

2026-04-06

Dear Group Contact,

Early Motions for Discussion

Part of the World Service Conference's ongoing momentum towards becoming more participatory is to send out Early Motions for your group to discuss, should you wish.

These motions will come before the WSC in San Francisco for your GSR or ISR to vote on. There are three in all: two from the WSC Conference Committee, one from the WSC Literature Committee.

If your group has a Group Service Representative (GSR) you might wish to hold a group conscience and give them an indication of how the group would like to vote. If you do not have a GSR going to the Conference this year, your local or regional Intergroup would be a good place to make your views known so that the Intergroup Service Representative (ISR) can take views into account when they vote.

Each delegate, however, is entitled to vote according to their own conscience, in the spirit of the Right of Decision described in Concept 3 of the Twelve Concepts for D.A. World Service.

The first two motions require 90 days notice. The third motion affects the D.A. Charter and is being sent to the fellowship 120 days before the WSC as required. All three early motions are contained in this document.

The motions are:

Motion 1:

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the Conference approve a concept for a new literature project: The Voices of Women in Debtors Anonymous.

Background:

The WSC Literature Committee, in collaboration with the Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Committee, brings this motion forward in response to a growing awareness that women's experiences with debting and recovery in Debtors Anonymous are both distinct and underrepresented in our current Conference-approved literature. The proposed pamphlet, *Voices of Women in Debtors Anonymous*, is intended to amplify lived experience, strength, and hope shared by women in D.A., while remaining firmly grounded in D.A.'s spiritual principles, discipline, and compassion. This effort aligns with D.A.'s commitment to unity, inclusivity, and carrying the message to all who still suffer.

Motion 2:

The WSC Conference Committee, on behalf of the Intergroup Caucus, moves to update the Intergroup Caucus Statement of Purpose, also known as the Mission statement, to reflect closer alignment with its current focus and activities. We move that the following mission statement be adopted by the 2026/2027 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference:

Mission Statement of Intergroup Caucus

The main function of the Intergroup Caucus is to provide support to both new and existing Intergroups. A goal is to help members understand the role of an intergroup in the overall organizational structure of D.A. To this end, the Caucus may create and maintain tools and resources, such as the Intergroup webpage on the D.A. website and the Intergroup Service Handbook for Debtors Anonymous.

Background:

This statement would replace the current mission statement and purpose, which appears on the debtorsanonymous.org website under 'Fellowship Services > World Service Conference' and is replicated in the D.A.M.S. It is:

Intergroup Caucus (IG)

The Intergroup Caucus is composed primarily of ISRs but also includes GSRs and Trustees who have experience with their local Intergroups. The main function of this caucus is to create tools, resources and a better understanding of the role of an Intergroup in the overall organizational structure of D.A. The Intergroup Caucus helps support both new and existing Intergroups. The Intergroup Caucus also contributes to the efforts to regionalize D.A.

Rationale:

- First, while members of the Intergroup Caucus would ideally have experience with intergroups, this is not a requirement.
- Second, since most meetings and intergroups now meet online, the necessity of regionalizing intergroups is no longer the reality.
- Third, we want to promote the existence of literature available to support intergroups.

Motion 3:

The WSC Conference Committee moves to amend Article 3 of the Debtors Anonymous Charter to:

No change in Article Ten (10) of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous or in the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous may be made

with less than the written consent of three-quarters (3/4) of the responding Debtors Anonymous groups. All Fellowship-wide votes will include the option to vote “abstain”. A responding group is defined as a registered group that submits a yes, no, or abstention vote. A threshold of at least three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all registered groups of D.A. need to respond for the motion to be binding.

Background:

Important to note: The 3/4 threshold is to further ensure that any change to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions cannot be made without substantial unanimity, and that we have sought sufficient engagement with the Fellowship before any changes are made. All abstention ballots will be counted towards the minimum number of ballots returned. It will have the same effect as a “no” vote when determining if the 75% threshold has been met.

Below is the memo outlining our rationale, and the supporting slide deck illustrating our proposed changes.

If you have questions and/or would like a representative from the Conference Charter Subcommittee to speak during your home group’s business meeting regarding this motion, please reach out to wsc.cc@debtorsanonymous.org.

