

Motion 2: Change the World Service Conference Charter to adjust Attendance Status of Members from Outside North America
19th Annual S-Anon Senior World Service Conference, July 30, 2022

MOTION: Move that the following change be made to the World Service Conference Charter (WSC Charter), most recently revised in July 2021, to adjust the attendance status of members from outside North America:

WSC Charter dated July 2021	Suggested Change
Article II. Composition	Article II. Composition
C. Representatives from other countries may attend the Conference with a voice but not a vote. (approved July 2016 WSC)	C. Delete this section of the WSC Charter. Re-letter following sections D, E, and F of Article II to be sections C, D, and E.

INTENT AND BACKGROUND: Following the example of Al-Anon, in 2016, the S-Anon North America WSC established itself as the “senior conference.” In 2017, the senior conference approved a growth plan that assumes S-Anon groups outside North America may wish to form their own service structures. Although Al-Anon allows representatives from other service structures to have a voice (but not a vote), S-Anon is not structured exactly the same as Al-Anon. The intention of this motion is to establish that for the S-Anon fellowship, allowing a member from a service structure outside of North America to have a “voice” or a “vote” at the North America WSC would be a violation of S-Anon’s Tradition Four, “Each group [conference] should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or S-Anon or SA as a whole.” This motion would reverse the decision from the 2016 WSC, and support the decision from the 2017 WSC. See table below.

The service structures formed in other countries or geographic areas are autonomous entities. They are free to accept and incorporate the policies and procedures decided upon by the senior conference (North America) into their own governing documents, but they are not obliged to do so. They are independent [outside] entities, and as such, are not entitled to, nor do they need to have representation at the North America WSC. The Global Coordination Subcommittee (GCSC) of the Public Information and Outreach Committee (PI&OC) is tasked with assisting other countries in creating their own service structures. The GCSC reports progress to the PI&OC, and the information is conveyed to the WSC in the PI&OC report to the WSC. In that way, the “voice” of S-Anon in other counties is presented to the senior conference, the North America WSC.

We do welcome the attendance of observers from other countries or geographic areas at the North America WSC. The long-term hope is that a recurring conference can be convened at which representatives from outside North America and representatives from the North America WSC would meet to share experience, strength, and hope and address any concerns related to decisions made by the North America or any other Service Conference.

Date	Action
July 2016	The WSC voted to establish the WSC held annually in North America as the “senior conference, and ... [to allow] representatives from other countries to attend the North America WSC with a voice, but not a vote.” This was one of the recommendations of the International Service Structure Ad Hoc Committee (ISSAC), comprised of Delegates and Trustees, approved by the S-Anon BOT.
2017-2022	July 2017: Following another of the recommendations of the ISSAC committee accepted by the BOT, a Global Coordination Subcommittee (GCSC) (under the Public Information & Outreach Committee) was established to create lines of communication to assist countries outside of North America that wish to create a service structure of their own. That subcommittee has been in contact with representatives from over 30 countries, providing assistance by telephone and virtual meetings. The GCSC most recently has designed a Global Discussion Forum to allow members in other countries to share their experience in developing a service structure.

SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES: Traditions One, Four, and Seven support this recommendation by encouraging the development of an international service structure that provides maximum autonomy (Tradition Four) to groups in a countries or geographic areas outside of North America, while preserving the unity of S-Anon as a whole (Tradition One). This approach also sets the stage for groups outside North America to be fully self-supporting both financially and through the service of its members in its service structure (Tradition Seven). While Concept Four states that participation is the key to harmony, Tradition Four reminds us of the importance of each group’s autonomy. Respect for the autonomy of S-Anon in North America suggests that S-Anon members from service structures outside North America be welcome to attend as observers, but not to participate as “Delegates” or representatives.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact to this change. Changes to written material will be made gradually, as it goes through the normal review process.

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ARGUMENT PRO: The change suggested in this motion clarifies and implements the autonomy of the North America WSC as it relates to service structures created in countries outside North America. Passage of this motion would ensure that the “voice” of the senior conference is that of North America WSC groups only.

ARGUMENT CON: The unity of worldwide S-Anon may be better served by allowing members from outside North America to participate by speaking to motions being debated at the North America WSC.

ACTION ITEMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION: If this motion is approved, the change will be made to the currently existing Charter. The revised version, including the date of revision, will be posted on the S-Anon website within the S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual (SSSM) Appendix G, replacing the currently existing document, and to the World Service Conference page of member.sanon.org. In addition, the Policy and Service Communications Committee (PSCC) will review other sections of the SSSM, specifically, Part 3, Fellowship-wide Decision Making, to determine if additional changes are necessary. Necessary changes will be made by the PSCC which will send the updates to the World Service Office (WSO), and a WSO staff member will make the changes to the online SSSM.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY: The World Service Conference Committee will coordinate with the WSO to ensure that any changes to the World Service Conference Charter passed by the WSC are incorporated in the official version of the Charter and posted as appropriate on the S-Anon website. The WSO will communicate any Charter updates to the PSCC to ensure that any WSC Charter changes passed by the WSC are recorded in the online SSSM.

DOCUMENTATION: All decisions will go into the Decision Database maintained by the WSO staff. As mentioned, approved changes (including renumbering of sections or sub-sections, as appropriate) will be incorporated into the WSC Charter and posted to the online SSSM Appendix G and to the World Service Conference page of member.sanon.org. In addition, the PSCC will review the SSSM to see if the approved changes will require that other sections of the SSSM be changed as well.

Submitter: Julie S., Literature Committee Chair