

OXFORD GRAPE

December 20, 2006

The Wichita Houses sponsored a gigantic fireworks display right after the Saturday night banquet. The nearly 500 Convention attendees and the citizens of Wichita enjoyed a 30 minute fireworks display that was equal to July 4th on the Mall in the Nation's Capital.



Wichita Convention Great Success

Four days of sharing strength, experience and hope of Oxford House worldwide

By Paul Molloy

The Eighth Oxford House World Convention held at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Kansas September 21-24 was a great success. More than 460 residents and alumni elected the new Oxford World Council, learned from 15 educational panel, listened to keynote speakers on both Friday and Saturday and enjoyed the benefits of comfortable sobriety.

Two wonderful speakers and national leaders in the field of alcoholism and drug addiction presented keynote address at the convention. Riley Regan - formerly

director for alcoholism and drug addiction treatment in three states-address a general session on Friday afternoon – Riley Regan and Dr. Westley Clark. Riley is uniquely situated to discuss the history of Oxford House. He was present in Maryland when the first house started; he was a founder of NASADAD; and he was the first state director to ask Oxford House to come to his state [NJ] to develop a network of self-run, self-supported Oxford Houses. Riley regaled the convention with his stories about Oxford House development and

assured the attendees that Oxford House had “come of age.”

“If you look at how Oxford House has grown into a network of more than 1,200 houses in 40 states, you can say Oxford House has come of age by demonstrating that houses can be replicated everywhere,” said Riley.

He also told of the many NIMBY cases that he has been expert witness in and how he explained to the Judge the way that Oxford Houses work and how important Oxford House living is to the achievement of recovery without relapse.



Riley Regan Giving Friday Keynote

Riley now lives in Indiana with his wife Katie, who attended the convention with him. Together the couple renewed old friendships with dozens of Oxford House residents and alumni.

At the General Session on Saturday, Dr. Westley Clark, CSAT Director, addressed the convention. Dr. Clark made his first visit to Wichita specifically to address his fourth Oxford House Convention. Gino Pugliese picked up Dr. Clark at the Wichita airport at midnight Friday. He had left an engagement in Florida just to make the convention. Audio tapes are available for houses that want to hear Dr. Clark's wonderful presentation. [\$3 from OHI]



Dr. Westley Clark, Head of CSAT

Dr. Clark praised the residents and alumni of Oxford House for their contribution to the creation of a recovery culture that emphasizes recovery over relapse. The men and women of Oxford House have demonstrated that recovering

individuals do not need to relapse and that recovering individuals themselves can create a living environment that greatly increases the chances that recovering individuals can stay clean and sober without relapse.

One of the points that Dr. Clark stressed was his belief that the law should be changed to require states to maintain the recovery house revolving loan fund. That was the law and every state had a recovery home revolving loan fund. In 1999, the requirement was changed to be a permissive action rather than a requirement. [See article on back page for information about how you can help get the law changed.]



Convention Panels

This convention held fifteen separate breakout sessions each devoted to a specific topic related to recovery and Oxford House. Every one of the breakout sessions was standing room only. The panels included:

- Reentry from Jail
- Oxford and the Law
- Oxford and Churches
- Oxford and State Agencies
- Importance of Research
- Friends of Recovery and Oxford
- Self-Efficacy in Oxford House

- Drug Courts and Oxford House
- Treatment Providers and Oxford
- Attracting Chapter Participation
- Reaching Minorities
- Women's Conference Review
- Faces and Voices of Recovery
- Renting a Suitable House
- Oxford and Fundraising

More than fifty experts – both from within and outside Oxford House – shared their expertise with panel attendees. Based on the results of prior conventions the domino effect for the information from each panel is rapidly spreading throughout the entire Oxford House network.

Every Oxford House should have received a copy of the Convention Program that contains a description of each panel. Houses can obtain additional copies by calling OHI. The price is \$5 each.

This issue of the Grape reports on the election of World Council and all the other events at the convention. Everyone who attended will remember it was in Wichita in the year 2006 that Oxford House came of age. Now is the time to make plans to attend the 9th World Convention to be held in Washington, D.C. August 30 to September 2 at the Hyatt Regency. Houses and chapters throughout the country need to start now to raise the money they need to get to the convention. It is certain to be a good one and the experience in Wichita sets a high bench mark for the 9th Convention. Thanks to all the Oxford Houses in Wichita for doing a great job.



