

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Fellowship Service Conference  
of the Alternate Service Informational Structure  
for Narcotics Anonymous**

**Summary of  
2016 new & old business motions  
to be voted on in 2017**

The motions in this report are for the Home Groups of Narcotics Anonymous who create and use the Alternate Service Informational Structure and make it directly responsible to them via the Fellowship Service Conference.

These motions are for review and input. As Home Group members there are several ways to make use of these motions as you come to a Group Conscience with regard them.

- ➔ Ask questions among yourselves. If something needs clarification contact a trusted servant of the Fellowship Service Conference or, better yet, get in touch with the Group who made the motion to get clarification of their intent. (FSC servants are encouraged to contact the Group making the motion when answering questions to ensure we are representing the true intent of the Group.)
- ➔ Submit suggestions if your Group believes it cannot, in good conscience, vote for a particular motion but believe that you could if there were minor changes made or some clarification of intent in writing. ALL CHANGES TO MOTIONS MUST BE MADE BY THE HOME GROUP THAT BROUGHT THE MOTION. However, often simply communicating can clear up intent or bring to light an unintended consequence that the Group which made the motion had not considered.
- ➔ Read the minutes to see the discussion that went on with regard to the motion. You may see concerns you had not realized or you may have your concerns alleviated. The minutes will usually have questions, clarifications, and opinions expressed by addicts with a wide range of views on any particular motion.
- ➔ Get involved and discuss these issues on internet websites that are frequented by FSC participants and members of Groups who utilize the Fellowship Service Conference and Alternate Service Informational Structure.

Now is the time to discuss these motions and get involved. If concerns are cleared up before the next conference that could be the difference between a motion passing this year or needing to be input and considered for another conference cycle. We are in no hurry and would rather get it right than repeat the mistakes of past service bodies that rushed things, but at the same time we do not want to hold motions up that could have passed had there been ample discussion and/or changes made prior to the conference. It basically comes down to this: The more involvement and discussion we have now, the more likely a motion is to pass.

**NOTE: AT THIS POINT THESE MOTIONS CAN BE MODIFIED, BUT ANY MODIFICATIONS MUST GO THROUGH AND BE APPROVED BY THE HOME GROUP(s) THAT MADE THE MOTION.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR CHANGES TO EXISTING MOTIONS IS MARCH 1, 2017!**

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE CONFERENCE

*As we will be dealing with a returning motion this year, the motion numbers have been formatted differently. The format used is pretty straight forward. The first four digits are the year the motion was made. The next two numbers are the year the motion was voted on, or is to be voted on for the first time. The last number is the chronological order of the motion from the year it was made. This numbering system is arbitrary, not official. Any numbering system that makes sense can be used by future trusted servants. The need to differentiate between first year motions and returning motions is because returning motions will not be held up for a year for more consideration due to a single "NO" vote that is accompanied by a reason. (That has actually already happened with regard to returning motions.)*

### HOW THE VOTING PROCESS CURRENTLY WORKS:

The Fellowship Service Conference uses Group Tally. This means 1 Group = 1 Vote at every level of service. A Group Service Representative who is representing their Home Group carries one vote. A GSR representing multiple Groups carries multiple votes. The same is true of Area Service Representatives, Regional Service Representatives, or any other title the Group(s) choose to use for the person who carries their vote. Representatives who carry multiple votes do not have a "block voting" privilege; we do not use concepts or votes of confidence to renegotiate our Traditions. All Representatives are expected to cast each vote according to the conscience of the Group(s) they represent and voice any reasons given for votes of NO and ABSTAINING. Please be prepared to give the name of each Group you represent as well as contact information, should it ever become necessary to verify that the conscience of any Group has not been changed.

When it is time to vote, the chairperson will ask for all Representatives to raise their hands. The chair will then ask if anyone is carrying the conscience of more than one Group. Those who are, will state who they are representing. Once we know how many Groups are participating the chair will ask each individual Representative to cast their votes on a motion-by-motion basis. If any Representative is carrying the conscience of more than two Groups a roll call might be used rather than a show of hands (since a Representative only has two hands). Once all the votes have been cast on a particular motion, the chair will ask each Group that voted NO or ABSTAINING if they would like to supply a reason. Votes of ABSTAINING will not hold a motion up by providing a reason, but doing so does help in any further discussion that might be necessary down the road.

All motions currently require 80% YES votes to pass, regardless of how old the motion is. There is one significant difference for motions being voted on for the first time: Any NO voted accompanied by a reason that particular Group voted NO will hold the motion up for one conference cycle for further discussion, input and review by the Groups. NO votes that are not accompanied by a reason for the vote will not hold up a motion on their own. That said, if the combined ABSTAINING and NO votes without a stated reason are greater than 20% of the Groups who are voting the motion will go back to the Groups for another cycle.

Motions do not fail! They continue to be considered every year until they are passed (with or without revision by the motioning Group), or rescinded by the motioning Group.

There are four actions a Group can choose to take with regard to the voting:

**YES** - If your Group agrees with the motion, a YES vote is appropriate. Groups that vote YES might be asked to give the reason for voting YES as part of the discussion that goes back to the Groups and into the minutes; usually if the motion does not pass.

**NO** - If there is some reason your Group believes a motion should not pass as it is written, a NO vote is appropriate. Your Group will be asked to provide a reason for voting NO at the conference. If your Group chooses not to provide a reason the motion will not be held up based on your Group's vote alone -- If a reason is not provided, there is nothing for the other Groups who have cast votes to reconsider.

