



WSC 2023 Decision Making

See the Orientation Document posted at www.na.org/conference and www.worldna.org for more information.



The discussion pool and queue

In-person participants wishing to speak to any measure will raise their numbered cards to be added to an unordered discussion pool. Participants who are attending remotely will raise their virtual hands to be added to the pool. The Cofacilitators will draft a queue from those in the pool. The goal is to hear from a diverse range of participants and hear first from those who have not yet spoken. The numbers in both the pool and the queue will be visible on the overhead screen so that participants can see when their number has been recognized, and when they will be next to speak.

These pages are adapted from GWSNA, pages 66-69: Addendum E – WSC Decision-Making Processes

WSC DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

The World Service Conference uses the following processes during the CAR- and CAT-related Discussion and Decisions sessions. Mutual trust and respect should be the basis for all decisions. In keeping with that spirit, the World Service Conference strives to base its decisions on consensus.

The guiding principles of NA, including the *Twelve Concepts for NA Service*, are foundational in all our service efforts.



WSC Processes

1. Each Conference participant has only one vote. RD alternates and ZD alternates are considered to be the same “member” as their respective RD and ZD when acting as a participant.
2. No member may speak on a motion more than once until others who wish to speak have had a chance to do so.
3. Members may speak for a maximum of two minutes each time they are recognized by the facilitator. The facilitator may extend the time limit when they believe such action is warranted. Otherwise, the Conference must make a decision to extend time limits in order to increase the amount of time for each participant.
4. When an item has consensus in an initial straw poll, initial debate is limited to no more than two speakers who are not part of the consensus. If consensus remains, the second straw poll will be considered a vote (a decision). Debate only occurs if necessary. The facilitator may extend that number if they believe such action is warranted.
5. When an item has consensus in the initial straw poll, the body may decide not to consider any amendments to the motion.
6. Every main motion and amendment to a main motion must be submitted on a WSC Motion Form and submitted no less than fifteen days in advance of the WSC opening day. Motions and their intents should be stated in a clear and concise manner. The names of the members proposing and seconding the motion must be listed on the form. Motions presented by the World Board do not require a second. When the motion has been introduced and seconded, it will be displayed so that it is visible to all members. At that point, the motion belongs to the Conference and must be disposed of in some manner.
7. Once a motion belongs to the Conference, discussion follows only if necessary. Amendments, as appropriate, may be applied to the main motion and must be disposed of in some manner before a decision is made on the main motion. If a motion has consensus in the initial straw poll, however, the body may decide not to entertain any amendments on that motion. Debate should focus on the merits of the motion or amendment and bring up points that have not already been made. Members should speak to a motion or amendment only after being recognized by the facilitator.
8. The Conference may decide to replace or amend motions that have been presented based on prior discussions. When the motion is presented, the facilitator may recognize any participant offering a replacement or amendment, or offer a suggestion to the Conference. If supported by two-thirds of the Conference, the replacement/amendment will be accepted. The facilitator may interrupt this simplified process at any time they believe such action is warranted.



8. Decision-making Thresholds

- a. A two-thirds majority present and voting in the affirmative is required to pass a motion, excluding WSC elections. See [GWSNA] page 31 for the details of election procedures.
 - b. Regarding the addition of property to the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, deletion of property from the Trust, or the revision of the contents or nature of Trust Properties, only NA groups through their Regional Delegates may vote. To adopt, affirmative votes are required of two-thirds of the Regional Delegates recorded as present at the most recent roll call.
9. A quorum (the number of voting members who must be present in order to conduct business) for the WSC is a majority of all eligible voting members.
10. If, at any time during the proceedings, a participant is experiencing a personal emergency or issue that requires the attention of the Facilitator, the participant may be recognized. The Facilitator will determine how to address to issue.

Polling and Voting

Straw Poll: A straw poll is a measure of where the body stands on a particular issue. It is an informal pulse. Often motions or amendments are straw polled more than once during discussion.

Vote: A vote happens when the body makes a decision on an item.

Straw polls can give a sense of where the body is on a particular issue and can be used in a variety of ways in addition to the above-described. The following terms may be used by the WSC Cofacilitator when announcing the results of a vote or straw poll:

Unanimous support	
Consensus support	(meaning 80% or greater support)
Strong support	(meaning 2/3 majority support)
Support	(meaning simple majority support)
Lack of support	(meaning less than simple majority support)
Strong lack of support	(meaning less than 1/3 support)
Consensus not in support	(meaning 20% or fewer support)
No support	

[If Motion #33 passes, the following terms will be used]

Unanimous support		
Consensus support	(meaning 80% or greater support)	80% – <100%
Strong support	(meaning 2/3 majority support)	66.66% – <80%
Lack of strong support	(meaning less than 2/3 support)	>20% – 66.66%
Consensus not in support	(meaning 20% or fewer support)	>0% – 20%
No support		



