
Motion 3: Appointment of AA Trustees by Nomination Through the Structure

Proposed Motion to the General Service Conference of AA in Ireland

MOTION

That Conference adopt a process by which AA Trustees of the General Service Board are appointed by way of nomination originating at group level, carried upward through Area and Provincial Intergroup, with Intergroup determining the eligibility and suitability of nominees to serve in this capacity on behalf of the groups they represent — in a manner consistent with the process by which General Service Conference Delegates and Intergroup Secretaries are selected.

BACKGROUND

The Service Handbook describes the AA Trustee/Director as a member of the General Service Board who, together with non-AA Trustees, is responsible for the governance of AA in Ireland at the national level. The Board is described as being directly responsible to the Fellowship it serves.

The Service Handbook states that AA Trustees are expected to have a minimum of ten years' continuous sobriety, have served as a GSCD, and have other qualities of experience and character appropriate to the role. These are substantial qualifications, and rightly so.

However, the current process by which AA Trustees come to be appointed does not appear to be rooted in nomination by the groups. Delegates and Intergroup Secretaries are chosen through a clear process of election within the structure. The same clarity and democratic accountability does not currently apply to the appointment of Trustees.

RATIONALE

Tradition Nine holds that service boards are directly responsible to those they serve. The groups are the primary unit of AA. It follows that those who govern the General Service Board should be chosen by the groups, through the structure the groups have created for this purpose.

Intergroups are well placed to assess the suitability of nominees for Trustee positions. They already make similar judgements in the election of GSCDs and Intergroup Secretaries. Extending this function to the assessment of Trustee nominees would be a natural and proportionate development.

This motion does not propose that the existing eligibility criteria for Trustees be altered. It proposes that the pathway to appointment be grounded in the structure, so that Trustees carry a mandate

from the groups and remain accountable to them in a meaningful sense.

Concept IX affirms that good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are indispensable at all levels. A nomination process rooted in the structure would strengthen both the quality and the legitimacy of Trustee appointments, to the benefit of the whole Fellowship.

RELEVANT TRADITIONS AND CONCEPTS

Tradition Two: 'Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.'

Tradition Nine: 'AA, as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.'

Concept IX: 'Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety.'

Concept XII, Warranty Three: 'None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.'

Service Handbook: The General Service Board is described as 'directly responsible to those they serve' — the groups of AA in Ireland.

Motion 3 of 3 — Trustee Nomination Through the Structure

This document has been prepared for consideration by AA groups, areas, and intergroups in Ireland. It is not an official publication of Alcoholics Anonymous.