

## Motion 6: Virtual Area Delegate

18<sup>th</sup> Annual S-Anon World Service Conference, July 24, 2021

**A. MOTION:** Move that the World Service Conference approve the creation of a Virtual Area Delegate position to represent registered S-Anon groups that gather online. These meetings are not temporary, are without a designated Area within the borders of North America, are not telephone meetings only, are not face to face, and are video or other online platform.

**B. BACKGROUND AND INTENT:** There are members participating in groups whose sole preference is to remain online and do not consider themselves to be part of a current Area designation. This motion serves the purpose of providing an Area Delegate for groups designated as an online group; for those online meetings that do not identify with a geographical Area, and who consider this group to be their home group. The intent is:

- To perform the role of Delegate within the online virtual population on behalf of S-Anon groups.
- To advance representation of all groups at the WSC where issues and policies affecting all S-Anon groups can be discussed and informed decisions can be made with all members of the fellowship being represented.
- This will expand each group's autonomy to determine how they are represented, either by a geographical Area or, in this case, virtually.
- To create a meeting designation for groups that gather online for the purpose of registering the meeting.

### C. SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES:

- Concept One: "The ultimate responsibility and authority for S-Anon world services belongs to the S-Anon groups." This includes online virtual platforms not just face to face.
- Concept Four: "Participation is the key to harmony." This allows online groups to participate in fellowship matters.
- Tradition Three: "The relatives of sexaholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an S-Anon Family Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation." A group is an S-Anon Family Group whether online or in person.
- Tradition Four: "Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or S-Anon or SA as a whole." This change allows online groups to affect S-Anon as a whole.
- Tradition Five: "Each S-Anon Family Group has but one purpose: to help families of sexaholics. We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps of S-Anon, by encouraging and understanding our sexaholic relatives, and by welcoming and giving comfort to the families of sexaholics." The health of the fellowship is driven by all groups whether online or in person who have a voice and a vote in fellowship matters.

**D. FINANCIAL IMPACT:** No financial impact really since the Delegate Travel Reimbursement budgeted amount is a pool of funds that are allocated based on a formula that includes number of Delegates, totals submitted for reimbursement, etc.

**E. ARGUMENT PRO:** Arguments in favor but not limited to:

- Lone members can identify with online groups and receive Delegate representation.
- Giving groups an online designation allows Delegate representation at the World Service Conference (WSC).
- Groups with an online designation are distinguished from other groups which exist inside a geographical Area and already have an Area Delegate.
- Using group conscience these group members can participate in their home meetings as a voice and a vote in matters affecting the fellowship as a whole.
- Groups without an Area Delegate may choose the Online Group Delegate until an Area Delegate is elected.

### F. ARGUMENT CON:

- While S-Anon members living outside of North America may be attending these meetings, they will not be included and will not have a vote in a business meeting or group conscience where discussion of items affecting North American fellowship are held.
- Groups meeting online will need to designate how they choose to be identified, either by a geographical Area or as an online group.
- S-Anon has lost most of its geographical meetings in North America and Canada due to the pandemic. Many meetings have folded; some have kept going by using various electronic platforms. It is too soon to determine which meetings will stay on an electronic format and which will try to go back to an in-person meeting within a geographical Area. Therefore, it is too soon to create a new service position. Without knowing which meetings will remain in an electronic format, and choose to become registered, it will be difficult to represent any electronic meeting. The registered electronic meetings that were established before the pandemic already have representation with the Phone Delegate position, if filled.
- All S-Anon members in North America already have a way to be represented at the WSC by a Delegate for the geographical Area in which they live. This motion opens the door to possible double representation of members who attend both

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geographic and virtual groups, which is not in line with Concept Ten because it could potentially create double-headed management situations in the WSC service structure.

#### **G. DOCUMENTATION:** If approved,

- Part 2: S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Structure/Relationships of S-Anon Service Arms/Traditional S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Structure/Areas and Area Delegates to the WSC, Paragraph 2, Line 5 will be changed to read, “(Central, Eastern, Western), Phone Meetings, Online Progress Meeting, and the Online Virtual Platform.”
- The WSC Charter will be changed to read as follows:
  - II. Composition
  - Add F. A Delegate to represent S-Anon members that participate as an online group.
  - G. Designated areas with large S-Anon population may petition the Conference to divide and send an additional Delegate to the Conference.
- The Group Registration Form will be modified to require groups to identify as a geographical Area or as an online meeting.

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