

Articles 1 through 10 of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous World Service Charter

(as passed by the 2022 World Service Conference on October 29, 2022, ratified on October 30, 2022)

1. *Purpose:* The members of the Fellowship, represented at the World Service Conference (WSC) of A.R.T.S. Anonymous, and guided by a loving Higher Power, exist to support the (autonomous) groups and A.R.T.S. as a whole. Only matters seriously affecting A.R.T.S. worldwide shall be considered by the Conference. The WSC serves as the group conscience of the Fellowship. As trusted servants they may collectively authorize and establish service committees to carry out their work. The A.R.T.S. World Service Conference safeguards and protects the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. As the collective group conscience of the fellowship, it serves and does not govern A.R.T.S.
2. *Composition:* The WSC is composed of the following groups of Delegates. Each Delegate has one and only one vote per motion at the conference, even if they serve in more than one capacity.
 - a. Delegates elected to represent their group at the WSC are called Group Service Representatives (GSRs). The conference is authorized to decide upon the number of delegates representing each group. A group with 5 or more members present at a business meeting may elect two GSRs, and no more.
 - b. Groups may elect alternate GSRs who attend the conference and vote when the GSR is unable to be present.
 - c. The trustees of the A.R.T.S. Board.
 - d. A delegate from each committee who is not otherwise a delegate.
3. *Delegates' Role at the Conference:* The Conference will act for A.R.T.S. in the perpetuation and guidance of its world services, and it will also be the vehicle by which A.R.T.S. members express their views upon all vital matters of policy and all potentially hazardous deviations from the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service in A.R.T.S. Anonymous. At the Conference, GSRs, as trusted servants, consult with the members they represent and are free to vote as their conscience dictates; they are also free to decide what questions should be taken to the group level.

Delegates vote on issues affecting the entire Fellowship. They elect Trustees, approve literature, provide guidance for public outreach, establish policies and procedures, and maintain the integrity of the foundational documents*. Delegates may serve on committees. The group conscience as expressed at the WSC, is binding

by program tradition, as long as it does not interfere with A.R.T.S. nonprofit corporate status.

The exception is that no change in Article 10 of the Charter, or in the Twelve Traditions of A.R.T.S., or in the Twelve Steps of A.R.T.S., can be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.R.T.S. groups.

4. *The Relation between Conference and the Board of Trustees:* As the group conscience of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Fellowship, the Conference functions as guide and advisor to the Board of Trustees in perpetuation and growth of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous program. The Conference will be expected to afford a reliable cross section of A.R.T.S.. opinion for this purpose.

By tradition, a 2/3 vote of Conference delegates obligates the Board of Trustees to act on its resolutions. However, no such vote can interfere with the Board of Trustee's obligation to conduct routine business, or financial and legal matters.

By tradition, a 3/4 vote of all Conference delegates may bring about a reorganization of the Board of Trustees and its staff members. The Conference may request resignations, may nominate new trustees, and may make all other necessary arrangements, regardless of the legal rights of the Board of Trustees.

5. *World Service Delegates:* The Conference will determine Delegate terms of office. GSR Delegates may represent only one meeting; members of the Board of Trustees may not also serve as Delegates for a meeting; each Delegate may cast only one vote.
6. *World Service Conference Organization:* The WSC governs itself, although it collaborates with the Board of Trustees. The Conference chooses its election methods and rules for voting, such as percentage of votes required to pass resolutions.

Conference Committees: The Conference may choose to establish committees. Any A.R.T.S. member may serve on committees. Each committee may have a Board member serving as Board liaison. The committee will elect a member as committee chair.

Board Committees: The Board of Trustees may also establish committees and include Program Members as well as Conference Delegates.

7. *The World Service Conference Meetings:* The Conference will meet yearly through an online platform or in-person, or a hybrid of the two. Special meetings may be called should there be a reason. The Conference may also render advisory opinions at any

time by mail, e-mail, telephone or virtual meeting poll in aid of the Board of Trustees or its related services.

For purposes of conducting business at the World Service Conference, a quorum is met when there are at least twice as many voting delegates from meetings and committees present as the number of members of the Board of Trustees present.

8. *The Board of Trustees: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities:* The Board of Trustees of A.R.T.S. Anonymous shall be an incorporated trusteeship, who elect their own successors. These choices are subject, however, to the approval of the Conference by two-thirds vote. All trustee candidates must submit a written application to the Board, stating their qualifications and understanding of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Traditions. They pledge to carry the message of A.R.T.S. Anonymous in a manner consistent with the Traditions. The WSC may also nominate trustees. If approved by the Conference by two-thirds vote, a nominee is then elected to the Board of Trustees, the trustees being obligated by the 12 Traditions to accept the nominee.

The Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for the financial and policy integrity of A.R.T.S. World Service. The Board of Trustees has entire freedom of action in the routine conduct of the policy and business affairs of the A.R.T.S. World Service corporation. The Board of Trustees' executive committee is essentially custodial in character, assuming leadership of the day-to-day operations of the World Service Office.

The Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, or any amendments to it, should always be subject to the approval of the World Service Conference by a two-thirds vote.

Except in a great emergency, neither the Board of Trustees nor any of its related services ought ever take any action liable to greatly affect A.R.T.S. as a whole, without first consulting the Conference. It is understood that the Board shall, in times of grave emergency only, decide whether its actions require prior support from the Conference. Nevertheless, the Conference will be consulted as soon as possible.

9. *The World Service Conference, Its General Procedures:* The Conference will hear the financial and policy reports of the Board of Trustees. The Conference will confer with the trustees and staff members upon all matters presented as affecting A.R.T.S. as a whole, engage in debate, appoint necessary committees, and pass suitable resolutions for the advice or direction of the Board of Trustees.

The Conference may also discuss and recommend appropriate action respecting serious deviations from A.R.T.S. tradition or harmful misuse of the name "ARTS Anonymous."

The Conference, as a self-governing body, may draft any needed bylaws for itself and select its own officers and committees.

The Conference at the close of each yearly session will draft a full report of its proceedings, to be supplied to all delegates and committee members; also, a summary which will be sent to A.R.T.S. groups throughout the world.

10. *General Warranties of the Conference:* In all its proceedings, the World Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service of A.R.T.S. Anonymous, taking great care that the Conference recognizes its role as the group conscience of the A.R.T.S. fellowship as a whole.

This means:

- a. *No service entity ever becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power.*
- b. *ARTS service entities maintain an ample prudent reserve sufficient for their operations. Any additional funds will be available to carry out the primary purpose of the fellowship, 'to express our creative gifts and help others to achieve artistic freedom'*
- c. *No member has unchecked authority over any other member.*
- d. *All group conscience decisions are reached by discussion, vote, and consensus when possible.*
- e. *No service entity action shall ever be personally punitive or incite public controversy.*
- f. *ARTS service entities will always remain democratic in thought and action.*