

Motion 3: Change the World Service Conference Charter Introduction
19th Annual S-Anon Senior World Service Conference, July 30, 2022

A. MOTION: Move that: The WSC approve an update to the sentence in the introduction paragraph of the WSC Charter from: "This charter is an informal agreement between all S-Anon members and groups and its World Service Office (WSO)." to: "This charter is an informal agreement between all S-Anon groups and its World Service Office (WSO)."

B. BACKGROUND AND INTENT:

The WSC Charter describes the traditional structure of S-Anon and provides for Delegate representation to members of all registered groups, whether they meet in person, via phone conference, or via an online platform. The Charter introduction, as written, seems to be inconsistent with Concept One.

Concept One states that "The ultimate responsibility and authority for S-Anon world services belongs to the S-Anon groups (emphasis added)." The current Charter introduction contradicts this Concept by stating the Charter is a contract between "members and groups" and its WSO (emphasis added). Each S-Anon member's voice, which is part of the traditional structure embodied in the WSC, is included in the ultimate responsibility and authority afforded to groups by their participation in the traditional group conscience process represented by Area Delegates.

C. SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES:

- **Tradition Two:** "For our group purpose there is but one authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants - they do not govern." The group conscience expressed by registered groups, not the input individual members who do not participate in a registered group, expresses the group conscience guidance for S-Anon world services.
- **Tradition Nine:** "Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." This speaks clearly to the groups creating service boards or committees directly responsible to the groups, not directly responsible to individual members.
- **Tradition Twelve:** "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities." World services directed by an informed group conscience, not individuals, results in well-considered decisions made based on spiritual principles.
- **Concept Four:** "Participation is the key to harmony." Participation in the group conscience process results in harmonious decisions which can be supported by all members of the group.

D. FINANCIAL IMPACT: Minimal financial impact, staff time to update things, already budgeted.

E. ARGUMENT PRO:

The inclusion of the phrase "members and" in the WSC Charter Introduction section contradicts the Concept of ultimate authority and responsibility residing with the groups. It does not reside with individual S-Anon members, but rather with the group conscience of S-Anon groups. The WSC Charter provides for Delegate representation to members of all registered groups, whether they meet in person, via phone conference, or via an online platform. All those who qualify for S-Anon have the opportunity to participate in a registered group and be represented by a WSC Delegate regardless of whether there is an in-person meeting near them.

The current wording of the Introduction, which states that the Charter is an informal agreement between S-Anon members and groups and the WSO, might give the impression that individuals who choose not to participate in a group should be given an equal standing as registered groups in the traditional WSC decision-making process of S-Anon. Recently, in motions submitted to the WSC, some parties have expressed a desire to include individual members who do not participate in a regular group in the voting and/or motion input process in addition to S-Anon groups. The current Charter language might have been used as support for this idea, but the current language is not in accordance with Concept One. This Charter change would clarify traditional representation.

For additional resources and support of this issue, we can look to AI-Anon. Though we differ from that fellowship, there is definite wisdom to be seen in their structure. Here are some quotes from their Service Manual which clearly indicate that their WSC Charter is an agreement between groups and their WSO.

"This charter is an informal agreement between all AI-Anon and its World Service Office."

"Note: The term AI-Anon includes Alateen. Therefore, the above Charter applies to all registered groups, including Alateen."

Quote of AI-Anon WSC Charter as amended by the 2009 WSC, taken from AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021 p. 226 and 229 (AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021 can be found online at [P2427_online.pdf \(ai-anon.org\)](#))

F. ARGUMENT CON:

Some WSC members may believe it is appropriate to afford the rights and responsibilities of registered groups to individual S-Anon members.

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G. DOCUMENTATION:

- Results of this motion will be documented in the Minutes of the current World Service Conference and the WSC Charter will be accordingly updated wherever it appears in our literature and on our website.

Submitter: Julie S., Literature Committee Chair