



Submit a clear and concisely worded motion

Consider instituting a period of ineligibility (minimum 1-2 years) for nominations to the General Service Board for Non-Trustee Directors upon rotation from service as a Non-Trustee Director.

What problem does this proposed item address?

The proposed agenda item is intending to address the allowance of 8 years of continuous service at the level of the board by sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous with A proposed 1-2 year period of ineligibility for NTD's upon completion of their service as directors.



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

Area **Note: Submitted by an individual for Area consideration**



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

1977 Advisory action states - "A delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference, commencing with the 1978 election." Tradition 9 long form - "Rotating leadership is the best." AA Group Pamphlet - Page 28 "Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed. To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth — a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity. Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities." Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise — we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed." Tradition 2 - 12 Steps and 12 Traditions page 135 "The elder statesman is the one who sees the wisdom of the group's decision, who holds no resentment over his/her reduced status, whose judgement is sound, and whose example and quiet opinion is the real leadership within the fellowship. The Bleeding deacon is one who is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him, who constantly connives for reelection to office, and who continues to be consumed with self-pity." Tradition 12 - 12 Steps and 12 Traditions pg 187 "Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity. We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have."



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

While a big part of the potential trustee pool is derived from Non-Trustee directors after they rotate, 4 years of serving at the level of the board seems to warrant a period of rotation. This motion is meant to extend the same mechanism of rotation and ineligibility that prevents a past-delegate from rotating right onto the board, to the Non-Trustee directors before they are eligible to become members of the General Service Board. The intent is to promote humility in service and to safeguard the alcoholic who may be put in a situation demanding too much for too long. Rotation serves as a function of allowing for fresh and new ideas, but it also is a safeguard against the human nature to seek distinction. The expected outcome for this motion, were it to pass, would be a greater level of principles vs personalities at work within the bottom of our service structure, a fostering of anonymity as expressed by humility and hopefully greater unity between the fellowship and the board.