

OFFICIAL BYLAWS OF THE GREATER SMOKY MOUNTAIN AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE

SERVING AND SERVICING THE GREATER SMOKY MOUNTAIN AREA OF NARCOTICS
ANONYMOUS

Modified 6/24/07

THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE SERVICE UNITS OF NARCOTICS
ANONYMOUS (NA)

The primary purpose of an NA Group is "to carry the message to the addict who still suffers" by providing a setting for identification and recovery where an addict can come for help if they have a desire to stop using.

The purpose of an Area Service Committee (ASC) is to be supportive to the NA Group and its primary Purpose by associating the Group with other Groups locally and by helping the group deal with its day-to-day problems and needs.

The purpose of the Regional Service Committee (RSC) is to be supportive of its Areas and Groups and their primary purpose by linking together its Areas and Groups within the Region; by helping Areas and Groups deal with there basic problems and needs; and by encouraging the growth of the fellowship.

The purpose of The World Board is to insure the continuation and growth of NA by seeking new and better ways to carry the message to the addict who still suffers; by seeking to insure the maintenance of the Twelve Traditions; and by dealing with those issues, both within and outside the fellowship, which affects its continuation and growth.

The purpose of the World Service Office (WSO) is to serve as a center for communication and information for the fellowship of NA; its services, Groups, and Members. The WSO achieves this purpose by maintaining correspondence with NA Groups and Service Committees; by publishing and distributing NA literature; and by maintaining the archives and files of NA

The purpose of the World Service Conference is to be supportive of the fellowship as a whole, and to define and implement the policies of NA The WSC does this by joining the Members, Groups, Areas and Regions of NA into a united fellowship; by dealing with the problems and needs of the fellowship; and by actively encouraging the primary purpose and growth of NA

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE GREATER SMOKY MOUNTAIN AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE (GSMASC)

1. The purpose of the GSMASC is to be supportive of the NA Group and its primary purpose by associating the Group with other Groups and by helping the Group deal with its day-to-day problems and needs.

2. In all area not covered by specific bylaws will be covered by 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, Guide to Local Service and Robert's Rules of Order.
3. The GSMASC will create and maintain an active archives to be kept by the sitting Vice-Chair.
4. All committees elected by the GSMASC will be autonomous in carrying out their assigned functions with the exception of money expenditures.
5. The Area is responsible for financially supporting its sub-committees.
6. The Area Service Committee (ASC) is a committee made up of the Group Service Representatives (GSR's) from all the Groups in the GSMASC, which meets monthly for the express purpose of serving the specific needs of its member Groups.
7. The GSMASC serves three basic functions:
 - a. The primary function of this ASC is to unify the Groups within its Area, and to provide help and support to individual Groups.
 - b. The secondary function of the ASC is to carry the message of recovery through its various sub-committees.
 - c. The tertiary function of the ASC is to contribute to the growth of, and enhance the quality of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, by helping to support the Regional and World Service Committees.
8. The 7th tradition basket will not be passed at the Area Service Committee Meetings. If a basket is passed for collection of funds for refreshments, etc. it will not be referred to as the "7th tradition basket".

NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VOTING PROCEDURES

1. The nominations of ASC officers and subcommittee chairpersons should come from active GSR's.
2. Three months prior to the end of term of any officer (April, October), the ASC chairperson will advise the ASC that nominations are open for that position.
3. Two months prior to the end of the term of any officer (May, November), nominations for that office will be solicited. An explanation of that position's duties and responsibilities will be provided. The nominee must be present at the ASC.
4. A motion must be made at this time (May, November) to close nominations.
5. At ASC (May, November), the nominees must be present to verbally express their willingness and provide their qualifications. They must also provide this information and willingness in writing to the ASC secretary. Attendance is mandatory, written qualifications will not be accepted from absent nominees. If a nominee fails to attend, the position will be reopened and a nominee will be chosen from persons from attendance.
6. At the next ASC (June, December), the positions will be voted upon. Nominees must be present. If a nominee fails to attend, the position will be reopened and a nominee will be chosen from nominees in attendance.
7. Should an office become vacant due to unforeseen circumstances, an interim officer can be appointed at that ASC by the Chair until that office is filled at the next scheduled election time.
8. Only GSR's or their alternates can vote on these nominations and elections.
9. When there are more than two nominations, if no candidate gets a clear majority, the following will be done: a vote will be taken, the nominee

will be dropped with the least amount of votes and another vote will be taken until there are only two nominees left.