The 26 stories contained in the Wichita Convention Program are an inspiration for those wanting recovery. Please send your story to Oxford House World Services so it can be included in the program for the next convention or a book about Oxford House.

Oxford House World Services
1010 Wayne Ave. Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910

8th Annual Golf Tournament

This year's four-man scramble tournament was played at Sims Park, a public course in Wichita. While sixty golfers were on the course, those at the convention hotel learned why Dorothy and her little dog Toto still have relevance in Kansas. The hotel public address speakers directed all guests away from windows to the public rooms in the center of the hotel. Speakers in each of the guest rooms directed guests to get into the bathroom because of a tornado warning. Hotel personnel directed those in the lobby to the cigar and pipe smoking room in the interior of the hotel. While everyone chatted that we were getting off to a flying start, the storm did no damage – not even to the diehard golfers at Sims Park.



Dave Taylor – Wichita alum – presented the awards to all the golfers who won various contests at the golf tournament. To no one's surprise, Board Member and alum James McClain won his fair share.

Roger W. Speaks at Banquet

Continuing the tradition of having an AA/NA speaker address the Saturday night banquet, the convention attendees heard from a local AA member about the importance of the 12-steps as an essential tool for achieving recovery without relapse. Roger's story followed the downward spiral associated with alcoholism. He also verified that one could take advantage of the great AA/NA tradition of acceptance of the perils of addiction and the promises of recovery.

Roger – like so many 12-step members – took the time to share his story with nearly 500 recovering folks celebrating sobriety in grand style.



A rapt audience listens to the candidates for World Council at the Second General Session on Friday afternoon.

Every convention is a place to learn about recovery, meet new friends and enjoy the benefits of comfortable sobriety in Oxford House

Convention Votes on Three Resolutions

Convention voted on three resolutions at the General Session on Saturday. One resolution raised the question of whether or not houses could vote in residents on methadone. The vote was 368 NO and 5 yes. This is the fifth time that the convention has voted against allowing individuals on methadone to live in Oxford Houses. Several recovering heroin addicts testified that methadone is harder to get off of than heroin. They also claimed being doped up on methadone does not fit in the drug-free environment of an Oxford House.

The second resolution was to ban acceptance of any individual who is a registered sex offender. The discussion of the group centered around the fact that each Oxford House is autonomous and it would be wrong for the convention to take away any autonomy even for this issue. The resolution was then amended to become only a suggestion to the houses. The final resolution is that “the World Council suggests that houses may want to avoid accepting individuals who have been convicted of a sex offense.

The third resolution related to domain names used by various states and chapters relating to Oxford House. The resolution stated “All domain names related to Oxford House should be owned by Oxford House, Inc. to assure that the good name of Oxford House is preserved.” It passed 410 to 4. The ownership is being transferred. [See article on World Council.]

Remember August 30 - September 2
Convention in Washington, D.C. Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill

World Council

The World Council met October 7, 2006 and December 2, 2006 via conference telephone. The members of the council participating were:

Peter Barrilleaux - Resident-LA
Jennifer Bodkin - Resident alternate
Makeba Casey - Alumni -NC
Victor Fitz -Alumni - TX
Cleo Forward - Resident -TX
Josh Francisco - Resident -HI
Todd Holen - Resident - KS
Angela Jones - Resident - MD
David Lawson - Alumni Alternate -
Terri Martin - Resident - TX
Byron Merriweather - Resident - VA
Barbara Perez - Alumni - OR
Tony Perkins - Resident - WA
Steve Perry - Resident - OR
Norm Sanders - Resident - NC
Myrna Brown - Emeritus - WA
Mollie Brown -OHI- SC
James McClain - Emeritus -MD

Treasurer **Norman Sanders [NC]** presented the Treasurer's report that showed an expenditure of \$200 for the Women's Conference. Receipts included \$100 income from alumni. The checking account balance for the World Council is \$1,217.68 and the savings account is \$1,291 for a total of \$2,508.68.

Angela Jones [MD], Chairperson of the Chapter Committee reported that she continues to identify the various Oxford House Chapters in the country. The next issue of the Grape will contain a chapter listing in order to get any unreported ones on the master list. Any groups that feel they may not be listed should call Mollie Brown to give her information about their chapter. Any chapter that has submitted a Chapter Recognition form is already in the system.

Todd Holen [KS], Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee, discussed ways to raise money so that the World Council can meet together before the next convention. Checking on matching contributions from employers will be high on his "to do" list.

