

Polling Process for Change to Tradition 11

Introduction:

The World Service Conference of Cocaine Anonymous proposed a change to update Tradition 11. Any change to our Traditions requires the approval of 3/4 of Fellowship, it is important that you know your vote counts. This is the first time our Fellowship has proposed a change of any Traditions.

This change cannot be made without the voice of all the groups worldwide being given the opportunity to be heard. To that end, a ballot and process to return these ballots has been created to determine the consciousness of the Fellowship whether it is for or against the proposed change to update Tradition 11.

This packet includes the following:

- Page 2 - Backstory
- Page 3 - Pros and Cons
- Page 4 - Process to change
- Page 6 - Ballot

We hope that the information contained provides all necessary information to ensure each member is fully informed of the motion and the process required to make this kind of change.

Please bring any questions regarding the proposed change and the process outlined to your Area Delegates or Regional Trustee.

Each ballot must be signed by the Area Chair prior to the ballot being returned to the World Service Office.

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BACKSTORY

World Service Conference of Cocaine Anonymous
Sat. Sep. 2, 2017, Day 4 Daily Minutes

CLOSING REPORT
C.A. WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 2017 WORLD
SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

We would like to inform the Conference that the WSBT has discussed changing Tradition 11 to read: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of public media." Pursuant to SR- 14, we wish to inform you that this may come up for possible consideration at the 2018 Conference.

Based on our Traditions, Concepts and Charter we recognize and fully appreciate that it is of course for the Conference and its committees to decide whether, and how, to do this. Though there are some guidelines, at this point we do not have a full procedure in place for this kind of change. For this reason, the WSBT has sent S&B a referral to design such a procedure.

We would encourage you to initiate healthy debate and discussion in your groups, areas, and regions. Please feel free to share your thoughts and feedback on this matter with your regional Trustee. We understand this is a big change, and we will be looking to the collective group conscience of our entire C.A. Fellowship, and a Loving God as he may express himself, to be our guide.

The motion was brought forth in response to the following referrals:

WSBT 2-16-05: Referral forwarded from S&B/Referral Subject:
consideration to amend Tradition 11

WSBT.LCF 2017-02: Referral forwarded from LCF/Referral Subject:
consideration to amend Tradition 11

WSBT.LCF 2017-08: Referral forwarded from LCF/Referral Subject:
consideration to amend Tradition 11

See Appendix A – Backstory

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PROS

- It's important to recognize that when Bill W. wrote the 11th Tradition, it was before the widespread use of television, and yet the language of the tradition has been flexible enough to cover those forms of media. The internet did not exist when the traditions were written.
- In 2020 the World was impacted, and our fellowship was diverted to the many social media and video platforms to conduct meetings and fellowship with one another. Although this proposed change was initiated prior to 2020, the need to make this change became even more necessary. With the introduction of many social media platforms, video conferencing is used to attract members and conduct meetings. C.A. will continue to grow and change with the years. The "Principal of Anonymity" must remain our primary and enduring safeguard. This change will ensure that we recognize the ever-emerging technology around us and adapt to these changes.

CONS

- One of the strongest foundations of any fellowship is the traditions that we rely on for guidance and support. A change is a big thing and should not be considered lightly. The traditions originate from the start of all the 12-step fellowships and our members are used to the current wording.
- If a vote of this magnitude is carried out within the fellowship, this process is easier to access, it means that the barriers to entry are lowered, and more people can utilize it. While this can have many benefits, it can also create opportunities for abuse.

See Appendix B – WSC Discussion/Vote 2022

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The instructions to the Area (or District) as outlined on pg. 59 of WSM.

Process to Poll All C.A. Groups as Per Conference Charter / Article 3

1. Upon authorization by a 2/3rds vote of the World Service Conference (WSC), the Structure and Bylaws Committee (S&B) shall prepare a ballot describing any such change to the Twelve Traditions of C.A., the Twelve Steps of C.A. or Article 10 of the Charter, along with such arguments for and against that it deems proper, along with instructions for Areas and Groups, and present these to the World Service Board of Trustees (WSBT).
2. The WSBT will review this material and may return it to S&B for revision.
3. Upon WSBT approval, the ballot question and all related materials will be submitted to the next WSC for final approval by a 2/3rds vote. This submittal must conform to the Standing Rules of the WSC.
4. Upon WSC approval, the ballots will be disseminated by a Delegate mailing from the World Service Office (WSO) to all known Areas in such a time and manner that every Group therein could expect to have 6 months to consider the requested changes.
5. Groups not yet within an Area, but known to the WSO, shall be sent a ballot directly.
6. Areas (or Districts) shall disseminate a ballot to each and every Group therein, previously validating each ballot with the Area Chair's signature.
7. Groups shall return their ballots as per the instructions provided.
8. Upon the conclusion of the voting period, the WSO will tabulate the votes, resolve any ballot defects by contacting the Area's Delegates or Chair, and report the vote totals, along with the estimated Group response rate, to the WSC S&B Committee and the WSBT. Abstentions received do not affect the percentages for and against but are reported in the response rate.
9. Should 3/4ths of the ballots returned, not counting Abstentions, be in the affirmative, the question, along with the vote counts and estimated percentage the Groups responding will be presented to the WSC for final approval. The WSC may, but is not required to, consider the percentage response rate in its deliberations.
10. A final 2/3rd ratification vote by the WSC causes the change to be put into effect.

Item #7 of Process to Poll all C.A. groups suggest we provide instructions for the return of the ballots.

- Delegates will collect the ballots (Appendix C) from the local groups and submit them to the Area Chair.
- The Chair will verify that all local groups are represented by a ballot.
- Per the process outlined in the WSM, the Area Chair must sign and validate each ballot that is distributed to the groups.
- As we understand there are some groups that are not a part of any specific area, (Loner Groups) the GRS of these groups will sign the poll and return to the WSO.
- All ballots should be submitted to the WSO via email (ballot@ca.org) or via USPS.

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Suggested timeline:

- Area Chair - send ballot out to all groups (by 10-JAN-2024)
- Groups - 3-6 month to review, vote and return ballot to Area Chair (from 10-JAN-2024 to 10-JUL-2024)
- Area Chair - return all ballots to the WSO (by 10-JUL-2024)

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**Tradition 11 Change Ballot
2023 World Service Conference C. A.**

Region:

Area:

Group Name:

Contact:

Phone Number:

Motion: To Change the 11th Tradition which states: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, television and films".

To:" Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of **all public media**".

YES NO ABSTAIN

Area Chair Signature _____