

AREA 28 (all of Maine) – GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 6 AGENDA ITEMS - YOUR VOTE MATTERS,

This questionnaire provides a comprehensive overview of the six agenda items chosen by our Maine Area 28 (all of Maine) delegate and are being considered by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Each agenda item includes the description of the agenda item, its historical context, the rationale behind its proposal, advantages, disadvantages, and how it connects to AA's Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and principles. We need to give our group conscience on these topics to our delegate so he can be informed and vote what Maine wants, at the GSC in April. This is how **WE as AA members** voice our opinion on issues effecting AA! **ONLY 1 VOTE PER PERSON!!**

Please note that the Advantages and Disadvantages written in this document, are the opinion of one person in AA and not necessarily those of other members of AA. They are for reference only.

What is the name of your **Home Group**? *

What day of the week does your **Home Group** meet? *

1. Literature Item J: Include 12 Concepts in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Description: This proposal suggests adding the Twelve Concepts for World Service to Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, creating a single resource that integrates AA's recovery principles (Steps), group unity (Traditions), and service structure (Concepts). **History:** The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions was published in 1953 as a guide to personal recovery and group unity. The Twelve Concepts were introduced by Bill W. in 1962 to explain AA's service structure. Currently, the Concepts are primarily found in separate literature like The A.A. Service Manual. Combining these would make them more accessible. **Why:** The addition aims to educate members about the Concepts and their role in AA's service structure. It simplifies access to all three foundational elements of AA in one book. **Advantages:** • Combines key AA principles into one resource. • Helps members understand the service structure. **Disadvantages:** • May make the book longer or more complex. • The Concepts might primarily appeal to leaders rather than all members. AA Connections: • Tradition 2: Emphasizes group conscience and trusted servant leadership. • Concept 2: Highlights unity and shared responsibility in decision-making. *

- Yes, add the 12 Concepts to the 12&12
- No, do not add the 12 Concepts to the 12&12. Keep them separate.
- I will abstain from voting

2. Policy/Admissions Item E: Super Majority to Change Founders' Literature.

Description: This proposal recommends requiring a supermajority vote (three-fourths approval) to amend AA's foundational literature, such as the Big Book. **History:** Since its publication in 1939, the Big Book has been central to AA's message of recovery. Over time, debates have arisen about updating language or content while preserving its original integrity. A supermajority requirement would ensure changes are carefully considered. **Why:** This measure is designed to protect AA's foundational message from frequent or controversial changes while maintaining its historical significance. **Advantages:** • Safeguards AA's original message. • Ensures changes are carefully considered and broadly supported. **Disadvantages:** • Makes it harder to update outdated language. • Limits adaptability for new generations and diverse audiences. AA Connections: • Tradition 5: Focuses on carrying AA's message to alcoholics who still suffer. • Step 12: Encourages inclusivity in sharing the recovery message

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- Yes, I want a Super Majority of 75% or more on any proposal to change/update any of the founder's writings.
- No, I don't think it is necessary to have a 75% super majority on proposals that will affect any of the founder's writings
- I will abstain from voting

3. Report and Charter Item A-4: Adding an “Amendments” Section to the 12 Concepts

Description: This agenda item proposes adding an “Amendments” section to the Twelve Concepts for World Service. The section would outline a formal process for making changes to the Concepts when necessary. **History:** The Twelve Concepts were adopted in 1962 as guidelines for AA’s service structure. While they have remained unchanged since their inception, some members feel that a formal amendment process is necessary to address future challenges or evolving needs within AA. **Why:** Establishing clear guidelines for amending the Concepts ensures transparency and fairness while maintaining alignment with AA’s core values. **Advantages:** • Provides structured guidelines for adapting the Concepts. • Ensures transparency in decision-making processes. **Disadvantages:** • Risks diluting AA’s original principles. • Could lead to disagreements over what should or shouldn’t be amended. AA Connections: • Tradition 2: Promotes group conscience in decision-making. • Concept 12: Ensures changes align with AA’s core values and traditions.

