

**1. Purpose of the General Service Board**

- a. The purpose of the General Service Board of Eating Disorders Anonymous, Inc. (hereafter “the GSB”) is to support the Fellowship of Eating Disorders Anonymous (hereafter “EDA”)
- b. GSB officers and members are but trusted servants, charged and empowered to create and maintain services that assist EDA groups in carrying the message of full recovery to individuals with a desire to recover from an eating disorder
- c. GSB officers and members recognize, respect, and adhere to EDA’s foundational ideas which include:
  - i. The only requirement for membership in EDA is a desire to recover from an eating disorder. There are no dues or fees for EDA membership
  - ii. EDA members find and maintain recovery through application of EDA principles in their lives. The principles of EDA include Honesty, Equality, Accountability, Love, Trust and Humility (H.E.A.L.T.H.) and are embodied in EDA’s Twelve Steps, which outline the process through which members achieve full recovery, and and Twelve Traditions—the commitments through which EDA groups maintain unity through singleness of purpose
  - iii. We in EDA follow a **recovery model**. People can and do recover fully from having an eating disorder. Balance—not abstinence—is our goal.
  - iv. EDA endorses sound nutrition and discourages any form of rigidity around food, weight, and exercise
  - v. EDA does not recognize abstinence from eating disordered behavior as a goal; a normal, gradual recovery from eating disordered behavior occurs as a by-product of increasing adherence to the principles outlined above
  - vi. EDA supports members in recognizing and claiming self-defined milestones of recovery (usually an application of one or more of the above-listed principles) in their daily lives
  - vii. EDA respects that as individuals discover and claim their own truth, God delivers perspective and empowerment
    1. Claiming our own truth includes recognizing and taking care of our own basic needs. We take care of basic needs so we can build a foundation of trust that enables us to turn our attention to serve God and the people about us
    2. “God” in EDA literature can mean the Deity, a deity, a spiritual entity of one’s own understanding (a Higher Power), or a non-spiritual conception (a higher purpose). Reliance on any one of these conceptions confers a perspective that transcends our immediate physical, social and emotional circumstances and allows us to keep calm and carry on with what really matters
  - viii. EDA supports members in taking responsibility for their own emotional health, and encourages members to actively seek support from whatever reliable and trustworthy resources are available: we do not wait for others to reach out to us.
  - ix. EDA recognizes many roads to recovery—and encourages members to follow whatever path delivers peace, perspective and empowerment—however, EDA’s fundamental concepts about the process of recovery are expressed in the *Eating Disorders Anonymous: The story of how we recovered from our eating disorders*, copyrighted by the General Service Board of Eating Disorders Anonymous, 2016

**2. Membership**

**a. Qualification**

- i. Each at-large member of the GSB shall be a democratically elected representative of an EDA group or an EDA service unit ultimately responsible to an EDA group
- ii. Anyone may be nominated to serve as a member of the GSB to fill a functional role such as a webmaster, literature chair, or to serve as director of a subsidiary organization, such as an EDA equivalent to AA's World Services Organization, as authorized by the GSB. These members are considered to be non-representative members.
  1. Non-representative members must be recognized by the GSB (elected to their roles) with the same criteria—described in section 2.a.iv below—as any other GSB member
  2. Respecting the right of participation expressed in EDA's Twelve Concepts, non-representative GSB members shall have voting rights within the GSB, however, care shall be taken to ensure that GSB decisions are primarily determined by those (directly or indirectly) representative of EDA groups. That is, the GSB shall make no decision where the majority votes are cast by members not elected (directly or indirectly) through EDA groups.
- iii. Nominees to leadership and functional roles within the GSB may include volunteers or additional workers from within or outside EDA's membership.
- iv. Nominees to leadership and functional roles within the GSB must swear to uphold and respect EDA's fundamental ideas, expressed in section 1.c.i through 1.c.ix above, before being added to any ballot for election

