

# Oxford Grape

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Grand Hyatt Atrium in Washington, DC

## 2011 Oxford House Convention Hyatt Regency – Washington, DC *Oxford House: Saving Money – Saving Lives*

Every other year the Oxford House Convention is in Washington, DC. The Convention Hotel for the 2011 Oxford House World Convention is Grand Hyatt located downtown in the Nation's Capital at 10<sup>th</sup> and H Street, NW. It is bigger than the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill but still close to all the tourist attractions that made previous conventions in the Nation's Capital such a pleasant trip.



Within a short walking distance are Union Station, museums, Capitol Hill and the White House. Like the previous Oxford House Annual World Conventions the emphasis will be on alcoholism, drug addiction and the Oxford House way of becoming comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid relapse – forever.



The spacious convention hall will hold more than 1,000 and if *everyone plans early* we can fill all the seats. The 32 meeting rooms will provide great space for more than 24 addiction recovery-learning panels that make the convention such a valuable experience.

## 2011

### Back in DC for the National Convention

Every other year the Oxford House Convention is held in the Nation's Capital City. There are three reasons for this: [1] Washington is a good city to have a convention, [2] it is good for Oxford House to stick to its roots and going back close to where the first house started in 1975 is a good reminder of our roots, and [3] it is easier to get the top experts in the field to participate in the convention. Moreover, we all realize that the expansion of Oxford Houses all around the country is a partnership between government and self-help. Washington, DC is the hub of public/private partnerships.

If you have attended one of the previous twelve annual conventions, you know what a wonderful experience a convention can be. It is not only a place to learn more about the diseases of alcoholism and drug addiction, but it is also, a place to make new friends within the Oxford House ever-growing family.

The sharing of strength, experience and hope about recovery and Oxford House makes sobriety more comfortable for every attendee and it makes the foundation of the national network of Oxford Houses stronger. So do the voluntary contributions individual houses make to OHI for the purpose of expanding the number of new houses. About a third of Oxford Houses [31.7%] made direct contributions on a monthly basis – either \$50 or \$70 a month using electronic check transfer. Their selfless contributions help expand the national network of Oxford Houses to make recovery from addiction more likely and provide a path that will insure Oxford House long term existence.

One of the unique characteristics of Oxford House is its commitment to absolute transparency of all the financial transactions, outcomes and experiences of Oxford Houses from the grassroots to the top. It not only catalogues the activities of Oxford House during the last year but also builds a persuasive case to everyone concerned about alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness to help expand the national network of Oxford Houses so that every recovering individual can enjoy the same benefits Oxford House provided more than 24,000 individuals during 2010.

A copy of FY 2010 Annual Report is at website under "About Us/Finances." Download it, read it and share it with as many people as you can. Also attend the 2011 Convention to build a social network with other Oxford House residents and alumni.

## Oxford House: Does It Provide A Tool For Helping To Balance the Budget?

As 2011 begins, residents of Oxford Houses in the United States read and hear a lot about the budget deficits facing the federal and state governments. For most of us it is not the most important thing in our life. Getting comfortable enough with our own sobriety to avoid relapse is top priority. However, each of us in Oxford House knows something most non-addicts and other addicts do not know. When it comes to dealing with our 25 million fellow Americans who are alcoholics or drug addicts, we have a secret that should be shared with everyone: Oxford House saves money and saves lives.

Built into the Oxford House concept and system of operations is responsibility. Each house is responsible for paying its own way. Each house is responsible for adhering to the conditions of its charter. Each house is responsible for working with other houses to build strong chapters to assure mutual support and quality control. That sense of responsibility comes from two sources: [1] American tradition, and [2] AA tradition.

American tradition is imbedded in history from the time of the nation's founders who realized that liberty depended upon self-rule and acceptance of responsible processes to assure order and fairness. They provided us with a Constitution that placed national sovereignty with "the people" and build into government organizations checks and balances. AA tradition arises from the 12<sup>th</sup> Step of reaching out to share the program with still suffering alcoholics. The theme from the 1965 AA 3<sup>rd</sup> five-year International Convention in Toronto drawn from AA's Fifth Tradition was –

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

When Oxford House started ten years later the founders were influence by the AA theme "I am responsible." It cut two ways: [1] everybody had responsibilities within a house and [2] as a group everyone was responsible for passing on the good news about Oxford House. This ingrained acceptance of responsibility came from two strong legacies – America's history and AA's history.

Now with government at all levels facing budget problems, the men and women of Oxford House provide a great example. This year's Convention Theme – *Oxford House: Saving Money, Saving Lives* – sums up our experience and hope and provides an example for our fellow citizens to emulate. We can and do accept responsibility for our own recovery and the system of disciplined democratic operations in an Oxford House.

## General Session at Chicago



Start planning now to make sure that you can attend the upcoming Oxford House World Convention in Washington, DC September 1 – 4 in Washington, DC. It will be the biggest and best convention yet. The hotel is the Grand Hyatt, which is large enough to handle at least 1,000 convention attendees.

For those who have attended prior conventions in Washington, there is no need to point out the enjoyment that can be had when conventions are in the Nation's Capital. Museums are free and sightseeing can be great. As an eternal optimist it is also the time of year when the Washington Nationals will undoubtedly be in the running to win the National League championship and ultimately the World Series. If you plan ahead, you can attend the full convention and have enough time to see all the sights and attend a ballgame.

Register early and get a \$75 discount [\$275 instead of \$350]. The early registration discount room rate for the convention is \$129 a night plus tax.

Go to the website and click on 2011 Convention. This will open a page where you can register for the convention and will provide a link to make hotel reservations.

### Oxford House: Saving Money – Saving Lives

*Theme of the 2011 Convention*

You can again this year register for the convention from the Oxford House website: [www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org)

