

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE AREA ASSEMBLY STRUCTURE AND GUIDELINES

Name of Motion: Consider amending “THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL
AREA ASSEMBLY”

Motion:

Current Text:

Proposed Text:

Background:

	1. Submitted to the Area Chairperson and Policy/Agenda Committee's.(This is a good time to send the motion to translation.)
10/19/2017	2. Reviewed by the Area Committee
11/4/2017	3. Presented to the Area Assembly
	4. Area Assembly votes—majority vote required to distribute for group consideration
	5. GSRs review with Groups—Group Consciences taken
	6. Final vote by Area Assembly—two thirds majority vote required for adoption

NOTES:	a. All proposed new text is presented with <u>underline</u> .
	b. All proposed deletions are presented with striketrough .
	c. Explanations of changes are presented in [brackets].
	d. Page number refers to the current location of text in the A.A.S.&G.
	e. If the proposal is new and does not alter or amend the existing text, the page number indicates the intended location in the A.A.S.&G., if adopted.

Financial Impact to the Area Assembly			
Direct Costs (-) Savings (+) (Actual \$ spent by the Area Assembly to produce or secure change.)		Indirect Costs (-) or Savings (+) possible related costs to sub-committees, support costs or maintenance.)	
\$	Description	\$	Description

Concepts and Traditions that apply	
Concept or Tradition	How it applies
Traditions 7 & 9	See below
Warranty 2	See below

MOTION:

Amend “**THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL AREA ASSEMBLY**” on page 2 in the Structure & Guidelines to align to Concept XII of the Twelve Concepts for World Service, by adding the words: **plus an ample reserve**.

CURRENT TEXT:

THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL AREA ASSEMBLY

In all its proceedings, the San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Assembly never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Assembly members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Assembly action ever be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that though the Assembly may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Assembly itself will always remain democratic in thought and action. (*San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly of the **General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous** (Area 8) Structure & Guidelines*, page 2.)

PROPOSED TEXT:

THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL AREA ASSEMBLY

In all its proceedings, the San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Assembly never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, **plus an ample reserve**, shall be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Assembly members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Assembly action ever be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that though the Assembly may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Assembly itself will always remain democratic in thought and action. (*Twelve Concepts for World Service*, page 60.)

BACKGROUND:

The formal name of our area assembly is the *San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (Area 8)*. With the words **General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous** in our name, we appear to have the intention to be Conference members. As a Conference member, we may want to consider participating in the six promises or guarantees the Conference makes to the Fellowship in Concept XII.

The consideration to add the words “plus an ample reserve” to THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL AREA ASSEMBLY is made in order to specifically include Warranty Two of Concept XII.

Warranty Two: “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.” *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, pages 62-65.)

The Warranties are the promises the Conference has pledged to the Fellowship as the means to remain democratic in thought and action (spirit). Adding those words will align our area’s Operating Principles with all six warranties that are found in the Conference Charter, the Twelve Concepts of World Service, and discussed in A.A. literature. Without making this specific warranty part of the area’s operating principles, our area’s trusted servants may fail to become motivated to secure a full understanding of Warranty Two in Concept XII. The text on this warranty holds a huge amount of information relevant to understanding the how and why of A.A.’s finances.

Aligning our area’s operating principles to all facets of Concept XII helps insure all our members have a common reference point for learning and understanding how to apply A.A.’s principles aimed at remaining democratic in thought and spirit. The main objective in remaining democratic in thought and action is to keep service available to all who wish to exercise their freedom to serve this Fellowship now and in the future. (See Note 1.)

Article 12 is also Concept XII of The Twelve Concepts for World Service of Alcoholics Anonymous. **Concept II** specifically states changes to Article 12 of the Conference Charter and the Traditions are in the same class and can only be changed through a specific process. (See Note 2. for Concept II. For the change process of a Tradition or Article 12, see **A Resolution**,” Appendix B, page 111 of *The Service Manual*.)

TRADITIONS SEVEN AND NINE

The San Diego Imperial Area Assembly is a service committee formed under Tradition Nine. The long form of **Tradition Nine** states service boards and committees are directly responsible to those they serve and are tasked with the job of being custodians of A.A. Tradition. All work of the area is to carry the message with **12-Step** work which is funded solely by Tradition Seven. Our area’s committees either directly do the work or are working to support the direct work. Area officers do both

Note 1

Concept XII states: The sum of these several attitudes and practices is, in our view, the very essence of democracy—in action and spirit.

Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of the Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.

To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live—the freedom in which we have our being. (*Twelve Concepts for World Service*, pages 72-73.)

Note 2

Concept II: When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

Financial Impact to the Area Assembly: None. The assembly recently adopted a financial reserve.

From “**A Resolution**,” Appendix B, page 111 of *The Service Manual*:

AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.] ³ These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal.