

Proposal Sponsor(s): Ted B

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Sponsor's Service Position: Agenda Planning Committee, DCM Member

What is your proposal?: Reestablish Service Material

- Classify the *Area 75 Handbook* and *Area 75 Conference Guidelines* as service documents.
- Except matters concerning Area 75 finances, each Area 75 Service Committee may create and revise their own service documents using suggested guidelines published in the *Area 75 Handbook*.

How did this proposal originate?

This proposal is based upon the "Service Publications Standards" proposal submitted to the Area 75 Assembly at the June 22, 2014 Summer Service Assembly. From the feedback received at the assembly, this alcoholic came to believe that a simpler version of the proposal might better serve the needs of the Area 75 Assembly. This draft is a suggested friendly amendment to the original proposal—it retains the ideas of the original proposal while simplifying the language and details.

List any supporting documentation or background material attached to this proposal (if any): The following quote comes from *The Twelve Concepts for World Service*, page 12 and 13:

[S]ome traditional and practical principle has to be devised which at all levels which at all levels *will continuously balance the right relation between ultimate authority and delegated responsibility*. How, then, are we going to accomplish this?

There are three possible attitudes that we might take toward such a state of affairs. We could, for instance, throw away all corporate charters, bylaws, job definitions, and the like. This would leave it entirely to each group of trusted servants to figure out what its authority and responsibility really is. But such an absence of any chartered structure would be absurd; nothing but anarchy could result.

Then of course we could take the opposite tack. Refusing to give our leadership any worthwhile discretion at all, we could add to our present Charters great numbers of rules, regulations, and bylaws that would attempt to cover every conceivable action or contingency. That would be altogether too much red tape—more than we A.A.'s could stand.

The right A.A. solution for this problem is to be found, however, in the latter part of Tradition Two, which provides for "trusted servants." This really means that we ought to trust our responsible leaders to decide, within the understood framework of their duties, *how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises*. This sort of leadership discretion should be the essence of "*The Right of Decision*," and I am certain that we need not have the slightest fear of granting this indispensable privilege at nearly every level of world service. There will always be plenty of ultimate authority to correct inefficiency, ineffectiveness, or abuse.

If the Conference does not function well, the groups can send in better Delegates. If the Trustees get badly out of line, the Conference can censure them, or even reorganize them. If the Headquarters' services go sour, the Trustees can elect better directors and hire better help. These remedies are ample and direct. But for so long as our world services function reasonably well—and there should always be charity for occasional mistakes—then "trust" must be our watchword, otherwise we shall wind up leaderless.

List the primary benefits of your proposal to the area. What will happen if we adopt this proposal?

This proposal gives the Area 75 Assembly the chance to consider a different and perhaps better balance of delegated responsibility to Area 75 Trusted Servants.

What will happen if this proposal is not adopted?

The Area 75 Assembly would issue excessively detailed instructions to our Trusted servants (if the original proposal passes), or no direction at all (if the proposal fails.)

Estimate any costs to the area. Outline where funding would come from. Explain whether this is a one-time or ongoing expense.

This proposal is unlikely to incur any additional funding from Area 75.