Peter Barrilleaux [LA], Chairperson of the Propagation Committee discussed

development of pamphlets and DVDs to spread the Oxford House Story. Among other options discussed was utilization of the excellent video presented at the convention by the Louisiana residents highlighting the way their houses coped with hurricane Katrina problems.

Victor Fitz [KS], Chairperson of the Alumni Committee reported on alumni activity. Victor will be compiling a list of alumni contact information to get more alumni stories and dues. He is also looking into having an alumni representative for each region and possibly having a tele-conference among alums. Mollie explained that all Alumni dues and contributions are split up; 25% goes into checking account and 75% goes into savings account.

Josh Francisco [HI] was not in attendance because of a mix upon time difference. However, as Chairperson of the Re-entry Committee, he had indicated that he is working with Tony Perkins, Chairperson of the Council, to develop material to help all houses reach out with a program of re-entry for all houses.

Byron Merriweather [VA], Chairperson of the Convention Committee, reported that he is working closely with the main office to help get the convention lined up early for DC.

Steve Perry [OR], Chairperson of the Charter Committee, outlined a program to verify that all charters are up to date and, where conditional charters exist, an effort will be made to help houses get permanent charters.

Norman Sanders [NC], Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee agreed to put together a compilation of all resolutions agreed to in past conventions.

The World Council Meeting concluded after agreeing to ask each house for a \$10 contribution to help finance a face to face meeting of the Council before the next convention. The purpose of the contributions will be to help finance a face to face meeting of the Council in Chicago next April. The Council met again December 2nd at noon EST. In addition to ordinary business, it approved the site for the 2007 convention – the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill, Washington, DC.



A candid shot of some of the new and old members of World Council, at Wichita Convention.



Joe Chavez argues against one of the resolutions debated at the 4th General Session Saturday



Debbie Dungie, Oxford House World Services presents a long-term business plan for OHI

Plan for Washington , DC Convention Today

Watch website for how to register early.

Next Convention Set for Washington Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency

What is a World Convention?

The Oxford House World Convention did not begin until 1999 when Oxford House was 24 years old. Until then, Oxford House folks met in workshops or state meetings but the thought of a national or world convention was a faraway dream. In 1999, the Oxford House family gathered at the Washington Court Hotel in the Nation's capital for its first convention. The event was a great success and established the basic format followed by the annual convention ever since – including the golf tournament on the registration day. Two years earlier – in 1997 – the World Council had been established along with the introduction of the independent board to oversee the management of OHI. The independent board was structured to have two-thirds of its members from outside the Oxford House family with one-third being resident or alumni members. This mix between insiders and outsiders mirrors the history of Alcoholics Anonymous that has non-alcoholic and recovering alcoholic membership on its board. It also serves the needs of growing Oxford Houses.

The structure for the convention was set at the first convention: [1] election of world council members; [2] education about alcoholism and drug addiction through speakers and panels of experts; [3] active interchange among delegates about how Oxford Houses work including duties of officers, and [4] building of friendships between Oxford House residents and alumni throughout the country through enjoying the fruits of comfortable sobriety with a Friday night social, a Saturday night banquet and a dance.

"The Oxford House Annual Convention is a place to share strength, experience and enjoyment fostered by recovery in the disciplined, self-run, self-supported living environment of an Oxford House. I intend to get to the next convention by planning my trip today and saving money I need to get there. "
Terri Martin, Houston, TX

At the first Convention in 1999 the members decided to alternate between having the convention in Washington, DC area one year and somewhere else in the country the next year. This policy has been followed ever since:

- 2000 Convention in Kansas City, MO
- 2001 Convention back in Washington, DC
- 2002 Convention in Seattle, WA
- 2003 Convention back in Washington, DC
- 2004 Convention in San Antonio, TX
- 2005 Convention back in Washington, DC
- 2006 Convention in Wichita, KS
- 2007 Convention back in Washington, DC

More than 500 residents and alumni of Oxford Houses are expected to be at the 2007 convention August 30 - September 2, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capital Hill in the Nation's Capitol. The registration fee covers all the meeting materials, continental breakfasts, the Friday night gathering and the Saturday banquet and dance. It is the place to get to know more folks in the Oxford House family. Every chapter should try to send at least two representatives. Strengthen recovery by sharing Oxford House throughout the world.

