

Introduction to the Pros & Cons of the Proposed Merger between Los Angeles & San Fernando Valley OA Intergroups

The **San Fernando Valley Intergroup** has already voted **yes** to merge with the Los Angeles Intergroup. Now, it is time for the **Los Angeles Intergroup** to discern, through group conscience, whether to unite as one service body.

Our shared intention is to strengthen our ability to carry the message and serve the fellowship more effectively.

To support a smooth and spiritual process, **discussion of the merger will not take place during the October or November Intergroup meetings**, except for clarification of logistics. This will help maintain continuity and keep our focus on informing the group conscience at the **Town Hall on Saturday, November 1 at 10:30 am**. This virtual town hall is where all members will have an opportunity for open discussion and questions. The November 15 delegates meeting will only have a simple yes/no vote.

How to Participate

1. **Share** this document, the Pro/Con list, and the Merger Timeline at every OA meeting you attend if a delegate is not already doing so.
2. **Schedule** a group conscience vote between November 2 - November 14.
3. **Encourage** members to attend the Nov 1 Town Hall.
4. **Help** meetings without a delegate elect one—even just for November—so every group has a voice and a vote.
5. **Take a group conscience at your meeting** and bring your group's vote to the Nov 15 Intergroup meeting. Waive the 2 week announcement period if your group did not schedule a group conscience.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful participation.

Questions may be sent to: newmedia@oalaig.org

Proposed Merger Timeline – Los Angeles Intergroup

Timeline for Delegate Action

Date	Event	Delegate Action
Sat, Oct 18	Presentation of Pros & Cons and supporting documents at the Intergroup meeting.	Receive and review documents.
Oct 18–Nov 1	Share documents and information with meetings.	Bring information to all meetings you attend. Encourage attendance at the Town Hall. Compile your group's questions for the Town Hall. If you can't attend, find another member to go. Schedule a group conscience for after Nov 1 so your group can vote.
Sat, Nov 1 – 10:30 am	Town Hall Q&A (Zoom).	Attend and invite members. Submit questions to newmedia@oalaig.org by Oct 30. This is the time where open discussion will take place.
Nov 2–Nov 14	Group conscience voting period.	Discuss and hold your group conscience. Record your meeting's vote on the merger.
Sat, Nov 15 – 10:30 am	Final Intergroup Vote.	Bring and cast your group's vote. Results announced live at the meeting.

Next Steps

- Encourage participation at every step.
- Support unity and mutual respect.
- Help ensure every meeting has a delegate and a voice.
- Remember: **each meeting's group conscience matters.**

*For more information or documents, visit **oalaig.org** or email **newmedia@oalaig.org***

Merging OA Intergroups Pros and Cons

PROS

1) Financial and Administrative Efficiency

Combining bookkeeping, tax returns, payroll, insurance, and office audits streamlines operations and reduces expenses. Shared revenue from events like the Birthday Party supports sustainability. ¹

2) Simplified Governance and Legal Alignment

A unified board, delegate body, and bylaws structure enhances clarity and decision-making. Best practices from both intergroups can be integrated. ²

3) Stronger Use of Trusted Servants

Reduces duplication of roles, creating more space for members to step into service and grow spiritually. The shared volunteer pool increases capacity. ³

4) Expanded Service and Outreach

Combines networks of sponsors, newcomers, and literature access. Zoom increases accessibility. More unified efforts to reach the still-suffering compulsive eater. ⁴

5) Renewal of Structure, Clarity, and Opportunity to Invigorate Fellowship and Service.

The merger provides a rare opportunity to revisit bylaws, policies, and committee roles with fresh intention, shared experience, and turning the merger into a moment of celebration. ⁵

6) Unity with Diversity

Merging allows a broader spectrum of recovery styles and experiences to work together and serve the fellowship. ⁶

¹ Supporting Principles: Tradition Seven, Concept Twelve (b), Concept Ten

² Supporting Principles: Concept One, Concept Three, Concept Four, Concept Ten

³ Supporting Principles: Concept Nine

⁴ Supporting Principles: Tradition Five, Step Twelve Spiritual Principle of Service

⁵ Supporting Principles: Concept Ten

⁶ Supporting Principles: Tradition Three, Unity with Diversity Policy

CONS

1) Integration and Transitional Workload

The process of merging two intergroups involves significant planning, coordination, and administrative effort. It may require additional resources and effort to ensure continuity of service, equitable support and fair and inclusive representation for all member groups during and after the transition.⁷

2) Structural Transition and Role Reconfiguration

Consolidation of service boards may necessitate redefining or eliminating some existing roles. This requires careful planning to preserve meaningful opportunities for trusted servants to contribute.⁸

3) Geographic Accessibility and Representation

A centralized intergroup structure may reduce localized access to in-person events and services. Representation across regions must be intentionally maintained to support inclusion and participation.⁹

4) Service Capacity and Volunteer Engagement

Combining intergroups does not inherently resolve challenges in volunteer recruitment or participation. Proactive strategies will still be needed to engage and support trusted servants.¹⁰

5) Mission Clarity and Spiritual Prioritization

In pursuing administrative or financial efficiency, there is a risk of diverting focus from OA's spiritual foundation and primary purpose. Ongoing discernment and group conscience are essential.¹¹

6) Information and Communication Gaps

A successful transition requires consistent communication, clear timelines, and accessible information to support fully informed group conscience across all meetings.¹²

⁷ Principles of Concern: Concept Ten, Concept Three, Tradition One, Concept One, Concept Five

⁸ Principles of Concern: Tradition Two, Concept Nine

⁹ Principles of Concern: Tradition One, Concept Four

¹⁰ Principles of Concern: Concept Nine

¹¹ Principles of Concern: Tradition Five, Tradition Nine, Concept Twelve (a)

¹² Principles of Concern: Tradition Two, Concept One

Town Hall Agenda For Proposed Merger - OA Los Angeles Intergroup

Saturday 11/01/25

1. Opening

- Serenity Prayer
- Welcome and overview of purpose

2. Background

- Review of Pros & Cons

3. Questions & Answers

- Address pre-submitted questions
- Open floor for live Q&A
 - “Raise Hand” feature or use chat

4. Next Steps

- Remind delegates:
 - Bring topic to their meetings
 - Take a group conscience and record group vote. If a meeting has not scheduled a group conscience prior to Nov 1, the group should **vote to waive the traditional two-week announcement period** so they may hold a group conscience immediately and have their voice heard.
 - Encourage meetings without a delegate to elect one before Nov 15 and take a group conscience vote.

5. Closing

- Reminder of delegate responsibilities
- Thank participants for unity and service
- Serenity Prayer

*The Town Hall will be recorded and posted at **oalaig.org**. Participants' voices may be heard in the recording. Members may pre-submit written questions to **newmedia@oalaig.org** if they prefer.*