



**Report of the 2026 A.R.T.S. World Service Conference
on January 10, 11, and 17, 2026**

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The Conference and Open Forum were facilitated by Erica L. and Eddie Ed O’B, Conference Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Scribes were Dee R. and Chris M.

Special thanks to Matt B. who provided Conference and technical support.

May the gifts of service continue to grow.

Day One: Saturday January 10, 2026

Introductions

Groups/Regions Represented: A.R.T.S. Russia, 8 am Walk and Talk, Five-Alive Together, Surrender to Creativity, A.R.T.S. Recovery NYC, Santa Fe In-Person, Action and Accountability, Culver City, Dublin A.R.T.S., ARTS West London., Silver Spring A.R.T.S., Galway A.R.T.S., Legacy Meeting, Saturday Topic Literature, 5-Alive for Writers. *Also present:* The Conference Chair, Conference Vice-Chair, and all members of the Board of Trustees

Review of Community Problem-Solving Method

Review of Guidelines for Delegate and Participant Etiquette (Appendix I)

Review of the Agenda

Review of Voting Method and Guidelines

Review of Quorum at the World Service Conference (Appendix II)

MOTION 1 Final Motion (After Crafting): The World Service Conference recognizes and establishes the Conference Service and Support Committee for the purpose of preparing the annual WSC meetings, including reviewing motions, setting the agenda, and other tasks as the Conference may require. The committee's responsibility is to organize the World Service Conference and is not responsible to the Board.

Vote Count: In favor 22, Opposed 4, Abstentions 0.

Motion Passes? YES

Minority Opinion: The motion doesn't establish anything that hasn't been already established, but it doesn't address concerns that have been brought up.

MOTION 2 Final Motion (After Crafting): We move that the Recruiting and Nominations Committee be recognized as a World Service Conference (WSC) Committee, reporting to and accountable to the WSC. The purpose of the Recruiting and Nominations Committee is to support the Fellowship by identifying, encouraging, and recommending trusted servants for key roles in the World Services, its related service structures, and that any further changes to its structure, authority, or responsibility be subject to Conference approval.

Vote Count: In favor 17, Opposed 3, Abstentions 2.

Motion Passes? YES

Minority Opinion: The word "recommending" held up my vote; a more appropriate word might be "suggesting."

MOTION 3 Final Motion (After Crafting): To have the Step Sub-Committee of the Literature Committee develop and make ready for Conference Approval a Twelve Step Study Guide, that includes but is not limited to guidance for sponsors, that follows the Conference-Approved Literature Development/Approval Process.

Vote Count: In favor 22, Opposed 0, Abstentions 0.

Motion Passes? YES

Minority Opinion: Not applicable

MOTION 4 Final Motion (After Crafting): Develop and make ready for Conference Approval a publication of personal stories describing what it was like before becoming a member of A.R.T.S. Anonymous, what it was like after becoming a member, and what it is like now.

Vote Count: In favor 26, Opposed 0, Abstentions 1.

Motion Passes? YES

Minority Opinion: Not applicable

Day Two: Sunday January 11, 2026

MOTION 5 Final Motion (After Crafting): The World Service Conference adopts the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Conference Service Manual as a compilation of policies and procedures in order to guide all A.R.T.S. members in their service to the program.

NOTE: Full Text of the Conference Service Manual is in Appendix IV of this report

Vote Count: In favor 17, Opposed 1, Abstentions 1.

Motion Passes? YES

Minority Opinion: We didn't know which Concepts we were using – the ones online or the ones in the text of the motion. As a result the entire process is called into question.

Day Three: Saturday January 17, 2026

Reports:

2025 World Service Conference of A.R.T.S. Anonymous

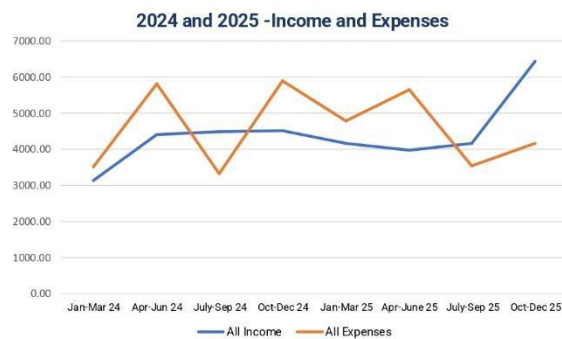
Treasurer's Report

01/06/2026

2024 and 2025 Income & Expenses by Fiscal Quarter

Category	Jan-Mar 24	Apr-Jun 24	July-Sep 24	Oct-Dec 24	Jan-Mar 25	Apr-June 25	July-Sep 25	Oct-Dec 25
All Income	3123.71	4399.44	4483.47	4518.15	4175.27	3980.37	4171.31	6434.96
All Expenses	3506.00	5805.58	3329.24	5894.26	4796.17	5645.00	3533.04	4177.42

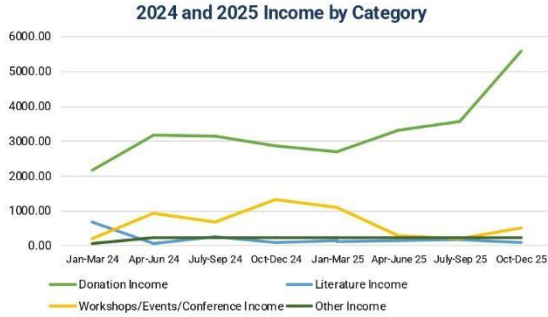
- The launch of a fundraising campaign in mid-2025 began a rise of donations
- Expenses in 2025 included \$1,700 in trademark application and registration fees
- The final quarter of 2025 showed an upswing in net income due to a rise in donations



2024 and 2025 Income by Category

Category	Jan-Mar 24	Apr-Jun 24	July-Sep 24	Oct-Dec 24	Jan-Mar 25	Apr-June 25	July-Sep 25	Oct-Dec 25
Donation Income	2164.36	3175.92	3158.62	2882.59	2703.49	3306.49	3565.41	5588.86
Literature Income	674.84	63.85	249.76	91.56	149.78	153.88	166.90	96.10
Workshops/Events/Conference Income	209.51	934.67	696.00	1319.00	1097.00	295.00	214.00	525.00
Other Income	75.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00

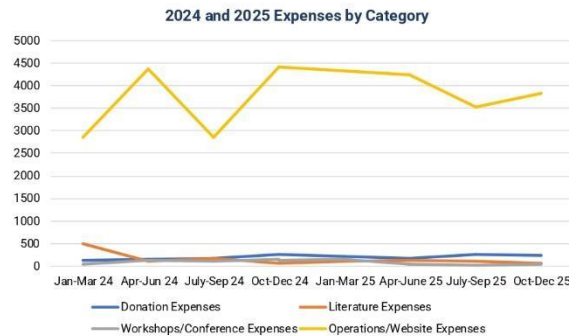
- Donations remain the largest source of income
- "Other income" is coming from a desk share arrangement at the office.



2024 and 2025 Expenses by Category

Category	Jan-Mar 24	Apr-Jun 24	July-Sep 24	Oct-Dec 24	Jan-Mar 25	Apr-June 25	July-Sep 25	Oct-Dec 25
Donation Expenses	129.01	149.23	175.05	266.24	210.51	179.03	255.14	233.07
Literature Expenses	490.26	108.34	161.9	58.37	97.09	134.75	108.19	62.99
Workshops/Conference Expenses	39.96	136.3	99.7	151.7	159.42	41.48	35.48	47.75
Operations/Website Expenses	2846.77	4361.71	2846.39	4417.95	4329.15	4239.74	3538.26	3833.61

- Operations and the Website are the largest expenses.
- Operations includes rent, special worker salary, website costs, trademark fees, online software, fees for credit cards and ticket sales
- Operations expenses support all aspects of World Service, including the Conference

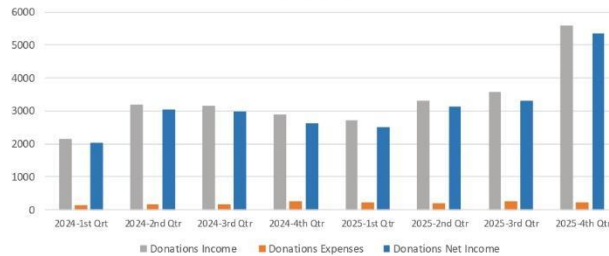


2024 and 2025 Donation Income/Expenses & Net Income

Category	2024-1st Qtr	2024-2nd Qtr	2024-3rd Qtr	2024-4th Qtr	2025-1st Qtr	2025-2nd Qtr	2025-3rd Qtr	2025-4th Qtr
Donations Income	2164.36	3175.92	3158.62	2882.59	2703.49	3306.49	3565.41	5588.86
Donations Expenses	129.01	149.23	175.05	266.24	210.51	179.03	255.14	233.07
Donations Net Income	2035.35	3026.69	2983.57	2616.35	2492.98	3127.46	3310.27	5355.79

- The difference between donation income and donation expenses is large.
- Tracking and accounting for donations takes most of the bookkeeping time in the office

2024 and 2025 Donation Income/Expenses & Net Income

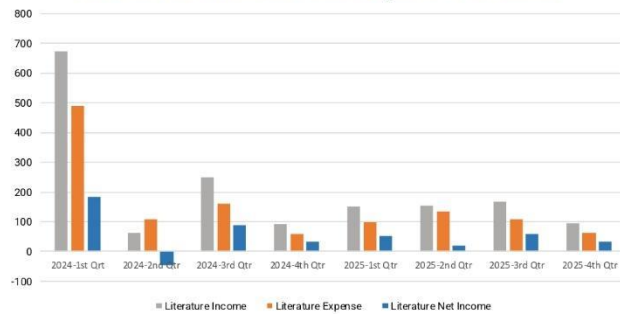


2024 and 2025 Literature Income/Expenses & Net Income

Category	2024-1st Qtr	2024-2nd Qtr	2024-3rd Qtr	2024-4th Qtr	2025-1st Qtr	2025-2nd Qtr	2025-3rd Qtr	2025-4th Qtr
Literature Income	674.84	63.85	249.76	91.56	149.78	153.88	166.9	96.10
Literature Expense	490.26	108.34	161.9	58.37	97.09	134.75	108.19	62.99
Literature Net Income	184.58	-44.49	87.86	33.19	52.69	19.13	58.71	33.11

- Income from Literature currently comes from the electronic sale of pamphlets
- A.R.T.S. receives 30 cents from each electronic pamphlet sale

2024 and 2025 Literature Income/Expenses & Net Income

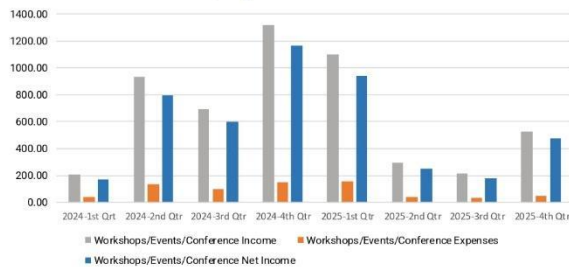


2024 and 2025 Workshops/Events/Conference Income/Expenses & Net Income

Category	2024-1st Qtr	2024-2nd Qtr	2024-3rd Qtr	2024-4th Qtr	2025-1st Qtr	2025-2nd Qtr	2025-3rd Qtr	2025-4th Qtr
Workshops/Events/Conference Income	209.51	934.67	696.00	1319.00	1097.00	295.00	214.00	525.00
Workshops/Events/Conference Expenses	39.96	136.30	99.70	151.70	159.42	41.48	35.48	47.75
Workshops/Events/Conference Net Income	169.55	798.37	596.30	1167.30	937.58	253.52	178.52	477.25

- Income from workshops and events went down after the monthly 12-Step workshop series ended.
- Income from the Conference and the December Sharathon are reflected in the 4th Quarter
- The 40th Birthday Celebration in November 2024 and the World Service Conference last January were vital sources of income.

