

Dr. Clark Opens 2007 Convention



Pictured above Paul Molloy, CEO and cofounder of Oxford House and Dr. Westley Clark, Director of CSAT just prior to Dr. Clark's opening keynote to the 9th Annual Oxford House World Convention in Washington, D.C.

32 Years **OXFORD HOUSE "WHAT IF?"**
9TH ANNUAL WORLD CONVENTION

New Website Up and Running



The new Oxford House Website was unveiled as a work in progress at the Convention. It is scheduled to replace the old website October 30th. See the article inside about the way the house data and vacancy listings will work. Each Oxford House has an important role to play in to make the new site work. P. 3 - 4.

Convention City Picked



Louisiana Members sold New Orleans as site for 2008 Convention.

2007 Convention Great Success

On Labor Day Weekend, August 30 - September 2 found more than 550 Oxford House residents and alumni were in Washington, DC for the Ninth Oxford House World Convention. For four days Oxford House representatives from around the country worked and enjoyed full days of learning and sharing ways to strengthen Oxford Houses.

The theme of the 9th convention explored "What If...?" scenarios and the residents and alumni figured out ways and means for greatly increasing the number of Oxford Houses in the United States and throughout the world. Beginning with a six hour women's conference on Thursday and followed by four general sessions, fifteen informative breakout panels, the Friday night award reception and the Saturday evening banquet, delegates picked up a lot of information to help strengthen their houses, chapters and state associations.

Drug Czar John P. Walters Addressed Convention Friday Afternoon



John P. Walters made his fifth appearance at an Oxford House World Convention on August 31st in Washington, DC. Speaking to nearly 600 Oxford House residents, alumni, and friends of Oxford House Walters praised self-help Oxford Houses for making a difference in the lives of thousands of recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. He noted that the problem of illicit drug traffic continues as the bad guys profit from human misery but programs like Oxford House offer a way out of addiction. Walters emphasized that treatment is effective and a top priority of this administration. "Oxford House," he said, "should be proud of its expansion, providing hope and healing for recovering addicts, their families, their communities and their country."

Each Oxford House needs to upload a digital picture of its house to the new website. See details inside - pages 3 and 4.

Over Half of Convention Attendees Were at Their First Convention

Just down the street from the Hyatt Regency Washington On Capitol Hill – where this year’s convention was held – is the Washington Court Hotel – where the first annual convention was held in 1999. Both hotels are located in a prime Washington, DC location – just a couple of blocks away from the Capitol, the Senate and House Office Buildings, Union State, the Mall and the Supreme Court.

A few of this year’s convention attendees had attended the first Oxford House Convention in 1999 but most had not. Over half of the attendees were at their first Oxford House convention. Both first-timers and old-timers shared a wonderful experience as they realize the full extent of where Oxford House fits in the nation’s efforts to alleviate the harm brought about by addiction to alcohol and drugs. National leaders, including John Walters the Drug Czar and Dr. Westley Clark, sincerely praised the work of all Oxford House members for enabling thousands of recovering persons to become comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid relapse. Both urged Oxford House members to expand the network of houses to reach more individuals.

First-time attendees learned first-hand the value of being part of Oxford House. Residents from all over the country were able to share their strength, experience and hope while developing genuine friendships with similarly situated people. A great deal of comfort came from realizing that the Oxford House family is large and universally effective because of the sound system of operation. Every general session packed and it was interesting to watch people from the same state dividing up during breakout panels to get as much useful information as possible to bring back home. Tired but satisfied people left for home with a common buzz about how to get more folks to the next convention in New Orleans.

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Years 9TH ANNUAL WORLD CONVENTION

Riley Speaks at Banquet



Riley Regan addressing the Convention

One of the leading supporters of Oxford House is Riley Regan who has closely observed the development of Oxford House from the time the first Oxford House started in Silver Spring in 1975 to the present. Riley’s own addiction and recovery serves as a positive example for every recovering individual. His selfless work on behalf of Oxford House has made him an icon of recovery and enlightenment for everyone associated with Oxford House. Riley, in addition to serving on several educational breakout panels, was the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet.

