

CHARTER FOR THE OHIO GAY PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

PREAMBLE

The Ohio GAY— People's Steering Committee is the collective group conscience of the Ohio GAY People in Alcoholics Anonymous. Our purpose is tri-fold:

Our ultimate goal, the same as every A.A. group and every type of service work, is to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Considering that our personal recovery depends on A.A. unity, our main concern is the unity of Ohio's GAY... alcoholics within the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Steering Committee is charged with continuing the Ohio GAY > People in Alcoholics Anonymous Conference (O.G.P.A.A.). The direction, effectiveness, and the execution of the conference shall always emphasize the value of sobriety.

The Ohio GAY People's Steering Committee shall continually address the problems and needs of GAY... recovering alcoholics, therefore, the maintenance of a communication network is essential to our efficiency.

Strictest adherence to the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of World Service shall forever be practiced in all our affairs.

In acceptance of this preamble we hereby approve the accompanying bylaws:

I. MEMBERSHIP

The Ohio State Steering Committee shall represent the state in the following manner:

A. The state shall be divided into four delegate areas consistent with the General Service Office method of districting. They are:

1. Southeastern Ohio (G.S.O. area #53)
2. Northeastern Ohio (G.S.O. area #54)
3. Northwestern Ohio (G.S.O. area #55)
4. Southwestern Ohio (G.S.O. area #56)

B. Two area delegates and one alternate shall autonomously be selected or elected by each delegate area.

1. Each delegate shall serve a two year term.
2. Terms shall begin with the first meeting of the Steering Committee following the (O.G.P.A.A.) Conference.
3. Delegates or alternates shall attend all Steering Committee meetings.
4. All delegates and alternates shall have a minimum of one year continuous sobriety.

C. Two delegates from each of the two previous years Host Committees and two delegates from the current Host Committee shall be represented.

II. MEETINGS

- A. Regular meetings shall be held at a minimum of three times annually.
- B. One meeting shall be held at the O.G.P.A.A. Conference.
- C. If needed, each delegate area shall host one State Steering Committee meeting annually.

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B. The rotation of the O.G.P.A.A. shall be made on the bid award basis in accordance with the requirements suggested by the International Advisory Council of GAY People in A. The O.G.P.A.A. bidding requirements are:

1. Three A.A. members which must have at least one year continuous sobriety, must represent the bidding city.
2. Bidders must demonstrate provisions for adequate food and lodging. Commitments from commercial hotels or university housing facilities are recommended.
3. Bidders must provide assurance that a mailing address for the Conference will be available.
4. Assurance must be given that the O.G.P.A.A. Conference will not directly conflict with any other large scale A.A. activity within the state.
5. Statement of support from local GAY people in A.A. as well as the area Intergroup Chairman is recommended.
6. Bidders must demonstrate financial capabilities within the Traditions of A.A. as a whole. A proposed budget and package price must be submitted.
7. Bidders must agree that all proceeds after expenses are to be turned over to the State Steering Committee for their disposition.
8. There will be a maximum limit of 15 minutes for the presentation of each bidding city.

C. Bids shall be submitted at a specified time during the O.G.P.A.A. Conference.

D. Bids shall be submitted to and reviewed by a board composed of 3 members from the previous 2 Conference Host Committee, and 3 members from the current Conference Host Committee. Simple majority shall prevail.

VI. O.G.P.A.A. NEWSLETTER

A. Provisions shall be made for the publication of a State wide newsletter. This publication shall be an equal voice of the O.G.P.A.A.

B. The responsibility of editing, publication, and distribution of this periodical shall be handled by a special committee selected by the State Steering Committee.

VII. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

A. If available, a maximum of \$1,500.00 will be transferred through the treasurer to the Host Committee.

B. Funds in the excess of \$1,500.00 shall be divided in the following manner: 60% for the State Steering Committee, 30% for the State General Service Fund, and 10% for the World Service Office.

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III. VOTING RIGHTS

- A. Each area delegate is empowered with one vote.
- B. Alternates will be reconized only in the absence of the authorized delegate.
- C. In no event shall any delegate cast more than one vote.
- D. For all decision making the simple majority shall carry all motions; except amendments to the bylaws, in such cases a two-thirds majority is required.
- E. A minimum of eight delegates constitute a quorum.
- F. The third legacy procedure will be used for the election of officers and in the case of a tie in all other voting matters.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Steering Committee shall elect the following officers:
 - 1. CHAIRMAN - The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the State Steering Committee and have authority to appoint committees and committee chairman, other than the Host Committee of the O.G.P.A.A. Conference, from the fellowship as a whole.
 - 2. VICE - CHAIRMAN - The Vice-Chairman shall serve in the absence of the Chairman, or assume the Chairmanship in the event the Chairman is unable to complete his/her term of office. And shall have such other duties assigned by Chairman.
 - 3. SECRETARY - The secretary or alternate assigned by the Chairman, shall be present at all meetings and shall reduce to writing the abbreviated discussion and motions.
 - 4. TREASURER - The Treasurer shall keep the books and records of accounts and shall report to the committee at all meetings.
- B. The Chairman shall not be a member of a current Host Committee.
- C. All officers shall have a minimum of one year continuous sobriety.
- D. No officer shall succeed himself in any given office.
- E. All officers shall serve a term of one year or until duly replaced.
- F. All terms commence with the first meeting of the Steering Committee following the O.G.P.A.A. Conference.
- G. Elections shall be held at the O.G.P.A.A. Conference.
- H. All officers are vested with the authority to operate the Steering Committee in it's on-going activities.

V. RELATIONSHIP TO THE O.G.P.A.A. CONFERENCE

- A. The State Steering Committee shall oversee the O.G.P.A.A. Host Committee and shall bear the burden of decision in matters of major changes to the spirit or effectuation of the Conference.