

# The Oxford World

Published by the Oxford House World Council

Victor Fitz, Chair

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

## World Council: 2011

From the Chair

Greetings Oxford House family

*The Oxford House World Council is pleased to publish this 2011 edition of the Oxford World. The 2011 World Council is made up of a diverse group of people, who are contributing their expertise and passion for Oxford House, helping to make it a better way of life for those we serve.*

*Your World Council has standing committees set in place to address our current issues. In this newsletter each committee chairperson will address specific projects and goals that their committee is working on for 2011. We ask for everyone's support in the building of the Oxford House network. You can email us with your comments or suggestions at: [info@oxfordhouse.org](mailto:info@oxfordhouse.org)*

*Thank all of you for your contributions to Oxford House and the World Council. We are committed to making 2011 a prosperous year.*

Respectfully

Victor Fitz  
OHWC Chairperson  
Wichita KS

*13<sup>th</sup> Annual World  
Convention  
September 1-4*

*Grand Hyatt Hotel  
Washington DC*

***This Year's  
Theme:***

***“Saving Money  
- Saving Lives”***

*For more information  
about the convention,*

*[www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org)*

# History of the Oxford House World Council

Oxford House Inc gets questions from time to time about the World Council – where it came from and what it does. This article sheds some light on the background and purpose of this organization:

## Early Days

The World Council is an offshoot of the old days of Oxford House when the National Board of Directors was comprised of house residents and alumni. This national board of Directors would meet once every quarter as required in the Oxford House Inc bylaws to approve contracts, make suggestions for improvements, and generally overlook the program.

In 1997, the resident/alumni OHI Board of Directors, because Oxford House had grown into a national network of houses, voted to substitute a professional board of directors made up of outside directors including a mix of alumni and professionals. At the same time, the alumni and resident members of the old board became a new advisory body called the World Council and began planning for the first national convention and a method for electing members to the new council. The first annual Oxford House World Convention was held in Washington, DC in September 1999 and the convention attendees elected twelve members to the World Council. The term of office was three years with the initial members elected for staggered terms to permit election of one-third of the members each year at the annual convention. Nine of the membership was designated to be resident members with three alumni members. To assure national representation no more than one individual could be from the same state.

The new World Council organization put in the following two resolutions for a vote by the delegates at that first annual convention - both were passed.

1 - **Be it Resolved:** That next year's convention shall be held in the fall of 2000 in Kansas City, Missouri. [Vote 203 to 24]

2 - **Be it Resolved:** Each house should voluntarily send a \$50 a month contribution to Oxford House World Services to expand the network of houses. [Vote 168 to 43]

Each year since 1999, World Council members consider many possible resolutions put before them from residents and choose the ones which they consider important to adopt for the program.

At the 2010 World Convention in September in Chicago, the world council brought to the convention delegates two resolution which were passed by the delegates in attendance.

**Be it Resolved:** That notwithstanding Resolutions #3, #23, #29 each Oxford House shall have sole authority over acceptance of residents. [Vote 343 to 187]

**Be it Resolved** it is encouraged that at any single time no resident or alumni should be Treasurer of more than one Oxford House entity-House, Chapter or State Association. [Vote 318 to 23]

All of the resolutions passed at the annual conventions from 1999 forward can be found in the World Council Manual which is available for download as a .pdf at [www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org) - go to Manuals and click on World Council. The Manual also contains the bylaws and information on the organizational structure of the World Council.

At the convention each year, the world council standing committees - Development, State Association, Standards, Chapter, Charter, Fundraising, Convention, Propagation, and Alumni – give a report to the delegates on their activities. On the following pages, a list of world council members and reports from the standing committee are printed.

## Your 2011 World Council Members

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# World Council Committee Goals for 2011

## **Report from Alumni Committee Arelene Moore, WA, Chair**

The Alumni Committee has the responsibility for developing ways and means of keeping track of OH alumni, and maintaining communication to sustain their interest in the OH movement and the expansion of OH.

