

Oxford Grapæ

August 29, 2019

ANNUAL OXFORD HOUSE WORLD CONVENTION
MARRIOTT RENAISSANCE DOWNTOWN HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

2019 OXFORD HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

2,653 – Number of Oxford Houses as of August 2019

48 – Number of States with Oxford Houses

482 – Number of towns or cities with Oxford Houses

\$1,830 – Average monthly income of residents

\$132 – Average weekly share of expenses paid by Oxford residents

62% of Oxford House residents have been homeless for an average of 6 months

74% of residents are addicted to drugs in addition of alcohol

83% of residents have done jail time connected to their addiction

11.1 months – Average length of sobriety

Total number of Oxford House Recovery Beds – 21,204

Type of Recovery Beds:

14,743 for Men

6,515 for Women

Relapse rate CY 2018: 19.7%

Annual Oxford House World Convention “Oxford House: Self-Reliance • Self-Respect”

At this Oxford House Annual Convention, we are celebrating our continued success in supporting long-term recovery without relapse for most Oxford House residents. Even in the midst of the nation’s serious opioid crisis, we know that there is hope and that Oxford House is part of the solution.

Today, leaders in the field of treatment for alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness recognize that living in an Oxford House increases the odds of achieving long-term recovery without relapse. This fact led the federal government eight years ago to list Oxford House as a best practice on its National Registry of Evidence-based Programs [NREPP]. Three years ago, the Surgeon General’s report, *Facing Addiction*, singled out Oxford Houses as highly effective. Individuals living in an Oxford House are five times more likely to achieve long-term recovery than those not living in an Oxford House – and Oxford House development costs third-party funders very little to establish and maintain.

This Convention is a good place learn more to be better able to pass on the good news about Oxford House living and to help others develop more Oxford Houses so that one day every recovering individual can have the opportunity to live in an Oxford House to gain long-term recovery.

This year’s theme, “*Oxford House: Self-Reliance • Self-Respect*,” recognizes reality, recovery, and success. We should celebrate the fact that we have over 2,600 Oxford Houses but many more are needed. Development sufficient to make an impact on the national problem of alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness requires many more Oxford Houses. It does not require much government help or a magic wand.

How To Benefit From The Convention



Convention Posters are available for sale at the Oxford House World Council Table

For the next three days take in information by attending as many breakout sessions as possible.

Dr. Sharfstein's book is available for purchase and he will sign copies Friday afternoon.

Attending an Oxford House Annual Convention presents an opportunity to make new friends, to learn new things to make your Oxford House better, and to gain insight about ways and means to expand the number of Oxford Houses. Everyone agrees that we were lucky to have stumbled into Oxford House and luckier still that the democratically-run, self-supported Oxford House is designed to give everyone the time and peer support needed for comfortable sobriety. The theme of this year's convention is fitting but the convention is more than a theme. It is an opportunity to learn more – about addiction, about recovery and about Oxford House.

Many are attending the convention with financial support from Houses and Chapters back home. Make sure to learn as much as you can so you can share the good news about Oxford House with the folks who could not come. Share the excitement of the convention and begin to make plans so that more people from your area can attend the next convention next year.

Convention attendees from various states should encourage their best leaders to run for election to the World Council. The World Council is an important part of the democratic grassroots strength of Oxford House and serves as an Advisory Council to Oxford House, Inc. Its chair is an ex-officio member of the OHI Board of Directors and the Council serves as the “canary in the mine” to keep our organization strong.

Convention Resolutions

Convention resolutions should be given to any World Council member so that they can be considered for presentation at the Fourth General Session of the Convention on Saturday. Look at the past resolutions in the World Council Manual to determine whether the issue or matter of concern has already been addressed at a prior convention. Remember also that Oxford Houses are self-run and we want to avoid imposing unnecessary new rules on Houses.

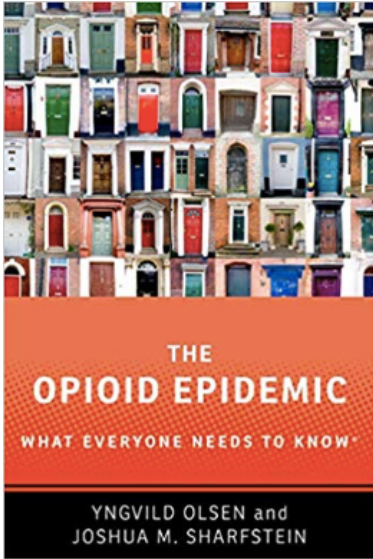
Merchandise to Remember the Convention

T-Shirts, mugs and other memorabilia can be purchased from the many chapters or state associations at the Vendor Tables throughout the convention. Vendor tables are not open for business when General Sessions or breakout panels are going on. Also, many houses and chapters will want to purchase recordings of convention proceedings. In the past, House members and alumni unable to attend the convention have appreciated being able to listen to highlights.

Continuing Education Credits Offered

The Annual Oxford House Convention is offering Continuing Education Credit through NAADAC. Credit is awarded upon participation at the conference in its entirety. You must be a registered attendee to receive credit. Representatives from OHI will be on site to accept applications for continuing education credit and to assist Conference attendees. Certification forms can be picked up at the Registration Desk.