**2024 and 2025 Workshops/Events/Conference
Income/Expenses & Net Income**

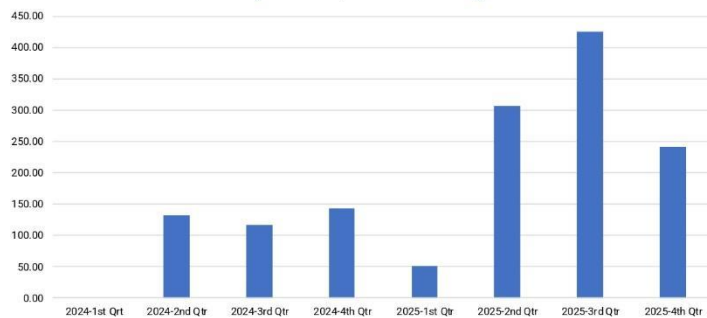


2024 and 2025 by Fiscal Quarter Meeting Donations Income

Category	2024-1st Qtr	2024-2nd Qtr	2024-3rd Qtr	2024-4th Qtr	2025-1st Qtr	2025-2nd Qtr	2025-3rd Qtr	2025-4th Qtr
Meeting Donation Income	0.00	131.96	116.24	142.21	50.91	306.82	424.30	241.62

- Donations from Meetings have risen substantially in the past 9 months
- Donations from Meetings currently make up 8.5% of donation income

2024 and 2025 by Fiscal Quarter Meeting Donations Income



Final Notes

- The World Service office has moved to a new location due as its current arrangement ended. A.R.T.S. is grateful to its special worker Chinu, who used her personal contacts to find a desk with internet at the same rate of \$250 per month.
- The Board is held Strategy Planning meetings at the end of December and in early January to determine priorities based on a stagnant financial situation. As A.R.T.S. is not growing, the Board's focus may need to change, affecting World Services.
- The hope is that trusted servant members with skills and commitment can fill the gap where resources in time, energy and money is burning out.

2025 Board of Trustees Report to the World Service Conference in 2026

The A.R.T.S. Anonymous Board of Trustees is grateful for the trust and confidence that the meetings and the Conference have placed in us. The Board continues to protect, serve, and administer the operations of World Services, including A.R.T.S.'s legal and financial responsibilities. As an integral part of the Conference and the service structure, the Board remains committed to the responsibility of making its decisions within the principles as laid out in the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of Service of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

Board officers are Allegra B., Chair, and Vickie D., Secretary. Galina B. and Harvey D. joined the Board in November 2025 and hope to be endorsed by the World Service Conference in January 2026. Five members of the Board of Trustees are ending their first three-year terms of service, and all five have chosen to rejoin the Board for a second three-year term. In cooperation with the ad hoc Recruiting and Nominating Committee, the Board still hopes to attract a Board Treasurer or other officer to oversee A.R.T.S. finances.

Major Board Actions:

- With the pro bono (meaning free of charge) services of White and Case, the “A.R.T.S. Anonymous” and “Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps” names have been successfully trademarked by the U.S. Trademark Office. This applies in all relevant categories, including the website, in print, electronically, etc. Trademark registration helps to protect the A.R.T.S name and its primary purpose from being misappropriated or misused by any other person or enterprise.
- Members of the Board are undertaking research and development of licensing agreements, policies and guidelines for the translation and use of A.R.T.S. literature in other languages.
- A fundraising campaign to increase donations from meetings and members was launched in June (with mixed results).
- A.R.T.S. members were invited to an “A.R.T.S. Magic Open House” in March, and Delegates were invited to the Board meeting in September. The purpose was to find out what the questions and issues might be for the health and growth of the A.R.T.S. and its meetings, and how the Board can support the meetings in carrying the message.

Major World Services Actions:

- Organized and led a Conference meeting to elect a Conference Chair and Vice-Chair
- Board liaison participation on the Conference Policies and Procedures Committee, the Recruiting and Nominating Committee, and the Conference Service and Support Committee
- Supporting the development of Conference-approved Literature for A.R.T.S.
- Developed and led a series of Step Study Workshops, which concluded in the spring
- Continues to communicate with the members through a monthly newsletter and regular updates to the website and with Delegates through email updates
- Supports the Sharathon Planning meetings and Seasonal Sharathon events 4 times a year
- Supports efforts to create an A.R.T.S. recovery, service and fellowship Celebration Convention
- The Executive Committee has oversight of the day-to-day operations of the World Service Office, including emergency situations. Office operations in 2025 included (but are not limited to): tracking and reporting income, expenses and cost analyses; bookkeeping; communications for the Conference and other events; producing and sending out the monthly newsletter; posting and updating information on the website; updating the meeting list and information; meeting with potential service committees, training and supporting members who volunteer for WSO activities.

Next Steps: With the closing of the business from which A.R.T.S. has been renting office space, the Board is undertaking Strategic Planning to set short-term and longer-term priorities for A.R.T.S. World Services. This includes possibilities for reducing World Services given limited resources in money, time, and volunteers. Attracting a Board Treasurer or a Financial Officer to oversee and advise on financial matters to the Board.

Conference Service and Support Committee Report to the 2026 World Service Conference

The Conference Service and Support Committee (CSSC) began its weekly meetings at the start of September 2025. Committee tasks included: setting dates and times for the World Service Conference (WSC), reading and responding to motions submitted for the WSC, preparing and sharing the Agenda and Delegate Packet with membership, and recruiting volunteers to run the WSC. We also coordinate with the WSC Chair and Vice-Chair in the lead-up to the WSC. Additionally, the CSSC will create a Final Conference Report once the WSC has concluded. Service on the committee was given by Donna D., Noah S., Allegra B., Board Liaison, and Chris M., Secretary. Thanks, one and all, for your contributions to a successful 2026 WSC!

Conference Policies and Procedures Committee Report to the 2026 World Service Conference

The Conference Policies and Procedures Committee met weekly over several months in 2025 to review, where needed clarify, and finalize a Conference Service Manual. Work was done to compile policies that have previously been adopted by the Conference and include policies and procedures that have been in practice. This manual is a starting point and can be amended and added to by future Conferences. It is intended to form a vital part of the Delegate Packet prepared for the annual meeting of the World Service Conference (WSC), and be made available to all members of A.R.T.S.

The purpose of the Manual is to ensure transparency and make sure that all A.R.T.S. members can participate in service at all levels.

The Committee has submitted the Conference Service Manual as a motion to be considered at the 2026 World Service Conference.

Recruiting and Nominating Committee Report to the 2026 World Service Conference

Recruitment and Nominations Committee Report

To: A.R.T.S. Anonymous World Service Conference

From: Recruitment and Nominations Committee Submitted by: Voytech, Committee Chair

Date: 11/17/2025

Our Primary Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to help connect members of the Fellowship with opportunities to be of service — not from a place of authority or position, but from a willingness to give back what's been

freely given. Our role is to prayerfully support the process of identifying trusted servants for roles at the World Service Conference level and related service structures, in a way that honors our Traditions and Concepts.

Spiritual Structure

In the spirit of Tradition Two, we recognize that a loving Higher Power expresses itself through our group conscience. As such, the committee voted unanimously to define itself as a Conference Committee, accountable to the WSC and guided by the collective conscience of the Fellowship — not by any single service arm or administrative body.

A motion affirming this alignment has been submitted to the WSC for consideration.

Highlights from This Service Year

- Reaching Out, Not Reaching Down: We reached out to many members across the Fellowship — not to fill positions, but to listen for willingness. Many of those we contacted demonstrated a deep sense of integrity, humility, and spiritual commitment.
- Supporting Trusted Servants: We offered support and encouragement to individuals who were uncertain about stepping into service — especially in roles like WSC Chair, Treasurer, and various Conference Committees.
- Spiritual Reflection: We held conversations around the nature of service — emphasizing that leadership in A.R.T.S. is always service, never governance. These reflections were sometimes spirited, but always grounded in our shared desire to keep the program strong and spiritually safe.

Where We Are Growing

We've learned a lot this year. One lesson is that clarity around service structure is essential if we want to invite more participation. When responsibilities and lines of accountability are unclear, people hesitate to step forward. When they're clear, service becomes not only more effective — but more healing.

We've also witnessed the importance of collaboration. While different service bodies may carry different roles, we are all bound by the same Steps, the same Traditions, and the same Concepts. Unity doesn't mean uniformity — it means working together in love and tolerance, even when we don't fully agree.

Next Steps and Ongoing Intentions

- Continue inviting new trusted servants to WSC and related roles
- Provide guidance and support for those who are new to service
- Work with transparency, spiritual accountability, and humility
- Encourage thoughtful dialogue about how we serve each other as equals

Closing Thoughts

This committee is still growing into its role — and so are each of us. But the spirit of service has been present throughout our work. We remain grateful for the opportunity to serve, and we continue to listen closely for the voice of a Higher Power as expressed through the group conscience of the Fellowship.

We hope our work has been useful. We welcome guidance and feedback from the Conference, and we offer this report in the spirit of unity, love, and recovery.

In service and gratitude,

Voytech

Chair, Recruitment and Nominations Committee

A.R.T.S. Anonymous

2025 Literature Committee Report - World Service Conference - January 2026

Steps Subcommittee: A guide for working the Twelve Steps in A.R.T.S. is being explored. Initial drafts are drawn from the work done and feedback given from the A.R.T.S. Twelve Steps workshops held in 2024 and 2025. The full Literature Committee has been reviewing proposed drafts and giving feedback for further revisions. The Literature Committee is confident that this step guide could be ready in time to seek Conference approval sometime in 2026.

Members Stories Subcommittee: The subcommittee continues to collect stories of personal experience, strength and hope from A.R.T.S. Members. After fielding questions and concerns about an Author's Release Form, a set of answers to Frequently Asked Questions was developed and posted on the website. A Members Stories workshop was held in September. So far A.R.T.S. has permission to use 16 stories that have been collected from members.

Editorial Policies Subcommittee: This subcommittee was formed in April to develop Editorial Policies. The purpose is to give all who develop and review Literature, including writers and committees, some guidance in editorial considerations for Conference-approved Literature. It will also offer a statement as to the purpose of editing and possible qualifications for an editor.

Sharathon Report to the 2026 World Service Conference

The A.R.T.S. SHARATHON events are quarterly fundraisers timed to coincide with the change in U.S. seasons. The events utilize the Zoom platform supported by A.R.T.S. World Service to bring A.R.T.S. members from around the world for global ARTShares. Through your generous donations and support for this event, SHARATHON has raised an average of about \$200.00 per event. Our 4th event is happening on December 6, 2025, bringing the total fundraising contribution to A.R.T.S. Anonymous this year to about \$800.00. Thank you A.R.T.S. members. We couldn't do this without you.

A committee currently exists for the planning and execution of the events. Planning meetings are roughly once a month and all are welcome to attend. Current members serving the SHARATHON planning meetings and events are: Cindyann W., Eddie-Ed O'B., Erica L., Marcie O'B., and Jay M.

Details about SHARATHON events are on the A.R.T.S. website page or contact us via email Sharathon@artsanonymous.org.

