

Upcoming Outreach to Landlords

Ever since Oxford House began in 1975, landlords have played an important role in making Oxford House a success. Had landlords not been willing to rent their houses to groups of recovering individuals the Oxford House model would have quickly faded away. There were willing to do so however, and today there are 1,538 Oxford Houses.

As everyone in Oxford House knows, when a landlord rents a house to a group starting an Oxford House he or she is provided a copy of "Oxford House and Landlords," a document that is also available on our website under "Houses/Landlords."

Within the next few weeks, the central services office will send every landlord a letter to thank them for renting to an Oxford House and to remind them that they can help us monitor the charter conditions by letting us know if a group is getting off track. This in no way changes the absolute responsibility that each Oxford House group has to pay their rent on time and to operate their homes as prescribed in the Oxford House Manual[®].

Each house should let us know if they receive any feedback from their landlords. The purpose of the letter is simply to thank landlords and to strengthen the quality control that makes Oxford House the largest recovery home program in the world.

14th Oxford House World Convention September 13 – 16

Oxford House residents all over the country are putting together plans to attend the 14th Oxford House Annual World Convention. In May 2012 the convention may look a long way off but Oxford House residents who have attended previous conventions know it takes a lot of planning and preparation to get the money needed to travel to a convention and to pay convention expenses. Is it worth it? Hundreds of Oxford House folks who have attended past conventions say "YES".



Some attendees at last year's convention in Washington



The Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel [pictured at the left] will be the site of this year's convention. This year's theme is "Oxford House: Good Neighbors – Good Citizens."

REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available online. You can register and pay online or download the form and send it with a check to Oxford House World Services Office.

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR
DETAILS ON HOW
TO REGISTER FOR
THE CONVENTION**

State Conventions

Last month Virginia held its fifth annual convention with nearly 300 in attendance. Two weeks later North Carolina held its state convention also with a full house.

State conventions differ from the World Convention in a couple of ways. A state convention is more apt to focus on the nuts and bolts of how houses and chapters operate. The World convention has more of a focus on the basic of recovery including the latest research information. The national convention is where residents and alumni are elected to the Oxford House World Council. As Oxford House grows there will be many more state conventions but the national convention will remain the only place where the entire Oxford House family can get together to share the strength, experience and hope common to worldwide expansion of Oxford Houses.

James McClain, a member of the Oxford House Board of Directors, attended both the Virginia and North Carolina conventions. James moved into Oxford House-Northampton in 1982 and lived there for ten years. He observed to everyone that he continues to be amazed at the growth of the Oxford House network of houses over the years. He encouraged folks at both conventions to attend the World Convention in Oklahoma City in September.

Highlights of the National Convention Oklahoma City Sept. 13 – 16



Convention Center

Highlights of the Convention will include:

- A Women's pre-convention conference
- A golf tournament
- Nationally known speakers keynoting General Sessions
- Election of new World Council Members
- 20 Expert Breakout Panels focusing on the latest news about addiction and recovery
- Friday night celebration at the Brickyard
- Saturday night banquet and dance.
- Socializing and networking

New Email Addresses for All Oxford Houses

The Washington State Oxford Houses have unique Oxford House email addresses for every house. Thanks to the hard work of Tony Perkins, all Oxford Houses in the world will be assigned an email address using the basic address protocol of house name and the suffix "Oxford House.US."

Tony is in the process of lining up "administrators" who will assign each house an email address and a password for accessing the house email. Email addresses will be listed along with house names of the worldwide list of houses.

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World Council Holds Semi-Annual Retreat

On May 15, World Council members headed to Arkansas for their annual work session. High on their agenda was the finalization of the manual for use by State Associations. Most of the work had been done prior to last year's convention but a few final details needed to be thrashed out during the work session. Board Member James McClain represent the Board at the World Council meeting and Judy Maxwell, an outreach worker from Washington State represented the Oxford House World Services.



One of the General Sessions at the NC State Convention – May 2012

Successful Virginia State Convention Held at Richmond Sheraton Park South



Virginia Oxford House residents enjoying dinner at Virginia Convention

As the Oxford House family has increased in size, many states have decided to have state conventions modeled after the national Oxford House convention. Riley Regan was the featured speaker at the Virginia State Convention and everyone got a chance to enjoy his story. Riley has done more to help Oxford House become what it is today than almost any other individual. The response he received from the 293 attendees at the Virginia Convention was overwhelming. He continues to inspire audiences with the wonders of recovery and the pitfall of addiction.

