

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

**By-Laws of the Orange County General Service Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Articles of Association**

**Article I**

The name of the organization shall be the Orange County General Service Committee (OCGSC) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Article II**

The purpose of the organization is to serve the needs of the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) groups within its Geographical area and to act as a constituent part of the Southeastern New York Committee and Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous. It shall function within the guidelines and spirit of: The AA Service Manual, The Twelve Concepts for World Service, The Twelve Steps and The Twelve Traditions of AA, the SENY Service Handbook and the General Service Warranties of the General Service Conference of AA.

These are the General Warranties of the OCGSC of Alcoholics Anonymous which state:

In all its proceedings, the OCGSC shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the OCGSC never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principal; that none of the OCGSC members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no OCGSC action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the OCGSC may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the OCGSC itself will Always remain democratic in thought and action.

**Article III**

The geographical area served by the Orange County General Service Committee shall consist of Orange County, New York.

**Article III.5**

For job descriptions of service positions refer to the SENY (Southeastern New York) Service Handbook.

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## Article IV

The members of the steering Committee shall be the following (14)

1. The District Committee Member Chairperson (DCMC)
2. The Alternate District Committee Member Chairperson
3. The OCGSC Liaison to O.C. Inter-group
4. The Secretary
5. The Treasurer
6. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees (see article VI)

The members of the OCGSC shall consist of the above Committee members and the General Service Representatives (GSR's) elected by the AA groups of Orange County and duly registered with the Secretary upon completion of an orientation session.

## Article V

The terms of office of Committee members shall be two years. The term of the Spiritual Events Day Chairperson shall be for six months to one year. The duties of the officers, committee members shall be as specified in the AA Service Manual. All standing Committee Chairpersons will be elected.

All Standing Committee appointments are made subject to the approval of the OCGSC present at the time of announcement and require only a majority approval from those present. In the case of elected Officers and Committee Chairpersons, substantial unanimity (2/3rds) should be sought whenever possible in accordance with Third Legacy procedures.

## Article VI

The Standing Committee shall be:

- Accessibility/Special Needs/Treatment
- Conference Approved Literature
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.)
- Corrections
- Grapevine/LaVina
- Newsletter
- Public Information
- Spiritual Events Day Chair
- Website

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## **Article VI.5**

The treasurer will reimburse all County Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons for expenses incurred when participating in AA Service Activities directly related to his/her committee and/or Office as follows:

- Mileage reimbursement at the rate of 30 cents per mile. (Carpooling encouraged)
- Short-term parking and tolls
- Event registration reimbursement
- Literature and materials

## **Article VII**

The General Service Representatives (GSR) are to be elected by their AA group to serve for a term of two calendar years. The GSR's duties are to serve as a link between the group and AA as a whole. The GSR represents the group conscience, reporting the group's wishes to the Committee members and to the Area Delegate, who in turn voices those wishes at the General Service Conference. The GSR's shall represent their group at County Meetings and Area Assemblies and elect new committee Members and Area Delegates.

## **Article VIII**

The OCGSC shall meet monthly. Additional meetings can be called at the discretion of the Chairperson. At the meetings, reports of the officers, Treasurer, and Standing Committees shall be presented and other matters considered which affect the areas interest and activities. The current schedule for the OCGSC has been set as the Third Tuesday of the month. Elections are held in October of the second year of the Committee's term of office.

## **Article VIII.5**

Any group Officer or Standing Committee chair who misses three consecutive monthly committee meetings shall automatically be considered as resigning from the committee. In addition, any member of the committee who becomes intoxicated at any time during his/her term is also automatically dismissed.

## **Article IX**

Every AA group in Orange County is entitled to choose a General Service Representative (GSR) to be sent to the County Committee and Southeastern New York (SENY) Assemblies-for the purpose of representing their group and electing new Committee members. Unless otherwise amended in the by-laws, the County elections and officer qualifications shall be as outlined in "Chapter IV" of the AA Service Manual.

# ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

## **Article X**

A quorum for the Steering Committee meeting shall consist of the following (9):

1. The meeting Chairperson-can only be the currently elected Chairperson, or Alternate Chairperson.
2. At least Two other elected officers shall be present, and a recording Secretary (appointed if necessary).
3. At least Five Standing Committee Chairs shall be present.

## **Article X.5**

A quorum for the Orange County General Service Committee (OCGSC) shall consist of the following (12):

1. The meeting Chairperson-can only be the currently elected Chairperson, or Alternate Chairperson.
2. At least Two other elected officers shall be present, and a recording Secretary (appointed if necessary).
3. At least Three Standing Committee Chairpersons shall be present.
4. At least Five General Service Representatives (GSR) shall be present.

## **Article XI**

If, for any reason, the organization shall cease to function, all monies, records, and other property held in its name, shall become the property of its successor organization. If none such exists, it shall become the property of the General Service office of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## **Article XII**

The General Service Representatives (GSR's) shall elect a District Committee Member Chairperson who shall serve as Chairperson. The County meetings shall be organized to coordinate matters of interest to participating groups or Districts, subject to coordination with the Southeastern new York (SENY) Committee and the Orange County General Service Committee (OCGSC) on matters affecting Orange County, SENY, or AA as a whole.

## **Article XIII**

These By-Laws can be amended by a (2/3rds) vote of the Steering Committee.

## **Article XIV**

These articles replace all prior articles of association adopted by the Orange County General Service Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous since the time of its inception in 1960.

**Article XV**

It is desirable unless specifically noted otherwise, that these By-Laws should be reviewed annually every December by the Steering Committee. By-Laws may be opened for review and change if needed at any time, with a majority vote of the OCGSC in addition to annual review.