Board Elections:

The Board of Trustees offers for approval by the World Service Conference the following panel to serve three-year terms on the Board of Trustees of A.R.T.S. Anonymous: Allegra B. (2nd three-year term) Cindyann W. (2nd three-year term) Galina B. (1st three-year term) Harvey D. (1st three-year term) Jay M. (2nd three-year term) Pat Q. (2nd three-year term) Vickie D. (2nd three-year term)

Brought by Allegra B., seconded by Jay M. 22 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Open Forum

(All members had three minutes to speak – the names of all members sharing in the Open Forum have been removed to preserve anonymity)

- 1) First of all, I want to say that I thought everybody participated with the best of their self. Now, we don't always agree about things. But do you know what? We all have amazing people, and I want to just keep that amazing kindness. As the year goes on, we are building up something that was put together by the founder. I talked to the lady and tried to get her to support, well, to come and give some support, but it didn't work out. But you know what? I've been grateful to have a chance to be in Arts Anonymous. I started in 1987, I believe it was, when I stumbled upon a meeting that was two blocks away from me, literally, and I went in there, and there were a circle of people sitting on the beautiful rug. And they were sharing, and I didn't always get along right away, but after a while, I got a chance to share. And I really enjoyed it, and I've gotten a great deal out of it. And I'm part of a meeting that meets on Sunday morning in Culver City, Los Angeles. And I'm grateful, grateful, grateful to be part of that meeting. We have share-a-thons, the second and fourth meetings, Sundays, and I've been entertained, I've had a chance to entertain, and I'm actually starting to go out and do shows with my wife as a "Violist and a Lunatic" and actually help people that really, really need some help in entertainment. So, we're local celebrities within a two and a half block radius. Anyway, I can't see if I have any more time, but I'm grateful to all the people in here. We're all doing our best. And we have a lot of talent, and I did tell this former, the Founder, that we have all these wonderful writers and editors, and it would help her a lot. For whatever reason, she couldn't accept that. So anyway, I want to thank everybody, and my turn is up.
- 2) Hi, yes, thank you, and yes, you know, one of the things I've learned is that this has absolutely been the toughest service commitment I've ever taken on, and part of me can't quite believe that I'm, you know, putting myself up for another term. I just want to say that A.R.T.S in my experience was so open and so welcoming, and we *are*. I find the meetings open and welcoming. And, you know, the meetings are there for those who have a desire to identify and express their creative gifts. That's what the meetings are for. That's what the program is for. And, you know, for all the hullabaloo and fuss and the, you know, the micromanaging and the this's and that's and the others, you know, I often find, like, wow, what are you all doing that you're, like, finding all these ways to distract me away from my primary purpose, and the primary purpose with which I serve? And one of the things I'm learning is that not everyone is ready for every level of service, and that's okay. You know, we start at the meeting level. We discover what our barriers are to giving ourselves over to a creative power that wants to work through us. And service is a way to learn how to do that and I would say that not everyone is ready for every level of service. It takes recovery to be ready, and it takes a study of the traditions, and it takes step work in A.R.T.S. That's where recovery happens. This is just my

opinion; I get to say it here. And what I'm learning, and I've said it before, and I'm coming back 'round to this, everything I do, my every opinion I have is not always popular, and it doesn't always make me look good. And there are a lot of delicate situations. There are a lot of situations that, you know, where the personalities want to dominate over the principles, despite claims otherwise, or whatever. I am just as susceptible to that as anybody else. But I am willing to keep doing what it takes to keep A.R.T.S focused on its primary purpose, and to help those who have a desire. Thank you.

3) Hi everybody. I'm a writer, editor and novelist. I came to my first A.R.T.S meeting in Seattle in 1989 after suffering through a writer's block for the better part of 6 years. I lost my job as a writer and a magazine editor because I couldn't finish a story to save my life. After about a year or a year and a half in A.R.T.S. the fellow members shared their secrets of how to break through blocks to their creativity. They helped me overcome mine. I will be eternally grateful. I was restored to my career. I worked for another 30 years before retiring after supporting myself and my family for 30 years as a writer and an editor. I will be eternally grateful for that. I firmly believe in the founding premise between Dr. Bob and Bill W.: When they founded A.A, they discovered that the best way to stay sober was to help somebody else get sober. The best way I've discovered to express my creativity is to help other people express their creativity. That's why I'm in this. And I have benefited immensely from my exposure to other artists who are genuinely sincere about their desire to overcome their blocks and to freely express their creativity. I'm honored to serve on the board with people who are just as sincere about their recovery as I am with mine. My biggest honor and recovery is being asked to be someone's sponsor. I have learned so much from people who are brand new to recovery, expressing their desire to really be creative. To express their heart and soul in whatever creative art they discover they have a talent for. I am blessed every time somebody drops their guard enough to be open and honest with me about what their creative block is all about and what their desire intends to accomplish with their creative art. It's an absolute honor to spend private time on the phone, or on Zoom, or over a cup of coffee, talking with people who are sincere about their recovery. I come away from exchanges like that feeling like I'm firmly connected to something much bigger than myself, and my sincere belief is that there are many, many more struggling artists out there that have never heard about Arts Anonymous that deserve to be exposed and helped by all of the things that have helped me. And I will do my best to reach out to them and let them know that recovery is possible, and that there are a lot of people willing to support them. Thanks for listening.

4) Hi everyone. I'm a visual artist. I do collage, acrostic, acrylic, and I do sculpture; I do those things. Now, not every day. I can't, because of my life situation, but I do those things. I write poetry, and I write prose, and that is thanks to the A.R.T.S program, and I have been around the A.R.T.S program... It was before my daughter was born, so it was probably 19...87, 86, 87, sometime in there. You know, I have a person I sponsored who went through the 12 steps and is flourishing as an artist, who no longer comes to the program. And that's something that really bothers me. I don't say that to her, but it bothers me that it doesn't seem like there's a place in the program

for people once they have some recovery to actually share that recovery with others. And we don't have a tradition of sponsorship. I think that one-on-one sponsorship is, just to me, that's the key. That relationship—it gives the sponsor more than it gives the sponsee, that's for sure. And it's such a blessing to be present. To be watching...people unfold. There is one person I sponsored who still is in the program, and that's wonderful. And, you know, I didn't have any guidelines from the program about how to be a sponsor. I just use my experience. I've been in 12-step programs since 1978, which is a long time. And I just think that that is the real heart of this program—people talking to each other, sharing recovery. Cheering each other on, supporting them as they grow...I don't know if I have time for this: The other elephant in the room is the situation with the Founder. In the AA *12 and 12* they talk about...they divide people who have leadership positions... They are talking about the founder of AA. What becomes of them after they're deposed? And as their grief and anxiety wear away, a subtle change begins. They divide into two classes known in AA slang as Elder Statesmen and Bleeding Deacons. And I invite anybody else to read pages 134 and 135 of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of AA. Thank you for letting me share.

- 5) So, I really want to talk to the conference people here. You know, you run the program. You know how it works, right? We work for you. This conference meets annually, you make decisions, and we—“we” meaning the board—we're sort of the, I don't know, the motor that drives the gears or something. But if we only hear from you once a year, the balance shouldn't be like that. What I want to do is encourage you guys to meet among yourselves during the year somehow, okay? We don't have an Inter Group. But we can figure stuff out, we all have brains in our head. And It would be great if we all got together once a year. All informed, knowing what we're gonna do, what happened during the year, what we need, and that kind of stuff. You know, you guys really make the rules and you chart the course, but we're vested with implementing your choices. And as such, we are easy targets when something goes wrong. I just would like to see more communication among all of your meetings and between you and us. We're all on the same team. You all know how much this program means to the people in it. And I just want to urge your support. Figure out a way to do it, please. Let's get together. Thank you and thanks to the young bloods.
- 6) Hi. I've been in and out of 12-step programs for a very, very, very, very long time, too, and if it wasn't for the 12-step program, I don't think I would have made it through my life very, very well at all. So, you know, the impact of my first experience with 12 steps is still with me. The fact that I had a person sponsor me and dedicated to me for a year and a half was amazing. She gave more to me than many of my family members, really, you know. That commitment, and, yeah, availability. And so it stuck with me, but the other thing was that the 12 steps, working the program, actually freed me up to pursue the goals that I was after currently, you know? And it continued to support me. One of the things that impressed me most with the 7th tradition. I went to Debtors Anonymous at one point. The 7th Tradition taught me personal responsibility and integrity to be able to give back what I had received so generously. And [the meeting] never asked for anything in return but the dollar donation at meetings when the basket was passed.

Meetings are so important. For me, that was the foundation of everything... And we're getting a lot of feedback from newcomers stating that they can't get on a meeting. The link doesn't work. The email isn't responded to. Any of you who are holding a meeting, I'm going to ask you to please pay attention to how available your meeting is to access. That is a newcomer's first experience with the program. And when they get [interested in] 2 or 3 meetings and they can't get into one, that to me would feel very discouraging. And it would tell me a lot about what this is providing, you know? The other thing I want to talk about is service. I know you guys are tired of hearing me talk about service, but I'm going to talk about it anyway. I do it for me first. First and foremost, I do it for me. I need to do it. I need to have purpose. I need to give. I have a lot of love, and I have a lot to give, and I need some place to put it. Otherwise, it's gonna go to unhealthy places, and I don't want that. So, you know, it has benefited my personal character recovery to a degree I never imagined. I'm not comfortable in social situations, I'm not comfortable in communities, I'm not comfortable in all that, and I am here. I found home here. And so, yeah...I'm sorry, I'm out of time. Thank you.

- 7) Hi. I'm a writer-editor, and I tell stories about the history of animation and film. I've been in twelve steps programs probably around 50 years almost. And in A.R.T.S since 1985, with time off. And I always wondered. I left for a while. I came to A.R.T.S in Los Angeles. And in 2004 I went to London for a year, part of the year. And there was only one meeting there. There had been a lot of meetings in Los Angeles. Then moved to Georgia where there were no meetings. And when I finally came back to Los Angeles, there's only one meeting left. And I was wondering: Did I cause that by leaving L.A? No, it isn't...but I... What happened to A.R.T.S.? It was such a big decline in membership in a short period of time. Some of those old-timers are coming back, and we need to capture the magic that was in the early days of A.R.T.S. And I think that magic is there for the taking for the newcomers as well. I hope I can provide some benefit to the membership as a trustee again and push for things like a Speaker's List and other things to expedite and help people spread the word, so to speak. Thank you.
- 8) Thank you everybody who's shared thus far and everyone who's here. I'm really touched by the shares. I hope I can look forward to reading them in the form of personal stories that we've discussed a few times now over the conference. They're so powerful and I've heard some of them more than once, and they don't lose their power. And I think it's so important to hear I had my own, I guess you could say I have my own, but I feel like I'm a little bit removed from my creativity. I feel identified with what another member was saying about the 6 years of creative block. I'm a little bit in the desert right now in that regard. But I came back because the program worked so much for me around the time I started 14 or so years ago. And, you know, that promise, that potential remains in me, that dream, that hope, that aspiration. And I have a couple of random things to say that'll take more than the 2 minutes I have left, but I find that in terms of my own growth and development—I think some of you will be able to relate—perfectionism can be a major roadblock, obstacle, obstruction to my creativity. I think that we can get lost in the weeds, I can get lost in the weeds, but in terms of some of our bureaucratic concerns, red tape, not to downplay them or say they're unimportant, but I think that in our

program in particular, maybe it's true of all the 12 step, I think we really need, and I really need, to remember to keep right-brained concerns in mind, i.e., creative recovery, empathy, emotional intelligence, imagination. These are things that got squelched at an early age by too many left-brain things, and I'm concerned that sometimes we risk keeping those really difficult, unhealthy patterns alive and at the forefront, when really, they should not be at the forefront. I do want to say that something that we normally would have on this day that we didn't is Topics for Discussion. We didn't have any submissions to the committee for the Conference Service and Support Committee. So, next year, if anyone has topics they would like us to discuss, where there is feedback, questions, concerns, hopefully we can go about them in an emotionally intelligent way, but I just want to put that seed out there for next year. There is information on it, elsewhere. But, yeah, I just want to thank everybody for their service, their example. And for showing up this weekend and last weekend.

