The Path for an Idea to Become an Agenda Item

1. An idea is born

An idea may originate from:

- An **A.A. group**
- A **district**
- An **area**
- A **delegate**
- A **trustees' committee**
- The **General Service Board**
- **GSO / AAWS / Grapevine**

Most ideas begin at the **group level**, through group conscience.

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2. Group conscience is formed

- The group discusses the idea
- A **clear group conscience** is expressed
- The idea is passed to the **GSR**

  This step is essential. Conference items are not personal opinions — they are expressions of collective conscience.

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3. GSR carries the idea to the district

- The **GSR presents the idea** at a district meeting
- The district discusses it
- The district may:
    - Support it
    - Refine it
    - Decide not to advance it
    - Ask for more group input

If supported, the **DCM carries it forward**.

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4. DCM brings the idea to the area

- The idea is presented at:
    - An **area committee meeting**, or
    - An **area assembly**
- The area determines whether the idea:
    - Is a **local matter** (area can act on it), or
    - Affects **A.A. as a whole**

If it affects A.A. as a whole, the area may vote to **recommend it to the delegate**.

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5. Delegate evaluates and submits the item

- The **delegate gathers area conscience**
- If the delegate believes the idea is appropriate for Conference consideration, they:
    - Submit it formally as a **Conference agenda item**
    - Follow established submission timelines and formats

Delegates do not submit personal ideas — they submit ideas supported by area conscience.

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6. Conference Agenda Committee review

Once submitted:

- The **Conference Agenda Committee** reviews all proposed items
- Each item is evaluated to determine whether it:
    - Is appropriate for Conference action
    - Requires more information
    - Is best handled at another service level

The committee may:

- Accept it onto the Conference agenda
- Refer it to trustees or GSO
- Return it for clarification
- Decline it (with explanation)

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7. Conference committee consideration

If accepted:

- The item is assigned to a **Conference committee**
- The committee:
  - Discusses the issue
  - May amend the proposal
  - Makes a recommendation

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8. Full Conference vote

- The committee's recommendation is presented to the **full Conference**
- Conference members vote
- If approved by a **two-thirds majority**, it becomes a:
  Conference Advisory Action

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9. Trustees implement and report back

- The **General Service Board / Trustees**:
  - Review the Advisory Action
  - Assign it to AAWS, Grapevine, GSO, or a trustees' committee
- Progress is reported back to the Fellowship

Key principles behind the process

- Authority flows **from the groups**
- Ideas are tested through **multiple levels of conscience**
- No single individual controls the agenda
- Unity is protected through patience and participation

This process is intentionally **deliberate and slow** — that's a feature, not a flaw.