

LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

What is the World Service Conference?

The **World Service Conference** (WSC) is the annual meeting of the Chronic Pain Anonymus (CPA) worldwide fellowship. It is a gathering of group Delegates, Intergroup Delegates, General Advisory Council officers, General Service Virtual Office administrators, and Board of Trustees members. Through their service at the WSC, these trusted servants ensure the best guidance and support of the fellowship as a whole. The purpose of the WSC is to provide a forum where the issues and policies affecting all CPA groups can be discussed and where informed decisions can be made with all members of the Fellowship represented.

The WSC is the one time each year when all our fellowship comes together to share our guiding, collective voice. CPA's Tradition Two states: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." The WSC is the practical means by which the group conscience speaks. The Conference ensures unity and enables our fellowship to act on important matters as a unified whole, making it the principal guarantor of CPA's ability to grow and thrive.

What is a Delegate, and what are their responsibilities?

Every CPA group selects a Delegate to attend the annual WSC and facilitate communication between their group and the WSC. While Delegates are selected by the specific group they represent, each one serves the CPA fellowship as a whole. The Delegate's job is a spiritual one.

Before the Conference

Each CPA group decides how to select their Delegate and follows through accordingly. For example, they can put names of people who are interested in a hat and pull one out, or they can ask people to volunteer and if there is more than one person, they can take a vote at a business meeting. Some groups also opt to select an alternate Delegate in case their Delegate is unable to fulfill their responsibility. It is suggested that Conference Delegates have familiarity with the Twelve Steps, the

Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of Service, and the *CPA Service Handbook*. Once selected, the Delegate will notify the WSC Planning Committee so the Delegate will be placed on the list to receive all Conference information. This information includes regular emails to guide the Delegate through the process of representing their group and necessary preparation for the Conference. The Meeting Liaison is available to provide support as needed.

The WSC Planning Committee sends the Delegate all Conference issues and proposals that will be voted on. The Delegate reviews the issues and proposals so that they understand what is being brought to the WSC and then can bring the information to their meeting for a group conscience.

The Delegate schedules as many business meetings as needed to get an informed group conscience about each proposal or issue. Before these meetings, the Delegate informs members about where to find relevant documents. The delegate records the results of the group conscience to bring to the WSC.

During the Conference

At the WSC, Delegates present the views of their group on the issues and proposals, and are prepared so they are able to vote knowledgeably. During the deliberation on each issue and proposal, Delegates listen with open minds to all points of view and thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the perspectives presented by other WSC fellowship members. After the discussion, the Delegate then has the right of decision to vote on each issue and proposal as they believe best supports the interests of the entire Fellowship, even if it differs from the group conscience of the meeting they represent.

The Delegate practices good self-care during the meeting. This can include stretching and moving, taking short breaks or lying down as needed, as well as having something to drink or eat. Each person knows how best to stay comfortable during the meeting and minimize distractions.

After the Conference

After the Conference, the Delegate delivers the outcomes, along with all pertinent information, back to their group. If a vote differs from the group's point of view, it is helpful for the Delegate to explain how the final decision was viewed as best for the fellowship as whole. With this in mind, information from the WSC can be passed on with enthusiasm and impartiality. This supports the continued health and growth of CPA.

When the WSC Summary Report is available, the Delegate shares the website link with the group. This completes the communication cycle and keeps all CPA members informed.

FAQ

When is the WSC held?

Annually on the last Sunday of January.

Where is the WSC held?

The Conference is held by videoconference. Members can attend by computer or telephone.

What is the World Service Conference Charter?

The WSC Charter describes the principles and relationships through which CPA as a whole can function. Because the WSC is not incorporated, the provisions of the document are not legal but are traditional. This Charter is an informal agreement between all of CPA and its General Service Virtual Office.

Who plans the WSC?

The WSC Planning Committee works under the guidance of the Board of Trustees and provides Conference planning, organization, logistics, and implementation throughout the year. The Committee is made up of Board members and CPA fellowship members.

Where can I learn about the CPA Service Structure flow?

To learn more about the CPA Service Structure flow, including the relationship between the General Advisory Council, Intergroups, the Board of Trustees, and the General Service Virtual Office, refer to the CPA Service Structure Flow document found on the CPA website.

How does a group submit issues or concerns to the WSC?

The WSC addresses meeting groups' issues and concerns that affect the fellowship as a whole. Any group or individual can submit an issue or proposal to the Planning Committee by early August prior to the next year's WSC.