

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE AREA ASSEMBLY STRUCTURE AND GUIDELINES

Name: Policy Committee Guidelines Change

<u>3/3/14</u>	1. Submitted to the Area Chairperson (This is a good time to send the motion to translation.)
<u>4/17/14</u>	2. Reviewed by the Area Committee
<u> </u>	3. Presented to the Area Assembly
<u> </u>	4. Area Assembly votes—majority vote required to distribute for group consideration
<u> </u>	5. Distributed to all GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Area Delegate and Alternate Area Delegate
<u> </u>	6. GSRs review with Groups—Group Consciences taken
<u> </u>	7. Final vote by Area Assembly—two thirds majority vote required for adoption

NOTES:	a. All proposed new text is presented with underline.
	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
	No direct cost to the Area Assembly		Indirect cost savings in time and paper

Concepts and Traditions that apply	
Concept or Tradition	How it applies
Concept III "Right of Decision"	The policy committee ought to be able to make minor changes to the guidelines to make them more understandable or to change incorrect information contained in them without having to go through the cumbersome process which is rightly needed for content changes to the guidelines. These changes should be reported to the Area Committee and Area Assembly at the earliest possible time, but need not go through the complete voting process. We should trust our trusted servants to keep our guidelines up to date.
Concept X	If the policy committee has the responsibility to keep the Guidelines current, they should have the appropriate authority to make changes to correct inaccuracies and to make the content more coherent without having to go through the entire review process which is appropriate for content changes, but cumbersome for grammar, legibility or inaccuracy correction.

Motion: This motion is being brought forth to change the text in: **VIII A 10 Policy Committee Scope**. A corresponding change would be made to the text in: **XII Area Assembly Guidelines Change Procedure** to prevent any apparent conflict with this section.

Current Text:

10. POLICY COMMITTEE:

- a. Reviews and makes recommendations concerning the Area Structure and Guidelines, including redistricting
- b. Reviews and makes recommendations concerning the Conference Charter, Conference Policy, and "The A.A. Service Manual"
- c. Reviews suggestions for changes in the above items, making recommendations where necessary
- d. Informs the Area Fellowship of Trustee elections, and provides suggested qualification guidelines for candidates
- e. Assists in Trustee Nominee Elections
- f. Assists the Area Secretary in preparing and distributing copies of the Area Structure & Guidelines, proposed changes and amendments thereto

Proposed Text:

10. POLICY COMMITTEE:

- d. Makes appropriate non-content related changes when necessary to correct inaccurate information, grammar or guideline structure. Reports these changes to the Area Committee and Area Assembly at the next meeting following the change
- e. Informs the Area Fellowship of Trustee elections, and provides suggested qualification guidelines for candidates
- f. Assists in Trustee Nominee Elections
- g. Assists the Area Secretary in preparing and distributing copies of the Area Structure & Guidelines, proposed changes and amendments thereto

In XII Area Assembly Guidelines Change Procedure

Current Text:

XII. AREA ASSEMBLY GUIDELINES CHANGE PROCEDURE

- A. Any proposed amendments to this Structure and Guidelines shall be submitted, in writing, with a financial impact statement, to the Area Chairperson, who will review it with the Area Committee, at the next meeting.
- B. The proposed amendment will be presented at the next Area Assembly meeting at which Area business is being conducted. If a majority of the members present concur, the Area Secretary will distribute copies of the proposed change to all GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, the Area Delegate, and Alternate Delegate and voting members of the Area Assembly.
- C. The GSRs will review the proposed amendment with their respective A.A. Groups.
- D. At the following Area Assembly meeting at which Area business is being conducted, the proposed amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
- E. Each committee of the Area Assembly, or any other component of the Area Assembly, including the Area Assembly itself, may adopt any guideline, bylaw, rule-of-

order, or standing rule it deems necessary. As long as it does not contradict Area 8's Structure and Guidelines or any principle of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Proposed text:

XII. AREA ASSEMBLY GUIDELINES CHANGE PROCEDURE

A. Any proposed amendments to this Structure and Guidelines, except amendments made by the Policy committee as noted in VIII A 10, shall be submitted, in writing, with a financial impact statement, to the Area Chairperson, who will review it with the Area Committee, at the next meeting.

Background:

At the January, 2014 Area Assembly, we had two Structure and Guidelines motions brought before the assembly. One of these motions corrected an inaccuracy in the original guidelines. The other was a housekeeping correction to make the guidelines more readable. Because the procedure for guidelines change does not allow for this type of change, the assembly was being asked to vote whether or not to bring these changes before their groups for review and approval. It was difficult to handle the processing of these items, which did not require group approval prior to implementation. What should have been a brief review by the assembly body was complicated by the lack of a process to do this.

This motion is designed to give the Policy and Guidelines Committee a separate simplified process for handling error correction and grammatical or clarification changes to the guidelines. The changes will still be reported to the Area Assembly, but will not require the full process for guidelines content changes.