Dr. Josh Shafstein has just published a new book on the opioid epidemic. It is available for purchase at this convention [special price \$8.00]. He is Director of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative Professor Johns Hopkins University. Formerly he headed up the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and was Deputy at FDA. Dr. Shafstein will appear on two panels – Addiction Research and the Friday afternoon General Session panel.

For the “Addiction Research: What’s New and Newsworthy” panel, Dr. John Kelly will moderate a panel made up of some of the nation’s leading experts: Will Compton, MD, Westley Clark, MD, Kevin Sabet, PhD, Stu Gitlow, MD and Dr. Shafstein. Dr. John Kelly will moderate what should be both an informative and significant panel. Will Compton, Westley Clark and Stu Gitlow have participated in many earlier Oxford House Conventions. John Kelly and Kevin Sabet are at their first. Make them feel welcome.



Dr. Westley Clark is making his 15th appearance as a participant in an Oxford House World Convention. From the first convention in 1999 at the Washington Court Hotel in DC through Wichita, Dallas, Kansas City and Chicago, Dr. Clark has been on hand to share his insight and knowledge about addiction. He served as director of the federal Center on Substance Abuse Treatment for 16 years – longer than any other director. He is a graduate of Detroit’s Wayne State University, the University of Michigan Schools of Medicine and Public Health, and Harvard Law School. Since his retirement from CSAT, Dr. Clark has served as Dean’s Executive Professor in the Public Health Program at Santa Clara University. He also serves as a director on the Board of Faces and Voices of Recovery. Dr. Clark will participate in two panels at this year’s convention: “Addiction Research – What’s New and Newsworthy” on Friday and “Educating the Public About Recovery” on Saturday.

In Memory



Mae Ashley Abraham
1927–2019

Mae worked with the late Father Martin to begin a treatment program in Havre de Grace, Maryland in 1983 – Ashley Treatment. She died last week and will be missed but remembered by thousands in recovery.

Washington, DC at night is beautiful. Take advantage of Friday evening to explore the wonderful sights of the city. The Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and Capitol are within walking distance. See the sights and hit an AA or NA meeting at the Hotel. Room 9 for AA; room 10 for NA at 10:00 PM.

Directors' 100-Year Awards FY 2019

The Directors of Oxford House, Inc. established the "100-Year Awards" in 2000 to recognize Houses and Chapters that contribute \$600 a year or more to help fund Oxford House expansion into new regions. The 2019 Convention Program [pages 61-63] lists the houses, chapters and state associations that donated at least \$600 between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Convention Message from Paul

Forty-four years used to seem like a very long time. When the first Oxford House started in October 1975, AA was 40 years old – if you count the beginning date of AA from 1935 when Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob first met in Akron, Ohio. Since most of us had not yet been born in 1935, the beginning of AA seemed like ancient history. However, the history of AA was important because it gave each of us hope and structure to build an organization where all of us could feel confident that we could develop personal behavior that made us feel good without getting drunk or high.

When the first Oxford House started in 1975, many of the current residents of Oxford Houses across the country had not yet been born. However, just as the founders of Oxford House took hope and organization from the history of AA, the current residents of Oxford Houses should build upon the success achieved by Oxford House during its first 44 years. The small group of Oxford Houses in the Washington, DC area has grown into a national – even international – network of strong Oxford Houses. The growth and strength of the individual Oxford Houses have been maintained by gatherings such as this convention where ideas are shared and friendships are made.

Let's face it. There is no magic pill or genetic manipulation just around the corner that will enable any of us to drink alcohol or to use mood-changing drugs safely. Fortunately, we don't need such magic because the Oxford House model has given us the plan that enables us to become the comfortable, productive citizens we always wanted to be.



World Council Elections

At each convention, World Council Members are elected to fill vacancies on the World Council. The World Council By-Laws are designed to make sure that members are distributed throughout the country. Since some states already have World Council Members, residents or alumni from certain states are not eligible to run for office this year. This year: residents from DC, KS, OR and WA are not eligible to run for resident seats. Alumni from WA and TX are not eligible to run for alumni seats.

Residents from eligible states you are encouraged to run because there will be three resident members elected with terms ending in 2022; one elected for a term ending in 2021 and two alternates elected. If you are an alumna, not from WA or TX, you are eligible to run for an alumni seat. There is one alumni seat open with a term ending in 2022 and one alternate for a one-year term of office.

Remember residents can vote for both Resident and Alumni Members. Alumni can only vote for Alumni Members. The persons receiving the most votes gets the three-year terms, the next highest gets the two-year term and the next highest fill the alternate slots. It may sound complicated but it is not.

Remember to get Nomination Petitions to run for office turned in to the World Council desk by 1:00 PM on Friday. Election ballots must be turned in by Noon on Saturday.

World Council has submitted four resolutions to be voted on during the Saturday General Session the text of which is in the Pathways newsletter.

The World Council plays an important advisory role in Oxford House. The Chairperson is an ex-officio member of OHI's Board of Directors.