

Oxford Grape

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How to Sign Up For the 2013 World Convention

- Register on the website at www.oxfordhouse.org (click on “Convention”) **OR** send in the registration form enclosed with this *Grape*.
- Remember that you also have to reserve your hotel room. That’s separate from the convention registration. Hotel rooms fill up fast so contact the hotel soon. Don’t delay.



THE 2013 OXFORD HOUSE WORLD CONVENTION

**August 29-September 1, 2013
Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, DC**

Registration has begun for this year’s convention. This year’s theme – “Meeting the Need” – will be addressed throughout the general sessions, breakouts, and keynote addresses.

There will also be a Friday night event, the Saturday night banquet and all the other events you’ve come to expect as well as the pre-convention Women’s Conference and the golf tournament.

Most important, you get to network and socialize with all your new and old friends from other Oxford Houses around the country.

REGISTER NOW!

William C. Moyers Saturday Night Banquet Speaker

William C. Moyers, Vice President of Public Affairs and Community Relations at Hazelden, has agreed to speak at the Saturday night banquet.



Moyers is the author of “Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption” (2006), a memoir that became a New York Times best-seller, and a new 2012 book entitled, “Now What? An Insider's Guide to Addiction and Recovery.”

William Moyers has a terrific story and will be a real draw!



**2012 OXFORD HOUSE, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT**

The 2012 Oxford House, Inc. Annual Report is on the website. It can currently be accessed from the website home page (www.oxfordhouse.org).

Take a look at it for a good overview of the past year’s activities and finances. The report contains a Management Report, a profile of residents, discussions of Oxford House expansion and research, summary financial statements and an overview of the 2012 convention (with pictures of the ballpark, the breakout sessions, coffee breaks, general sessions and the banquet).

Washington Hilton
Site of the 2013
Oxford World
Convention
August 29 – September 1

WOULD YOU BE A GOOD OUTREACH WORKER?

Oxford House is expanding. As new states seek our help in developing new Oxford Houses, we anticipate needing more outreach workers. If you think you’re right for the job, send us an application.

You may qualify if:

- You have lived in an Oxford House and held House offices
- You have a car (outreach workers need to be able to transport themselves to look at rental properties, visit Oxford Houses and treatment facilities.)
- You would be able to promote Oxford House to treatment providers and other community organizations
- You are willing to work hard and want the most rewarding job in the world.

Complete the application form found on the Oxford House website under “Houses/Applications” and send it in.

REMINDER – HOUSE EMAILS AND VACANCY UPDATES

The Oxford House system works when everyone pays attention and does their part. We all know that there are many people out there who could benefit from living in an Oxford House and we need to make sure we keep our vacancy lists accurate and up to date. Treatment centers and recovering individuals rely on this information they find on the website and, if it’s not accurate, we all lose.

Please remember to go to the website and update your vacancy information regularly. Also, make sure that your house telephone information is correct. Most important, make sure that you answer the phone – or respond promptly to voice messages – about vacancies.



BUILDING A BETTER OXFORD HOUSE WEBSITE SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AND IDEAS

The Oxford House website (www.oxfordhouse.org) contains an enormous amount of good information but it's time to modernize it. Over the next few months we want to collect ideas for improvement. You can help by sending us your ideas about both content and format. Also, encourage other House members and alumni to also think about it and send us their thoughts. You might also share this request with others who use the site (treatment providers, state agencies, landlords, etc.) and ask them for how the site could be made more useful to them. We would like to collect all comments within the next couple of months.

Tell us what you think. Take a look at the site and consider how both the content and the format could be improved. How could it be made more useful for you and for others? In particular, think about:

- How can the website be made more useful for Oxford House residents and alumni?
- What content and/or formatting changes would you like to see?
- How can the home page be improved? What information should be highlighted there?
- What do you consider the most important part of the website?
- What's particularly good about the existing site? What's bad about it?
- How could the parts of the site available only to Oxford House residents be made more useful? What should be "Member only?"
- Do you have any trouble navigating the site and do you have any recommendations for navigational improvements?
- What sort of improvements could be made that would encourage Oxford Houses to visit the site more regularly?
- What other suggestions do you have for improving the site?

Comments and suggestions should be sent to: info@oxfordhouse.org. Put "website suggestions" in the subject line. Please submit your thoughts by July 31, 2013 at the latest. All submissions will be considered.

Suggestions will be reviewed and discussed at the convention.

IS THE OHI WEBSITE:

Easy to use:

- ✓ For Houses?
- ✓ For Treatment Providers?
- ✓ For Drug Courts?
- ✓ For Applicants?