10. In case of only one nomination, a two third vote of acclamation is required.

11. It is recommended that no officer serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position.

12. Each officer should hold only one voting position on the ASC. A GSR or Subcommittee Chair cannot be an ASC chairperson or vice chair or RCM. An ASC chairperson or vice chair or RCM cannot represent a voting Area level office.

13. The ASC chairperson may vote only to break a tie.

TERMS OF OFFICE FOR ASC OFFICERS

Position Expiration in the month of June:

ASC Chair

ASC Vice-Chair

ASC Secretary , Alternate ASC Secretary

ASC Treasurer , Alternate ASC Treasurer

RCM , Alternate RCM

Sub-committee chairs ending in December:

Public Information

Hospitals & Institutions

Literature

Activities

REPORTS

All reports are limited to ten minutes per report, all reports are to be printed or typed.

1. Yearly reports (end of elected term):

a. Treasurer

1.) Compile yearly report consisting of the past years activities, including and up to date financial statement.

2. Sub-committee Chairperson:

a. Compile a report consisting of the past years activities, accomplishments, specific problems, situations, financial expenses and plans for the coming year.

3. GSR

Compile a report on your group consisting of the following information:

a. Approximate size of membership.

b. H&I activity

c. P.I. activity

d. Other sub-committee activity (i.e.: dances, etc.)

e. Major accomplishments

f. Specific problems or situations

g. Plans for the coming year

h. Brief summary of what your group would like to see accomplished at the RSO and WSO.

GSMASC BY-LAWS & GUIDELINES MOTIONS, VOTING PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS

All ASC meetings are open to ALL NA members and any member has a voice on the floor. The ASC Chair will recognize a member by a raised hand.

1. Operations:

a) The GSMASC will meet at a designated location on the 4th Sunday of each month except in November & December; it meets on the third Sunday. The schedule meeting time is 2:30 pm and must end by 5 pm (may be extended by majority vote).

b) A payment of no less than \$10.00 (or equivalent in service) will be paid to the designated meeting facility.

c) The Operating Budget of the ASC is established to provide a two month window of possible financial responsibilities andlor needs of the ASC and is defined as follows:

1 .The Operating Expenses of the ASC includes, but is not limited to the following: Monthly Reserve

a. Rent \$50.00 \$100.00

b. Area Meeting Schedules , for distributions to the Groups \$75.00 \$150.00

c. General Supplies for Executive Members needs, including copying and distribution of the Area Minutes \$40.00 \$80.00

The allocations for the Area Sub-committees is as follows: Monthly Reserve

a. Hospitals & Institutions \$500.00 \$1000.00

b. Public Information \$266.66 \$533.32

c. Activities \$100.00 \$200.00

The Treasure may hold back an additional \$200.00 discretionary amount beyond the above mentioned allocations. This is for the purpose of annually reoccurring exceptional expenses such as ASC Birthday Party Fund Raiser, Pl's annual mailing to Area Schools, etcetera. Any exceptional funds requested beyond \$200.00 needs to be put forth in the form of a motion and sent to the Groups to be voted on.

2. Only those listed below can make, second, or amend motions:

a) GSR or designated alternate in their absence.

b) Area Subcommittee chairs, but only as it pertains to that subcommittee business.

3. Quorum

a) Official Quorum is one more than half of the voting participation (number of eligible voting groups).

b) Official Quorum must be reached by 2:50 p.m. If not, the ASC must be rescheduled.

c) Only duly elected alternates are eligible for Quorum in the absence of their representatives.

d) There is no proxy representation for Quorum. Quorum must be obtained before any motion is voted upon.

e) If any group is not represented at two consecutive ASC's, this will constitute the group being dropped from the roll call and lose of voting privileges. At the second attendance at the ASC, the group will be restored. New groups enter the roll call at their first ASC and have voting privileges at their second ASC.

4. All motions go to the Vice Chair for review and then passed to the Secretary. All motions must be written on a motion form.

5. For a motion to be made, the Chair will recognize the maker for time on the floor. A Second is then asked for by the Chair. After a motion is seconded, the Chair will ask if there is Opposition to the motion.

A. If there is no opposition:

1) The Chair ask for a voice vote of all those in favor, and the motion carries.

