

# Oxford Grape

September 2, 2021

ANNUAL OXFORD HOUSE WORLD CONVENTION  
GAYLORD RESORT AND CONVENTION HOTEL, NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND

## OXFORD HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

3,136– Number of Oxford Houses as of August 2021

47– Number of States with Oxford Houses

482 – Number of towns or cities with Oxford Houses

83.1% Employed

\$1,853 – Average monthly income of residents

\$137 – Average weekly share of expenses paid by Oxford residents

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

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

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

11.1 months – Average length of sobriety

Total number of Oxford House Recovery Beds – 25,315

Type of Recovery Beds:

17,701 for Men

7,614 for Women

## Annual Oxford House World Convention “Oxford House: Family • Community • Culture”

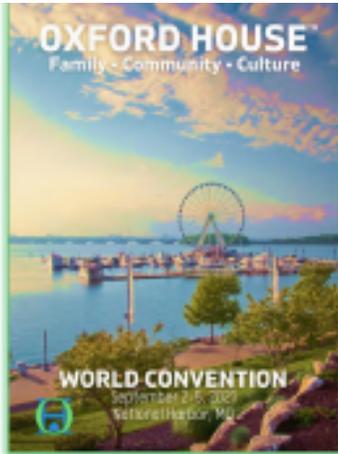
At this Oxford House Annual Convention, we are celebrating our continued success in supporting long-term recovery without relapse – and it is achieved by most Oxford House residents. Even amid the nation’s Covid pandemic and the serious opioid crisis, we know that there is hope and that Oxford House 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 ten years ago to list Oxford House as a best practice on its National Registry of Evidence-based Programs [NREPP]. Five 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 very little to establish.

This year’s theme: “*Oxford House, Family • Community • Culture*” focuses on three elements that are important to Oxford House. They will all be discussed throughout this convention. We should celebrate the fact that we have over 3,100 Oxford Houses but recognize that 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 any magic wand. It does require spreading the facts about Oxford House development. It works. It does not cost much. It has existed for 46 years and proven its effectiveness in helping residents achieve long-term recovery without relapse.

Government regulation of Oxford House is not needed at any level of government because Oxford Houses follow charter conditions that keep them safe and effective. Any effort to add government-imposed rules and conditions simply provides ammunition to the NIMBY advocates who are willing to use discrimination to thwart long-term recovery without relapse for those addicted to alcohol or other drugs.

## 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.*

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 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.

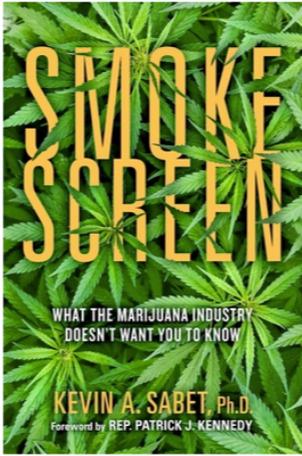
**On Friday night there is time to see the sights – Explore National Harbor or wander over to DC. Remember to hit an AA or NA meeting at the hotel 10:00 p.m. AA meetings are in National Harbor 6 and NA meeting are in National Harbor 7**

## Continuing Education Credits:

**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.**



## A New Book to Add to Your Bedside Table



Kevin Sabet, Ph.D. has published *Smoke Screen*, a new book about the rush to legalize and commercialize the sale of marijuana. Copies are available for purchase at the World Services Desk.

Today's marijuana is a lot more addictive than that used early in the last century. THC – the chemical in marijuana that hooks folks and pushes them to other addictive drugs is more four to five times as great in the new hybrid plants and packing of marijuana. Not only that but states seem to buy into the notion that so-called ‘sin-taxes’ are worth any trouble taxable items may cause. There is no evidence that this is true – whether it is alcohol, gambling, or commercialized drug selling.

Between ten to fifteen percent of those who use addictive products get hooked and not only does use become compulsive, but the addict will do anything to get more. While that may provide greater demand for Oxford House, there is already more demand than Oxford House can satisfy.