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Tom Fellows Award



Frank Wall, Paul Molloy, former Congressman Fred Rooney

Frank Wall, an attorney from Portland, Oregon was the recipient of this year’s Tom Fellows Award because of the hard and effective work he did to get the landlord/tenant law changed in Oregon to permit Oxford House to continue to operate in that state. Frank is pictured above at the Saturday night banquet with Paul Molloy and former Congressman Fred Rooney. Rooney was recipient of the 2005 Tom Fellows Award for his long support of Oxford House and his encouragement of expansion by renting the first house in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and showing that the Oxford House model could be replicated.

Golf Tournament Kicked Off 2007 Convention

This year's golf tournament was at the Marlborough Golf Club in nearby Maryland, just a few miles from the convention hotel. More than 50 Oxford House residents, alumni and friends participated. Mark Spence and his team won the tournament. See story on alumni lunch where Mark was the speaker.



The Convention Theme

Oxford House is now 32 years old. After expansion began in 1989, Oxford House expanded from 13 houses to its current network of more than 1,250 houses. Beginning in 1999, Oxford Houses began to gather once a year for an annual world convention. This year, the 9th Annual Convention in Washington, DC, focused on the theme "What If?"

There were a lot of 'big ideas' "What Ifs". *What if*, more money for outreach was available? *What if*, Oxford House was universally classified as a "best practice" in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction? *What if*, all states were required to have a start-up loan fund? *What if* drug courts all used Oxford Houses to improve outcome? *What if*, recovering addicts being released from jail and prison had an Oxford House to live in until they became comfortable enough in sobriety on the outside to avoid relapse? *What if*, the residents of every existing house started another house with a few members renting a second house and moving into it to get it started?

While everyone endorsed all of the ideas, so too did everyone separate the ideas that Oxford House could do on its own and those that required cooperation by government or others. The most important need expressed by everyone was to modernize the Oxford House Internet website so that treatment providers and others know where vacancies exist and to make all the important data and studies about Oxford House available to everyone. The new website will be up and running in a few days. Everyone in Oxford House needs to cooperate to make it effective. The article beginning on the right tells you how.



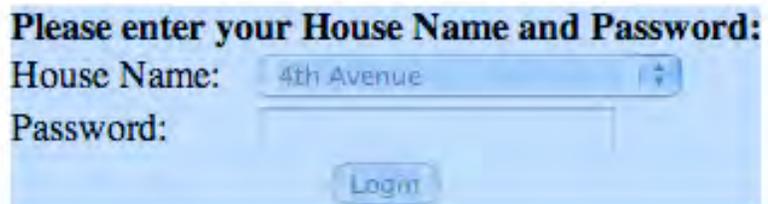
New Website Instructions

The new Oxford House website is up and running. It is the first modernization made since Oxford House put up its original website in 1990. Same web address: www.oxfordhouse.org but all new content and new functions like keeping track of vacancies, has Google maps and picture holders for each house. **It will require participation by each house to make it work.** Each Oxford House was sent a letter spelling out the role each house plays in making the Oxford House work well for all the houses and the public at large.

It is simple and will once again show the remarkable discipline that recovering members of Oxford House can follow to help others to get comfortable enough in sobriety to avoid relapse. Just in case the letter describing how to make each house a vital part of the new web site was misplaced, the instructions for houses are reproduced below:

How to "Get on the Map!" – What To Do Right Away

Go to <http://www.oxfordhouse.org/update>. This will bring up a login page: [See below]



Pull down the window next to House Name [where it reads "4th Avenue" above]. All Oxford Houses are listed and when you get to your house click on the name of your house.

Your initial password is a series of numbers [or numbers preceded by AA] and is in the letter your house received. Put it in. If you do not have your initial password, call Mollie [1-800-689-6411] and she will give you one.

The following window will appear:

Choose from the following below:

Update Vacancies	Change Password
Upload House Photo	Report Errors or Changes

1. Your first step is to get a new password. Choose **Change Password**. You will be given a new password that is good only for your house. Write it down and put it in your House Record Book. Make sure the **House Secretary** keeps a copy of the password because before each weekly house meeting, you must log on and verify or update vacancies.

