

Feedback Requested Regarding the Proposed Concepts of Service

The Concepts provide a method for the individual groups to have a collective voice in the World Service Conference, and in turn, for the World Service Conference to reflect that voice back to the groups. The World Service Conference provides an avenue for groups to discuss best practices as well as problems. The Concepts offer a set of harmonious set of guidelines for discussions to take place.

During the last two SIA World Service Conferences (2009, 2010), the following “Twelve Concepts of Service of SIA” have been proposed and discussed. Concepts of Service are customary in other 12 Step programs. The Conference Structure Committee asks for any feedback you may have regarding them, so that the committee can continue its work. That committee’s intent is to eventually write full definitions of each Concept with input from the membership. To help us with this task, please send your feedback either 1) in written form to the WSO or 2) via email at wscfeedback@gmail.com. The Concepts, as adopted for SIA, are written out below:

Proposed: The Twelve Concepts of Service of SIA

1. The ultimate responsibility and authority for SIA world services belongs to the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.
2. The World Service Conference of SIA and its service arms have become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and effective conscience of SIA as a whole.
3. The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.
4. Participation is the key to harmony.
5. The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and insure that they be heard.
6. The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the SIA Board of Trustees.
7. Based on our charter and by-laws the Board of Trustees have legal rights while the rights of the Conference are traditional.
8. The Board of Trustees delegates full authority for routine management of the SIA World Service Office to its executive committees.
9. Good personal leadership at all service levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. In the field of world service the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

11. The World Service Office is composed of selected committees, executives and staff members.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of SIA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Fellowship it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

For your information, at the first World Service Conference from 2008, the following was adopted as the structure of the 2008, 2009, and 2010 Conference.