- 9) Hi, I'm a writer and musician and psychic, and I've been in A.R.T.S, I guess, about 5 years now. I mostly attend a beginner's meeting, and I've really gotten a lot out of A.R.T.S. I've expanded my purview as an artist. I do comedy now, I do acting, and, you know, it's just really opened me up a lot. And I admire the people that are giving service at this level. However, I do have to say that as a writer, and I keep milking this subject, but as a writer it concerns me that some of the literature that was originally available to people that I think is extremely well written, and extremely purposeful to the cause of A.R.T.S and to the mission is no longer available, and I know there's a lot of personal resentments and all of that going on about that. I just wish it could be different, and it seems like that whole issue has come to a standstill, and you know, many members in my meeting have expressed a desire for that literature, so I just want to put my two cents in about that. And as for voting, most of the people who are in the slate have been around for years, and they've done very great service, and I appreciate that. I think we need some new blood maybe? Even some of the service members have said they're ready to leave even though they feel like they have to be there. So well, another thing, the members' stories: I think that we need to encourage more people to volunteer for those, to contribute those stories. But as an artist, I am really grateful. I actually did a little routine at the Upright Citizens Brigade last night, which I never thought I would be on that level of comedy, and so it's been great fun, and I attribute a lot of that to my being vulnerable in A.R.T.S.
- 10) Hi, I'm a primarily a watercolorist. First, very grateful to everyone here today who participated, different groups, different meetings. It somehow still amazes me that we don't have, you know, 100 people on this meeting as opposed to 20 or 30. Just real quickly, I didn't know if that's what we were gonna do, this stuff, but I came to A.R.T.S. about 6 years ago after hearing someone who was at a watercolor show, I mean, her own show, her opening, say that she received the strength from her art support group, and my head kind of tilted aside like Nipper, the RCA victor dog, and I was like, what is that? I want that. And hers wasn't A.R.T.S., but it was a group of artists that she knew, and they got together once a month, and they would sometimes pray, and they would sometimes present their projects, and sometimes talk about other things going on in the arts world, and I was like, I want that, I need that, and I tried to put together something

myself, and it – I wouldn't say it failed miserably, but it didn't succeed. But just to show you how 12-step stuff works, about 6 months later a friend of mine from another program, and this friend of mine now lives in Eastern Europe and is a member of, like, a dozen different 12-step programs – he called me and he said, "I've got a friend who wants information about Arts Anonymous and it's like the only program I've never heard... I've heard of it, but I don't know anything about it, but I said, if anybody does, you would." And I was able to go to the website; this was even 6 years ago and found out that there was a meeting less than 10 minutes from my house that met every Friday. And that was on a Thursday, and so I gave him information for his friend who lives in Spain. And I went to my meeting on Friday. On Monday morning, I went to the 8 AM walk and talk meeting, and I said something like, "Hey," said my name, "here's my phone number, I would love to get more information about A.R.T.S.," and right after that, somebody comes on and says, "My name is blank, I live in Spain, I'm also at my first meeting." And so it was, like, my Higher Power reaching in His back pocket, saying, "Alright, here's all the cards out on the table, do I need to pull another one out of my sleeve?" And that's how A.R.T.S. is supposed to work. It's just supposed, you know, we're creative people. Boy, this isn't all what I wanted to talk about, but that's how it worked for me, and I hope it continues to work that way, and I hope to talk to you down the road. Thank you.

- 11)** Thank you, everybody, that you're here today, and that I could have a key role in the Conference. It's been an adventure. It's been something. Sometimes I have said to myself, "Why did I say yes?" And "I've really got to get rid of this job." And it was awful, because the longer I waited, I thought, you know, if I give it over to somebody else, they need time, and anyway, I really was nervous about it. Very, very nervous about it. I've been in A.R.T.S going on 5 years now. And it's just good for me. The program is good for me. I'm a musician, I studied music, piano, so the piano you see here, I was ignoring completely when I started in A.R.T.S. And that's not good for me. I have a mental illness, officially, a diagnosed severe mental illness and I had just had a big relapse when I came to A.R.T.S., and since I've been in A.R.T.S., I've had stability. It hasn't been completely easy, like I've said. But I have not needed a hospital for that illness, so I'm amazed. My husband is amazed. I really wanted to be a concert pianist, and now with A.R.T.S. I visited my mother, who I was in the States, for the first time in 5... 4 years? 5 years? And on the way back in October, there was a Steinway Grand Piano in the airport, and it said, you know, please respect and enjoy this piano. And I knew I was gonna play it. I knew that. I do get down on myself because, I mean, I'm a baby in the program. But I do my 5 alive. I don't do much more than 5 Alive sometimes, but I do the 5 Alive, and I knew I was gonna sit at the piano and play, and I did. And another thing that happened recently I did a convention. I went to a convention in my country 2 hours away from me, and there's a singer there that asked for me to accompany him. I don't know this man from Tokyo. And I was getting upset about going to this convention, and I was having trouble just getting ready, just doing laundry or doing anything, and I had practiced. And then I recognized, I said to myself, "What is my problem?" I'm griping about doing laundry, packing a suitcase, and getting on the train, and going to this convention, and I thought, "That is the life I always wanted!" And that's starting to happen in little pieces. So

I went, and the performance went well, and it was the most important thing on the whole weekend for me. So, just when we were on our break, I was upstairs in my husband's office, and he said to me, "That service position is good for you! Look at you standing up straighter!" And I thought I just had to tell you that, so thank you for your trust. I see that service brings something, and I hope I could do it to the best of my ability. Thanks for all the help.

12) I love A.R.T.S. I think, gosh, I can never remember when I started doing arts. I think it was around 2010, or something like that? So it was a while. Face-to-face meetings in my home city. And, you know, members from Debtors Anonymous who told me about meetings, and there were... there was sort of face-to-face...I sort of had face-to-face meetings for a while, but they were sort of a bit hard to maintain. That's alright. And then, once online came, obviously we came together as a fellowship, which was awesome, online. I just want to give a shout-out to Donna for the Zoom-a-thons as well, the precursor for the Share-athons. They were awesome. They went all night. She did them all day. It was, like, this phenomenal service. So, anyway, I'm a puppeteer and a writer, and, you know, art brings...art is such a life-giving and joy-giving force. It really is, I really feel it is. It's like... because I know that every time I... when I'm doing my art, I'm happier. It's like, well, art is my life. I am an artist, and art is my life. And that's the sickness or the disease of this program, if one wants to call it that, or that brings me to the program, you know, avoiding my art; I'm not doing my art, you know, like, as in laid out in the Traits in particular, which are fantastic. I love the Traits and Talents; they're fantastic. It gives me an indication of my problem, and so will the Steps when I get to do those through the new guides that'll come out. But, yeah, you know, I love meetings. I host a meeting, and I love that. I don't know, what can I say? I think the Board of Trustees does a great job. I was a member for a while, and who knows – I might even apply again when I can get up at 4 o'clock in the morning on a regular basis, which isn't now. But, you know, I love A.R.T.S., and I think we've really come a long way together. Like, the conference, we really have—the whole thing—I really feel like we've come a very long way to do that.

13) Hi everyone. I am a violinist, a singer, graphic designer, art director, writer, and copywriter. And I am forever grateful for the fact that we found an A.R.T.S. meeting almost 40 years ago a block and a half away from where we live. And the first meeting we just both felt so at home. It was 20 some artists in an art studio. All the literature, and we got the materials together, the format together, and carried it from one meeting to another until it's now the Sunday morning meeting. Anyway, it's just been such a pleasure, it saves my life every time I come to my meeting. I'm usually grouchy to get up Sunday morning, and, you know, then I come to the meeting, and then I'm filled with this wonderful harmony. Sense of harmony. And because nobody criticizes. I had parents who criticized the heck out of me. I couldn't play the violin the way they wanted, so I gave it up. But in A.R.T.S., I got it back. A.R.T.S. gives me permission to play my heart out, sing my heart out, and do graphic design, and anything else creative. I get permission to do all these creative things and have people who love me. Whom I love. I love these people. They're my family. They're my true family. And I feel safe. Except when someone new comes in. I feel safe, and my meeting is safe, because here's a loving Higher Power. That's whose energy is there. I

can't explain it, but I feel it and I know you all feel it too. So, we're doing a show next Saturday, and I'm not afraid of it because I know most of the songs, and I know the music, and somehow, I'll just be in that place where the Higher Power's there, and I'm there, and the people appreciate it, and I appreciate them.

14) Hi, I'm an artist, musician, play the piano and sing. I've belonged in A.R.T.S. since the 1990s. I went to my first meetings in 1995 but really wasn't regular until '96. First, I want to express my gratitude for all the people who do service both for this conference and who do service throughout the year, the board members. They have a wonderful leader. And, you know, all the other people who meet during the year. I have to admit that this year I've probably done less service on the World Service level than in the past. Had some personal issues and stuff and probably some lack of motivation. But I want to try to increase some of my service and my contributions to A.R.T.S. I do want to express some concern about the lack of growth of A.R.T.S. And concern about, you know, the future. And I feel we really need to do more to reach out. I've mentioned this probably each year for the last several years and I'm gonna talk about it again. And I have to admit I'm as much to blame. I can, you know, be somebody who's trying to, you know, contribute or lead, even in this direction. I've been aware that A.R.T.S. has no Wikipedia article in existence. There are 33 12-step programs that have a Wikipedia article. A.R.T.S. does not. And it's not just the major programs that have a Wikipedia entry, but the smaller ones as well, and I'd be willing to try to work on this. I don't know exactly how you get onto Wikipedia, but it is a concern that I have that we don't do enough to reach out to people in whatever ways that might be out there. If you do a Google search for artist support groups, A.R.T.S. does not exist, and I think that we're missing out on an opportunity. I've been a little concerned about the meetings not growing. My own meeting has become smaller in the past year or two and the fact that we have fewer delegates than we've had in the past concerns me a bit. So, thanks.

15) It's good to be here. I'm a visual artist, a comedian, a dancer, a hand sewer, among other things, and yeah, I really appreciate this program. I've been in an A.R.T.S. step group for over 2 years now. One year alone, just doing Step 4. I didn't think I would make that. I didn't do 200 of those things you're supposed to do, very close. And my avoidance and my resistance, you know, every time I had to do homework has gone away; now I look forward to doing it, the homework. The assignments, and let's see, oh yeah, I do the walk and talk meeting. Well, it gets me out of bed every morning to do that, because I tend to wake up in depression, and then I'll say, "Oh, I don't want to go on a meeting," and then I go on the meeting and the depression lifts during the meeting. So that alone is great that I'm still, you know, caring enough about myself and my art. And one little comic thing, when I first told one of my friends that I was in Arts Anonymous, he said, "Oh, you do too much art? Is that what that is?" "No, this isn't alcohol!" So, I thought that was... I had to just say that. It was so, when he said it, I had to laugh. Let's see... Oh yeah, and last year was my first time at the conference, and I usually don't participate. I don't participate in conferences. And I was getting really angry all the time during the conference. But I didn't make it all 3 days. This year I did all 3 days. I learned from the first year not to get angry. Everybody has their views, and not to, you know, not... because I could be, you know, I would sabotage

myself by not, if I didn't join it. And, you know, I looked forward to every day this year, and I thought that was great. Looking forward to the conference, and meeting other people in real life and, you know, I wasn't, like lazy about making art. I was fearful about making art, in the sense of sitting down. I'm just doing it. And I do that with lots of things in my life, but I was so tired of doing that with my art, you know? It's one thing if I kept putting off cleaning the bathroom, which I still do. So, I'm just so glad I'm here. Thanks.

16) Thank you. I'm so glad to be part of this conference, and I just want to say a little bit about how much A.R.T.S. has helped my life. I was in many ways very depressed and very cut off from people. I was in another 12-step program, and one day I heard two of my friends from that program talking about their A.R.T.S. meeting, and I said, "What's that?" They told me, and I immediately went to my first meeting and just never stopped, and that was about nine years ago or so. I had done art. I'm a visual artist, painter, photographer, mostly a musician, and have done filmmaking. I just wasn't actively working on my art, and I also had gotten carpal tunnel and couldn't do anything with my hands, so that was hard, but, anyway, the 5 minutes a day, which is something that our Founder came up with years ago, it's just changed my life. If I can do 5 minutes a day, it often turns into hours. I've been in 3 Shows with my gallery shows with my art in the last 2 years, and I never even tried to get in before. I never showed my paintings or photographs to anybody for the most part. So, that's a little bit of my history. Anyway, I thank everybody who's been here at the conference, and all the service that's been going on. And I'm so glad to be part of it. One issue that I want to bring up is that the Board seems to have threatened our founder, Abigail Brown, with legal action and I can't understand why. It has something to do with the copyright which she owns on all of her written material. And I can't understand it. She's been getting threatening legal letters. I don't know how many people in the program know about this, but I have a personal relationship with her, and she's told me about it. I just wanted to bring that up. Really it doesn't seem to be in the spirit of a 12-step program. I don't understand it. Thank you so much for letting me share.