2. Then click **Update Vacancies** and a pull-down menu will appear. Click the correct number for vacancies in your house. Remember that the House Secretary will have to repeat this step every time there is a change in vacancies.
3. Then, go to **Report Errors or Changes** and look at the basic information about your house that is stored in the Oxford House World Services Database. Is all the data correct? If not, enter the changes that should be made in the "Enter Changes to be made" box at the bottom of the page. The changes will be sent to World Services to be included in the next periodic update. Note that if your password has letters, that means World Services does not know your FEIN. Please use the corrections page to submit it in as soon as you change the password. If your house has lost your record of the FEIN, ask your bank for it and send it.
4. Next go to **Upload House Photo**. Note you MUST have a valid FEIN for your house picture to be shown. Next you will click "Upload House Photo" and go to the bottom of the page where it says "Upload Photo" go to "select file" and point to a digital photo of your house that you have filed on your computer.

You're finished. If you have problems, first seek help from fellow residents. No doubt you have a nearby resident who can assist you. If you cannot log in, be sure you are using the correct password. Remember to type the password exactly as it was given to you including capital letters and small letters. The initial password [in the letter your house got] is your house's valid FEIN if it is just numbers. If the initial password contains letters – usually "AA" – email us your correct FEIN. If it not in your house record book ask your bank what the FEIN is because they recorded it when the checking account was set up.

If your house loses its password or it did not get the letter with your initial password, telephone Mollie Brown [1-800-689-6411] and she can issue you a new one.

Getting a Picture to Upload

You will need access to a digital camera. The website requires JPEG format file, and most cameras have that option. Upload the picture to the computer you are using, either at your house or somewhere else. Then log into your update page and point to the file. If you have problems you cannot resolve, use the Update page message box to explain your issue and someone will get back to you.

Your house picture, and those of other houses, will be the first impression many people get of Oxford House; send one that makes your house look good. Do it now. It would be great to get all pictures uploaded before Thanksgiving.

Mark Spence Alumni Lunch Speaker



Mark Spence speaking to the alumni luncheon at the 9th Annual Oxford House World Convention. Mark is one of the principle "stars" of the 1991 "60 Minutes" video that has become the standard introduction piece for new Oxford House residents.

About 60 alumni members of Oxford House took time for Saturday lunch at the convention hotel. Mark Spence spoke of his seventeen years of sobriety. He attributed Oxford House living as the key to his success. Not only have thousands of new Oxford House residents watched Mark describe his pioneer outreach work for Oxford House beginning in 1990 but also they have been inspired to pattern their own successful sobriety on Mark's testimonial. Today, Mark is a successful husband, father and businessman. He attributes his recovery to living in and working for Oxford House.



The members of the World Council, including members elected at the 2007 convention, pose for a picture. The new website contains a copy of the new World Council Manual that can be downloaded. It describes the role of the World Council, its by-laws, committees and all the resolutions adopted by Oxford Houses at the first eight conventions. The Council Members and the four resolutions adopted at this convention are recorded in this issue of the Grape on page 7.



Upload a picture of your house to the website before Thanksgiving!

Summary of 9th Convention

The 9th Oxford House World Convention started Thursday August 31, and through Sunday morning, September 2. The following notes highlight the subjects covered in four General Sessions and fifteen separate breakout panels.

Oxford Women's Conference

More than 70 women started the convention early by holding a women's conference at the hotel from 3 PM Thursday until 9 PM. Two major themes were addressed: [1] addressing problems unique to group living by women in Oxford Houses; and [2] gaining self-confidence in sobriety. This is the eighth year that Oxford House women took the opportunity offered by being together from all over the country to share their strength, experience and hope.

This year, in addition to the nuts and bolts ways to effectively self-run and self-support a good recovery home, the women had two guest keynoters. Stanice Anderson [left], in recovery herself and the successful author of the play ***Walkin' On Water When The Ground Ain't Enuf***, and the book ***I SAY A PRAYER FOR ME*** shared her success and gave helpful hints for women to gain self-esteem and confidence.