**b. Terms**

- i. Members of the GSB shall serve terms of two consecutive years in length, however, EDA groups may choose to rotate General Service Representatives more frequently
- ii. We encourage rotation of service positions, however, the GSB does not limit the number of terms an individual may serve

**c. Vacancy**

- i. If a GSB member leaves the GSB for any reason, their electing body is charged with finding a suitable replacement. If the vacating member is an officer of the GSB, then the GSB must approve the replacement nominee through the same process as an election, however, the election and swearing-in of a replacement can occur at any regular meeting of the GSB
- ii. **Definition of vacancy.** A position is considered to be vacated if:
  1. A GSB officer or member resigns, or is absent without notice or proxy assignment for two consecutive meetings of the GSB. When a GSB officer's position is considered vacated, a notice shall be sent to the officer informing them of the change
  2. A GSB officer, GSB member, or GSB advisor is dismissed from their service position by their electing group or service unit (which can include the GSB)
    - a. **Grounds for dismissal** from a service position include:
      - i. Criminal activity, whether related to GSB service or not
      - ii. Unprofessional or unethical behavior, whether related to GSB service or not. Examples: slander; threats; intentionally or repeatedly violating another person's personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, or web

- iii. Publicly promoting ideas or practices that directly conflict with EDA's foundational principles. Examples: marketing through EDA channels; endorsing an outside facility or enterprise as a representative of EDA; advocating weight-management tools, techniques, or programs as a representative of EDA.

**b. Process for dismissal:**

- i. When an EDA Board member, officer, or advisor is accused of a major transgression they shall be considered suspended, pending a hearing. When an EDA Board member, officer, or advisor is accused of a minor transgression and the transgression is corroborated by two or more members of the Board, they shall receive no more than two warnings before being suspended, pending a hearing. Warnings, if issued, shall include the expected behavior, the observed behavior, and the action or actions being taken to address the situation.
- ii. Hearing. Upon issuance of a suspension, unless the accused resigns, a communication shall be sent to GSB members about what has occurred, who is affected, and when the matter will be considered for further action. The Chair or Vice-Chair may call an emergency meeting, announced no less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting, or may schedule consideration of the transgression for the next regular GSB meeting.

**d. Nomination**

- i. Any EDA member may nominate a candidate for any functional or leadership role on the GSB or its Advisors to the Board through writing [info@eatingdisordersanonymous.org](mailto:info@eatingdisordersanonymous.org)
- ii. Nominees to leadership and functional roles within the GSB, and Advisors to the Board, must swear in writing to uphold and respect EDA's fundamental ideas, expressed in section 1.c.i through 1.c.ix above, before being added to any ballot for election

**e. Election**

- i. Election meetings are announced at least one month in advance of elections
- ii. Elections are staggered so that half of the GSB maintains continuity while the other half is undergoing election
- iii. Elections are held annually (with an allowable shift of one month, plus or minus, at the discretion of the board)
- iv. After election, GSB members are sworn into their positions. Those who wish can propose service goals for the next year

**3. Officers of the Board**

**a. Roles**

**i. Chair**

- 1. Supervises all operations of the General Service Board
- 2. Coordinates effort among members and committees

