

Suggestions On How To Obtain Informed Group Conscience on Conference Agenda Items

1. LET YOUR GROUP KNOW WHY THEIR “INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE” IS IMPORTANT.

Do your group members know they have a very important voice in AA?

That the membership is responsible for AA’s literature, policies and the fate of AA?
See handouts: “The Group’s Role in the General Service Conference ” and “AA General Service Conference Timeline” – Also see Circles of Love & Service

2. ADVANCE PLANNING & COMMUNICATION.

(a) **Advance Communication with Group Secretary or Steering Committee explaining what you want to do and why.**

(b) **Advance communication with group members – a week in advance**

Example: *Next week, we will have a meeting after the meeting to reach an informed group conscience on two (2) questions affecting AA whole to be decided at the AA General Service Conference at the end of April. On the table you will find the questionnaires with background information on the two (2) issues we will be discussing next week; (or) The two items we will be discussing are questionnaire Item X and Item Y which are posted on our Area website AASCAA.ORG.*

Please study them and come prepared to voice your opinion. If you have any questions, please see me.

See handouts: Questionnaires.

3. HOW TO CONDUCT AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE.

(Suggestions for an "after the AA meeting" or "meeting of group conscience" format)

* GSR introduces the agenda item, and explains the background and the questions that must be decided.

* The meeting is not opened for general discussion. This would allow more vocal members set the debate. It is suggested that the GSR call each Member in turn, allowing a set time for each talk. No Member should speak a second time until everyone has had their turn; This gives even the quietest person the same opportunity.

IF THE GROUP IS TOO LARGE FOR EVERYONE TO TALK:

Some GSRs ask for 3 pros and 3 cons

The vote takes place after the discussion.

Mark down the type of consensus reached - most (50%) or substantial majority (2/3). Ask for opinions from the non-prevailing side - the minority opinion is important, and the delegate will want to hear arguments and opinions from both sides.