

**Please direct all
communications to:**

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

August 25, 2023

Dear Trusted Servants,

In 2023, the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions put forward the following committee consideration:

“The committee reviewed the “Report of the GSB Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure” and expressed appreciation for the report, particularly the results of the survey to delegates. The committee agreed that an important next step would be for delegates to find out more about the online groups in their areas and requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry. The committee looks forward to the next iteration of the ad hoc committee and the continued exploration of the possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada general service structure.”

In keeping with the intention of the above, please consider the following suggested questions to ask the members in your area:

1. Are the online groups in your area participating in their districts? At the area level?
2. Is this participation at in person meetings, online via hybrid meetings, and/or fully online only meetings?
3. Are members of your online groups active at the district and/or the area level as chairs/members of committees or officers?
4. How are the voices of online groups heard at the area level?
5. How have your districts and area coped with purchase, maintenance, and transportation of equipment, as required for online and/or hybrid meetings?
6. What option does your area (inclusive of online groups) prefer:

- a. No change: online groups are listed based on geography and areas are autonomous regarding if they need or want a virtual district and other efforts to facilitate participation.
 - b. The implementation of an online area for US/Canada. The area would be autonomous regarding membership and structure; HOWEVER, delegates would need to be from the US or Canada.
 - c. Another option? Please describe.
7. How have the online groups in your area used their expertise to help district and area service committees to:
- a. Bring online meetings to treatment facilities, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers.
 - b. Reach out and connect with remote communities.
 - c. Help members who are homebound or have mobility issues.
 - d. Offer more options for members with accessibility challenges, such as: hard of hearing, blind and/or deaf.
 - e. Use simultaneous interpretation to offer meetings in more languages.
 - f. Provide meetings for immunocompromised members.
 - g. Offer meetings 24/7 for A.A.s who are shift workers, new parents, or caregivers.
 - h. Make meetings accessible to those who have lost their driving privileges.

The ad hoc committee for the Participation of Online Groups asks that you submit feedback (please be as specific or general as you feel is helpful) **no later than Friday, October 6, 2023.**

Please submit your responses by filling out the following survey. You may also share this link for members in your area to respond separately.



Scan the QR code to participate or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/1deBmG9TMH>

We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your valuable assistance.