After discussion on a motion has ended, the conference decides the issue by a vote. The following rules apply to voting at the World Service Conference:

1. Voting occurs in one of the following two ways:
 - a. Standard vote (using electronic voting pads) - The facilitator first asks if there are any objections to the motion. If none are voiced, the facilitator declares that the motion passes by unanimous consent. If there is any objection, the facilitator asks those in favor of the motion to respond by pressing "1/a" on their voting pad, then asks those opposed to the motion to respond by pressing "2/b," then asks those abstaining to respond by pressing "3/c," and then asks those present and not voting to respond by pressing "4/d." [Note: if Motion #35 passes, abstentions will not be called for.]
 - b. Roll call vote - Any member can request a roll call vote. Upon recognizing the request, the facilitator will ask the body. If the decision is in support of a roll call vote, the facilitator calls the name of each participant registered at the most recent roll call. When called, the participant responds by stating either "yes," "no," "abstain," or "present and not voting."

After all responses are tabulated, the facilitator announces the number of votes in favor, the number of votes opposed, the number of abstentions, and the number of those present and not voting, and then if the motion was approved or rejected.

2. Participants may choose to be present but not participating in the vote. This means that they will not be counted in the total of the vote for that motion. This differs from an abstention. An abstention is effectively counted as not being in support of the motion.
3. An adopted motion takes effect at the conclusion of the conference, unless otherwise stated in the motion.
4. Motions included in the *Conference Agenda Report*, and any amendments to those motions, are considered in the *CAR*-related Discussion and Decisions session. All other motions and amendments are considered in the *CAT*-related Discussion and Decisions session [with the exception of motions related to WSC processes and the motion to approve the 2020 and 2022 minutes, which are considered in the *CAR*-related Discussion and Decisions session. That's Motions #33-36 and Motion #38].
5. Regional and zonal delegates are eligible to vote on motions during the *CAR*-related Discussion and Decisions session.
6. Regional delegates, zonal delegates, and World Board members are eligible to vote on motions during the *CAT*-related Discussion and Decisions session.



The Discussion to Decision Process

Following is a bullet point list of the actions that are included in the discussion to decision process.

- ◆ A motion is introduced.
- ◆ There is an initial straw poll. [Note: The initial straw poll of all items now happens in advance of the WSC. Initial straw poll results will be announced after the motion or amendment is introduced.]
- ◆ If there are amendments to the motion, they must be dispensed with before the main motion is discussed and decided.
- ◆ The process to discuss amendments operates in the same way: the amendment is read, and an initial straw poll is taken. [For amendments, the maker will be given 2 minutes to speak to the amendment and the board will be given 2 minutes to respond if they wish. For main motions, that information is already in the *CAR* and *CAT*.]
- ◆ If there is consensus in the initial straw poll, discussion of the amendment or motion is limited to two participants in the minority. (The WSC defines consensus support as 80% or greater support and consensus not in support as 20% or fewer support.) After those two people speak, a second straw poll will be taken. If consensus support or not in support remains after those two participants speak, the second straw poll will be considered a vote, and the measure will be decided. Participants will be reminded before the second straw poll that this will be a decision if the Conference is still in consensus. If the second straw poll reveals that there is no longer consensus, discussion will proceed until a decision is reached.
- ◆ If a motion has consensus support or consensus not in support in the initial straw poll, the body may decide not to consider any amendments to the motion.
- ◆ If there is not consensus in the initial straw poll, those who wish to speak to the measure will raise their cards. [Remote participants will raise their virtual hands]
- ◆ Each member has up to two minutes to speak (those being translated will be given more time). The Conference uses a timer in decision-making sessions that goes from green to yellow to red as the allotted time passes.
- ◆ In the course of discussion of a motion or amendment, straw polls will be taken to measure the body and see if discussion is having an effect.
- ◆ Before a vote on an item, everyone will be asked whether they are ready to make a decision. Participants requiring information to make a decision, or who are unclear about the process, have this opportunity to ask those urgent questions.
- ◆ At any point, the Cofacilitators can decide to end discussion and take a final vote on the item being considered.
- ◆ If any of the amendments pass, the main motion will be changed accordingly. After the amendments are decided on, the body will discuss and decide on the main motion using the same discussion process. It will still be possible to ask to commit a motion to the World Board or to use an amendment to divide a motion.
- ◆ A participant can challenge any decision of the Cofacilitator, and if so, the body will vote on whether to uphold the Cofacilitators' decision. Strong support (at least two-thirds) in favor of the Cofacilitators must exist for the Cofacilitators' decision to stand.



Decision-Making Process Flow Diagram