Janice Ferebee, [right] author of the ***Got It Goin On*** books and winner of the 2003 Essence Award, who has appeared on OPRAH, gave her inspirational session and reported on her work with the DC Mayor for improving women's opportunities. All the Oxford House women reported that they gained great insights from the celebrity guests and that both Janice and Stanice praised Oxford House as a tried and true way to help women in recovery to avoid relapse – forever.



Friday - First Full Day of Convention

From the moment Monsignor Eddy Tolentino, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Silver Spring opened the convention with a prayer, the convention attendees began a non-stop weekend of learning and work. Eighteen candidates ran for election to fill the six open World Council slots. Westley Clark, MD, head of CSAT, keynoted the first General Session and got the convention centered on its theme: "What If?" by reminding everyone of the scope of the existing problem and of the national need for many more Oxford Houses. Clark was appearing at his 6th Annual Oxford House Convention and his directness, humor and great speaking ability set a high standard for the rest of the convention.

James McClain explained the voting procedures for World Council elections and the 530 attendees at the opening session quickly split up to attend three exciting breakout panels: *Re-entry From Jail*; *Oxford House and the Law*; and *The Extent of Substance Abuse*.

Wendell Howell, Director of Delaware Addictions Coalition, Akiva Liberman, PhD [NIDA], Kurtis Taylor and Kari McFarland [Oxford House] discussed the extent of addiction among those incarcerated and the importance of living in an Oxford House upon re-entry to society.

Michael Maurer, JD from the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice shared the panel on law with Riley Regan and Steve Polin to update everyone on the Fair Housing Act and the ADA. All praised Oxford House for being a pathfinder in group housing civil rights.

Anita Gadzuk, PhD [Office of Applied Statistics, SAMSHA], Ken Hoffman, MD, MPH [CSAT] and Kevin Shipman [DC Addiction Prevention Recovery Adm.] led a panel on the extent of the alcoholism and drug addiction problem in the country - close to 25 million addicts with only a one million getting formal treatment each year. Of those who get treatment, 60% had been in formal treatment before. The panel stressed that Oxford House could open more treatment slots by helping individuals to avoid relapse after going through formal treatment once.

The three panels in the second breakout session provided expert knowledge about ballparks where Oxford House is playing an ever-increasing role – *states, research and medication*. State leaders – Janice Jordan [VA], Quinetta Womack [LA], Tori Fernandez Whitney [DC] and Gino Pugliese [Oxford] explored the relationship between Oxford House and state agencies. Another panel looked at the importance of research to verify what works and doesn't work in recovery. Lenny Jason, PhD [DePaul], Akiva Liberman, PhD [NIDA], John Majer, PhD [Daley College] and Leon Venable [Oxford] examined the role behavioral research has and can play in validating the efficacy of Oxford House. Finally, Dr. Ken Hoffman [CSAT], Kirstin Hallberg [NE], Norman Sanders [NC] and Paula Harrington [NC] – all experts on pharmaceuticals – headed a spirited panel on the difference between medicines that could be used in an Oxford House and addictive ones that should not be used. Joe Chavez [HI] is working to make mp3 recordings of all the sessions and this one is sure to be a "best-seller." Some residents clearly need to take prescribed medication; others do not and the panel agreed with the Oxford House consensus that methadone users cannot live in their drug-free Houses without adversely affecting others in the house.

By noon on Friday, the convention had completed a major General Session and six informative outbreak panels.

During the same time, 18 candidates for election to World Council had obtained the necessary number of signatures to qualify to run for the office. Once again, democracy in action was providing the backbone for the self-run Oxford House organization.

After lunch on Friday – where many brought their sandwiches to an AA or NA meeting – nearly 600 attendees gathered in the main ballroom for the Second General Session to hear John Walters, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. This was Walters’ fifth convention and he was welcomed as part of the Oxford House family. His praise for Oxford House was generous and he expressed the hope that we would reach out to help those in Drug Courts and re-entry from prison as we expand in all parts of the country.