B. If there is opposition (the Chair will determine if it's a housekeeping motion or other):

1) The maker of the motion is given an opportunity to give the intent of the motion.

2) The floor is open for debate with a discussion limit of two pro and two cons.

3. Once a motion has been passed it must remain in force for at least six months unless overruled by a 2/3 Quorum majority.

6. Voting: (modified by motion passed 7/24/05)

a. Each eligible voting group within the Area will have one vote which must be cast by their recognized elected GSR, (or alternate in their absence).

b. In case of a tie the Chair has a compulsory vote. A tie occurs when the number of yes votes equals the number of no votes and the Chair's vote could cause the motion to either pass or fail.

c. Policy changing motions must be taken back to the groups for a group conscience voting decision. Motions taken back to the groups will be voted upon at the next Area meeting in which a quorum is established. Any motion which if passed would require a change to these bylaws is to be considered a policy changing motion. A non-policy changing motion is any motion, (including but not limited to Region and World motions that the Area must vote on), that will not require any changes be made to these bylaws if it is passed.

d. A policy changing motion that receives a yes vote from 2/3 or more of the present eligible voting groups passes. A policy changing motion that receives a no vote from more than 1/3 of the present eligible voting groups fails. Should a policy changing motion neither pass nor fail due to abstentions, then the motion is again sent back to the groups and another vote will be taken at the next Area meeting in which a quorum is established.

e. A non-policy changing motion that receives a yes vote from more than ½ of the present eligible voting groups passes. A non-policy changing motion that receives a no vote from more than ½ of the present eligible voting groups fails. Should a non-policy changing motion neither pass nor fail due to abstentions, then:

1. Should there be an equal number of yes and no votes such that one more vote would cause the motion to either pass or fail, then the Chair has a compulsory vote.

2. Otherwise:

- a. For Region and World motions that this area must vote on this Area will abstain from voting, since in this case we would not have a clear group conscience as an Area.
- b. All other non-policy changing motions will be taken back to the groups and another vote will be taken at the next Area meeting in which a quorum is established.
- f. A motion can be voted on at most two times. If a motion fails to either pass or fail after two votes have been taken, then that motion fails.
- g. Voting will be made by a show of hands; roll call votes can be made at any time.

7. Procedures:

a) No funds will be dispersed on Area level without prior consent of the ASC. If EMERGENCIES do arise, it will require notifying three members of the Administrative Committee.

b) The ASC will take 1/3 (33%) of our month end balance and set aside to give on a bimonthly basis with our RCM to the Regional Service Committee meeting, but at no time can this bring our balance below our Prudent Reserve.

c) The ASC will supply all Sub-committees with what they need, on ASC approval.

d) The ASC Treasurer will be provided with two checks with the Chairs signature for emergency purposes and as long as item 1 is followed.

e) All ASC Sub-committee Chairs or Vice Chairs, GSR or Alternates, Administrative Officers, and the RCM or Alternate must attend the entire ASC meeting once they are present, excluding emergencies.

f) The ASC Secretary will be provided funds before the end of the ASC for mailing minutes.

g) ASC minutes are to be mailed or personally delivered within ten days after the ASC.

h) A copy of each ASC minutes will be sent to the WSO for their records.

i) A copy of each RSC minutes will be available to any member or group at cost.

j) Literature will be made available at every ASC and orders will be filled only during the ASC.

k) The ASC will maintain Archives and not use any current Archives for raffles, fundraisers etc.

l) The ASC Chair will maintain a booklet containing a reading of the 12 Traditions, the 12 Concepts, the ASC format, a copy of the Guide to Local Service, the GSMANA By-Laws, GSMANA Sub-committee guidelines, and all of the current years minutes. Last year's minutes will be placed in the Archives.

RESPONSIBILITIES & QUALIFICATIONS OF ASC OFFICERS

1. Chairperson

a. A Chairperson arranges an agenda for and presides over monthly meetings. They are also responsible for Correspondence, maintaining area

files and archives. The Chairperson should be one of the co-signers of the ASC's bank account. At ASC committee meetings they can only vote in case of a tie. A Chairperson must be capable of conducting business meetings with a firm yet understanding hand. For this reason, it is suggested that they have a minimum of two (2) years continuous abstinence from all drugs.

b. One year commitment.

c. Service Experience preferably as a GSR, sub-committee chair or administrative committee - not required.

d. Understanding of the 12 Traditions of NA through application.

e. The willingness to give the time and resources necessary for the job.

f. Upon election he/she should resign as GSR or Alt., RCM or Alt. or sub-committee chairperson.

g. Should have organizational skills.