Rationale:

The Conference Committee created a working group to study the Debtors Anonymous Charter. In doing so, we discovered that the Charter has 4 different criteria (in Articles 3, 4, and 9) which constitute a passing vote. *See resource #1 (attached chart) below.*

We believe that most delegates to the WSC, and almost all D.A. groups, are not aware of these differences, which may create enough confusion to diminish an informed group conscience.

Since most GSR/ISRs serve 3 years, and some may only attend the WSC for 1 or 2 years, we would like to make the charter voting process reasonable and easy to understand for voting members, or for any fellow in D.A. for that matter. In 2026, we believe streamlining Article 3 is a logical first step in simplifying the Charter while preserving its intent. Here is our rationale:

- In particular, Article 3 of our current Charter is problematic because it mandates a process that is almost impossible to accomplish. Or in stronger terms, it sets up the Fellowship for failure. Article 3 calls for “written consent of $\frac{3}{4}$ of Debtors Anonymous groups.” For Fellowship-wide votes, non-responses are counted as “no” votes.

At any given time, as a decentralized, volunteer-based Fellowship, there is no way to know the actual number of D.A. groups and whether the contact information for those groups is still accurate. If a registered meeting has closed, it is unlikely the members of that group will reach out to the GSO to let us know it has disbanded. The first time the Fellowship tried to implement the process described in Article 3 was in 1997 and “nearly half of the ballots were returned as addressee unknown.” In 2010, 63% of registered meetings did not respond to a Fellowship-wide vote on Tradition 11. In 2024, after employing a company to oversee the vote, the motion did pass, but involved such great cost, time, and effort that it placed a burden on the GSB and other volunteers. And still 20% of groups did not respond.

- When D.A. adopted A.A.’s Conference Charter, it did not include the full text of A.A.’s original Article 3 language with the 1955 resolution (which appears separately from their Charter). According to the text of the resolution, A.A. counts only responding groups in Fellowship-wide votes, as long as a minimum of three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all groups respond. Once that minimum of three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of groups is met, then three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the responding groups must vote yes for the motion to pass. This is similar to the proposed motion being presented here.

A.A.’s current Charter (for US & Canada), Article 3 states:

But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention.

The resolution from the 1955 Conference is not directly in the A.A. Charter, although it is available on page 127 of A.A.’s 2024-2026 Service Manual. The Resolution for 1955 A.A. Conference and Convention states:

AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be

taken there must first be received in writing within the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal.

Further, as described on page 122 of the A.A. 2024-2026 Service Manual, in 1957, Bill W. himself brought an amendment of the original 1955 Charter to include modification of the 12 Steps (in addition to the 12 Traditions) by the same process. Please see footnote below for the history of the amendment allowing for changes to AA's Twelve Steps.(1)

This research regarding A.A.'s precedent has largely been absent from prior D.A. motions modifying Article 3.

- There have been at least 7 attempts to change the vote-taking process outlined in Article 3, with a proposal of changing written consent of *ALL* D.A. groups to *RESPONDING* groups five times, in 1997, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2009. WSC Conference Committees made up of different GSRs over the course of almost 30 years have proposed the same solution numerous times, reflecting their concern that the current policy is unworkable. This also points to future continued disagreement, contention, and replicated effort as new GSRs may continue to object to this problematic process unless the Charter is remediated now.

Additional Resources:

- 1) [Appendix I - Slide Deck](#)
- 2) [Appendix II - D.A. Charter](#)
- 3) [Appendix IV - 2026 A.A. Charter + 1955 Resolution](#)

Footnote (1)

Revised by the 1957 Conference as follows: "Bill has suggested that the third article of the Conference Charter, i.e., Conference Relation to A.A. (Second paragraph page 58 of the Third Legacy Manual), be amended to read: 'But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in A.A. Tradition or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than a written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention.'

Note that while the resolution only included the Twelve Traditions and the Warranties, A.A. voted to include the Twelve Steps in 1957.

With the growth of our D.A. Fellowship since its founding, it might be important to consider the broader A.A. threshold for adopting a change. It should be noted that the A.A. process does not include an option for abstentions in the votes that must be returned, unlike our current process in which abstentions count as no votes.