

2024 Conference Committee on Trustees

ITEM F: Consider guidelines and parameters regarding the deadline to submit Conference agenda items.

Background:

1. Request from a past General Service Trustee asking the General Service Board to affirm the September 15th deadline for proposed agenda items does not include motions to censure or reorganize the General Service Board.
2. GSO Archives Department's research and response.

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Proposed Agenda Item Submission

Diana L.

From: William N
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:29 AM
To: Conference
Cc: William N
Subject: Agenda Item / 74th GSC / 2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please submit this to the Trustees' Committee on the GSC/Agenda Item:

Confirm the September 15th deadline for Conference Agenda items does not apply to motions for censure or reorganization.

Background:

As a past Trustee I have stayed out of the issue regarding the GSB chair resignation, but in relation to this issue I have to speak up and inform the Fellowship, but I am doing it through the proper channel.

This date was never meant to apply to motions to censure or reorg. The GSB using it now as a way to stop these from going to the current Conference is a major abuse of power and not in line with the GSC Charter or the 12 Concepts. We discussed this very issue at the GSB level when we moved the date to December 15th.

There was never an intent to create a safe neutral harbor where the GSB could do whatever it wanted between September 15th and Conference, and delegates would have to wait a year or longer to bring it to the GSC.

Thanks,

Billy N.

Past GSR / West Side Young Peoples Group
Past Delegate / Panel 49
Past General Service Trustee / AAWS Director

Diana L.

From: Archivist
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 1:55 PM
To: Conference
Cc: Staffcoord; Staffcoordsa
Subject: RE: Agenda Item / 74th GSC / 2024
Attachments: AttachmentA_2012_10_28_GSBMinutes.pdf; AttachmentB_2013_PolicyAdmissionsBackground.pdf; AttachmentC_2018_TCC.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,

Thanks for the question.

First, I am addressing the past trustee's claim that ***"This date was never meant to apply to motions to censure or reorg. ...We discussed this very issue at the GSB level when we moved the date to December 15th."***

This is a testimony of events from the audio recording of the GSB meeting: During the GSB Monday session, the recommendation to change the date was read, that was followed by one trustee speaking in favor of the recommendation and no further discussion followed. The chair called for a vote of "Yays" and then called for "Nays." There were no "Nays" expressed, then the chair said, "motion carries."

The date of this meeting described above was October 28, 2012, and the recommendation being referred to was:

"Following a motion and second, the Board recommended that the following agenda item be approved and forwarded to the 2013 Conference Policy/Admissions: Consider changing the deadline for submission of Conference Agenda Items from January 15th to December 15th." (Reference Attachment A).

To reiterate, there was no discussion recorded either in the minutes, or the audio recording about excluding any motion submitted to censure the board from the PAI deadline process.

Next refer to Attachment B, the background reviewed by the Policy/Admissions Committee, which resulted in the 2013 Advisory Action:

"The deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda Items be changed from January 15 to December 15, beginning in December 2014 for the 65th General Service Conference."

Note there were no discussions around excluding motions to censure/reorg the board recorded.

Furthermore, in October 2018, the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference considered the following proposed agenda item and **took no action:**

“Agenda item for censure or reorganization: The committee considered a proposed agenda item that ‘All agenda items for censure or reorganization be forwarded directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees’ and took no action. The committee agreed that it is important to follow our proposed agenda item process.”

I also searched the GSB Actions and Resolutions document.

In conclusion, this is all I am finding in the written record.

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Best,
MM

Michelle Mirza
Archivist

In-Office: Tuesday - Friday
Remote: Monday

From: Conference
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:12 PM **To:** Mirza, Michelle
Cc: Staffcoord
Subject: FW: Agenda Item / 74th GSC / 2024

Hi Michelle,
Would please confirm in the GSB Minutes any discussion at the GSB level that the proposed agenda item submission deadline does not apply to any motions to censure or reorg the Board? See email below from a past trustee.
Thanks.

forwarded message:

From: William N
Date: April 19, 2023 at 8:29:29 AM EDT
To: Conference
Cc: William N
Subject: Agenda Item / 74th GSC / 2024

Please submit this to the Trustees Committee on the GSC.

Agenda Item:

Confirm the September 15th deadline for Conference Agenda items does not apply to motions for censure or reorganization.

AttachmentA_2012_10_28_GSBMinutes Excerpt

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
October 28, 2012

Following a motion and second, the Board recommended that the following agenda item be approved and forwarded to the 2013 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:
"Consider changing the deadline for submission of Conference Agenda Items from January 15th to December 15th."

CONFIDENTIAL: 63rd General Service Conference Background

Attachment B_2013_PolicyAdmissionsBackground

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

Agenda Item E
Cover Sheet

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

AGENDA ITEM E: Consider changing the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda Items from January 15th to December 15th_

Background documents attached:

1. 11-5-12 Memo from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference requesting a change of date for the submission of Conference Agenda Items.
2. History of Agenda Item Submission and Background Dates
3. Recent Deadlines for Preparation and Mailing of Conference Background

CONFIDENTIAL: 63rd General Service Conference Background

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

Agenda Item E
Background Doc. 1**Memorandum**

November 5, 2012

To: Rick W., secretary
2013 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

From: Eva S., secretary Trustees'
Conference Committee

RE: Item pertaining to eligibility of Conference Committee Chairpersons and
Alternate Chairpersons

This memorandum is to forward a recommendation from the trustees' Conference Committee that was approved by the General Service Board at their October 29, 2012 meeting. The following is from the minutes of the trustees' Conference Committee, which includes the recommendation for placement on agenda for the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee. Attached you will also find background.