At the North Carolina Convention three weeks later, L. Worth Bolton was a featured speaker and again reaffirmed that leaders in the field of recovery stand ready to help Oxford House expand.



Worth receiving NC Founders Award

Oxford House: Good Neighbors – Good Citizens

This year's convention theme is **"Oxford House: Good Neighbors - Good Citizens."** The convention will emphasize the importance of being good neighbors and good citizens both to promote successful recovery and to foster the acceptance of Oxford Houses in the broader community. Selected sessions will focus on how Oxford Houses have been good neighbors and good citizens traditionally and on ways by which they might become better ones.

In addition, general sessions and breakout groups will focus on particular aspects of Oxford House living, news in recovery research, sessions focusing on issues relating to reentry from incarceration, veterans' issues, medication concerns, Oxford House expansion domestically and internationally, and other timely and important issues. Speakers and panelists will include Oxford House residents and alumni and noted outside experts. The convention will also feature World Council elections and plenty of opportunity for socialization and networking.

The conventions provide a great opportunity for Oxford House residents, alumni and friends to come together to share ideas on successfully living in recovery. There will be many workshops and several social events. NAADAC-approved CEU credits are available for participation in the convention.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

CONVENTION REGISTRATION DETAILS

The registration fee for the convention for Oxford House residents and alumni is \$250 (until July 15), \$275 (after July 15) or \$350 at the door. The fee for all other participants is \$450. The fee covers all general sessions and breakout sessions, coffee breaks, the Friday night get-together and the Saturday dinner.

Registration forms are available at <https://www.regonline.com/ohwc2012>.

The registration site can also be accessed via a link on the Oxford House site. (www.oxfordhouse.org). The registration fee can be paid online by credit card. Registrants paying by check should download the registration form and send the completed form and a check to:

Oxford House World Services
1010 Wayne Ave. Suite 300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Individual Oxford Houses can register all their housemates at one time or Oxford House chapters can register multiple individuals at one time. The online registration material also contains a link to the convention hotel web site where participants can make their hotel reservations.

The online registration site also allows participants to sign up for the Women's Conference (\$20 fee); the alumni luncheon (\$25 fee) and the golf tournament (\$80 fee).

Go to the registration website for registration material and the preliminary convention schedule.

Register now!

Get Airline Reservations Early

Oxford House Modernizes Research

Oxford House has led the way in encouraging meaningful research to understand and improve the odds of recovery without relapse. In a recent book, Jeffrey D. Roth, MD, Board Certified in Addiction Psychiatry, wrote:

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.¹

Not only has Oxford House encouraged residents and alumni to co-operate with academic researchers but it also conducts annual surveys to establish a profile of residents on the road to long-term recovery.

To make this effort even more effective, World Services is developing a research tool that will use "Survey Monkey", an electronic data collection technology. In the near future, each house will be able to input survey responses online. The House Comptroller will be given the job of encouraging everyone to respond. The new approach will make it much easier to analyze the data and for Oxford House to continue to be the organization that continues to develop the best evidence of how recovery works and how Oxford House living increases the odds of staying clean and sober forever.

¹ *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]



Bricktown will be the site of the Friday night reception and awards ceremony for the 2012 Oxford House World Convention

Oxford House: Good Neighbors – Good Citizens

Last year more than 25,000 individuals lived in one of the Oxford Houses for at least part of the year. While 17% were asked to leave because of relapse, 83% stayed clean and sober. The annual convention is the time and place to celebrate the benefits of being clean and sober. Like a large family birthday party, the annual convention is a place to have fun. It is also a place to learn more about our disease of addiction and the latest information about how to avoid going back to the horror of addiction.

In a short four months, the 14th Annual Oxford House World Convention will begin. Take the time to register now. If you have any questions, call the main office at 301-587-2916 to get an answer or email using the contact link on the webpage.

Keep in mind that it's easier to get cheap airfares if you buy them early. Also, remember that many organizing chapters or the state associations may find that renting a bus may be the way to assure that as many residents and alumni can get to the convention. Let's make it the best convention yet.

See you in Oklahoma City on September 13th

Latest additions to the website: Evaluation studies for the District of Columbia, Oklahoma, Delaware and Wyoming.

The evaluations are at www.oxfordhouse.org under "Publications/Evaluations/ State" and can be downloaded by clicking on the year "2012" following the particular jurisdiction. Take a look.