

The Oxford World

Published by the Oxford House World Council

Sherri Glisson, Chair

World Council: “Working Together to Foster Recovery Without Relapse by Keeping Oxford House True to Its Purpose and Mission”

The World Council has been busy in 2010...

Council Resident Members Sheri Glisson (MD), Chair and Members Chris McGuire (TX), Gene Goodwin (VA), Johnny Roache (DE), Connie Tatum (LA), Justin Grochowsky (WY), Brandy Pehrson (WA), Ken Gray (NJ), Resident Alternate Walter Harris (WA) and Alumni Members Victor Fitz (KS) and Deloris Mabins Adenekan (MD) have had a busy year so far in 2010 with projects that span the entire country. So far this year, the council has:

- Held a meeting with the State of Arkansas Drug/Alcohol Division to bring their attention to the benefits of having Oxford Houses in their State (See Chair Sheri Glisson’s column on the next page for more details).
- Assisted Oxford House Inc with a request for houses to get permanently chartered. This project has been very successful so far.
- Continued to compile an e-mail directory of Houses, Alumni and Friends.
- Continued to work with getting alumni who are leaving Oxford Houses signed up on the mailing list.
- Planned to help Oxford House collect e-mail addresses for each Oxford House in accordance with resolution from 10th World convention.
- Assisted in the planning of the Annual Alumni Luncheon in Chicago in conjunction with the World Convention.

This has just been a glimpse of what the council has done! Read inside.

12th Annual World Convention

*September 3-5
Fairmount Hotel
Chicago Illinois*

This Year's Theme:

**“Celebrating 35
Years”**

**For more information on
registering for the
Convention, go to:**

www.oxfordhouse.org

Questions call:

1-301-587-2916 or

1-800-689-6411

Message from Sheri Glisson Chair, Oxford House World Council

Greetings All – ! Hope everyone is well, enjoying the onset of summer (record breaking heat here in DC Metro area) and gearing up for the Convention in Chicago in September. Wanted to give you a brief summary of the WC Summit held May 12-16th, 2010 in Arkansas. We had a great time!! This year's productive, informative meeting was attended by seven resident members, one alumnus, one alternate and our OHI liason, Judy Maxwell (WA).



Picture of World Council at Spring Retreat in Arkansas, from left in front row: State Senator Dick Kelsey, Walter Harris, Connie Tatum, Sheri Glisson, Brandy Pehrson, Judy Maxwell, Mrs. Dick [Doris] Kelsey. Back row left to right, Chris Mcguire, Gene Goodwin, Ken Gray, Justin Grochowsky and Victor Fitz.

For the second year, we met with with legislators, drug task force folks, local dignitaries, and other interested parties to further the Oxford cause in Arkansas. I am pleased to report a very favorable response this year- we now have two Houses in the Northwest region of the state with more in the planning stages. As a direct result of our interest in this area, the WC has committed to active support of new Houses, especially those opening in regions without Outreach support.

Several proposed resolutions were discussed- among these; dealing with late rent, ballots for the selection of Convention sites (as opposed to popular vote during convention), timely House deposits, and responsibility of unpaid rent for members moving from one House to another, the inclusion of Housing Service Representative as a sixth House Office with the

responsibilities and duties of said office included in the Oxford House Manual with the other officers' duties. There will be further consideration of these and an important resolution on methadone (see Paul Molloy's column on page 4) during the meeting of the World Council at the Convention on Thursday evening when a final slate of resolutions will be finalized for presentation to the convention for a vote.

For those of you who might be interested in running for a seat on the World Council, you will find information on the next page about this process. There is also a Manual for the World Council which can be found on www.oxfordhouse.org under "Publications." There are a number of seats of WC members to be filled at the Convention in Chicago. This is your chance to "pay back"!! I know I owe my life to Oxford, NA and AA, I wouldn't be here without this awesome threesome!!!! Not only is involvement with the World Council fun and satisfying, it is a wonderful opportunity to make friends and build a network worldwide.