2. vice Chair

a. A Vice Chairperson coordinates all Sub-committee functions. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the chair. The Vice Chair should be one of the co-signers on the ASC's bank account. It is suggested that Vice Chair have a minimum of one (1) year abstinence from all drugs.

b. One year commitment.

c. Service experience preferably as GSR, sub-committee Chair or administrative committee - not required.

d. Understanding of the 12 Traditions of NA through application.

e. The willingness to give the time and resources necessary for the job.

f. Upon election, he/she should resign as GSR or Alt., or Sub-committee Chairperson.

g. Using secretary's log of policy changing motions, Vice chair will maintain an updated version of the official bylaws of the GSMASC that includes all policy changes that have been voted on to date. This updated version to be present at each Area meeting to aid the vice chair in the review of motions made at that meeting.

3. Secretary

a. A Secretary keeps accurate minutes of each Business meeting, types and distributes minutes to each GSR no later than 10 days following each ASC meeting. The Chairperson should verify these minutes before copies are made. The Secretary must maintain a log of policy changing motions. It is suggested the Secretary have a minimum of one (1) year continuous abstinence from all drugs.

b. One year commitment.

c. Service experience preferably GSR, sub-committee Chair, or administrative committee - not required.

d. Understanding the 12 Traditions of NA through application.

e. The willingness to give the time and resources necessary for the job.

4. Treasurer

a. A Treasure shall make a report of contributions and expenditures at every regular ASC meeting, and an annual report at the end of the year. The Treasurer shall be the other cosigner of the ASC bank account. The Treasurer can also be made responsible for bulk purchases of literature for the groups. It is suggested that a Treasurer have a minimum of two (2) years abstinence from all drugs.

b. One year commitment.

c. Service experience preferable as GSR or Alt., sub-committee Chair or administrative committee - not required.

- d. Understanding of the 12 Traditions of NA through application.
- e. The willingness to give the time and resources necessary for the job.
- f. Should be gainfully employed.
- g. Should have organizational skills.

5. Regional Committee Member

a. A RCM is to an ASC what a GSR is to the group. As the representative to the area, the RCM's speak for the members and groups within the Area Service Committee. The primary responsibilities of a RCM is to work for the good of NA providing two-way communications between the Area and the rest of NA, particularly with neighboring ASC's. They represent the group conscience of an ASC at a Regional level and provide the Area with the agenda for the RSC at least ten (10) days before the RSC meets. A

RCM attends all RSC meetings and takes part in any decisions, which affect the Region, speaking as the voice of the ASC's group conscience. A RCM may serve on one or more of its ASC and RSC sub-committee's, but not as a chairperson. The office of the RCM is immensely important for a RCM is the next link in expressing the will of a loving God. A RCM must be able to work for the common good, placing principles before personalities at all times. Therefore, in addition to the regular qualifications for GSR's, it is recommended that the nominees to the post of RCM also have:

- 1) Service experience.
- 2) The willingness and ability to give the time and resources necessary for the job.
- 3) A suggested minim of three (3) years continuous abstinence from all drugs.

RESIGNATION & IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURES

1. Resignation:

a. If resigning before the end of your term, please inform the ASC in writing as soon as possible.

2. Involuntary:

a. Any area officer of subcommittee chair missing two (2) consecutive GSMASC meetings. (After second meeting missed, the executive committee will send a letter.

The third (3rd) meeting missed consecutively, resignation is automatic).

b. Relapse during term of office. (Automatic resignation.)

3. Impeachment:

a. Failure to perform duties and responsibilities.

b. Breach of Traditions, malicious misuse of terms and conditions or unethical conduct inconsistent with role of trusted servants.

4. Impeachment Procedures:

a. These grounds represent prerequisite for impeachment. They are not meant to imply that impeachment is necessary in every case these exist. They are simply intended as a guide to the group conscience when impeachment proceedings are instigated.

b. Present the motion in writing to the Chairperson stating due cause seven (7) days prior to the ASC meeting.

c. The respondent is given a rebuttal (if so desired, not to exceed ten (10) minutes).

d. A closed ballot is taken.

e. A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required to impeach.