8th Convention in Wichita

On left, Myrna Brown [WA] and Terri Martin [TX] present paper on issues facing women's Oxford Houses.

On right, Byron Merriweather [VA] making a campaign speech for election to World Council. Byron's speech was a success because he was one of the resident members elected by the convention for a three year term on the World Council



Back to the Nation's Capital



The August Oxford House World Convention hotel - the Hyatt Regency Washington – is within steps of the Nation's Capitol. Those who enjoyed the first two Washington Conventions at the Washington Court Hotel will recognize the great neighborhood. This hotel is actually two blocks closer to the Capitol. In the heart of DC the hotel is just a block from Union Station with all its stores, food hall, and restaurants.

The location of the hotel also makes it ideal for



visiting the dozens of museums on the mall and it is possible to get a low-cost tourism bus right in front of Union Station. The hotel is much larger than the Washington Court and can accommodate as many as 1,000 in its main meeting room. Pictured below.



Big enough to meet and nice enough to enjoy.



Good swimming between work sessions!

Hawaii Houses to Hold Volleyball Tourney

Joe Chavez, outreach worker in Hawaii reports that January 21st will be the date of the 7th annual Oxford House Volleyball Tournament. Joe reminds us that Oxford Houses in Hawaii have held a tournament for at least the last 10 years but “we only started giving trophies in 2001,” said Joe.

Two trophies go to the winning house. One trophy the house keeps and the other is a perpetual traveling trophy; the winning house keeps it for 1 year until the next tournament. The traveling trophy has the winning house name and the year they won stamped on an affixed plate. Women have a separate tournament and trophy but they play the winning men's house for the perpetual trophy.

Our newest house – Oxford House Maluhia is the new incarnation of Palama House – the 2005 champ. That house was the successor of the Campbell Avenue House – the 2004 champ.

Teams are made up of only Oxford house members or alumni who have continued to remain sober since leaving the house. Teams are made up of a minimum of three persons and maximum of eight on the court during play. Substitutions are allowed during games. Members of one house cannot play for another house. Alumni can only play for the last house they lived in. Champs must win three games with a minimum of 21 points having plus 2 for close games..

Joe says: “We usually have three rounds before we have a champion. One year we played a round robin style because it was overcast and we only had about 8 houses show. I think the most houses we have had in a tournament was 16 in 2003.

We use to play for prizes, but playing for a trophy seems to get a better turn out. Now we have random drawings for prizes.

The first time we played we had rules on the fly - not a good idea it caused a great deal of chaos. Now after having devoted some serious quality time at the Chapter meeting, we have official Chapter Rules for the Volleyball tournament.”

Dr. Ken Hoffman Leads Effort to Alert Drug Addicts to Prevalence of Bad Drugs

Recently a news article in the NYT reported that several thousand Russians had died within the last month because they drank bootleg vodka that poisoned them. Our friend Dr. Ken Hoffman is in charge of a CSAT mission that is aimed at alleviating a similar poisoning problem hitting our own country. When a poison or bacteria in spinach causes just one death in the country, it makes headlines in every newspaper in the country. When thousands of drug addicts die because of poisoned dope, most papers do not even report it. In a letter to public health officials Dr. Westley Clark reported that in one week alone 33 individuals in Detroit died because of bad drugs that included fentanyl.

Clandestinely-produced fentanyl powder, fentanyl mixed with heroin, and, to a lesser extent, fentanyl mixed

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with cocaine have been distributed in the Midwest, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic Regions. The primary markets have been Chicago (IL), Detroit (MI), and Philadelphia (PA)/Camden (NJ). Overdoses linked to fentanyl have been reported in areas of Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In many cases abusers had purchased the drugs in the primary market areas and transported them elsewhere. Because specialized forensic laboratory testing is required to detect clandestinely produced fentanyl versus pharmaceutical fentanyl, the extent of availability and source of the fentanyl has not yet been conclusively determined.

Fentanyl has been sold to drug abusers, primarily heroin abusers, in drug markets in each of the aforementioned areas, and abusers typically reflect the population demographics of those areas. Currently, there are an estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000 hard-core and casual heroin abusers in the United States who constitute the potential fentanyl market. An intravenous dose of fentanyl hydrochloride for pain relief is approximately 45 micrograms (a grain of salt is approximately 60 micrograms); however, depending on the weight of the abuser and his or her level of opiate tolerance, an abuser may tolerate a higher or lower dose. Accordingly, a small error in diluting, or cutting, fentanyl can easily lead to an overdose.