17) Hello, I'm a recovering artist. I do visual art, painting, writing, sculpture, and playing with colors, even on my—how do they say that in English?—when you hang the clothes outside, I even care for the colors that I mix in. It's an obsession. So, this is what I am. I would like to invite all of us... I wrote it down because I have a language gap, and when I'm buried in emotions some words seem to be disappearing. They don't collaborate with me... I invite all of us to keep sharing their feelings, and I believe that we can hear more solutions and become better. I received a comment on my private direct contact on the chat. I apologize to this person. If it was felt offensive, I definitely didn't mean for that. I have a language gap and I can't help it; It's a problem for me. I don't feel that I did offense. But nevertheless, it can happen that I offend without the intention. That's why I apologize right away. I want to praise my Higher Power to have brought me to A.R.T.S. and helped me to untangle my art and meet good people. And giving me the opportunity to share with the Step subcommittee and who knows what else I may join one day, I don't know. Depends on my health. So, thank you all for being there and trying to bring a language of heart into even the service. Thank you.

18) I've been in arts since around 1994. I'm not exactly sure when, but I think it was about the time. And I experienced a lot of recovery early on. When I came into the program, I was a hired pen, and I, you know, had lots of work as, you know, being engaged to write this proposal, that proposal, this by-lined article, that one. I was dating somebody who was a painter who would say to me, who's from Spain, and he had this way of talking, he just said, "Why you only do their writing? Why are you not doing your writing?" And I kind of happened upon an A.R.T.S. meeting, and one thing led to another, and I did find my own voice as a writer. And sitting here I'm kind of realizing, like, then I sort of have to admit, I stopped going to A.R.T.S. And then I actually came back on a regular basis about a year before the pandemic. I started coming to the morning A.R.T.S. meeting and I had also gone to some local meeting in New York. Maybe it was Monday evening, near to where I live. And, recently, my work has not been creative, my paid work, and I'm having trouble getting back to finishing this book that I was working on for a long time. There are a few of them, actually, that I started writing in A.R.T.S. Or in my time, you know, in A.R.T.S. and subsequent to beginning A.R.T.S. And I'm really, right now, making efforts to get back into working in a way that will nurture my art. So, for example, after my daughter was born in 1997, I spent a lot of time, almost all my work was tutoring students in English and writing. And I lived near Columbia University, I would go up there, put up flyers, I never was without students. And, in the last couple years since AI and probably some other things, like, you know, people's stretched finances. I haven't had any students. So, I've been taking care of an older person, and I just was kind of realizing, sitting here, that there really has been a gap since that time. And, you know, like, it's kind of little by little, sort of like, fading like I haven't been doing my art. And so, I am really grateful. In the last few days, I've been taking some steps and having some conversations about doing something that might be more nurturing to my writing. And I also have a background in theatre arts, and one of the things I'm looking into would kind of overlap with that a bit. I'm grateful to be here and to be at the conference and to be part of A.R.T.S. Thank you.

19) Thank you for calling on me. I'm an artist. Meaning, musician and writer. Very wealthy. That was a joke. But extremely happy, and that wasn't a joke. Well, I've been coming to Arts Anonymous for about a year. Last August? And well, it's been really a wonderful experience. I haven't done the steps in A.R.T.S., but I have done the steps in two other programs, so I'm familiar with the method. You know, in my case, you know, being an addict, I suffer from something that I'd call toxic creativity. I can get resentful very creatively about things. And so, you know, we addicts know that resentment is really the culprit. And I've been learning in A.R.T.S. that I've been applying my creativity in wrong ways. And all unconsciously, obviously, and what I've been working on is, you know, creating this friendship with my creativity and working. Actually sitting down and making music and writing. And just being in these meetings and being able to share, just reading the literature, reading the promises, and reading the symptoms, kind of understanding the issues. So, I'm really very grateful for the Culver City meeting. It's actually where I was referred by somebody from another program about a year and a half ago. And this person is now my sponsor in another program and he also comes to our A.R.T.S. meeting a lot as

well, so it's really been a miracle for me. I'm gonna wrap by saying that before I came to this group I felt so lonely that I was not able to share my art. And I prayed to my Higher Power to provide me with, you know, fellow artists and people whom I could share that with, and this is the result, so that's awesome. Thank you.

20) Hi, I'm a creative person. It's good to be here. The first two conferences I went to were in Ocean Grove, but now we have Zoom, so we can include everybody from all over the world. What a gift, with a click of a button and minor cost. Compared to what it cost me to get there, it was about a thousand bucks a piece every time I went there, between the plane fare and everything. So, anyway, it's good to be here. I guess, of all the things I could share I just wanted to share something that I thought was funny, initially funny, and then after that, I could have gone into a tirade, I can't remember what. But you know, lots of times, more so in the past, I would go to meetings and just let them know that World Service was having a conference. And then eventually, or even now, meetings that I go to, if nobody else is making announcements, at least I'll make an announcement—you know, something about World Service. I don't know what, to go out, at least to go on the website and look at the website or something. So anyway, I think it was last week I probably had convinced somebody to be either a delegate or something, I don't know what. Or maybe not, I don't even know what. But I was talking to this woman. So she says to me, "Well, that's really not my thing." That's what brought me up to the edge of the cliff. Because I've been in 12-step programs for 45 years. I have never gone to an intergroup meeting, a World Service Conference, or anything else, because it was "my thing." Trust me, because there's always—not always but lots of times—controversy, which is not my thing believe it or not. And I can understand people coming to one of these conferences and walking out of the door or saying goodbye to A.R.T.S., or whatever it is, because of the controversy, but you know what? It's not just A.R.T.S. Anybody in here that's been to AA or NA or any other A and gone to some of these world services, it's not such a smooth deal. And so I think we're just kind of normal. I think we're normalizing ourselves. It's not a smooth deal because I don't get my way all the time, so it's not smooth for me. I'm on my way all the time. I don't know about you, especially when it's justified. So, I was gonna time myself, but of course I didn't do that. Anyway, it's really, really good to be here, and I think we all ought to deserve a little pat on our own backs that we survived 3 days. Hello? Even at the beginning of this all, there were a lot more people here. But here we are, we're making it to the bitter end, whatever this turns out to be. Oh, yay us! Thank you for being here. Thank you, Erica, for being the first, and Eddie Ed for being the first actual members, not trustees, but just normal, normal A.R.T.S. people to run this thing. And now we came up with a manual, and we've got Concepts, and we've got a long list of things that have been done in the last few years that were never done before. So, we're on our way, and we've got committees going. Hello! And talking about more committees forming, and more stuff getting done, so we are the service people here. I don't know who else belongs here, but we're here, and I really want to applaud everybody that's still here today. Thank you.

21) I'm an artist, and A.R.T.S. gave me that feeling of authenticity; there's nothing like that. And I'll just say quickly I came in the program...I had an agenda to do something, but I learned that it's

much more important to support other artists, no matter what people do and show. It's doing the creative act. But I wanted to use my time, because I think I have something that has always been on my mind. I think we've progressed since 1939, when the 12 Steps were first put out there, and it's blossomed into every other kind of addiction, and thank God for that. But I use those steps. I depend on them for my addiction. However, I think for the future of Arts Anonymous, I think there are a couple things that might help progress and bring people in. One is maybe the name. We could call it more something, like "for creatives." And the other thing is the actual wording of the steps. I'll just get a few of these out, because I don't think I'll have time. So, this is a concept that I hope we move towards. "Number one, we admitted we were powerless over our creative blocks, perfectionism, and self-doubt, and that our creative lives had become unmanageable. Two, we came to believe that a Higher Power, as we understood It, could restore our creativity, passion, and sense of artistic purpose. Three, we made a decision to turn our creative will in our lives under the care of a Higher Power, however we choose to define It. Four, we made a searching and blameless inventory of our creative patterns, fears, procrastination, and internalized criticism. Five, we admitted to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to another creative person, the exact nature of artistic wounds and blocks. Six, we became willing to let go of all the defects and fears that are stifling our creative spirits. Seven, we humbly asked our Higher Power to remove our self-sabotaging tendencies, inner critics, and creative paralysis. Eight, we became willing to open ourselves to receive the unconditional love of our Higher Power and with that, our creativity. Nine, we became willing to accept our own unconditional love by understanding that our Higher Power loved us unconditionally." I grabbed that from someone. "Ten, we continue to take personal inventory of our creative lives, and when we are blocked, afraid, or dishonest with ourselves, we continue to love and approve of ourselves. Eleven, we sought through meditation, artistic practice, and reflection to improve our conscious contact with our Higher Power as we understood It, seeking only knowledge of the will for our creativity and the strength to carry it out, and 12, having had a creative and spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we've tried to carry this message to other artists and practice principles of our creative affairs." And before I go, I just want to apologize to the chairs, because I think you're doing a beautiful job. And I really have a lot of love for you guys, and I'll pass with that.

- 22)** First of all, Eddie Ed and Erica, thank you so much for your service. It was fantastic. I am a martial artist and, it's important because I've been, let's say, quote-unquote "sober" as a martial artist for at least a decade. I don't go to bed without doing Tai Chi for a decent decade. And that taught me some discipline. I haven't been in A.R.T.S. that long, but I've been sober in A.R.T.S. for over 500 days...consecutive days of doing my art at least 5 minutes per day, right? My Tai Chi thing is a lot about connecting the right and left hemisphere. And I heard complaints about the red tape, how that's left hemisphere. To me, left hemisphere, or the red tape, those are decades of experience of other 12-step programs. If we post it out of the window, we spilled the baby with the bath water. And believe me or not, I like agreeing with people a lot more than I like disagreeing but not at the expense of having to do a lobotomy. And this conference went really

well for me as far as I can tell. There was this problem with A.R.T.S. being claimed to be a non-profit, the fellowship. Nobody wanted to listen about it. My sponsor accused me of evil intentions, right? I begged for a chance to have a conversation and then at the end, it was a very simple solution. Nobody had a problem with it. Same thing with having independent chairs. Like, I remember the committee meeting, people told me that they were sick and tired of hearing that we have to have an independent chair, right? Yes, they did, they did. Yes, I know, you don't remember, but you're not the one that... but, yeah. And I hear a lot of complaints about how I'm negative, how I, you know, question people, but the way I've been questioned, you know, everybody's got the right to complain about how I do service. You know, I do service the way I see fit, without, you know, having a lobotomy. And I heard things like, oh, I didn't hear what you said because I was removing food from between my teeth. And that's from people that complained about me being negative. You know what, I just the hypocrisy of it, but fine, okay, I'm gonna let it go. I got two goals for this year: One, the bylaws, the story's been changing, like, we're not observing the bylaw, so we're observing only parts of it. I really want to fix it, because from what I heard there were just a few things that are obsolete, or they're not fitting the current structure. Easy fix, I think. And then another one, the literature and what do you call it? Copyrights. I think this mess needs to be fixed, and it has the potential for an easy fix as well. Thank you so much for listening.