You may recall Kevin's presentation at the Oxford House Convention in 2019. Kevin will join Judge Kenneth Stoner, Wilson Compton, M.D. and John Kelly, Ph.D. to headline the Friday afternoon keynote panel: *Facing Addiction – A 2021 Update*. This expert panel has all the resources of NIDA, Harvard, and a prominent Oklahoma Judge. It should be a great keynote panel.

## Oxford House Residents Get Support from Leidos and the Baltimore Ravens

Leidos and the Baltimore Ravens the have teamed up, with support from the Chris Atwood Foundation, to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic through their “Tackling Opioid Addiction” campaign. We are all very grateful that they selected Oxford House as the 2021 award recipient. They will help support new residents in Baltimore City and surrounding Maryland Counties. Ravens President Dick Class noted that, “We are proud to partner with Leidos to support such an important program that positively impacts residents and communities in need.”

Seventy-eight individuals moving into Oxford Houses in the greater Baltimore region during March and April were provided “Welcome Home Kits” from Leidos/the Ravens with a message from Calais Campbell, defensive end for the Ravens. The boxes included that video message, a \$50 gift card for Safeway, a naloxone overdose reversal kit, an Rx drug disposal kit, a Ravens beanie hat, some flower seeds, and a voucher for 6 weeks EES and move-in fee. \$75,000 was provided in EES/move-in assistance.

## ENJOY THE CONVENTION

**Note: Robert L. DuPont, M.D. will address the convention via video during the first General Session. Do not miss this informative speech. He is an expert in the field and a long-term member of the OHI Board.**

**REMEMBER:**

**Wear your mask!**

**Practice Social Distancing!**

**Greet But Don't Hug Your Friends!**

**and wear your mask!**

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2022 CONVENTION IN SEATTLE**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## Directors' 100-Year Awards FY 2021

*The Directors of Oxford House, Inc. established the "100-Year Awards" in 2021 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, 2020, and June 30, 2021. The full list of houses, chapters and state associations is listed at pages 61 – 64. However, due to a printing error the Oklahoma Alumni Association, Kansas Chapters 1 and 11 and Nebraska chapters 1 and 3 were accidentally deleted from the list. Our apologies to them and our thanks to all. – Paul*

### Convention Message from Paul

Forty-six 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 46 years.

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 and thoroughly enjoy life and have fun.

While my name appears on the program, my doctor **strongly** suggested that I stay home. Reluctantly, I agreed that it probably made sense. Over the past year I have been treated for cancer and have completed chemo and radiation. I am currently undergoing immunotherapy infusions once every other week. The news on that front is all good – the cancer has receded and there's been no spread. So, I expect you will see me at many future conventions.

By the way, I will be watching the convention via the streaming. We are fortunate to be able to do that to allow many of us to follow along on-line. I look forward to seeing all of you virtually.

Have a great convention. Attend all the sessions, wear your mask, vote for World Council, wear your mask and have a wonderful convention. It's been a long time since everyone's been able to get together to celebrate recovery and Oxford House. Enjoy!



### 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 and alumni from those states are not eligible to run for office this year. This year: residents from WA, OR, MD and TX are not eligible to run for resident seats. Alumni from KS and TX are not eligible to run for alumni seats.

Residents and alumni from eligible states are encouraged to run for World Council seats. There will be three resident members elected with terms ending in 2024; two resident members elected for terms ending in 2023 and two alternates elected for one-year terms. There is one alumni seat open with a term ending in 2024 and one alternate seat 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 resident nominees receiving the most votes get the three-year terms, the next highest gets the two-year terms and the next highest fill the alternate slots. It may sound VERY complicated but it is not.

Remember to get Nomination Petitions to run for office turned in to the World Council desk by noon on Friday. Election ballots must be turned in by noon on Saturday.

World Council will present resolutions to be voted on during the Saturday General Session.

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