Because fentanyl is an opiate and specialized toxicological testing is required to detect fentanyl in biological samples, many fentanyl overdoses were initially classified as heroin overdoses. The severity of the situation did not become apparent until the public health community noticed the above-average number of overdoses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently examining the number of fatalities that may have been directly related to clandestinely produced fentanyl.

SAMHSA can provide additional information on this emerging area of substance abuse concern. Please contact Ken Hoffman, M.D., M.P.H., at telephone number 240-276-2701 or email him at Kenneth.Hoffman@samhsa.hhs.gov. Spread the word about the terrible risk that this new form of greedy bad behavior can bring to our families and addicts still using. Together, we can reduce the danger associated with this new, often lethal street drug cocktail.

Oklahoma Houses to Hold Statewide Training Workshop

Oxford Houses in Oklahoma are planning a statewide workshop January 20, 2007. Stan Timberlake and Charlie Neitz began outreach work in September and have already helped the Oklahoma network of houses expand from 22 to 26 houses. The newest house, Oxford House-Chickasaw Heights, a house for 8 women, opened in Ardmore on December 1st.

New Jersey's New Website

Take a look at the new website for New Jersey Oxford Houses. In many ways it sets a standard for keeping track of vacancies. Each house can access it to keep the vacancies up-to-date.

Chapter IV also had a great Halloween Fundraising Party. More than \$1,000 was raised to help open new houses. Randy W. won the prize for best costume – sponge-bob square-pants – and everyone had a great time.

Tom, Jason and Evelyn pitched in with time and money to make the event work. Again it illustrates what the Oxford House family can do when it puts its mind to it. By the way, Randy's prize was two tickets to the NA convention.

Charleston, SC Chapter Opens New House

The Oxford Houses in South Carolina have continued year after year even though Oxford House, Inc. has not operated with outreach workers in the state since 1996. Moreover, the state has not had a recovery home revolving loan start-up fund since the law was changed in 2000 to make such loan funds permissive rather than mandatory. Nevertheless, the men and women in South Carolina have held their network together. Oxford House - Low Country in Charleston opened its doors December 1, 2006. There are 20 Oxford Houses in the state having an average age of more than 9 years and providing 154 recovery beds – 28 for women and 126 for men – in which more than 1,000 individuals have achieved comfortable sobriety without relapse based on an average stay in an Oxford House of about 13 months.

Kevin Wagster, a former resident of Oxford House-Morgantown in North Carolina led the effort to start the new house in Charleston. That brings the number of houses in Charleston to seven.

North Carolina Houses End Year with Burst of Energy

Duke University is now studying Oxford House behavior with respect to recovery for women and women with children. Phase One of the study was limited to the Chapel Hill area but Phase Two will extend interviews to Greensboro and Winston Salem. The study is focused on recovery among women and women with children.

During November, chapters 4 and 6 held chapter workshops and a regional workshop was held November 18 with chapters 1,5,8,10 and 11. The State Association also met and determined to raise \$14,000 for the 9th World Convention to be held in Washington August 30 through September 2 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC.

Wichita Program and Poster Big Hit

The program for the 2006 Convention in Wichita and the wonderful poster [pictured on page 2] set a high standard for excellence. Comments have been received from far and near about the twenty-six stories included in the program. Individuals throughout the country should submit their stories for inclusion in the book now being prepared.

As the planning for the next convention in Washington, DC gets underway, the Council is looking for ideas for a poster to match the Wichita poster. Submission can be made until March 31, 2007 by submitting samples to OHI. Full instructions are contained on the Oxford web site at www.oxfordhouse.org. The winning design will get free registration for the convention.

This year's registration fee will be \$240. Registration includes all convention materials, attendance at general sessions and informative panels, the Friday night gala and the Saturday banquet. As at previous conventions, continental breakfast will be provided Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Can Oxford House Expand Faster? World Council and Board Think Yes

The growth of Oxford House since expansion began in 1989 has been impressive. From 13 houses then Oxford House has expanded to more than 1,200 houses throughout the country today and additional houses in Australia and Canada. About 10,000 recovering individuals are living in the network of Oxford Houses and, according to our experience and the DePaul University studies, more than 80% will stay clean and sober long enough to avoid relapse. Those facts indicate that a great increase in the number of Oxford House would probably help a significant number of alcoholics and drug addicts. Unfortunately the pace of Oxford House expansion [about 100 new houses a year] means that it will take centuries to have enough houses to provide all recovering alcoholics and drug addicts in the United States with an opportunity to get comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid relapse.