After Walters spoke the Second General Session continued with candidates for election to the World Council speaking to the attendees to seek their votes. Following the General Session, a group of thirty-three veterans met to discuss ways and means for linking Oxford House to VA hospitals in order to reduce relapse among other recovering vets. By 5 PM everyone was getting ready for the Friday Night Reception, awards and entertainment. Major Paul McFarland of the Salvation Army open the evening of celebration and awards with a prayer of Thanksgiving. The “100 Year Awards” went to more than 120 houses and chapters that donated \$50 a month or more per house every month for a minimum of \$600 during the year. [The complete list is printed in the August 2007 Grape – downloadable from the website.] Jerry Conlon – Oxford House Board Chairperson – passed out the many house awards and Paul gave the Reggie Midget Award to Mark Jones, Baton Rouge, LA and designer of the new Oxford House web logo. He also gave Doug Becker the Pioneer Award. Doug got sober in a Nebraska Oxford House and moved to Florida to begin development of a network of houses in that state. Working with a supportive landlord, Doug already has five houses started. The award ceremonies followed a great informal buffet that included an ice cream bar to make your own ice cream sundaes. The celebratory evening ended with a comedy show and music.

Early Saturday morning, three of the nine Saturday breakout panels began – *Self-Efficacy in Oxford House*; *Drug Courts and Recovery*, *Treatment Provider Utilization of Oxford Houses*. John Majer, PhD [Daley College in Chicago] and Lenny Jason, PhD [DePaul] led the self-efficacy panelists in showing that recovering individuals in an Oxford House gain self-confidence in sobriety at a much faster pace than those in recovery not living in the Oxford House supportive environment. Carolyn Hardin, Director of the NDCI of the National Drug Court Professionals led the drug court panel showing how Drug Courts can work closely with Oxford Houses in their areas thereby increasing the odds that clients will achieve recovery without relapse. Gary Baker [Shreveport, LA], Kistin Hallberg [Omaha, NE], Terri Martin [Houston, TX] and Riley Regan [IN]– treatment professional all – presented on the treatment panel and explained how getting clients into an Oxford House increased the odds that the person would stay clean and sober.

The second set of three breakouts included *Reaching Veterans*; *DePaul Study Update*; and *Review of Women’s Conference*. Mary Rooney, Deputy Director for Homeless Veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs, led a

panel of veterans – Stan Timberlake, Antonio Russell and Robert Kershaw – in discussing how vets can benefit from Oxford House living. Finally, Robin Breckenridge [OR], Terri Martin [TX], Judy Maxwell [WA], Paula Harrington and Kathleen Gibson [both NC] shared with the convention audience a summary of the six-hour Women’s Conference held on Thursday. All shared the excellent motivational presentations made by Stanice Anderson and Janice Ferebee.

The final three breakout panels were *Faces and Voices of Recovery*; *Landlord Tenant Laws*; and *Reaching Minority Populations*. Pat Taylor, Executive Director of the National Faces and Voices organization, led the panel on overcoming the stigma often associated with recovery from addiction. Frank Wall – Oregon attorney and recipient of this year’s Tom Fellows Award – told of his efforts in Oregon to overcome enforcement of a 45 days notice requirement to expel anyone from Oxford House. Bill Breckenridge [OR] and Michael Allen, a Washington, DC attorney representing rights of the homeless had a spirited panel on do’s and don’ts under landlord-tenant law. Wendell Howell [DE Addictions Coalition] led a panel with Joe Chavez [HI], Victor Fitz [KS] and Troy Mann [NC] on how Oxford Houses can better reach out to minorities.

Shortly after noon on Saturday more than 60 alumni members of Oxford House at the convention attended a special luncheon for alumni. Mark Spence – the alum who walks back to his old neighborhood in a chat with Meredith Vieira on the CBS “60 Minutes” segment done in 1991 – spoke at the alumni lunch. He has stayed clean and sober from his first day in Oxford House. His story inspired all. The lunch was followed by the third General Session where new council members were introduced and resolutions passed. See resolutions and addresses of new council members on page 7.

