

Review the language for 'One Member, One Vote' addition to the *Structure Handbook*, 'The Group' Section', p. 75, in the paragraphs 'The Group Conscience and Business Meetings' and 'A Home Group' (Conference 2021 – C3, Q3)

Background

Addition to the *Structure Handbook* for 'One Member, One Vote'.

Proposed amendments in **red**.

Amendment to the *Structure Handbook*, The Group, Section 1 'Group Meetings' / Types of Meetings, p.75 :

The Group Conscience and Business Meetings are sometimes overlooked but they play an important part in our group progress. Some groups schedule these meetings several times a year. Depending on the wishes of the members, they may precede or follow the normal meeting or separate sessions may be arranged. **It is suggested that groups have a policy on eligibility for voting and that the Traditions are read before proceedings. Promotion of understanding of the Concepts is also recommended.**

Business Meetings provide an opportunity for group officers to report on such matters as progress, future plans, intergroup matters and the financial position. The group may also take this occasion as an opportunity to appoint its officers and to conduct a group conscience meeting – which usually takes the form of a group inventory.

A Home Group is the group for meetings in which members feel most *at home*. In such groups they accept service responsibilities, sustain friendships and celebrate anniversaries. They are encouraged to **participate fully in group conscience meetings. 'It is a privilege to vote on issues that affect AA as a whole' (AA Service Manual for World Service, S25), and it is recommended that members consider both when and how to vote, and how the principle of 'One Member, One Vote.' might apply. In order that representation is proportionate, it is inappropriate for members to vote more than once on matters concerning the Fellowship as a whole (e.g., feedback on Conference Questions). Members visiting other groups should consider adhering to this principle of One Member, One Vote, by not taking part in that group's business or policy decisions. In this way, groups maintain autonomy and resist members of other groups influencing decisions.**