

**Conference Committee on
Policy/Admissions**

New York Hilton Midtown

April 27, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00
p.m.
April 28, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 12:15
p.m.

The Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions met two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Conference Committee on April 26, 2026, and considered the following agenda items:

A. Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW)

The committee recommended that following the 78th General Service Conference that the Equitable Distribution Workload (EDW) process be discontinued.

The committee recommended that the General Service Board develop a draft plan for the creation of a working group comprised of nine Conference members, with a composition reflective of the ratio of Conference members (i.e., six area delegates, two board members and one GSO Staff member) to improve the selection process of proposed agenda items (PAIs) forwarded to Conference committees, with attention to the topic of workload both at a Conference level and the impact on GSO and GV offices, and that a plan be brought back to the 77th Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

B. The committee recommended that any changes beyond editorial to the “How the Conference Operates” document be brought for discussion to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions one year prior to implementation, to then be utilized at the following year’s General Service Conference.

Additional Committee Considerations:

· In keeping with a request from the 75th General Service Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, the committee noted the December 17, 2025, memo update from the general manager to all Conference members on Conference site selection and dates. The 79th General Service Conference will

be held April 15–21, 2029, at the New York Marriott Marquis hotel in the heart of Times Square in New York City.

- The committee reviewed the dates for the 2030 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee agreed to select these proposed dates for the 80th General Service Conference, as follows (in order of preference): April 28–May 4, 2030; May 5–11, 2030. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates may be the best choices available for avoiding conflicts with significant holidays. The committee asked that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 80th General Service Conference as soon as they are finalized by GSO management.
 - The committee reviewed the trustees' General Service Conference Committee "Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) report" and discussed the following suggestions outlined in the report:
 - Ø The committee discussed the suggestion in the EDW report to discontinue the annual review of service kits and workbooks and took no action. The committee noted that while a "standing item," the annual review of service kits and workbooks by Conference committees is a *practice* rather than a Conference *policy* and committees are not required to include this item on their agendas.
- The committee requested that the Staff secretary send a memo to Conference secretaries highlighting this information. It was noted that while changes to services pieces such as workbooks and kits fall under the Staff member on the corresponding assignment, suggestions are collected regularly by the Staff assignment throughout the year, particularly collecting broad experiences from area, district, and intergroup service committees.
- Ø The committee discussed the suggestion from the EDW report that for a similar number of items be assigned to each Conference Committee agenda rather than assigned by topic and took no action. The approach of directing a similar number of agenda items to each committee lacks qualitative consideration.

The committee also noted that there lacked significant evidence to support that non-specific committees would improve workflow and efficiency or decrease workload. The committee also noted the benefits of having a committee secretary who also serves as the GSO coordinator on a particular topic serving as an integral point of information.

Ø The committee discussed the suggestion from the EDW report that a Conference digital committee be created and took no action. The committee expressed concern that creating a new committee, even as a secondary committee, might create more work and would require an additional GSO Staff member to support that committee.

- Following a wide-ranging discussion, the committee shared concerns that while the equity of work may be one aspect of the EDW topic, this approach is not addressing the core of the workload concerns. The committee agreed that a comprehensive approach was needed to address concerns at the Conference level, GSO's ability to keep up with ongoing and developing projects, an annual list of new projects, and other items that the Conference directs actions to be taken.

- In further discussion regarding the EDW topic, the committee noted the General Service Board decision that the 77th General Service Conference committee chairs will be attending the October 2026 (Q4) Board Weekend as opposed to the January (Q1) 2027 weekend. The date shift will allow for a longer window of time for chairs to provide input on PAIs being reviewed by trustees' committees.

- The committee discussed the EDW topic regarding Conference committees with fewer items and PAIs forwarded to them. The committee suggested that committees be reminded and encouraged to take more advantage of the opportunities to have deeper discussion on the topics affecting that corresponding committee. The committee also noted that these opportunities would also allow for more time to review corresponding literature that may infrequently or never get reviewed and updated.

- The committee discussed the procedure document "How the Conference Operates." The committee noted that because some areas model their local procedures from the document, it would be important to gain more consultation from Conference area delegates and provide a timelier update on any changes.

The committee elected Chris Helmers, delegate for Area 58, Oregon, chairperson; and Ken Sterrett, delegate for Area 25, Kansas, alternate chairperson.