The Alumni Committee's focus this year will be:

- Expanding the alumni database as to increase the contact with alumni members.
- Increase alumni fund-raising and contributions
- Increase to a greater number of attendees at the World Convention Alumni luncheon.
- Encourage state associations and chapters to maintain ongoing relationships with alumni
- Encourage individual houses to report alumni data as members leave in good standing
- Provide New and Rewarding Certificates for those who leave OH in good standings.
- Provide New Oxford House Bumper-stickers for any alumni that gives a contribution annual due of \$25.00

## **Report from Convention Committee Sheri Glisson, MD, Chair**

Convention Committee Objectives and Goals for World Council Participation in the 2011 Convention to be held in Washington DC at the Grand Hyatt:

### **Objective # 1- To facilitate a successful convention and establish role of World Council for presentation of goals and successes**

- Work with Oxford House, Inc. to create a poster for Convention 2011 featuring Washington D.C.
- Arrange for local speakers for on-site NA/AA meetings during Convention
- Purchase a banner for WC table to readily identify our place and role
- Purchase a sufficient number of T-shirts for current and incoming members
- Work with fundraising committee to obtain and purchase items for sale at Convention 2011

### **Objective #2 - To ensure attendance of a greater number of Oxford members to Convention 2011**

- Work with Fundraising Committee to increase amount of monies in Scholarship Fund
- Arrange with local Houses for overnight stays for out-of-town Oxford members

## **Report from Chapter Committee Stan Finney, WA State ,Chair**

The Chapter Committee responsibility is to insure that chapters across the country are following the procedures put for the in the Chapter Manual and to make recommendations for any changes or updates that need to be made to the Manual.

For 2011, the Chapter Committee goals are as follows:

- Compile an updated list of Chapter Chairs across the country
- Work with Oxford House Inc to insure that all chapters receive recognition certificates
- Work with the State Association Committee of the World Council to provide Chapter materials for inclusion in the State Association Manual which will be completed this year.
- Scan Chapter Manual for any corrections which need to be made and make recommendations for those changes at the World Convention.

## **Report from Fundraising Committee Dan Hahn, KS, Chair**

The fund raising committee is in place to raise money for the World Council in a effort to make us able to serve Oxford House more effectively.

This year Fundraising Committes goals include.

- Continue the growth of the disaster relief fund to aid house residents in emergency's.
- Continue to award scholarships to worthy recipients to attend the World Convention.
- Fundraising for our yearly World Council Summit as well as the Alumni Luncheon at the Annual World Convention.
- Using creative development to raise funds to make the World Council more viable as a whole.

## Committee Reports, Continued.....

### Report from State Association Committee Gene Goodwin, VA, Chair

The State Association Committee was formed to bring together the chapters to share experience, strength, and open communication. Our main objective is to encourage chapters in a given geographical region/state to form an association to communicate and resolve common problems and goals.

The current goal of the State Association Committee is to create a state association manual to provide guidelines for setting up a State Association. Currently, the manual is in draft form and edits are being made. Some revisions will be made during the world council summit meeting in Arkansas in May. The manual draft will then be passed on to our CEO Paul Molloy for the final edit and print. Hopefully this material will be available for distribution at our World Convention in Washington, DC in September 2011.

Another goal is to reach out to several states that have houses but no chapters and have little contact with Oxford House to help them build connections to the nationwide network of houses.

If you have questions about the State Association Committee, please call me.

### Report from Standards and Legal Defense Committee Johnny Roache, DE, Chair

The Standards & Legal Defense Committee has jurisdiction to develop and promote best practice standards involving all aspects of the Oxford house Network of houses as well as identify legal barriers to the effective functioning of Oxford Houses and develop a network of lawyers willing to assist in the defense of rights of recovering individuals living together.

Currently the Standards Committee is working on developing a resolution that was tabled at the 2010 Convention pertaining to the housing service committee. The resolution will read "Be it resolved that each house should elect a member to be on the chapter housing service committee and it be added as an official house position included in the house manual." The committee is working to find a way this can be added into the house manual as the expansion of houses as well as chapters flourishes with the help of Experience, Strength, and Hope suggested by other knowledgeable housing service members.

