

These three concepts are an integral part of our A.A. organization.

CONCEPT III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Concept III allows us to freely do our commitments/jobs by giving us the right to make decisions for those we represent without having a discussion or obtaining prior approval. Our Delegate is given the Right of Decision at the General Service Conference and other meetings she attends on our behalf. The GSR has the Right of Decision at the County meetings & assemblies.

CONCEPT IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional ‘Right of Participation,’ taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Concept IV came about because the service structure was not functioning smoothly. In order for the General Service office to purchase supplies they would need authorization from the Trustees. This took too much time. After much deliberation a new system was put into place where we now have Groups broken down into Areas and a Delegate elected to represent us. The Trustees, Directors, and the executive officers A.A. World Services, and the A.A. Grape Vine are all voting members. However, there are individuals within those organizations that participate without voting rights. If it is deemed necessary they will engage outside entities to give reports for informational purposes. Once a year they all meet to discuss extensively the agenda items for that year. (This year the General Service Conference will be starting May 16th and running through the 19th)

If we bring it up to the County level, when a GSR and their Alternate GSR are at a meeting, they are both able to participate; however, only the GSR has a vote. 1 Group, 1 vote.

CONCEPT V

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard

and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances receive careful consideration.

Concept V addresses the right of appeal. When the minority feel there is an item that is detrimental to A.A. as a whole or its members they are encouraged to use this right as A.A. always wants to make sure they are fully informed on important issues. For me it is hard to explain without an example.

Example: I make a motion that SENY at all of the assemblies, meetings, and special events only serve Peanut Butter cookies. The discussion is had and completed and the vote is taken. The motion passes. The chairperson will ask if there is a minority opinion. At this point in time someone has an “aha” moment and reminds the body that there are people with peanut allergies and this would not be good for A.A. as a whole. The Chairperson will then ask if this new information will change anyone’s vote. The process for a revote will then commence.

The “Right of Appeal” does not just apply to the minority opinion after a vote. It can be 3 months or 6 months or a year down the road when someone realizes this is not working well for A.A.

Please remember, the Right of Appeal is at all levels of A.A.

THERE IS MUCH MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONCEPTS IN THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL.