

Motion 1: Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience S-Anon World Service Conference, July 2018

MOTION: Move that the World Service Conference approve a Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience (FWGC), to be implemented by the World Service Office, instructing the Board of Trustees to remove all references to any specific sexual addiction recovery program mentioned in the S-Anon Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and S-Ateen Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

INTENT

This motion is submitted in the spirit of Tradition One: "Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity." S-Anon members may have family members or friends in various sex addiction recovery programs or in no program at all. By mentioning a specific sexual addiction recovery program in our Steps and Traditions, we may alienate newcomers and potential newcomers to our S-Anon Fellowship. The specific wording to replace references to "Sexaholics Anonymous" will be determined by the Board of Trustees and the Literature Committee. This change would not preclude or prevent S-Anon's cooperation with any other sexual addiction recovery fellowship to plan and participate in future recovery events.

BACKGROUND

Over the years, S-Anon members have expressed concern and confusion about specific references to the recovery program of Sexaholics Anonymous in our Traditions. Since the 2013 World Service Conference, the Literature Committee has had lengthy discussions concerning the wording of the Traditions.

Note: The World Service Conference Charter states in Section III. D., "No changes are to be made in the Traditions, Steps, Concepts of Service, or General Warranties of the Conference Charter without written consent of three quarters of the S-Anon groups polled via a Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience."

These are the Steps and Traditions that would be affected: Step One, Traditions Three, Four, Six, and Eleven.

Note: The Literature Committee is working on the Twelve Traditions. When all Twelve Traditions are completed, they will be published along with the Twelve Steps, in a new book (CAL) titled *S-Anon Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

SUPPORTING SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES

- Tradition One: Current wording in the S-Anon Traditions, which names an outside recovery program, may interfere with S-Anon unity.
- Traditions Three, Six and Eleven: S-Anon is not affiliated with any outside entity, but mention of outside entities may imply otherwise.
- Tradition Ten: Sexaholics Anonymous and other sexual addiction recovery programs differ. S-Anon does not have an opinion on outside issues, but naming a specific outside recovery program may imply that S-Anon does have an opinion.
- Preamble to the Twelve Steps: S-Anon is not allied with SA, and S-Anon does not endorse any other recovery program. Mention of Sexaholics Anonymous in our Traditions may give the appearance of an alliance with that program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In 2010, the Policy and Service Communications Committee (PSCC) was tasked to develop a process for taking a FWGC. In June 2011, the PSCC made the following recommendation (in part): "Specific

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details of how the FWGC will be conducted should be determined if and when a FWGC is directed. The details should be worked out by the WSCC or a subcommittee of that group."

As of April 2018, no further action has been taken to develop a FWGC process. Thus, without an agreed-upon process, developing a financial estimate can be little more than a guess. Our guess is that conducting a FWGC will cost several thousand dollars, all told. It is also well to be mindful that it will be costly in terms of the time and energy of the members who may volunteer to serve as we decide on the process.

Further, if this motion passes, and if the FWGC results in the direction to change the Steps and Traditions, there may be further motions related to S-Anon literature, S-Anon conventions, etc. that will have financial ramifications. However, we believe these considerations are beyond the scope of this motion. If the WSC does direct a FWGC by a two-thirds vote, the BOT is bound to conduct one, and will do so in a way that is as fair and as financially sound as possible.

The Finance Committee suggests the following: If this motion passes, an ad hoc committee could be formed that would meet between August 2018 and October 2018 to develop a FWGC process. The Finance Committee, in coordination with the Executive Committee, would then estimate the cost of conducting the FWGC according to that process, and add that cost as a line item to the S-Anon budget for 2019. The FWGC could then be implemented beginning in January 2019.

ARGUMENTS PRO

- In S-Anon, we are encouraged to focus on ourselves and our own recovery. The current wording in our Traditions, with several references to Sexaholics Anonymous, may seem contradictory to the S-Anon principle of focusing on our own recovery. Removing the name of any outside program from our Steps and Traditions may improve S-Anon unity. Newcomers and potential newcomers may have felt like outsiders, not totally welcome in S-Anon, if their family members or friends attended another sex addiction recovery program. This motion will ensure that all members, especially newcomers, feel welcome, included, and equal.
- S-Anon CAL literature will be replaced over time, when reprint is needed. All editions will remain CAL.
- Concept One: "The ultimate responsibility and authority for S-Anon world services belongs to the S-Anon groups." The individual groups would decide on this change for S-Anon as a whole by participating in the FWGC process.

ARGUMENTS CON

- Gathering input and votes from all registered S-Anon groups may be costly and time consuming for the WSO.
- These changes could affect future cooperation with Sexaholics Anonymous.

DOCUMENTATION

If this motion passes, the results will be documented in the minutes of the WSC and will appear in the Decision Database.

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