### Report from Propagation Committee Tony Sowards, NC, Chair

The Propagation Committee is responsible for development of ways and means to spread knowledge about how Oxford Houses work and all the benefits from having clusters of Oxford Houses to serve those in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

The scope of work of the Propagation Committee includes general publicity, outreach to organizations and programs dealing with addiction and alcoholism. In addition, the Propagation Committee compiles lists of landlords to serve as references to prospective landlords or groups waiting to purchase single family houses suitable for use as Oxford Houses.

Currently working on:

1. A Skype Presentation That Will Allow Interviews to Occur Between Treatment Providers And Individual Houses For Perspective Residents.
2. Looking Into Opening Email Account That Has Current Email Listings
3. Ongoing Discussions About New Ways And Means To Continue To Spread Knowledge Of The Oxford House Model
4. Working On Power Point Presentation That Would Be Approved/Acceptable For Worldwide Use As An Information Source For Organizations And Programs Dealing With Addiction,
5. Encourage The Housing Services Committees To Be Part Of The Propagation Committee's Process

### ***The World Council Annual Arkansas Meeting is set for May 18-22 By Sheri Glisson***

Greetings All! Springing ahead with great happenings for the World Council! For the third year, we will be holding our bi-annual Summit meeting in Beaver Lake, Arkansas- guests of hosts Dick and Doris Kelsey. This idyllic, serene setting in the Ozarks has proven conducive to greeting, meeting, eating, and completing plans for the future direction of the Council and Oxford in general. The summit, May 18- 22, 2011 will include visits to Missouri where we plan to meet with various state officials to expand and solidify existing Houses.

The council will also focus on clarifying the role of Housing Representatives, time limits for WC members, fundraising issues, conference plans, alumni inclusion, and much more! Looks like we've got a busy schedule ahead- be assured, however; we'll have a great time clanning and planning!



World Council Members at 2010 Convention Chicago: Front row left to right: Justin Grochowsky, Sheri Glisson, Chris McGuire, Brandy Pehrson, Judy Maxwell, Stan Finney. Back Row: Gene Goodwin, Revell Atkinson, Chris Hart, Tony Sowards, Dan Hahn, Dominick Ragusa, Arelene Moore, Peter Terry

### News from Around the Country:

New Mexico now has three Oxford Houses, thanks to the generosity of a family who had lost loved ones to addiction and to Jeff Hunt, OHI outreach rep, who moved out from Oklahoma to get these homes going. This may be the start of something big if the State of New Mexico notices these wonderful houses getting started right under their noses.

Oxford House Inc has two new Board of Directors Members: Dr Robert DuPont, President of Institute for Behavioral Health and Janice Jordan, known to many of us from her years as a Program Manager for Oxford Houses for the State of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Oxford House is truly blessed that these two individuals who have devoted their lives to helping the addicted have agreed to join our Board to help guide the future of Oxford House.

Three Latino/Latina Oxford Houses are now operating in Illinois. These Oxford Houses are composed exclusively of Latino/a residents where both Spanish and English are spoken.. There are currently two male Oxford Houses in North Aurora and Joliet, IL and a female Oxford House was opened in Waukegan, IL. Researchers from DePaul University who have been observing these specialty houses report that “The most significant change is the use of both Spanish and English languages by its residents. The inclusion of the Spanish language has allowed residents to communicate freely with one another. Another is the embracing of cultural values, such as respect and interdependence that has promoted a communal environment. Food has served to reinforce ties among residents while allowing them to express their traditions as seen in traditional Latino families. Finally, Spanish music has promoted a strong sense of cohesiveness among the residents. Many Latinos who are born outside the United States are more inclined to preserve their values, traditions, and language. These have increased the feeling of comfort and created a strong bond among these residents in the Latino Oxford houses.”

One of the most successful World Council Projects was the effort by the Council’s Charter Committee last year to remind houses who had never applied for their permanent charters after 90 days to get their paperwork completed and send it in to Oxford House Inc. According to Darryl Joiner of OHI, the response by the houses has been excellent and almost every day house residents are getting busy filling out paperwork to submit for their permanent charter. The project has taken on a life of its own now and will continue until we get all houses in the country chartered permanently.