Please be on the alert for recent missives from the WC -- among these; applications for permanent charters (an amazing number of Houses do not have these!), forms for Chapter recognition (again, very few on record), and a letter requesting donations to the WC Disaster/Scholarship Fund. Please take the time to read and respond if necessary- get and stay involved!!!

In closing, please feel free to call (240) 706-6944 or e-mail sheri_glisson@yahoo.com with any questions, suggestions, issues, answers, or complaints you might have. I'll listen!! Be safe and see you in Chicago!

General Information on the World Council Elections at the Convention

The World Council is an elected council of nine Oxford House residents and three alumni (plus one alumni alternate and two resident alternates – when a full member of the Council leaves the council before completing his/her term, an alternate steps in to complete that member's term) No more than one elected resident and one elected alumni are allowed per state; however an alternate may be elected from the same state as a full member but may not replace a member from that state. Elections are held once a year at the Annual World Convention.

Generally, the responsibilities of the World Council are to safeguard the internal Oxford House structures - the principles set forth in the Oxford House Manual and in the nine Oxford House Traditions. The Council is the only Oxford House body authorized to recommend changes to the Oxford House System of Operations. These recommendations are presented to the full convention each year for consideration and, if adopted by the full convention, the recommendations become policy.

The World Council meets every two months by telephone to receive activity reports from council committee Chairs. The Committees include charter, alumni, chapter, propagation, and development, standards, state association, and convention.

The Council also receives reports at its meetings about Oxford House Inc. activities and has two representatives who sit on the National Oxford House Board of Directors – James McClain, who is a longstanding member of the Board of Directors, and the Chair of the World Council during his/her term of office.

Specific Election Procedures

For those who want to run for a World Council Seat at the World Convention, below are the procedures to follow:

Qualifications:

- *Any resident running for an open World council seat must have served as president of his/her house. Any alumni running for a seat must have served as a president while he/she resided in an Oxford House*

Procedure:

- *Those who want to run for a world council seat, you must, on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning, pick up a nomination form from Mollie Brown at the Oxford House Registration desk and have five houses who are represented at the Convention sign the form. Turn in the completed nomination forms to Mollie Brown of the Oxford House staff by noon on Friday.*
- *At the General Session on Friday afternoon, each nominee must address the Convention body for three minutes.*
- *Early on Saturday morning, ballots listing all nominees will be available at the registration desk for residents and alumni to vote. Ballots must be completed and returned to Mollie Brown of the Oxford House Inc staff at or before 12:00 noon on Saturday. After voting is complete and votes counted, the winners are introduced at the Saturday General Session in the afternoon.*
- *For residents, only one vote is allowed per house - if several residents from the same house are attending, they must caucus together to select for whom they want to vote. Residents may vote for resident and alumni candidates; alumni may vote only for alumni candidates. (Remember, only one resident and one alumni per state are allowed to sit on the Council.)*

Members of the World Council

Resident Members:

Sheri Glisson, Maryland [Chair]
Chair, Convention Committee
e-mail: sheri_glisson@yahoo.com
Telephone: 301-754-1865

Gene Goodwin, Virginia
Chair, State Association Committee
e-mail: genegoodwin@gmail.com
Telephone: 757-869-9559

Ken Gray, New Jersey
Chair, Fundraising Committee
e-mail: triton76@comcast.net
Telephone: 856-236-5931

Justin Grochowsky, Wyoming
Chair, Charter Committee
e-mail:
Justin.grochowsky@oxfordhouse.org
Telephone: 307-256-9403

Chris McGuire, Texas
Chair, Development Committee
e-mail: harleytexas999@yahoo.com
Telephone: 214-448-6929

Brandy Pehrson, Washington State
Chair, Chapter Committee
e-mail: subby182brandy@yahoo.com
Telephone: 425-638-2444

Johnny Roache, Delaware
Chair, Standards Committee
E-mail:
johnny.roache@oxfordhouse.org
Telephone: 302-290-0223

Connie Tatum, Louisiana
Chair, Propagation Committee
e-mail: cet4276@yahoo.com
Telephone: 318-205-2905

