

2024 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM E: Discuss revising procedures for electing the Delegate chairperson, the Conference Committee chairpersons, and their alternates.

Background notes:

2023 Advisory Action Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

To foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics.

72nd General Service Conference Delegate Chair Procedures

1. Who is eligible? All Panel 72 Delegates who have not been elected as Conference *Committee Chair*.
 2. Each Region caucus and elects one candidate per region by ballot, leaving off Chairs and Alternates.
 3. The 8 Region candidates are put in a hat.
 4. The first name drawn is the Delegate Chair.
 5. The second name drawn is the Alternate Delegate Chair.
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Background:

1. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) Submission Form - PAI 10
2. Electing delegate chairpersons, history and practices

**A General Service Conference (GSC)
Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form**

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Beginning with the 2025 General Service Conference (GSC), the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year’s GSC, will be elected in the Conference session scheduled immediately following completion of all committee reports and completion of the discussion of, and voting on, floor actions (if any). Following the election of the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year’s GSC, each primary Conference committee will convene and elect their own committee chair and alternate committee chair for the following year’s GSC, according to each Conference Committee’s own Composition, Scope and Procedure, with the newly elected delegate chair and alternate delegate chair ineligible to stand for primary or secondary Conference Committee chair or alternate chair. Following the election of the primary committees’ committee chair and alternate committee chair, each secondary Conference committee will convene and elect their own committee chair and alternate committee chair for the following year’s GSC, according to each committee’s own Composition, Scope and Procedure, with the newly elected delegate chair, alternate delegate chair, and committee chairs ineligible for secondary committee chair or alternate chair. At the Conference session immediately following the election of all Conference Committee chairpersons and alternate chairpersons, the newly elected chairpersons and alternate chairpersons will be announced to the full GSC.

The process for selecting the delegate chair and the alternate delegate chair for the following year’s GSC is recommended to be:

1. The first and second-year delegates from a region will nominate one candidate from among the willing 1st year delegates of their region by ballot, utilizing the Third Legacy procedure. A first-year delegate may decline to be considered as a nominee for election for delegate chair or alternate delegate chair, but should state so prior to the first ballot of the Third Legacy procedure.
2. From the nominees (one per region), two of the nominee names will be selected by lot, i.e. by “going to the hat.”
3. From the two names selected by lot, the delegate chair for the following year’s GSC will be elected by third legacy procedure, with each region casting one ballot per a decision process of that region’s own choosing. The candidate elected/selected by the regions in the Third Legacy procedure will serve as the delegate chair for the following year’s GSC, beginning at the close of the current GSC. The second candidate will serve as the alternate delegate chair for the following year’s GSC, beginning at the close of the current GSC.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

While a search of past advisory actions indicates only that the delegate chair be selected by lot, the Advisory Action of the 73rd GSC (below), increases the authority and responsibility of the delegate chair, as did other Advisory Actions.

Advisory Action of the 73rd GSC:

To foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics.

While a search of the GSC Advisory Actions does not indicate any mandated Conference time for electing

the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair, or any order for electing either with regard to Conference committee chairs, it does historically indicate that the selection of the delegate chair is by lot. Further, it appears that (1) there is a precedent that does not give preference to the service position of delegate chair and (2) there have been other advisory actions passed that increase the authority and responsibility of the delegate chair, prior to the above Advisory Action.

Details are:

(1) The current custom based on the conference agenda currently reflects that the delegate chair, and alternate delegate chair are elected/selected in the delegates only meeting (understood as area delegates only) on Tuesday of conference week, after the conference committee chairs and alternates for the following GSC are elected in their respective committees, but before and conference committee reports are delivered to the full conference. Regions may randomly select a name from the eligible first year delegates in their region.

(2) In addition to the above Advisory Action, the following has increased the responsibility and authority of the delegate chair:

1992-Delegates who become chairpersons of Conference committees, and the delegate chairperson, continue to be invited to attend the quarterly board weekend/General Service Board meeting prior to the General Service Conference.

2010- The Alternate Delegate Chair served on the GSC Inventory Planning Committee (due to service position)

2011- The procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference be established...The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the General Service Conference delegate chair and to the General Service Office Conference coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference

In addition, we know that there is a spiritual obligation to participate at each level in the upside-down spiritual triangle to participate, and to have the best participation possible. This includes the area delegates and the delegate chair as a partner to the GSB chair.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

The Area Committee of Area 50 unanimously supported this agenda item in a vote at the 8/21/23 Area Committee Meeting. As our Assembly is not until September 16, 2023, a full area vote was not available. In addition, the Panel 70 immediate past delegate of Area 50, while not a voting member of the area committee, did express support of this PAI, as having attended two GSC's and being part of the selection of the Delegate Chair at each.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

In addition to information in #2 above:

Introduction to the Concepts for World Service (page C2 of 2021-2023 Edition of The AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service):

In other chapters great emphasis is laid on the need for a high order of personal leadership, on the desirability of careful induction methods for all incoming personnel, and upon the necessity for the best

possible personal relations between those who work in our services.

CONCEPT XI

While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
The delegate chair and alternate delegate chair will be elected/selected prior to the election of the Conference committee chairs and alternate chairs. This is a positive response to the Advisory Action of the 73rd GSC (below) and allows for the best possible trusted servants, and for greatest unitive path forward for AA, which is our responsibility at all levels in the upside down triangle: To foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Denise M. A50 P72 Delegate
(7) Final comments:
The Area 50 delegate supported the proposed amendment that the Conference Agenda Committee and the trustees' GSC Committee set the agenda for the new GSC sharing sessions (minimum 2 per year) as proposed by Deb K., Trustee. Because the conscience of the GSC was that the Delegate Chair and the GSB Chair set the agenda (2 people rather than committees as we typically decide things in the Conference structure), this PAI is being proposed. Thank you for your consideration.

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference

Desk: EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference
 Desk General
 Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Electing delegate chairpersons, History and Practices

73rd General Service Conference Delegate Chair Procedures

1. Who is eligible? All Panel 73 Delegates who have not been elected as Conference Committee Chair.
2. Each Region caucus and elects one candidate per Region by ballot, leaving off Chairs and Alternates.
3. The eight Region candidates are put in a hat.
4. The first name drawn is the Delegate Chair.
5. The second name drawn is the Alternate Delegate Chair.

General Service Conference Committee chairperson and Alt Chairperson elections:

1952 Advisory Action – Policy/Admissions:

Conference Committee Chairmen should be elected from new members of the Conference.

1956 Advisory Action – Policy/Admissions:

Each year all Conference Committee Chairmen should be elected from second-year delegates on the Conference Committee since their previous experience will give continuity of service.

1973 Advisory Action – Policy/Admissions:

An Alternate area delegate chairman should be elected; the runner-up to the area chairman could be the alternate chairman.

Staff note: Based upon research provided by GSO Archives, prior to the 1970s there was no set procedure to voting for committee chairpersons beyond the guideposts of the above advisory actions. Wording to voting practices and procedures were mildly inconsistent. In the 1970s, it appears that other staff secretaries began to unify with the wording that (non-alcoholic) committee secretary, and GSO archivist, Nell Wing had

CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

developed. It is in this time frame, in the 1970s, in which the practice became the consistent wording as it is outlined to this day on each Conference Committee's Tuesday agendas.

*Election of chairperson

1. All Panel 74 members are eligible.
2. All committee members vote by written ballot (no verbal nominations).
3. Election by plurality. Second place becomes alternate chairperson.
4. New chairperson serves one year beginning at the close of the Conference.

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