23) Okay, now I guess you can hear me well. I'm an artist, skater, makeup artist, stylists, fashion designer, poetess and also songwriter, and also I'm a dancer and a choreographer. So, actually, before coming to Arts Anonymous, I was a little bit lost, because I didn't know what to do with all that. So, what changed is that now I am sure that everything is gonna be okay with me and with my art. And I really appreciate and am glad and happy to be here and to see all of you. And seeing you, I see a very good future for me and for all of artists which are still suffering. And I hope to be here one year after that, and not only one year after that, during this year also, to be close. And for me, it's really important. I feel like this was in my vision, and sometimes I hear some of, one of you, and I understand that it's kind of deja vu, so it seems for me, like, oh my god, maybe I saw it in my dream, so I really appreciate each of you serving as you serve with your Higher Power as you feel it. I think everyone is important, and I hope it's gonna be more members now. So, I will check what I also wrote. I am in Arts Anonymous only since April, so I'm newborn, just newborn, April 2024 [2025?]. And, I'm already on my fourth step. And I actually, when I came here, I didn't understand that it's something serious for me, really serious, and I was like, "Oh, it's okay, I will go." I had the steps, and nothing's gonna happen, so now is my fourth step, and I feel like, oh my god, everything is changing, so it's really also giving me the sign that it's important for me, and it's changing my life. I appreciate A.R.T.S. I started to make my poetry songs here, and I can send it to the people, and they like it and I hope that I will invite you one day to my concert or at least send you my music. Thank you so much!

APPENDIX I: Guidelines for Delegate and Participant Etiquette

The following motion was crafted and passed by the participants of the October 15, 2022 Pre-Conference Meeting: To approve the Guidelines for Delegate and Participant Etiquette for all Conferences

GUIDELINES FOR DELEGATE AND PARTICIPANT ETIQUETTE FOR ALL CONFERENCES

Thank you so much. Thank you for representing your groups and the A.R.T.S fellowship. We welcome you to the World Service Conference 2022 and we look forward to your participation.

Delegates can best prepare themselves if they are registered before the conference begins.

To ensure the integrity of the voting process all sessions will be recorded. All participants who agree will be able to participate and maintain the Zoom connection. Registered delegates who are on camera for roll call and discussions can vote on each motion. It is good practice that Delegates be present for the entire debate on a motion.

Please try not to repeat questions or comments made by other Delegates or Participants. If this happens the Facilitator will let you know.

Please be mindful that some behaviors work as a trigger to distract some members from participating effectively, such as: inappropriately dressed, smoking, drinking alcohol, or eating on camera.

Please remember we can best prepare Delegates who register before the conference begins.

Participants (Non-Delegates): Anyone who buys a ticket to participate in the Conference and is not an elected Delegate can contribute. Non-delegate participants can ask questions. Participants who are not delegates can also help with motion crafting, including offering Pros and Cons. This last point is very important; participants who are not Delegates cannot vote on motions.

Thank you so much for representing the A.R.T.S fellowship at the World Service Conference!

APPENDIX II: Quorum at the World Service Conference

<u>Voting Type</u>	<u>Required Numbers</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Quorum	Twice the number of non-trustee delegates as trustee delegates.	Passed in 2022 by the Conference
Motions	Simple majority (50%+)	Passed in 2023 by the Conference
Binding Motions	2/3 majority	Binding on Board of Trustees, unless illegal or fiscally irresponsible
Changes to Steps, Traditions, Concepts of Service and Article 10 of Conference Charter	¾ of A.R.T.S. groups by written consent (some exceptions for the Conference Charter applies)	Changes to Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service, plus Article 10 of the Conference Charter requires ¾ of groups. Changes to Articles 1-9 of the Charter can be made by a simple majority at the Conference.
Literature Approval	2/3 Majority	From 1995 Conference approved Literature Development Process, Retained by the Conference in the updated 2023 Literature Development/Approval Process
Reorganization of Board of Trustees	¾ vote of all Conference Delegates	May add or remove Trustees

APPENDIX III: Community Problem-Solving Method

As amended by the 2024 3rd Virtual World Service Conference in January 2025

Bringing a Motion to Vote (“Community Problem-Solving Method”)	
NOTE: Facilitator and Presenter have option to manage time	
2 minutes	Presenter puts a preliminary motion on the floor, and gives the reasoning in favor of the motion, including why this particular solution is recommended by a committee or the Board
4 minutes	Facilitator asks for questions about the meaning of the motion; presenter answers or may ask others to help answer them.
10 minutes	Participants may also comment regarding the motion. Participants are limited to 2 minutes each.
8 -12 min.	Four Pros and Four Cons are offered from the floor, in alternating format. Facilitator asks that points already made not be offered again.
8 minutes	Facilitator asks for questions and comments about the motion. Presenter answers or may ask others to help answer them. Participants may also comment regarding the motion.
6 minutes	Crafting. Participants on the floor may suggest changes to the original motion, and the Presenter decides whether or not to take them, one by one, as offered.
1 minute	The amended motion is read back to everyone Facilitator calls for a “time out” in silence for all to reflect before a final vote
1 minute	Serenity Prayer Facilitator calls for the final vote.
1 minute	One additional speaker on the minority opinion
Vote Count:	
In favor:	

Opposed:	
Abstentions:	
Motion Passes?	
Minority Opinion:	

APPENDIX IV: The A.R.T.S. Anonymous Conference Service Manual

PART 1: CONFERENCE CHARTER

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

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

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 12 Traditions and 12 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 12 Traditions of A.R.T.S., or in the 12 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 Trustees' 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 12 Traditions and 12 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.

PART 2: THE 12 CONCEPTS OF SERVICE OF A.R.T.S. ANONYMOUS

(Passed by the World Service Conference in October 2022 and corrected by the WSC in October 2023)

Concept One. The ultimate responsibility and authority for A.R.T.S. world service belongs to the collective conscience of the A.R.T.S. groups.

The groups delegate authority to the World Service Conference (WSC) and to the Board of Trustees. The members of the Board of Trustees are entrusted with conducting the day-to-day administration necessary to carry the A.R.T.S. message to the artist who still struggles to express their creativity. Groups are autonomous and World Service has responsibility only for matters that affect the entire fellowship or groups affecting other groups.

Concept Two. The A.R.T.S. Anonymous World Service Conference is the voice and conscience of our global fellowship in its world affairs.

The WSC is the voice of the groups and has been entrusted with the authority to run the operations of A.R.T.S. world service.

Concept Three. The Right of Decision makes effective leadership possible.

Meeting officers are chosen to carry out the technicalities of running a meeting and are empowered to make decisions for that purpose. They do not govern and always carry out the group conscience. On the World Service level, the groups have chosen delegates to represent them. The delegates have the responsibility and authority to make decisions that are required by their service positions. Likewise, members of WSC Committees and the Board of Trustees have the right to make decisions. All decisions must be consistent with the 12 Traditions of A.R.T.S. Anonymous. Whenever possible, decisions should be based on the group conscience.

Concept Four. Participation is the key to harmony. Voting representation is in reasonable proportion to service responsibilities.

In A.R.T.S. leaders are but trusted servants. At the same time, groups choose members to represent their views and to oversee the day-to-day activities of the Fellowship. This seems like a contradiction. The principle of participation blends these two contradictions.

When members participate in decisions and know that their voice is heard, they feel included and valued. They feel like part of the group rather than outsiders. This creates harmony and encourages more members to participate in service. Member participation with A.R.T.S. anonymous is inclusive and it is valued. Participation through service positions assist the growth and development of the trusted servant and A.R.T.S. Anonymous as a whole.

When participation is lacking it affects the spirit of the group and it affects the balance of shared responsibility for the group to work effectively. What ensures harmonious relations will happen on the extent to which each service player understands and carries his or her proportion of the work. In A.R.T.S. leaders are but trusted servants.

Concept Five. Group conscience decision-making requests minority opinions and gives members the opportunity to express them.

“The only requirement for A.R.T.S. membership is a desire to function as a creative artist.” Tradition 3. All A.R.T.S. members value their freedom to work the program and participate in their own way within the guidance of the 12 Traditions. Every member can expect respect and consideration when voicing their opinion. Minority views are not “shut down” by the majority.

Concept Six. The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

As it is not possible for the groups to run the everyday affairs of the World Service Office, they have delegated this responsibility to the WSC. In turn, because the WSC generally meets annually (or more often as needed), the WSC delegates the administrative responsibility to the trustees. At the same time, the WSC oversees the trustees to make sure that the Traditions are observed.

Concept Seven. The Board of Trustees has legal rights and obligations while the rights and obligations of the Conference are traditional.

The existence of the Board of Trustees is required by the laws of the State of New York, and the Board is recognized as legally responsible to maintain the A.R.T.S. policies and procedures according to those laws. The rights of the WSC are “traditional,” that is, based on the 12 Traditions. In the years in which 12-step programs have been flourishing, the board steps back and allows the traditional democratic principles to guide the Fellowship.

Concept Eight. The Board of Trustees delegates full responsibility for the operations of the World Service Office to the executive committee.

The board elects an executive committee which takes on the management of the World Service Office in order to respond to day-to-day operations. In case of an emergency, the executive committee will promptly inform the entire board of trustees of any actions taken.

Concept Nine. Good leadership at all service levels is essential. In the field of world service, the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.

The board of trustees acts as the leadership of the fellowship. In accordance with the Traditions, they do not impose decisions on the fellowship, but rather implement its decisions as expressed in the WSC. Board members are chosen, among other things, for their willingness to serve as collaborative leaders. Trustees are chosen by the World Service Conference.

Concept Ten. Service responsibility is balanced by clearly defined service authority. Those with responsibilities are accountable to only one service authority, avoiding conflict.

Each service position reports to only one service entity, so that there is not a conflict with competing demands.

Concept Eleven. The World Service Office is composed of standing committees, executives, and staff members.

The WSO includes standing committees of the board of trustees, the members of the executive committee, and staff members who are employed by the WSO.

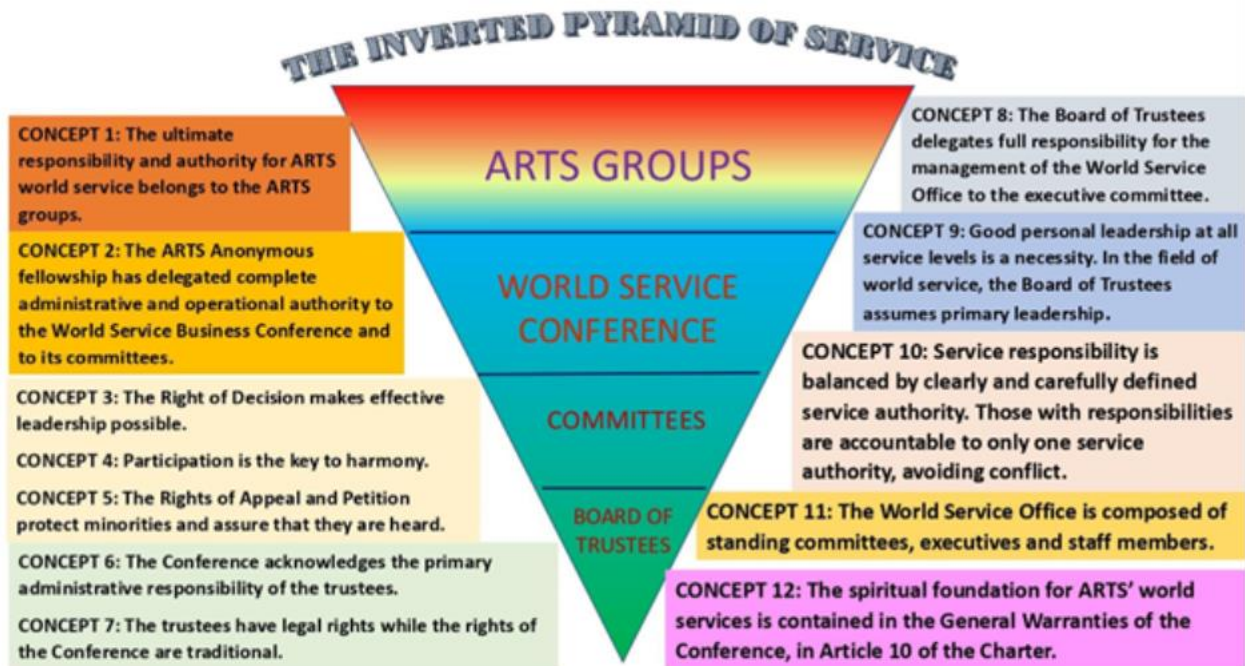
Concept Twelve. A Loving Higher Power provides the spiritual guidance for A.R.T.S. World Services. This guidance is expressed in the General Warranties of the Conference, in Article 10 of the Charter.