"The committee discussed the January 15th deadline for submission of Conference Agenda Items in conjunction with the "by February 15" mailing deadline for Conference committee background. The committee recommended to the General Service Board that the following agenda item be approved and forwarded to the 2013 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions: "Consider changing the deadline for submission of Conference Agenda Items from January 15th to December 15th." The committee agreed that this would allow more time for preparation and review of background material for the General Service Board's First Quarter Meeting. This would also allow more preparation time to meet the February 15th background mailing deadline to Conference members."

CONFIDENTIAL: 63rd General Service Conference Background**POLICY/ADMISSIONS**Agenda Item E
Background Doc. 2**History of Deadlines for Conference Agenda Items and Background**

The deadline for submitting Conference agenda items and distribution of background has evolved over the span of the Conference. Delegates have always received the background for the Conference committee on which they serve. In 1968, the Conference recommended that when questions of importance for the Conference could not be sent to the areas in advance, consideration be given to an oral presentation early in the Conference sessions, with discussion and voting to be taken at a later date during the Conference.

In 1967, the recommendation was that delegates send agenda items to G.S.O. before October and in 1971, it was recommended that agenda for all Conference committees be mailed to all delegates before the Conference. In 1972, there was a recommendation that all Conference committee agendas continue to be sent to all delegates, as they give an overall insight into the Conference.

The 1973 Conference Committee on Agenda/Admissions suggested that all delegates try to get suggestions for the 1974 agenda to the Conference secretary by November 15, 1973.

The 1974 Conference recommended that "this recommendation from the Committee on Conference Policy be considered that as many Conference agenda items as possible be finalized for approval at the October Policy Committee and board meetings, so the November *Quarterly Report* will reflect this approval and allow for early assembly discussions, and that further agenda items be forwarded to the delegates as soon as the items have been approved."

Again in 1975, the Conference recommended that the delegates make every effort to send to G.S.O., no later than October 1, their suggestions for the 1976 Conference agenda and those of their G.S.R.s and area committee members for consideration. The 1975 Conference also recommended that the delegate receive only the agenda pertinent to his or her committee, but may receive any others on request.

In 1992, the Conference recommended that Final Conference Committee agendas be automatically sent to all Conference members no later than March 15 each year.

In 1993, the Conference recommended that in order for groups/districts/areas to fully participate in the Conference process, the following steps be taken:

- a) Conference agenda items be submitted as early as possible but no later than January 15 each year.
- b) Final Conference committee agendas be automatically sent to all Conference members by February 15 each year.

- c) Background material for each specific committee be sent to its members by February 15 each year, with other committees' background material available upon request.

The 1994 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee considered suggestions for changing the deadline for proposed Conference Agenda items and "in order for groups/districts/areas to fully participate in the Conference process" reaffirmed the above 1993 Advisory Action (a-c).

Following the 1993 action, there was a gradual increase year-to-year in the number of requests for all background material, and delegates began to distribute background material more widely in their areas. The 1993 recommendation is the most recent action regarding the deadline for submission of Conference agenda items.

In 2011, the Conference Policy/Admissions committee discussed a request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda items. The following is from the committee's Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee had lengthy discussion on a request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda items and took no action. Acknowledging the challenge of communicating about agenda items within a short time frame, the committee noted that many delegates are taking advantage of current technology in order to facilitate timely distribution of background within their areas.

Currently, the list of Preliminary Agenda Items is included in the Conference Communications Kit that is mailed to all Conference Members by December 26 and is posted on the Conference Dashboard. Committee agendas are finalized following the 1st Quarter meeting of the GSB* when the trustees committees meet for Board weekend, which takes place late-January or early-February*. The delegates are sent the background they have requested by February 15.

*Note: Scheduling of the first GSB Quarterly meeting is not flexible; per GSB Bylaws, the first, third and fourth quarterly meeting shall be held the 5th Monday following the close of the calendar quarter.

CONFIDENTIAL: 63rd General Service Conference Background

POLICY/ADMISSIONS
Agenda Item E
Background Doc.3

Recent Conference Background Preparation and Mailing Dates

Agenda Items for Conference committees are approved no later than the 1st Quarterly Meeting (January/February) of the General Service Board (GSB). Some Agenda Items are submitted well before the January 15th deadline and are reviewed and forwarded from trustees' committees at prior GSB quarterly meetings for placement on the Conference agenda.

The following chart illustrates preparation time involved in compiling the Conference committee background to meet the "by February 15th" mailing deadline (2010-2014):

<u>Agenda Items Received on</u>	<u>Preparation Time for 1st Qtr GSB Meeting</u>	<u>1st Qtr GSB Meeting</u>	<u>Background Preparation & Production Time for Mailing</u>
Jan. 15	10 business days	Feb. 1, 2010	9 business days*
Jan. 15	9 business days	Jan. 31, 2011	10 business days
Jan. 15	9 business days	Jan. 30, 2012	11 business days
Jan. 15	9 business days	Feb. 4, 2013	8 business days
Jan. 15	12 business days	Feb. 3, 2014	9 business days

Note: Background for Conference can range from 800-1500 pages and documents for each agenda item vary. Conference Committee Staff secretaries meet on Tuesday morning following the 1st Quarterly GSB meeting to finalize the List of Conference Agenda Items. Preparations following this meeting include and are not limited to: research, writing, editing, formatting documents, setting nomenclature, collating, final review of documents, digital/CD production, copying for hard-copy sets, mailing/distribution preparations, etc.

*In 2010, February 15th fell on a Monday; thus, background was sent on Friday, February 12th.