At the right is a picture of the quilt made of Oxford House T-shirts that was raffled off and won by Patrick [left] from the NJ Oxford House-Lakewood [Mike Z. is helping Patrick hold it for viewing.]



The Saturday night banquet was a wonderful feast and everyone was please to see former Congressman Fred Rooney and his wife Evie – long time friends of Oxford House. The group also enjoyed every minute of the keynote speech by Riley Regan. His story and love of Oxford House made the entire convention. After the awards – discussed earlier in this edition of the Grape – the group danced long into the night.

Sunday morning followed the traditional path of other Oxford House Conventions. Everyone met in final General Session to summarize the lessons of the convention and to remember those in the Oxford House family who had died during the past year.

2007 RESOLUTIONS

Each year Oxford House Conventions passes resolutions to help guide future development. The Resolutions passed in prior conventions are listed in the World Council Manual© downloadable from the website. The 9th Annual World Convention passed the following resolutions:

1. Be it resolved that Oxford House will give consideration to a T.V. series on Oxford House, with Oxford House having control over the content.

2. Be it resolved that during September 2007, which is the month set aside for "Recovery Month" we encourage every Oxford House to host open houses for their neighborhood.

3. Be it resolved that Oxford Houses should be considered a "Best Practice" for the therapeutic community and politicians.

4. Be it resolved that Oxford House would encourage politicians in all states to re-instate the "Mandatory Revolving Loan Fund.

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Get the picture of your house uploaded to the web site today!



More than 530 residents and alumni gathered for the 2007 Annual Convention.



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director of the National organization Faces and Voices of Recovery speaking to a panel on overcoming the stigma associated with recovery.



World Council members reported to the whole convention about plans for continuing growth.



Kirstin Halberg, Omaha, NE, receiving the Annual Founder's Award to honor the great job she has done in establishing and maintaining the NE Network of Houses



Leonard Jason, PhD, DePaul University and John Majer, PhD., Richard J. Daiey College in Chicago conducting a panel at Convention on findings for outcomes of recovery without relapse in Oxford House.



Antonio Russell, Oxford House, Carolyn Hardin, National Association of Drug Court Professionals and Joe Chavez, Oxford House conduct panel on Drug Courts and Oxford.



James McClain presenting Mark Jones, Baton Rouge, LA, the Reggie Midget Award for voluntarily reaching out to improve the Oxford House network. Mark also designed the new logo used on the new web page for Oxford House.



At banquet Kathleen Gibson, Chief Operating Officer and Paul Molloy present Founder's award to Joe Chavez, outreach for Hawaii.



Mary O'Rourke from the Department of Veterans Affairs waiting to address the panel on recovery for veterans. Later a number of veterans at the Convention met to increase the present 20% veterans in Oxford Houses.



New website is unveiled to Convention attendees amid excitement and praise.



Audience caught listening hard to the Drug Court Panelists.



Major Paul McFarland, Salvation Army, ARC Bladensburg opening the Friday night reception thanking God for the gift of recovery.



Riley Regan, foreground, Michael Maurer, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice and Steve Polin on panel about Oxford House and the law under the Federal Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.



Dr. Ken Hoffman, from CSAT at podium, Anita Gadzuk, PhD from Office of Applied Statistics [SAMSHA], at left, Kevin Shipman, DC APRA, on panel moderated by Robert Kershaw, Oxford House on the extent of substance abuse as a national problem.



Leonard Jason, PhD of De Paul University and Akiva Lieberman, PhD from the National Institute of Drug Abuse [NIDA] presented a panel on the importance of research to demonstrate the best practices to assure recovery without relapse.



Wendell Howell, Delaware Addictions Coalition on panel with Kurtis Taylor and Paula Harrington from NC on Reentry from Jail

Oxford House 2007

“What If...?”



Reverend Catherine Bego delivering Invocation for the Oxford House Convention Saturday Night Banquet



Mark Jones at left and his team from Louisiana sold the city for next year's 10th Oxford House World Convention – Fall 2008

Start Planning Now to Attend
10th Annual Oxford House World Convention

New Orleans, Louisiana

Fall 2008

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Can
Make
The
New
Oxford House
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A

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Every Week