3. Presides at GSB meetings
  4. In cooperation with other Board members, set goals for the General Service Board that reflect the long-term interests of EDA as a whole
  5. Communicates above goals
  6. Sets up GSB meeting times and locations
  7. Makes sure GSB members know about GSB meetings
  8. Ensures each GSB member understands what is expected and has the requisite resources and support to do it
  9. Creates agendas for GSB meetings
- ii. **Vice-Chair**
    1. Serves as Chair when Chair cannot serve
    2. Supports the Chair in all capacities as needed and directed by the Chair
    3. Oversees publication of EDA materials online and in print
    4. Makes sure Chair has resources and support to perform expected duties
  - iii. **Treasurer**
    1. Qualifications: CPA
    2. Manages GSB monies
    3. Reports quarterly balances to the GSB
    4. Completes 501 c3 yearly tax documents
    5. Prepares annual financial statement
  - iv. **Secretary**
    1. Maintains GSB meeting minutes
    2. Posts and shares GSB meeting minutes
    3. Keeps records in a central, secure, and confidential location
    4. Works with other GSB members to introduce any new public-facing material or content
  - v. **Committee Chairs** as approved by the GSB
- b. **Qualification.** A GSB officer must:
- i. Be an active member of EDA, the General Service Board, or an Advisor to the Board for minimum of two years
  - ii. Be nominated to the GSB officer role
  - iii. Have accepted the nomination
  - iv. Have agreed, in writing, to adhere to these bylaws
  - v. Be elected by the GSB, and sworn to office
- c. **Terms**
- i. GSB officers shall serve two-year terms, with elections held on alternating years as follows:
    1. Chair and Treasurer: odd-numbered years
    2. Vice-Chair and Secretary: even-numbered years
    3. Committee Chairs: as determined by the GSB
- d. **Vacancy**
- i. Section 2.c above applies equally to Officers of the Board
- e. **Nomination**
- i. Section 2.d above applies equally to Officers of the Board
- f. **Election**
- i. Section 2.e above applies equally to Officers of the Board

**4. Advisors to the Board**

- a. Qualification.** An Advisor to the Board must:
  - i. Be a person whose work and support of EDA is respected by the GSB
  - ii. Be nominated by an EDA member
  - iii. Have accepted the nomination
  - iv. Have agreed, in writing:
    - 1. to adhere to these bylaws
    - 2. not to present themselves publicly as a representative of EDA or as an EDA member
    - 3. not to use connections within EDA for personal or professional gain
  - v. Be approved by substantial (2/3rds) majority of the GSB representatives present at an annual election meeting
- b. Term**
  - i. An Advisor to the Board may serve as long as they wish, however, an Advisor to the Board may be dismissed, per conditions outlined in Section 2.c.ii.2 above
- c. Responsibility**
  - i. Advisors to the Board are responsible for providing guidance when consulted by the GSB via a representative nominated from the GSB
  - ii. Advisors to the Board may also provide feedback to the GSB at their discretion
- d. Vacancy**
  - i. An Advisor to the Board may announce their retirement or resignation in writing
  - ii. Section 2.c.ii.2 above applies equally to Advisors to the Board
- e. Nomination**
  - i. Section 2.d above applies equally to Advisors to the Board
- f. Election**
  - i. Nominees for Advisors to the Board are voted upon at the GSB annual election
  - ii. Advisors to the Board must be approved by a substantial (2/3rds) majority of the GSB representatives present at the annual election

**5. Meetings**

- a. General Service Board meetings will be held at least three times annually
- b. The GSB meeting immediately prior to annual elections shall include a review of progress toward annual service goals
- c. The GSB annual election meeting shall focus on elections, and swearing-in of elected officers and members
- d. The GSB meeting immediately after elections shall be used to create alignment around annual service goals

**6. Notice of Meetings**

- a. Regular GSB meetings shall be announced to elected GSB representatives no less than one month in advance of each meeting
- b. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of GSB officers, provided these are announced no less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting

**7. Voting**

- a. Literature and audio items to be voted on are to be announced no less than one month before they are put to a vote
- b. Other items put to a vote are to be announced no less than two weeks in advance of the GSB meeting at which they will be considered
- c. Exceptions include special meetings to address urgent situations, and meetings at which dismissals must be considered
- d. Every effort shall be made to ensure all sides and minority opinions are heard

**8. Governing Law**

- a. The laws of the State of Arizona shall govern all matters relating to these bylaws

**9. Indemnification**

- a. GSB members, officers, and advisors shall hold the GSB and its Committees harmless from and against all losses, liabilities, judgements, awards, settlements, damages, and costs (including legal fees and expenses) to themselves and others

**10. Amendment Procedure**

The Board may amend its Articles of Incorporation and these bylaws by three-quarters vote of the entire membership of the Board provided the proposed change is sent to all EDA group contacts at least one month in advance of the vote