**ABSTAINING** - Groups use this if they do not wish to vote YES or NO but do want to be considered part of the voting quorum. Because your Group is participating in the voting by casting a vote of ABSTAINING this allows your Group to be considered as part of the quorum with regard to the motion reaching 80% YES votes in order to pass, but it will not hold up a first year motion by itself. This option allows a Group to essentially vote not to pass the motion and still be able to provide their reasoning without holding a first year motion up for a year because to vote as ABSTAINING has the same mathematical impact on the final percentages as a NO vote.

**PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING** - This means your Group is not voting and are therefore does not want to be considered part of the voting quorum. The Group does not wish to cast a vote. When a Group abstains they are casting their vote as ABSTAINING from voting YES or NO but they are still casting a vote and still have a voice. A Group that is PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING is removing itself completely and opting to have no voice on that particular issue. Because of this, Groups who choose this option will not be asked for their reasoning. (This does not stop the Representative from participating in discussion as an NA member.) While this does not have the mathematical effect of casting a NO vote, Groups should be aware that PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING does affect the size of the quorum, and therefore still has an effect on the percentages. As an example, if 10 Groups are present and 1 chooses this option, that choice still has the same practical impact as a NO vote. 80% of 10 is 8. 80% of the 9 remaining Groups is 7.2. In either case, 8 Groups still need to vote YES for the motion to pass. The same holds true if 20 Groups are present (16 YES votes are still required in such a case). However, if 2 Groups out of 20 are PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING this has the practical impact of a single YES vote. Example: 20 Groups are present. 2 Groups opt for PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING. 80% of the remaining 18 is 14.4 votes. Of the Groups "present", 15 Groups must vote YES for the motion to pass. In this scenario 2 Groups who are PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING have the same impact as 1 Group voting YES because 15 other Groups need to VOTE YES for the motion to pass.

If all of the math seems confusing and all else fails, all we need to remember is Group Conscience is not about votes, it is about a loving God's will for our Group. If we come to a Group Conscience in our Home Group meetings, as opposed to simply "taking votes", we will arrive at the answer that is God's will for us as autonomous Groups of Narcotics Anonymous and our Fellowship as a whole.

# THE MOTIONS

## MOTION 2016-17-1

*THIS IS A FIRST YEAR MOTION*

*80% YES required for passage*

*Any NO vote cast will cause this motion to go back to the Groups for one more conference cycle for further consideration, review and input; provided there is a reason given for voting NO.*

**Made by The Alive & Free Nomads Home Group of Narcotics Anonymous  
(Old School Recovery Meeting)  
Springville, Utah, USA**

### Motion:

To approve the Baby Blue Edition of the NA Basic Text as Fellowship Approved Literature through the Fellowship Service Conference. This would include any Basic Text that is the result of restoring the original 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Traditions to Book One of the Third Edition Revised or applying the Revised Headers to the Second Edition. This motion would not apply to any such volume containing a "Book Two" or personal stories.

### Intent:

To recognize the Baby Blue as a Fellowship Approved Basic Text. To formally approve the Basic Text which is most commonly used by Home Groups that participate in the FSC and ASIS, as well as being used and distributed by many other Home Groups across the Fellowship. To put to an end the myth that the Baby Blue Basic Text is not valid NA literature.

The intent of this motion is not to replace the Second Edition or Approval Draft (also known as the Approval Form) as valid Fellowship Approved NA literature. This conference has already officially recognized those volumes and is grounded in the Approval Draft.

***NOTE: The Alive & Free Group has modified and condensed the intent statement based on feedback from the participants at the 2016 conference. The old wording has not been included in order to avoid confusion. If you wish to see the original motion and intent statement, please refer to the 2016 conference minutes.***

**MOTION 2016-17-2**

*THIS IS A FIRST YEAR MOTION*

*80% YES required for passage*

*Any NO vote cast will cause this motion to go back to the Groups for one more conference cycle for further consideration, review and input; provided there is a reason given for voting NO.*

**Made by The Historical Perspectives Group  
Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA**

Motion:

To put the Five Essential Tools I.P. up for approval

Intent:

To formally recognize an I.P. that over 100 groups have been using and have approved as literature for their Groups.

MOTION 2015-16-3

*THIS IS A RETURNING MOTION*

*80% of VOTING Groups required for passage with no further stipulation*

**Made by Area 51 Group  
(12 Steps To Recovery, Got Recovery?, and Honest Desire meetings)  
Columbiana & East Palestine, Ohio, USA**

Motion:

To form a literature committee and elect a chairperson and set a process for ASIS approval of new or changed literature.

Intent:

To formalize what we have already been doing.

*Background Notes (Not a part of the motion):*

- *Groups who voted NO or ABSTAINING did so for various reasons.*
- *Please consult minutes and talk to 2016 participants for full background.*
- *A prominent point of discussion was whether the committee itself should set the process or whether the Groups should set and approve it.*
- *A number of those who were opposed to the motion as it stands wanted the process itself spelled out in the motion for the Groups to approve.*
- *A number of those who want the committee to set the process have pointed out that the WLC which authored the Basic Text set its own process and have expressed a desire that the process for approval would be identical or very similar to that of the original World Literature Committee.*
- *It has been suggested that if the motioning Group spells a process out in detail as part of this motion there might be some common ground.*
- *There was much more discussion than this and there are more issues and possible solutions than are highlighted here. Please refer to the minutes and speak with conference participants.*
- *It should also be noted that this motion does not have to be changed at all; that is up to the motioning Group(s).*

This report is for informational purposes and informing the Groups' respective consciences. It is intended to clarify the process at the conference and be an unbiased reporting of the motions, themselves. If you feel this is not the case, please contact me so that any appropriate changes can be made. Please call me to get my email address or to let me know before you email if you already have my email address so that I don't miss anything.

ILS,

Chubs The Addict  
2017 Chair Servant  
Fellowship Service Conference of ASIS for NA

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