policy questions precede Bylaw amendments

**Agenda  
submis-  
sion,  
approval  
& timing**

c) New business to be placed on the agenda prior to the Conference shall follow the same procedure for submission as for Bylaws amendments and will need to be approved by thirty (30) percent of all Intergroups responding to an agenda questionnaire within sixty (60) days prior to the Conference. Other new business of an urgent nature must receive a majority vote of the New Business Committee in order to be brought to the Conference floor.

**Article IX: Finances**

Section 1: Procedure

a) Full and complete disclosure of all WSO official financial matters is a prime guideline and objective for all accounting procedures and financial statements.

b) Any Delegate or officer is entitled to examine the accounting records of the WSO, and any question concerning the finances of the WSO is completely proper and is to be answered promptly.

c) Accounting procedures shall be geared to periodic reporting, and financial controls shall

be established for credibility of the financial statements.

d) Statements shall be clear and easy to understand to prevent confusion and misinterpretations.

**Article X: Corporate Assets**

No Delegate to the Conference or member of any local group which is a member of SA, and no officer or employee or member of a committee of or person connected with the Corporation or any other private individual shall receive at any time any earnings or any pecuniary profit from the operations of the Corporation; Provided that this shall not prevent payment to any such person of reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the Corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the WSO; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the assets upon the dissolution of the Corporation. All Delegates to the Conference and all members of local groups which are members of SA shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that, upon such dissolution or winding up of the affairs

of the Corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the Corporation then remaining in the hands of the WSO, after all debts have been paid shall be delivered and paid over, in such amounts as the WSO may determine or as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the WSO, exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

#### Article XI: Bylaw Amendments

##### Section 1: Procedure

a) Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any registered Intergroup or by the Conference Bylaws Committee and submitted to the Chairman of the WSO post-marked at least one hundred and thirty-four (134) days before the annual meeting of the Conference. The WSO may also submit amendments to the Bylaws.

b) The Chairman of the WSO shall cause a copy of the proposed amendments to be com-

municated to each Delegate whose name appears in the office of the Secretary of the Corporation and to each registered Intergroup and officer of the WSO at least one hundred and four (104) days prior to the annual Conference.

c) In order for a proposed amendment to be submitted to the World Service Conference, the proposal will need to be approved by forty percent (40) of all Intergroups responding. Agenda questionnaires must be returned to WSO by sixty (60) days prior to the Conference.

d) Except as otherwise specified in these Bylaws, proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates present and voting as long as a quorum is present.

e) Amendments to Article I (Twelve Steps) and Article II (Twelve Traditions) of these Bylaws may only be adopted if, in addition to (d) above, they are ratified by three-fourths (3/4) of the registered SA groups responding within six (6) months of notification.

f) The WSO shall make editorial changes

Agenda questionnaires for Bylaw change proposals

Two-thirds vote to amend

Submit Bylaw amendments 134 days before Conference

which do not alter the meaning of any Bylaws but clarify the wording or bring the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation into conformity. A written report of such editorial changes shall be given to the Conference Delegates.

ERRATUM (Article VII, Section 1 (p.16), add this sentence to end):  
Officers also include Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary from the preceding year.