

Below is a Proposed Agenda Item from the Here's HOW group of Carbondale, IL, to the General Service Office and for the 77th General Service Conference. This item was submitted and approved by District 17 and now to Area 21 to be on the agenda for approval at the September Area 21 Assembly.

"Proposals that are important to the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, policy decisions or request for changes to Conference-approved literature and items that might require the collective conscience of the Fellowship. The trustees, corporate directors and staff bring together years of experience in A.A. service in making decisions about the appropriate process or disposition of proposed Conference agenda items. Warranty Six reminds us "that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government..."

Item from Here's HOW group below:

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Delegates should have the opportunity to hear input from their areas before discussion/ voting on proposed changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous, including it's first 164 pages, Preface, Forwards, "Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices. In addition, Delegates should have the same opportunity for any proposed changes to any text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Therefore, such items of recommendation can not come solely from the Conference Committees or from floor actions of the GSC. The proposed items would be submitted to the whole fellowship in the proposed conference agenda in a timely manner for review and consideration.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

This will promote participation and unity of the groups of AA when aware of such items presented to the General Service Conference for consideration. It will allow the delegates to better prepare for discussion and decisions of the items; and that includes the informed group conscience of their area's districts and groups.

This will contribute to the efforts of establishing a process to address agenda items regarding the changing of words of literature by the founders of AA. Specifically, it will establish the special significance of the 2 books as "recovery literature" by our founders.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

The item was passed by the Here's How Group in Carbondale, Illinois, by a unanimous vote on July 12, 2026.

It was submitted to District 17 of Area 21 on July 19, 2026 where it passed with substantial unanimity.

It was submitted to Area 21 (Southern Illinois) on September 13, 2026 and

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

For prior decades but especially since the General Service Conference of 2021, there has been much concern about the changing of the founder's words within these 2 books. In the years since 2021, the General Service Conference has discouraged proposed agenda items for the literature until a more defined process be in place to address the changes; including not considering new word changes or considering retraction of any new changes.

In the 75th General Service Conference, an advisory action was passed to better clarify the writings of the founders, including what are Recovery writings, what are Service-related writings and what are Archival writings. However, there appeared to be little or no action from the GSB or GSO in implementing the recommendation.

In spite of the experiences of the past General Service Conferences, there were proposals and changes made in both books in the 76th General Service Conference; and without any pre-existing knowledge of the Delegates attending, nor allowing them to include an informed group conscience of their areas.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

It would help establish the special significance of these 2 books as "recovery literature from our founders" and thus allowing it special attention by the full fellowship for items of word changes.

It would reinforce the Concepts; that the AA groups have the ultimate authority in the affairs of AA, and they should be allowed to be informed and participate in such significant proposals for change.

With this process in place, potentially the acceptance of the decisions of the General Service Conference will be improved, knowing that all groups would have the opportunity to participate. In addition, the increased participation would likely increase a feeling of trust and unity with the conference.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Lynn Densler, GSR, Here's HOW Group, Carbondale, IL

imbuzymomma@aol.com

(7) Final comments: Thank you for considering this proposal.