Interesting and Informative for:

- ✓ Potential Residents?
- ✓ Re-entry Persons?
- ✓ Drug Court Judges?
- ✓ Treatment Providers?
- ✓ Insurers?
- ✓ Neighbors?
- ✓ Oxford House Residents?
- ✓ Oxford House Alumni?
- ✓ Government Officials?

Give us **your** thoughts on how the website could serve everyone better.

THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF OXFORD HOUSE RESIDENTS

All Oxford House residents are requested to complete a confidential Oxford House survey form once a year. This provides a “snapshot” of who lives in Oxford Houses while not intruding into the personal life of anyone. Honest answers help all of us to understand better the recovery process and the role that Oxford House living plays in that recovery.

Please encourage all residents of your Oxford House to complete a survey form during the month (or months) listed for your State's participation. House Comptrollers are responsible for encouraging all House residents to complete the survey during the appointed time. You may complete your own survey online or print out a hard copy of the survey and have another house member enter your answers on line.

Doing this survey well not only shows that “the inmates can run the asylum” but also that we are good at assembling data that will help the experts understand the process of recovery. Thanks in advance for following the schedule and for completing the survey. – Paul Molloy

2013 Survey Schedule: *(This updates the schedule previously posted on the website and provides more time for those previously scheduled to begin in May, June and July))*

April - June: North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

May - June: New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

June - July: Maryland, DC, Virginia, West Virginia, Massachusetts and Vermont.

July - August: Washington, Louisiana, Wyoming, New Mexico and Colorado.

August: Oregon, California, Idaho, Texas and Iowa.

September: Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Illinois and New Hampshire.

October: Oklahoma, Nebraska, Montana, Minnesota and Connecticut.

November: Mississippi, Maine, Michigan, Wisconsin and Utah.

February: Kentucky, Alabama, Arizona, South Dakota and North Dakota.

March: Arkansas, Alaska, Hawaii, Michigan and Vermont.

The Annual Survey helps make Oxford House the best in the addiction recovery field because the survey permits measurement of the recovery process and makes evaluation possible. Past surveys helped make the Oxford House Model a national best practice. Future surveys will continue to foster better understanding of the process of recovery.

“While research on AA has been limited by the role of anonymity in recovery, the willingness of Oxford Houses to open their doors to academic research gives us an opportunity to see recovery from addiction in action.” Jeffrey Roth, M.D., quoted in: *Recovery from Addiction in Communal Living Settings – The Oxford House Model*, Routledge, London and New York, 2011 [edited by Leonard A. Jason and Joseph R. Ferrari]

State Conventions and Workshops

During April and May, a number of states had state conventions or workshops. In a way, a state convention or statewide workshop gives a small sample of the excitement and fun that comes from attending the annual World Convention. More than hundred residents and alumni gathered in Shreveport, LA where residents from all over the state shared their strength, experience and hope about recovery and the statewide network of Oxford Houses. An equal number of residents in New Jersey got together. At both events Oxford House leaders came from other parts of the country to join in. In June, the men and women of Oregon Oxford Houses get together and Washington State has its annual campout and statewide workshops.

Virginia and North Carolina both had conventions that followed the format of the World Convention. For all the residents and alumni, these state events make it even more exciting to come to the 15th Annual World Convention in Washington, DC over Labor Day Weekend.

All over the country, Oxford Houses are raising money to help pay the costs of getting to and participating in this year's convention. Hotel reservations need to be made soon to take advantage of the good room rate.

Our goal is to reach 750 attendees. Since there are now more than 12,000 recovery beds in the national network of Oxford Houses, that goal should be easy to reach.

All of us in recovery sometimes put off doing today that which we can do tomorrow. When it comes to getting a room and registering for the convention, we should not put it off. By the end of June everyone should have registered for the convention and reserved a hotel room.

Go to the website and click on convention to obtain a convention registration form and a link directly to the hotel in order to reserve the room. If you still have questions call, Mollie Brown at the toll-free number.

This will be an important convention because it comes at a time when thousands more alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness will be able get primary treatment because of changes in health insurance. Will Oxford House be ready to "meet the need" for beds to assure long-term recovery? Yes, if enough people attend the convention to get up-to-date.

MOLLOY APPOINTED TO THE CSAT NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Paul Molloy has been appointed by HHS Secretary Sibelius to a 3-year term on the National Advisory Council for the Federal Center on Substance Abuse Treatment. Molloy is cofounder and CEO of Oxford House, Inc.

The CSAT National Advisory Council meets several times a year to provide advice to Dr. Westley Clark, Director of CSAT, and his colleagues about how to improve treatment for alcoholics, drug addicts and those with co-occurring mental illness.

In response to the appointment, Molloy said:

"I am honored by the appointment and consider it a tribute to the work of thousands of Oxford House residents and alumni who have made the national network of Oxford Houses so effective."