- 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.

PART 3: SERVICE STRUCTURE

The Inverted Pyramid of Service



PART 4: DELEGATES TO THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

Who is a Delegate

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

To allow A.R.T.S. groups one Delegate to represent each meeting with an Alternate Delegate. If the meeting has at least five members who are present at the business meeting where the election occurs, the meeting may elect no more than two Delegates and two Alternates.

At the World Service Conference, each Service Committee has standing to participate, including the election of one delegate from each Committee selected from those who are not board members, or a meeting delegate.

Delegate Terms of Office and Right to Vote

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

A suggested term limit of two years for meeting GSRs (aka group/meeting delegates), subject to approval or alteration by the meeting the delegate represents.

*The information below is posted on the website.

INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF A.R.T.S. ANONYMOUS

Who/What is a Delegate or Alternate Delegate?

- Delegates are the representatives to the World Service Conference (WSC) who have the right to vote. (In other programs delegates who represent the groups are called “GSRs” or Group Service Representatives).
- Delegates include:
 - One or two elected and registered representatives from each A.R.T.S. Anonymous group (GSRs).
 - One representative from each service committee.
 - Members of the Board of Trustees

What does a Delegate or Alternate Delegate do?

- Delegates attend the annual World Service Conference (WSC), anticipated to be virtual for the time being, and stay in communication with World Services and the WSC. Additional meetings of the WSC may be called if necessary.
- Delegates are invited to join Conference committees. These are an opportunity to make the voice of the meetings heard as well as to make decisions about how the actual WSC will run. This can really make a difference for the future of A.R.T.S. Anonymous!
- At the WSC meetings, delegates vote on issues affecting the entire Fellowship, such as approving Trustees, approving Literature, establishing Policies and Procedures, and any changes to important documents such as the Steps & Traditions.
- Delegates vote on public outreach efforts and give guidance to the Board of Trustees.
- Delegates do not govern. However, the group conscience as expressed at the WSC is binding by program tradition, as long as the Fellowship does not interfere with the legal requirements of the non-profit status of ARTS Anonymous, Inc.
- Delegates represent their own A.R.T.S. Anonymous group (meeting) and consult with the members they represent about important issues. The meetings “delegate” responsibility to the Delegate/GSR to listen to the deliberations of the WSC and make choices. They also may bring questions from their meeting to the WSC. Examples might include requests for pieces of literature.
- Delegates bring back to the group the results of WSC proceedings and keep members informed of what is happening within the world-wide Fellowship.
- Alternate Delegates “stand in” for the Delegate when the Delegate is not available. When an Alternate is standing in for a Delegate, they do everything a Delegate does, including voting.

How do you become a Delegate or Alternate Delegate?

- Delegates and Alternates must be elected by their group.
- Each A.R.T.S. Group elects one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to represent it. If the meeting has at least five members who are present at the business meeting where the election occurs, the meeting may elect no more than two Delegates and no more than two Alternates.
- Alternates only vote at the WSC if the Delegate cannot. Of course, all who would like to may attend, but not all have a vote.
- Once the Delegates and Alternate Delegates are elected, please fill out the Delegate/Alternate Delegate Registration Form to let the A.R.T.S. World Service Office know who is representing the group. (One form for each Delegate/Alternate Delegate). This can be found on the A.R.T.S. Anonymous website ([click here](#))
- It is essential that we have contact information, including phone number and email, for all Delegates and Alternates so we can inform them of upcoming meetings, and details and information for the WSC. World Services will send out meeting agendas

for the Pre-Conference and the WSC, and information about issues that will be voted on at the WSC. (Delegates may also bring issues to the WSC by submitting them to the Conference Service and Support Committee.)

What does the WSC do?

- Each group is autonomous unless their decisions affect other groups, or the entire Fellowship. Therefore, the World Service Conference (WSC) has the responsibility to provide guidance to the meetings, the Board of Trustees, and issues affecting A.R.T.S. Anonymous as a whole.
- A.R.T.S. Anonymous follows the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-Step programs, using the 12 Traditions as the guide.
- The WSC does not govern. It is the embodiment of the group conscience of all the groups (meetings).
- Examples of things the WSC does (or might do)
 - Approve Trustees elected to the Board
 - Approve Literature (This is what is meant by Conference-approved Literature.)
 - Govern itself and set up its own Policies and Procedures. Determine the rules for Delegate selection. The WSC elects its own Chair and Officers.
 - Guide the Board of Trustees in all operations of World Service. It asks questions about and proposes solutions to financial issues.
 - Conduct Fellowship events such as workshops and art shares at the WSC and at other times
 - Work with the Board of Trustees on changes to the A.R.T.S. Anonymous By-laws
 - Create/revise/approve the foundational documents of A.R.T.S. (where permitted by copyright): Steps, Traditions, Concepts of Service
 - Amend the Conference Charter as needed
 - Create and approve efforts and programs such as Outreach

Delegate and Alternate Delegate Registration Form

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

Meeting Delegate/Alternate Delegate Registration Form

Fields marked with an * are required

ARTS Anonymous Group Service Representative or Alternate Group Service Representative Registration Form

Use this form to officially register the Delegate (or Group Service Representative - GSR) and Alternate Delegate (GSR) to represent your meeting. Each Meeting Delegate and Alternate Delegate must fill out a separate form. All information received will be used only by the A.R.T.S. World Service Office for the purpose of conducting the World Service Conference and for communications from the World Service Office throughout the year. Otherwise only your first name and last initial will be used. This form will be collected by World Services using the email you provide in the next box below. *IMPORTANT NOTE: This form only registers you as your Meeting Delegate and/or Alternate. To attend the annual meeting of World Service Conference, your group or meeting will purchase a ticket for the Conference.*

* Indicates required question

Email*

Your email

First and Last Name*

Your answer

Email Address*

Your answer

Phone Number*

Your answer

Select One: Delegate or Alternate*

- Delegate
- Alternate

Name of Meeting, Type of Meeting, Date/Time of the Meeting you are Representing: *

Your answer

Date you were chosen at group's business meeting (approximate date is acceptable) *

Your answer

Number of people at the business meeting when you were chosen *

Your answer

Name & email of meeting contact or officer who witnessed you being chosen

Your answer

Are you replacing a former Delegate or Alternate? If so, please tell us who so the list can be kept updated.

Your answer

Please indicate a committee if you are interested in serving. See the "Service Info" tab on the artsanonymous.org website for more information about committees.

- Policies and Procedures for the Conference*
- Conference Planning (helping to put on the conference) *
- Finance (finance reviews, getting the program solvent)
- Website (reviewing, redesigning)
- Outreach (getting the word out)
- LGBTQ
- Literature (development, approval, review, distribution) *
- Talents and Skills (surveying and maintaining a list of skills of the members to contribute service)
- Recruiting and Nominating (for Service Positions) *
- Sharathon*
- Board of Trustees *

*Indicates currently existing committees. If you wish to start a committee, please contact officemanager@artsanonymous.org.

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided.

PART 5: CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

The following committees have been established by the World Service Conference:

- Conference Policies and Procedures Committee
- Conference Service and Support Committee
- Recruitment and Nominations Committee

PART 6: CONFERENCE POSITIONS

Conference Chair

(The following motion was passed at the 2024 3rd Virtual World Service Conference in January 2025)

To establish a Term Limit of three consecutive World Service Conferences for the position of Conference Chairperson.

The Chair of the A.R.T.S. World Service Conference (WSC) serves as the Facilitator at WSC meetings.

- The WS Conference Chair:
 - Presides over WSC meetings, including mid-year or special sessions.
 - Helps to ensure that the group conscience is developed and expressed in a structured, respectful, and spiritually principled way.
 - Does not debate or advocate during meetings of the WSC or introduce new motions other than procedural motions.
 - Maintains neutrality at all times.
 - Has one vote.

How the Conference Chair is nominated.

- Upon recommendation to and by the Recruitment and Nominations Committee
- By nomination at the time of a WSC meeting.

How the Conference Chair is elected.

- Written or recorded applications will be made available to Delegates two weeks prior to a vote.
- Delegates have the opportunity to interview all candidates before voting.
- WSC Delegates will vote to elect a Chair at a meeting of the WSC.
- The WSC Chair is elected at the end of the Annual WS Conference to serve a term of one year. In the event that a WSC Chair is not elected at the Conference, or is unable to fulfill their duties, a special session of the Conference shall be held for the purpose of electing a WSC Chair.
- In the event that there is no elected Conference Chair or Vice Chair, the Board will organize and facilitate a special session of the Conference to hold elections.

Conference Vice Chair

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

The Vice Chair for the Conference is elected by the WSC for a one-year term. The Vice Chair may be elected by the WSC for no more than three consecutive one-year terms.

Responsibilities of the Vice Chair:

- The Vice Chair is available for meetings the Conference Chair attends or leads.
- The Vice Chair supports and assists the Conference Chair in facilitating as requested by the Conference Chair.
- The Vice Chair functions as an alternate Conference Chair when necessary.
- The Vice Chair may not be a member of the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees.

PART 7: CONFERENCE MOTIONS

How Motions are Handled for the Conference

(Passed by the 3rd Virtual World Service Conference in January 2025)

Procedures for Motions for the World Service Conference

Who may submit motions?

- Individual members (preferably with a group conscience)
- Meeting/group Delegates/GSRs
- Meetings/groups
- Board committees (including the Board of Trustees)
- Conference committees
- The Conference Planning Meeting

How motions may be presented for submission (to be considered for inclusion in the Delegate Conference Packet): Motions may be submitted by any individual member (preferably with a group conscience)

- Members, delegates and committees may also submit motions at committee meetings to be considered for inclusion in the Delegate Conference Packet.
- All motions proposed for the Conference shall be submitted to the World Service Office through a form available on the A.R.T.S. website.

- There will be a deadline set by the Conference Service and Support Committee so that the motion may be formulated with Background and Reasoning for the Delegate Conference Packet.
- Proposed motions will be considered by the Conference Service and Support Committee for inclusion in upcoming and/or future conferences. Proposed motions may be referred to the appropriate committee. If the committee needs further clarification, they will communicate with the proposer. If a motion is rejected, the proposer has the right to know the reasoning behind the rejection by the Conference Service and Support Committee.

During the Conference:

As debate and discussion unfold at the Conference, all voting members are free to vote their conscience.

After the Conference:

- GSRs/Delegates will inform their Group/Meetings about group conscience decisions made at the Conference.
- Following the Conference, a formal, comprehensive report will be created by the World Service Office in cooperation with the Conference Service and Support Committee. This report will contain all Committee reports, motions as passed and any other relevant information. This report is sent to all delegates and is posted on the website.

Literature Development/Approval Process for Conference-Approved Literature

(Passed by the 2023 World Service Conference in November 2023)

Introduction

The purpose of the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Conference Approved Literature Process is to create a body of A.R.T.S. Anonymous Literature that supports members' creative potential. This process enables the A.R.T.S. Anonymous program to gain the right to publish material and/or to post specific pieces of literature for distribution and/or for sale.

A sequence of reviews, successfully conducted is explained below. This will carry a piece of A.R.T.S. Anonymous Literature from draft proposal to final approval, by both the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees and the A.R.T.S. World Service Conference. The A.R.T.S. literature thus gains the designation of A.R.T.S. Conference Approved Literature.

