

COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE SA PROCEDURE FOR TAKING AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP CONSCIENCE

Preamble:

As mandated by the Bozeman Conference, the committee to suggest an SA International Group Conscience Procedure has prepared this proposal for ratification by Sexaholics Anonymous. The real purpose of this proposal is two-fold: practical and spiritual. Practically the procedure allows SA a mechanism to take IGC's on issues that affect SA as a whole. Spiritually, the proposal raises the issue of leadership and responsibility for SA. It is another step in the turning of the responsibility for the fellowship over to the fellowship.

Our aim in devising this procedure has been to implement the first tradition of SA: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on SA unity."

Moreover, the committee has tried to act as trusted servants in keeping with SA's second tradition which reads "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

It is our further hope that this procedure will allow this tradition and all the traditions to continue to operate and remain vital in our fellowship.

The suggested procedure:

1. Any group, convention, or the Central Office may ask that an international group conscience (IGC) be taken.
2. An IGC committee shall be established to oversee the IGC process.
3. The IGC committee decides whether or not an IGC needs to be taken on any issue raised. The committee will make all decisions in accordance with its best understanding of the 12 Traditions of SA.
4. The committee will decide whether an issue needs to go to an IGC based on two criteria:
 - a) Whether or not it affects SA as a whole;
 - b) Whether or not it is serious enough to merit an IGC.
5. If it is decided that an IGC needs to be taken, the IGC committee will notify the fellowship and ask groups to reflect on the issue and give feedback. This notice may be given through the Essay.
6. Next, the individual groups discuss the issue and send their feedback to the IGC committee. This is not an IGC vote yet, but rather an initial step of prayer, reflection and feedback.

7. The committee will summarize this feedback and communicate it to the fellowship. The committee may publish this in the Essay.

8. Individual groups then take their group conscience on the issue. Having done so, they send their group conscience results back to the IGC committee.

9. The IGC then determines if substantial unanimity has been reached. If so, SA has an IGC on the issue at hand; otherwise, not. The committee will communicate the results to the fellowship.

10. The committee shall determine whether substantial unanimity has been reached based on a sense of strong consensus arrived at through discussion and prayer among the IGC committee considering the feedback of the groups.

11. Each individual group is the voting unit for the IGC. It is recommended that groups use a 30-day sobriety rule to determine who may vote on IGC issues. This is a suggestion only.

12. Neither the Central Office nor the international conventions have any official role in determining SA's IGC on any issue.

13. SA members not able to participate in IGC votes due to not being near an active group may vote with the group nearest to them.

14. The IGC committee will be composed of nine SA members with two years or more of sobriety.

The election procedure will be:

a) In 1988, the present IGC procedure committee will contact members from the following 5 geographic regions:

Chicago/Milwaukee/Minneapolis;
Pacific Northwest/Canada/Bozeman;
New York City/Boston/East Coast;
International/Germany;
Baltimore/Washington, D.C.

b) Groups from each region will be asked to elect one member to the IGC committee to serve for a period of two years. Four members of the present IGC procedure committee will stay on for one year until the 1989 elections.

c) In 1989, the now existing IGC committee will contact members from the following four regions:

St. Louis/Kansas City/Oklahoma City;
Nashville/Southeast;
Salt Lake City/Phoenix/Colorado;
Los Angeles.

d) Groups from each of these four regions will be asked to elect one member to the IGC committee for a period of two years.

e) The purpose of this process is to stagger the terms of office so as to insure some continuity in the committee.

f) The first five regions will hold elections every even numbered year thereafter. The next four regions will hold elections every odd numbered year.

g) The order in which the regions select members for the IGC committee has been set at random.

h) Committee members may not serve for two consecutive terms.

15. Once election procedures have been determined, the first test of this procedure will be to run this proposal through the proposed process to see if SA has reached an international group conscience on how to take international group consciences.