STANDING COMMITTEES

In order to minimize time spent debating in ASC meetings, a committee system is used by the GSMASC Standing committees and sub-committees are formed to assume responsibility for fulfilling our primary purpose in specific ways. Finalization of these projects occurs at the ASC meetings by the voting bodies. Each committee chairperson should establish lines of communication with the appropriate Regional and /or World Conference Committee chairperson. Each committee is autonomous but responsible to the Area. In order to better serve, a committee may choose to elect officers and open a bank account, etc..

1. Hospital and Institutions

The GSMASC H&I sub-committee acts as a resource to groups and individual members in their efforts to carry the message into institutions such as jails, hospital, detoxification centers and recovery houses. Its goal is to help avoid tradition violations while carrying our message to those who cannot come to us.

2. Public Information

The GSMASC P.I. sub-committee deals with how NA interfaces with society (telephone, media), NA image and how we can get those outside of the fellowship to carry our message to addicts we can not reach. This committee deals with matters of attraction through the media (e.g. instigating Public Information campaigns, etc.). The PI sub-committee shall maintain the GSMANA website.

3. Activities

The GSMASC Activities sub-committee deals with creating activities for which recovering addicts may learn again to enjoy life in a whole, loving, and clean environment. The Activities sub-committee may help to carry out fundraisers, picnic, camp outs, dances, raft trips, etc.

4. Literature

The GSMASC Literature sub-committee deals with our primary purpose as it is achieved in printed material. This committee seeks the input of the fellowship, compiles this input and presents it to the ASC. This committee also maintains a stockpile of NA approved literature and makes such Literature available to all groups at the monthly meeting of the GSMASC

5. Recovery on the Ridge. The GSMASC Recovery on the Ridge sub-committee deals with preparing for and delivering a yearly campvention. This event is an Volunteer Regional Convention (VRC) fundraiser. All proceeds are to be given to the VRC regardless of the financial condition of the Greater Smoky Mountain Area of Narcotics Anonymous. (modified by motion passed on 11/16/2003)

6. Web Site

TRADITION NINE

"NA as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve".

The ninth tradition explains how we, as a fellowship, structure ourselves to provide the services of NA. What is, "NA as such"? NA, as such, is: addicts meeting together in groups for the sole purpose of recovery from addiction, having no outside affiliations or outside support. The basic units of NA as such are the individual members and groups. It is not NA as such that is organized, but rather the service structure we create.

NA groups are unorganized in the sense that there is no authority within them. No individual runs any group or otherwise governs anything. Our groups adhere to the Spiritual Principles of the traditions for their "authority". The service boards and committees we create make it possible for us to be a unified fellowship. However, even they are not an organization in the sense of being an authority or having power. Our experience has shown that addicts don't take orders well, especially from someone viewed as an "authority". These boards and committees simply make suggestions and act in ways that are directly responsible to aid in carrying the message to the addict who suffers.

GREATER SMOKY MOUNTAIN AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING FORMAT

1. Open with a moment of silence followed with the Serenity Prayer
2. Have someone read from the 12 Traditions & the 12 Concepts
3. Read, "Purpose and Definition of an ASC".
4. Welcome to Visitors and New Members
5. Roll Call and establishment of quorum (Administrative Committee, Sub-Committee Chairs, GSR's and/or Alternates, Ad-Hoc and/or Convention Chairs [if applicable], Regional Representative).
6. Secretary Report (the secretary will read the minutes [unless moved to suspend the reading] and then move to 1} accept the minutes as is or 2} accept the report with said changes).
7. Administration Reports:
Chairperson
Vice chair
RCM
8. Treasurer's Report (they will give their report and move to accept as is or move to accept with changes).
9. Sub-Committee Reports
10. Old Business
11. Break (unless the ASC wishes to suspend and end earlier)
12. Group Reports
13. Nominations
14. New Business
15. Announcements / Observe Seventh Tradition / Set Meeting for Next Month
16. Close with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

A PARLIAMENTARY SHORT FORM

The basic concept of parliamentary procedure, especially as codified in Robert's Rules of Order, is that a discussion can occur in a large meeting with a great number of participants and that each can be treated

fairly. The process of discussion and decision making should follow rules of order that are observed by all, known to each member and equally enforced.

