

Delegate's Corner
February 2025

Welcome to Agenda Topics season!

In Concept One we learn that the final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA World Services resides in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. Chapter Six in the Service Manual is all about agenda topics and their relation to the annual General Service Conference. The Conference discusses matters of policy for AA as a whole and usually takes place in April. What are Agenda Topics? The final agenda for any Conference consists of agenda items, or topics – these items come from so many places: they are suggested by individual AA members, groups, delegates, trustees, area assemblies, area committee members, and directors and staff members of AAWS and the Grapevine. GSR's collect group consciences on these Agenda Topics in March, and then let their Area Delegate know about their group's opinion. The delegates gather their Area's group conscience and take it to the Conference.

In Tradition Two we learn that a loving God is expressed through our group conscience, and that this collective voice is our ultimate authority. As GSR's, we are given the task of collecting this conscience - becoming the voice of our group. We learn how to listen without having an opinion. We share what we have heard, rather than our own thoughts. We learn how to feel what the group wants, even if it is different than our own opinion. This practice teaches us that what is best for the group is more important than any one personal opinion. We are learning how to work Tradition One by placing the common welfare of the group first, ahead of our personal desires. We obtain an informed group conscience by sharing with the group the topic to be discussed and any relevant background information in a clear and concise manner.

We create a safe environment for each member of the group to share their opinion. No one voice is louder, softer, or more important than another, and everyone is heard equally. We do not give our opinion, and we practice just listening. When we can tell that a majority of the group feels a certain way, we make sure to collect the minority opinion as well.

We express what we have learned to the delegate. We are careful to remain neutral in our delivery, expressing only our group's thoughts, even if we feel differently.

This is all part of a spiritual practice where we step outside of ourselves and serve as channels for the voice of the whole. We are practicing becoming a part of the collective "WE" rather than a self-centered I. I look forward to practicing with all of you!

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