What can or what should Oxford House do about expansion? Some will argue that we cannot “change the world” and should simply be grateful as individuals that we stumbled into something that works for us. The old “Live and Let Live” slogan comes to mind. Others would argue that as recovering addicts we have a moral obligation to do as much as we can to help others. This is particularly true for those who understand the 12th Step though which by helping others we help ourselves.

At the fourth general session of the Wichita Convention, Debbie Dungee presented the group with the outlines of a strategic plan for improving Oxford House, Inc.. To grow and stay efficient it is necessary to beef-up the umbrella organization in order to effectively carry out the basic responsibilities of the umbrella organization. What are those basic responsibilities?

First, the umbrella organization has to establish objective goals and build up resources to achieve those goals. Thirty one years experience has provided OHI with the experience needed to define and meet reasonable goals. The need for Oxford Houses is the first factor to be considered in setting goals. Paul Molloy often throws out the line “The good news is that there are 1,253 Oxford Houses; the bad news is that we need to have 70,000 houses.” He bases his projection on the extent of alcoholism and drug addiction within the country. The most recent statistics from the Center on Substance Abuse Treatment shows about 19 million alcoholics, 3 million crack/cocaine addicts, 850,000 heroin addicts and a couple million each of crystal meth and prescription drug addicts for a total of 25 million. Each year about 3 million individuals get some treatment [2 million with AA/NA alone and 1 million formal treatment plus AA/NA]. The rest? Nothing.

What happens to the 90% who get no treatment? Some go to jail - the number of incarcerated reached 2.1 million this year and 80% of them are addicts. Most simply continue with destructive behavior and continue to provide a good market for illegal drug activity. Since 1970, government planners have

talked about demand reduction as the best way to win the war on illegal drugs but little or no progress has been made on this goal. The planners look for magic bullets to solve the problem but in reality behavior change is the only ‘cure’ for alcoholism and drug addiction. Until the advent of Oxford House the odds of succeeding in behavior change were pretty low.

George E. Vaillant, in his studies reported in 1983 and 1991, shows about 20% of those treated for alcoholism will stay clean and sober. Other studies show even lower success rates for recovery without relapse. The TEDS report by CSAT for 2005 shows that 60% of those in formal treatment have been in formal treatment before. The old ‘revolving door’ between treatment and relapse makes everyone - both the addict and the public - become hopeless. Oxford House living has demonstrated that 80% of its residents can stay clean and sober without relapse. The need for more Oxford Houses is obvious.

So too is the fact that Oxford House knows how to replicate its successful model throughout the country in a very cost-effective way. Three tools are required: a simple start-up loan program, trained outreach workers to provide on-site education, and organization of effective chapters to provide mutual support among houses. A reasonable partnership plan between Oxford House and government is the most effective way to trigger large scale expansion of Oxford House. That partnership includes three steps by the Federal government.

Step 1: Restore the requirement that state alcohol and drug agencies have a modest recovery house revolving loan fund. Let your Congressperson and Senator know about your house and the need to restore the revolving loan requirement.

Step 2: Include incentives for state agencies to provide grants to mobilize trained on-site outreach workers to offer recovering individuals the technical assistance needed to start and maintain self-help Oxford Houses. Let your Congressperson and Senator know about the need to encourage state agencies to hire OHI to get effective training to those who need it..

Step 3: Clarify civil rights laws to free Oxford House from needless NIMBY litigation and to enable prompt expulsion of members from recovery homes without litigation. Contact your Congressperson and Senator to make it clear that Oxford Houses should be treated as ordinary single families to prevent confusion in local zoning boards or landlord/tenant courts.

Right after the first of the year, look at the Oxford House web page. We will list for each house the name and address of the Congressperson and Senators representing you in Washington. Oxford Houses know first-hand the way democracy works. Every house is democratically self-run and self-supported. Every Oxford House member should extend their knowledge of effective democracy to the nation as a whole. We are needed not only to help our fellow suffering addicts but also to help our country solve a problem that has eluded solution.

Since 1970, Washington has had good intentions in fighting alcoholism and drug addiction. Unfortunately, good intentions alone do not work. We have the good idea that can make good intentions successful but we have to share our good ideas with the power holders.