The following pages contain short summaries of key points of procedure that are most commonly misunderstood or misused. A chart of motions is also attached, for easy reference. This condensation of procedures is accurate only to the point of general use. There are special circumstances wherein some of the information on the attached chart of motions is used differently than is indicated. A complete copy of Robert's Rules of Order should be used in those circumstances in order to correctly apply the common rules of procedure.

1. Point of Order: When a member thinks that the rules of the conference are being violated, he can make a "Point of Order" which is simply to obtain recognition from the chair and ask from the chair a determination as to whether or not the procedure that the member feels is pertinent is being violated. A Point of Order is not a method or procedure to dispute the accuracy of something that another member has stated. The Point of Order is a tool used only to keep the conference working on the subject that the conference is supposed to be working on at that time and in accordance with the guidelines and other rules of order.

2. Point of Information: This is request directed to the chair for the chair to respond to or have another member to respond to a point (one point) that would provide additional information on the subject being considered but is not a matter related to parliamentary procedure. If the point is raised while another member has the floor and is speaking, the chair will ask the member who correctly has the floor if he will yield to a point of information; the member has the right not to yield. If the member does yield, the member raising the point is required to raise the issue in the form of a question directed at the chairman, but the chairman usually allows the member who correctly has the floor to answer.

3. Parliamentary Inquiry: This is a question directed to the presiding officer to obtain information on a matter of parliamentary procedure or the guidelines as they apply or have bearing on the business being considered. It is the duty of the Chair to answer such question when it may assist a member to make an appropriate motion, raise a proper point of order or understand the parliamentary situation or effect of a motion. The chair is not obligated to answer hypothetical questions.

4. Point of Personal Privilege: This is a device that permits a request or main motion relating to the rights and privileges of the assembly or any of its members to be brought up for immediate consideration because of its urgency. This is a manner of correcting problems affecting the privileges of all the members (it's too noisy and we can't hear) or affecting an individual (I have to use the rest room and I don't want to miss the vote while I'm gone). It is not a device to interrupt a speaker or obtain the floor to give an opinion, extend debate in general or argue a point made by the current speaker or a previous speaker. There are motions that arise from the statement and acceptance of a point of personal privilege, but these are acceptable only after the chair has accepted the member's personal privilege point as having merit on the discussion at hand.

5. "Call for the Question" or as properly known in rules of order, as "Move the Previous question." This item is one wherein common usage is changing through popular misuse, the rules of order. In proper usage, a member raising to "call for the question" means that he, as an individual, is finished listening and is personally ready to vote and wanted everyone to know it. This has most commonly been misunderstood to mean that the member is making a motion that an immediate vote be taken on the matter under discussion. Many times presiding officers accept this improperly used device and either immediately close debate or ask if there is a second, take a quick vote and then close debate. Frequently the members using this as a tactic by "calling for question" interrupt speakers in an effort to immediately stop debate. When correctly used the parliamentary tool, to "Move the Previous Question" is not made while another member is speaking or has the floor, it does require a second, is NOT debatable, and requires a 2/3 vote in order to end debate and force an immediate vote on the matter.

6. Amend the By-Laws, or in the instance of WSC, "Amend the Guidelines or Service Structure". In this matter the existing governing document should provide details about the manner and vote required to approve amendments or adopt revisions. Where the governing document is vague, Robert's Rules of Order may be used as the guide or final authority, or prior action of the assembly, in this case the conference, may set other rules.

The existing Service Structure specifies 2/3 vote is required for adoption of amendments. The question is raised each year on the matter of what constitutes as 2/3 vote. There are two different interpretations and the conference has, over the years, used both. In 1982, the conference used this interpretation: that a 2/3 vote of those voting yes or no on the question was all that was required. In 1983, the conference utilized the alternative approach of requiring an approval of 2/3 of all those eligible to vote. This was one cause for the constant roll calls to establish the base number of members eligible to vote. In the second case, those who abstain or simply fail to vote are actually counted as votes against adoption of the charge. For example, in the first interpretation if there were 40 voting members and there were 15 who voted for a change and 6 voted against, while the rest either abstained or failed to vote, the amendment would be adopted. However, in the second interpretation, if there were 40 voting members, 27 would have to vote in favor in order for the matter to be adopted. If the governing documents fail to specify which is used, the conference makes that decision either by motion or acceptance of the interpretation used by the chair if it is not challenged at the time of the vote.