1. A concept for a piece of A.R.T.S. literature, or a first draft of all or part of an A.R.T.S. literature manuscript, can be submitted by any member, group or service entity of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.

All A.R.T.S. Literature seeks support through a collaborative literature development process. A.R.T.S. literature reflects the principles of unity, anonymity and being self-supporting through our own contributions. Therefore a member submitting a concept or draft of all or a part of an A.R.T.S. Literature manuscript is asked to sign a letter of agreement: 1) releasing the manuscript to the "ownership" of A.R.T.S. Anonymous; and 2) willingness to recuse themselves from and defer to any committee's group conscience decision related to their work.

2. The Board of Trustees (BoT) Literature Committee considers the concept or manuscript in relation to overall literature development priorities and projects. Consideration is given to resources, time and skills. After discussing already existing literature, feasibility, and time needed to develop the project, the submission is positioned among other literature development projects.

3. Manuscript Development: The Literature Committee will determine the appropriate way to develop the manuscript. This will include providing writing and/or editorial guidelines. The committee may hire or contract a writer, translator and/or editor to compile and edit member submissions. Forming such a manuscript for the piece of literature is subject to terms approved by the Board of Trustees. The Literature Committee may include the originator of the concept or the manuscript, and also other A.R.T.S. members, to work with them on various aspects of the proposed project.

4. Following independent review by the Literature Committee and the A.R.T.S. Anonymous Board of Trustees, changes are made to the initial manuscript based on their editorial comments. These comments address the manuscript's grammar and mechanics, and also its adherence to the principles of the A.R.T.S. 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts of Service, while retaining the concepts, intention and voice of the original author.

5. Following the guidance provided by the Literature Committee and the Board of Trustees, a near-final draft is produced for review by the Literature Committee. Additional revisions may still be incorporated.

6. The manuscript approved by the Literature Committee is sent to the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees for review and approval. By tradition, the Board of Trustees accepts the responsibility to ensure the Fellowship that the spiritual principles of A.R.T.S. Anonymous have been adhered to throughout the work.

7. After having been approved by the A.R.T.S. Board of Trustees, the manuscript is presented by the Literature Committee at the next World Service Conference. To facilitate the feedback process of literature development, a manuscript for which Conference-approval is pending will be sent to registered Meeting Delegates two months before the World Service Conference. This will be accompanied by the *Guidelines for Reviewing A.R.T.S. Literature*. Comments from A.R.T.S. members are encouraged and will be considered by the Conference.

8. To receive "conference-approval," the manuscript must be approved by a 2/3 vote of all World Service Conference Delegates attending the annual World Service Conference meeting.

9. After considering copyright assignment and/or licensing agreements, and budgetary feasibility, the BoT determines the timing, production and distribution of the conference-approved literature. The final piece of A.R.T.S. Literature will carry a "conference-approved" label. If necessary, the BoT may return a manuscript to the Literature Committee for further development.

Guidelines for Reviewing A.R.T.S. Literature

These guidelines are sent to all those involved in the literature approval process, including the delegates. They are intended as a guide to review new and revised literature proposed to the Conference.

- A. The work is identifiably A.R.T.S. Anonymous in content and tone. It can include a single member's philosophy or point of view and reflects the "collective conscience" of A.R.T.S. Anonymous.
- B. The work is understandable by a broad-based audience.
- C. The work is responsive to identified needs.
- D. The work is grammatically and mechanically correct. Citations are accurate.
- E. The work adheres to the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Service.

Topics of Discussion at the Conference

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

At the Annual Meeting of the WSC, time is reserved for Topics for Discussion. This provides a forum for members to share their thoughts and feelings on a topic of concern for the whole of A.R.T.S. These discussions may result in motions, which have the potential to be included in the agenda for future Conferences. Members, groups or committees may submit a Topic for Discussion using the form on the website. The Conference Service and Support Committee will review proposed topics and add them to the agenda as possible.

World Service Conference Motions and Topics for Discussion Submission Form

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

Do you, your group, or committee have a motion to bring to the World Service Conference? If you do, please complete the submission form.

Even if you don't want to or aren't ready to propose a motion, you may still request that the Conference discuss an important topic. Please indicate on the form whether you are submitting a motion or a topic for discussion.

All requests and submissions will be forwarded to the relevant Committee for review, and they may be returned for further clarification as appropriate. Please understand there is limited capacity and time for the Conference to address everything that may be submitted. If a motion or topic is not accepted for the Conference, reasoning will be provided. The deadline date for submitting motions or topics is set by the Service and Support Committee. *(Please provide only one motion or topic for discussion per form, and begin with the email of the person filling in this form.)*

Email

Valid email

1. Is this a motion, or a topic for discussion?

- Motion (If you select this, please answer Questions 2-5)
- Topic for Discussion (If you select this, please go directly to Question 6)

A motion is a clear statement of the specific action you are asking the Conference to take. For example, "Members must wear Halloween costumes or fancy dress at meetings," is specific and actionable. "I think we need to have a dress code for meetings" is vague.

2. Please state the motion here:

3. Please provide the rationale or the background information in support of the Motion. For example, the issue or concern the motion addresses, or instances of how A.R.T.S. Anonymous can benefit from the Motion.

4. Name of A.R.T.S. Member or Committee who will present the Motion at the World Service Conference. *(The person or Committee must be willing to present the motion at the Conference and work with a Committee or the Board to further develop the motion and/or rationale as needed).*

5. Email address of A.R.T.S. Member presenting the motion at Conference:

6. Please provide the Topic for Discussion you wish to bring to the World Service Conference. For example, "the use of outside literature in meetings" or "finances".

7. In 250 words or less, please provide the reasons for suggesting this Topic:

8. Who may be contacted regarding the Topic for Discussion? (This may be an A.R.T.S. member, Delegate, Group Contact or Committee member.)

9. Email of A.R.T.S. Member, Delegate, Group Contact or Committee member regarding the Topic for Discussion:

10. Is there anything else you wish to add?

Thank you for your contribution and service to A.R.T.S. Anonymous. For questions, please email conference@artsanonymous.org

PART 8: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Frequency of Meetings

(Article 7 of the World Service Conference Charter)

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.*

Advisory Opinions

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

Advisory Opinions: The Conference Chair or the Board of Trustees may request advisory opinions from the Delegates at any time. Any member may request that the Conference call for an advisory opinion, and it is at the discretion of the Conference Chair as to whether to hold the event. If the Conference Chair is not available, the Vice Chair makes the determination, and if the Vice Chair and the Conference Chair are not available, then the Board of Trustees will make the determination.

Quorum at the World Service Conference

(Passed by the World Service Conference in October 2022)

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.

Guidelines for Delegate and Participant Etiquette for all Conferences

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

To be read at the opening of the Conference.

Thank you so much for being here. Thank you for representing your groups and the A.R.T.S. fellowship. We welcome you to the World Service Conference 20__ and we look forward to your participation.

To ensure the integrity of the voting process all sessions will be recorded for documentation purposes. Registered delegates are eligible to vote if they are present and visible on camera. It is good practice that Delegates be present for the entire debate on a motion.

Please try not to repeat questions or comments made by other Delegates or Participants. If this happens the Facilitator will let you know.

Please be mindful that some behaviors work as triggers and may distract others from participating effectively. When your camera is on, please be appropriately dressed and refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol, or eating.

Non-Delegate Participants: Anyone who buys a ticket to attend the Conference and is not an elected Delegate may participate. Non-Delegate Participants may ask questions, engage in discussions, help with motion crafting, and offer Pros and Cons. Only Delegates are eligible to vote.

Thank you so much for representing the A.R.T.S fellowship at the World Service Conference!

Disruptions, Statement for the Safety of the Conference, and Warning Statement

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

Use of the Mute Function: At the discretion of the Conference Chair, participants who do not have the floor may be muted by the Vice-Chair or

another individual designated by the Conference Chair so that Delegates and Participants can speak without interference.

Statement for the Safety of the Conference: “To protect the Conference proceedings, we ask that members save questions to the time allotted for questions. Questions or comments about the running of the Conference can be directed to the chat and may, at the discretion of the Conference Chair, be addressed. Alternatively, they may be taken to the Conference Policies and Procedures Committee meetings once they resume.

Disruption will not be tolerated. Disruption includes interrupting, asking questions outside the time allotted for questions, making non-procedural motions, speaking out of order, or otherwise interfering with the business of the Conference. Disruption will receive no more than two warnings from the Conference Chair and may lead to removal from the remainder of the Conference.”

Warning Statement: *(To be read by the Conference Chair as needed):* “The Conference is being disrupted. Disruption will not be tolerated. This is a warning. Disruption includes interrupting, asking questions outside the time allotted for questions, making non-procedural motions, speaking out of order, or otherwise interfering with the business of the Conference. Disruption will receive no more than two warnings. Further disruption may lead to removal for the remainder of the Conference.”

Community Problem-Solving Method

(Passed by the 3rd Virtual World Service Conference in January 2025)

Bringing a Motion to Vote (“Community Problem-Solving Method”)

NOTE: Facilitator and Presenter have the option to manage the time limits

2 minutes	Presenter puts a preliminary motion on the floor, and gives the reasoning in favor of the motion, including who has proposed it why this particular solution is recommended by a committee or the Board (or by a meeting or individual)
4 minutes	Facilitator asks for questions about the meaning of the motion; presenter answers or may ask others to help answer them.
10 minutes	Participants may also comment regarding the motion. Participants are limited to 2 minutes each.
8 -12 min.	Four Pros and Four Cons are offered from the floor, in alternating format. Facilitator asks that points already made not be offered again.
8 minutes	Facilitator asks for questions and comments about the motion. Presenter answers or may ask others to help answer them. Participants may also comment regarding the motion.
6 minutes	Crafting. Participants on the floor may suggest changes to the original motion, and the Presenter decides whether or not to take them, one by one, as offered.

1 minute	The amended motion is read back to everyone Facilitator calls for a "time out" in silence for all to reflect before a final vote
1 minute	Serenity Prayer Facilitator calls for the final vote.
1 minute	One additional speaker on the minority opinion
Vote Count:	
In favor:	
Opposed:	
Abstentions:	
Motion Passes?	
Minority Opinion:	

Percentage to Pass a Motion

(Passed by the World Service Conference in October 2022)

A motion passes if it is accepted by a simple majority of the total number of Voting Members present. If not accepted by the Board of Trustees, justification will be directly provided to the Conference in writing. Exceptions to the simple

majority rule are listed throughout the Charter. The Trustees are obligated by the Concepts of Service to provide good stewardship of the Corporation.

Exceptions to the Simple Majority Rule

(Compiled from the A.R.T.S. World Service Charter)

<u>Voting Type</u>	<u>Required Numbers</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Binding Motions	2/3 majority	Binding on Board of Trustees, unless illegal or fiscally irresponsible
Changes to Steps, Traditions, Concepts of Service and Article 10 of Conference Charter	¾ of A.R.T.S. groups by written consent (some exceptions for the Conference Charter applies)	Changes to Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service, plus Article 10 of the Conference Charter requires ¾ of groups. Changes to Articles 1-9 of the Charter can be made by a simple majority at the Conference.
Literature Approval	2/3 Majority	From 1995 Conference approved Literature Development Process, Retained by the Conference in the updated 2023 Literature Development/Approval Process
Reorganization of Board of Trustees	¾ vote of all Conference Delegates	May add or remove Trustees

Preamble for Round Robin Open Forum and Topics of Discussion

(Passed by the 2026 World Service Conference in January 2026)

To be read by the Facilitator:

Preamble for Round Robin Topics: In order for everyone to speak their thoughts and feelings freely, the 30-second rule will be suspended during the Topic for Discussion. We accept what others have to say as being true for them without fear of judgment. This is a time to listen to each other not to make motions. People will be muted and then unmuted for their turn. We will not be using raised hands, instead we will call people in turn by the order on my screen until everyone has had a chance to speak. The time allotted will be divided by the number of participants.