

2021 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM C: Reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Action stating “G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group.”

Background:

1. Letter from District 21

I am forwarding this original email, along with attachments, to you as secretary of the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

It is a submission for a proposed agenda item for the 2021 General Service Conference. This item is being forwarded to the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee for consideration and any action they may wish to take.

Reconsider and possibly change the 1972 G.S.C. Action stating "The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups," by sending a new questionnaire to clubs to determine if the reason for the previous Action is still the same, and if appropriate, to change the policy.

You should have received a copy of the acknowledgement to the person who submitted the item. You do not need to be in touch with the submitter now unless you have questions.

Action: Please follow up with the submitter, and copy the Conference Coordinator at conference@aa.org, after each meeting where this topic is on the agenda, until a final decision about it has been reached.

Best Regards,

Patrick C.

Conference Coordinator

CONFIDENTIAL: 71st General Service Conference Background

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Item C
Doc. 1.a**

From: Chris E
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 12:10 AM
To: Conference
Subject: Request to add an agenda item to the GSC agenda.
Attachments: Request to accept donations from clubs.docx

Hello

Attached is a letter from District 21 in Area 20 requesting that an agenda item be considered to be added to the agenda of the next General Service Conference.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Yours in Service,

Chris E

DCM, District 21

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August 24, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Palatine Angle Group proposed a change at our District meeting in January 2020 to allow AA to receive donations from Clubs, providing they have no outside commitments or connections. The group believed it was wrong for District 21 to reject a donation from our local club, because it came from a group of alcoholics. They understand the reasoning for the decision the District made, but believe the GSC Action used to make that decision is outdated and needs to be revised.

The District voted in February 2020 to support the group in requesting that this change be considered by the General Service Conference. It has been almost 50 years since this matter was last addressed by the GSC. We believe it is time to reevaluate the decision that was made in 1972 to determine if the reason for the GSC Action is still the same. Therefore, we are proposing the following motion to be considered by the GSC and request that it be added to the agenda of the 71st General Service Conference in 2021:

A request to reconsider and possibly change the 1972 GSC Action stating "The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups," by sending a new questionnaire to clubs to determine if the reason for the previous Action is still the same, and if appropriate, to change the policy.

It is known that meetings for other 12 step programs take place at our local club and that they pay rent to do so. It is not known if the money received from those groups is kept separate from money collected from AA meetings. We believe the donation that the District received and returned in December 2019 was from money collected from AA members and made in good faith to our District. By conducting a survey of

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clubs, similar to the one done before the 1972 GSC Action, the GSC can determine if money received from Clubs is contributed by A.A. members only, and if so, to make the proposed change.

Background:

District 21 made an initiative in 2019 to get our local Club more involved at the District level. This resulted in a few club members attending the monthly District meetings and a few groups selecting GSR's. Their involvement resulted in the Club sending a donation check in November 2019.

The Operating Committee of District 21, Northern Illinois Area 20, in a meeting on Dec 15, 2019 discussed what to do with the donation check from our local Club and recommended to the District as a whole to return, with regret, the check received from the Club in accordance with guidance from the GSC.

The District voted on Dec 17, 2019 to accept the Operating Committee's recommendation. The minority opinion indicated understanding why it violates the 7th tradition and GSC Action; however the opinion is that anyone that attends the meetings at the local Club is part of AA therefore the money should be accepted. He further stated that there is a difference between Clubs being an outside entity providing money versus a hospital being an outside entity.

The rationale used by the District for rejecting the donation was from the following:

- A GSC Advisory Action in 1972 states: "The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups."
- *A.A. Guidelines –Relationship Between A.A. and Clubs* states that "Further guidance was given by the 1972 General Service Conference, which advised that G.S.O. no longer accept contributions from clubs. This decision was based on returns from a questionnaire sent to all clubs. The answers indicated that the difference in club operating procedures was too great to enable G.S.O. to decide whether or not money received from a particular club was contributed by A.A. members only. (Of course, G.S.O. does accept contributions from A.A. groups that meet on club premises.)"

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Respectfully Submitted,

Chris E.

DCM, District 21, Area 20

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