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- No, I do not agree that an amendments section should be added to the 12 Concepts for World Service.
- Yes, I agree that an amendments section should be added to the 12 Concepts for World Service.
- I will abstain from voting

4. Report and Charter Item 4-B: Expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to Protect Founders' Writings.

Description: This proposal seeks to expand Article Three of the Conference Charter to explicitly protect writings created before 1972 from unnecessary edits or changes. **History:** Foundational texts like the Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions have shaped AA's identity since its early days. There have been ongoing discussions about modernizing language while preserving historical significance. In response, this proposal aims to safeguard these writings from rapid or ill-considered revisions. **Why:** Protecting pre-1972 writings ensures that AA's heritage remains intact while preventing hasty revisions that could alter its core message. **Advantages:** • Preserves historical texts from unnecessary edits. • Prevents rapid changes that might dilute AA's core message. **Disadvantages:** • Limits modernization of language and style. • Risks alienating younger or diverse audiences who may struggle with older language. AA Connections: • Tradition 1: Prioritizes unity and common welfare. • Tradition 5: Ensures AA's primary purpose of helping alcoholics remains intact

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- Yes, I agree that that the Conference Charter should be expanded to protect writings created prior to 1972.
- No, I do not want to expand the charter to protect any of the writings prior to 1972
- I will abstain from voting

5. Charter Item B: Remove “Woman” from Concept IV Essay.

Description: This agenda item proposes removing gender-specific language (e.g., “woman”) from Concept IV’s essay in AA literature to promote inclusivity across genders.

History: Written in 1962, Concept IV emphasizes participation at all levels of service. At that time, gender-specific language was common but is now seen as potentially exclusionary. Updating this language reflects evolving societal norms around inclusivity. **Why:** Removing gender-specific terms aligns with AA’s principle of inclusivity, ensuring all members feel welcomed regardless of gender identity. **Advantages:** • Promotes equality and inclusivity within AA literature. • Reflects AA’s commitment to welcoming everyone into recovery. **Disadvantages:** • Some may find this change unnecessary or overly focused on inclusivity efforts. • Risks upsetting traditionalists who value original language. AA Connections: • Tradition 3: Emphasizes inclusivity—anyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome. • Tradition 1: Supports unity by ensuring all members feel included.]

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- Yes, I agree that any gender specific language (women) should be removed from Concept IV's essay in AA literature to promote inclusivity across genders
- No, I do not think that gender specific language should be removed from Concept IV's essay.
- I will abstain from voting

6. Literature Item K: Consider request to update the book *Living Sober*

Description: Multiple areas have requested updating the book *Living Sober*. The proposals include updating language in the existing 31 chapters to reflect contemporary usage and modern sobriety challenges and potentially expanding to approximately 50 chapters. Specific updates would address online meetings, digital connections, social media, podcasts, and post-pandemic recovery strategies. **History:** "Living Sober" was first published in 1975 and has become a vital resource for maintaining sobriety within AA. It has sold over 7 million copies and has been widely used by AA members. **Why:** The 50th anniversary (1975-2025) provides a natural moment for revision. Technological and social changes have dramatically altered how people connect and maintain sobriety. Post-pandemic recovery presents unique challenges not addressed in the original text. Contemporary language around gender and inclusion has evolved. The digital revolution has created both new tools for sobriety and new challenges. **Advantages** Updates make the book more relatable to modern readers. Incorporates contemporary language and experiences. Adds new chapters to cover recent developments in sobriety. **Disadvantages** Some may oppose changes to traditional AA literature. Updating can be expensive. Modernizing language might alter the original message. **Connection to Traditions, Steps, and Concepts** The proposed update aligns with Tradition 5 by making sobriety literature more accessible, reflecting the "Right of Decision" Concept 3, which empowers literature committees to determine necessary updates. This revision supports the practical application of Step 12 by carrying the message in contemporary ways, embodying principles of relevance, accessibility, and meeting alcoholics where they are. *

- Yes, I would like to see a revised *Living Sober* book
- No, I do not want to see a revised version.
- I will abstain from voting

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