Resident Alternate
Walter Harris, Washington State
Member, Chapter Committee
e-mail: walterlittlebo@yahoo.com
Telephone: 253-222-4002

Alumni Members

Victor Fitz, Kansas
Chair, Arkansas Meeting Committee
E-mail: ezv2003@yahoo.com
Telephone: 316-390-3406

Deloris Mabins Adenekan, MD
Chair, Alumni Committee
e-mail: delorismabins@yahoo.com
Telephone: 410-419-1877

Emeritus Members

Myrna Brown, Washington State
e-mail: mmbrown@w-link.net
Telephone: 360-604-2931

James McClain, Maryland
e-mail: soberoxford@yahoo.com
Telephone: 240-605-7355

The Importance of the World Council

By Paul Molloy

The Oxford House World Council was born in December 1997 when the members of Oxford House decided to restructure the Oxford House, Inc. [OHI] Board of Directors in order to get the expertise of outsiders as well as members of the Oxford House family. The board is currently made up of nine members – three alumni, Paul Molloy, Bill Paley, and James McClain, the World Council Chairperson – Sheri Glisson, and five outside members – Jerry Conlon, Admiral Paul Mulloy [Ret. USN], Judy O'Hara, Col. Ken Hoffman, M.D. [Ret. USA] and Thomas O'Hara.

The Chairperson of the World Council plays the important role of being a link between the activities of the OHI Board and World Council. When the World Council elects a new Chairperson, he or she will become an active member of the OHI Board. Sheri Glisson, the current Chairperson will be able to brief the new Chairperson because she has actively participated in each of the OHI Board Meeting during the last year.

The difference between the OHI Board and the World Council is best described by thinking about the Board as the business director for OHI and the World Council as the force that maintains the grass-roots power of Oxford House. The Board deals with contracts implementation and financial accountability of the Oxford House World Services while the World Council deals with the nuts and bolts that enable houses to stay on track. For example, charter compliance, chapter organization, state association formation and the Annual World Convention is overseen by World Council. As part of its duties the World Council helps sort through resolutions offered at the World Convention to assure that the organization itself stays on track by detecting operational problems in and among individual houses, chapters or state associations and puts to a vote any resolutions to help achieve that goal.

This year one of the resolutions considered by the Council to be put before the full convention relates to treating methadone just like any other prescription drug. Over the years the medical profession has changed the manner in which methadone is obtained by individuals using it to get off an addiction to heroin. In the past, the World Convention passed resolutions [#3, #23 and #29] all restricting the right of individual houses to decide whether or not an individual prescribed methadone could be accepted into a house. All these resolutions grew out of town meeting vote held by all Oxford Houses in 1990 long before there was a national Oxford House movement or an Annual Convention.

Today, methadone prescriptions are more closely monitored and the law prohibits discrimination of those prescribed methadone. Therefore, a resolution will be offered at the Chicago Convention to make clear that methadone users will be treated just like any other application taking a prescribed medication when they apply to an Oxford House. In other words, the house may decide to accept or reject an applicant just like any other applicant – with an 80% approval vote needed for admission.

The World Council has demonstrated great leadership during the past year. Everyone in the Oxford House family should be proud of their hard work. Every month the World Council members have met by way of telephone conference call and held their mid-term retreat in Arkansas. While there the council members spread the word about the success of Oxford House to legislators in the state. It is anticipated that when the Arkansas legislature meets next year one of their first efforts will be to fund an organized development effort so that Arkansas can have a statewide network of Oxford Houses.

Finally, I hope that many Oxford House residents and alumni will run for the open World Council memberships at this year's convention. Every house and chapter should encourage its members going to the convention to run for election. Oxford House has nearly reach 1,500 houses with more than 12,000 recovery beds. We have demonstrated the big difference Oxford House living can have in developing sobriety comfortable enough to avoid relapse. Let's all keep up our efforts to establish enough houses so all recovering alcoholics and drug addicts can enjoy that which has saved our own life – Oxford House.