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

On March 8-9, residents and alumni from around the Commonwealth of Virginia gathered in Richmond for the annual Virginia State Convention. Nearly 300 attended. Paul Stevens led the well attended and informative convention and banquet. The affair held at the Sheraton Park South was a great success. Pictured at the right is Paul Stevens - State Coordinator - and outreach worker Debra Montgomery.

This year a new award for work on behalf of Oxford House was established – the Riley Regan Award, named after Oxford House’s benefactor who died in December. This year’s award went to Sandi Sale with Project Link in Fairfax County, who has been very helpful for Oxford House success in Virginia.



World Council

Annual Summit in Arkansas



The World Council held its annual summit at a lake in Arkansas. The productive session focused primarily on Oxford House expansion and other issues affecting the international network of Oxford Houses. The World Council will report on its work at the convention. At that time there will also be an election of new World Council members. Plan to come to the convention and cast your vote.

CONVENTION THEME: MEETING THE NEED

The Convention theme serves the purpose of moving Oxford House as an organization forward. The first national convention was in 1999 and used the theme “If Not Us, Who?” The table below lists the various themes used in our first fourteen conventions.

Year	Theme	Location
1999	“If Not Us, Who?”	Washington DC
2000	“Recovery Without Relapse”	Kansas City, Missouri
2001	“If not Now, When?”	Washington DC
2002	“Changing the Culture of Recovery”	Seattle, Washington
2003	“Recovery, Responsibility, and Replication”	Washington DC
2004	“Back to Basics”	San Antonio, Texas
2005	“Family, Fellowship and Freedom”	Washington DC
2006	“Oxford House Comes of Age”	Wichita, Kansas
2007	“Oxford House What If?”	Washington DC
2008	“Oxford House - Time for Recovery”	New Orleans, LA
2009	“Oxford House - Together We Can”	Washington DC
2010	“Oxford House – Celebrating 35 Years”	Chicago, IL
2011	“Oxford House – Saving Money-Saving Lives	Washington DC
2012	“Oxford House: Good Neighbors-Good Citizens”	Oklahoma City, OK

The theme of this year’s convention, “Oxford House: Meeting The Need” has many meanings but for most it will mean that the organization has a long way to go to really ‘meet the need’ and change the culture of recovery. The Oxford House simplicity and effectiveness can make a difference in America. Far too many professionals doubt that ‘the inmates can run the asylum’ but for over 38 years, Oxford House has proven that they can. The self-help feature of Oxford House is its greatest strength but it is difficult for some to recognize this fact.

For 42 years the federal government has been pumping money to the states to combat alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. Ninety percent of all those funds has gone to professionals – doctors, nurses and social workers. In recent years, judges and criminal justice professionals have been added recipients. Nevertheless, little progress has been made in reducing the Nation’s alcohol and drug problems. Oxford House for 38 years has been demonstrating that it provides the living environment that permits recovering individuals to help each other to beat addiction. It has been meeting the need. Perhaps government and professionals should take greater notice of this fact.

The 2013 Convention is an opportunity to help everyone understand that Oxford House meets the need for most recovering individuals. Oxford Houses are cost-effective and they work. The nation needs more Oxford Houses – now.

Pictures from the North Carolina Convention



A few of those receiving awards at the North Carolina State Convention in Raleigh



Angela Harper, NC Program manager with Kathleen Gibson, COO at State Convention

Reasons to go to the National Oxford House Convention

Aug 29 – September 1, 2013

1. Learn from experts about the latest discoveries about alcoholism, drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness.
2. Enjoy fellowship with residents and alumni of Oxford Houses from other places.
3. Meet and hear national leaders in government and Oxford House.
4. Visit famous places in the Nation's Capital.
5. Actively participate in the joys of recovery from addiction.
6. Eat great food, enjoy the fancy convention hotel and elect new World Council members.
7. Share our strength, experience and hope with new friends.
8. Get good ideas for making our own Oxford Houses even better.

Act NOW to get a room at the special rate.

Register for the Convention Today!

Needed: "Your Story" To Include In This Year's Convention Program

This will be the 15th Annual Oxford House World Convention. Each year residents and alumni of Oxford Houses have submitted their personal stories of addiction and recovery to be included in the Convention Program. You can download stories from previous conventions at www.oxfordhouse.org by going to "About Us/Stories" or "About Us/History" and scroll down to one of prior convention links to get a program for that convention.

Your story is important to others coming into Oxford House because they need to know that the path you took led to sobriety comfortable enough to avoid relapse.. Don't worry about correct grammar and all that. We will make sure it looks good.

Send "your story" by email to Info@oxfordhouse.org and put "MY STORY" in the subject line. Do it before July 15th so it can be part of this year's Convention Program.