

FORTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2007

COMMITTEE No. 1

	ROOM
First Meeting Friday, 21 April	5.00 pm - 5.45 pm
Second Meeting Saturday, 22 April	9.00 am - 12.45 pm
Third Meeting Saturday, 22 April	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Completed Reports to Secretarial Staff	5.00 pm

CHAIRMAN TIM W-M SOUTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY GABRIELLA A EASTERN REGION

	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
Robert De W	London Region North
Kevin Mc	London Region South
Dave A	Midlands Region
Christine E-S	North East Region
Marilyn R	North West Region
David O	South East Region
	South Midlands Region
	Wales & Borders Region
Sandy O	East of Scotland Region
Roseann W	Glasgow Region
Maureen F	Highlands & Islands Region
Marc M	Scotia Region
	South West Scotland Region
Greg H	Continental European Region
	Observer
	Observer

1. Review the objective of the National Telephone Helpline and share experience.

Background

1. Some areas provide 24-hour telephone cover on our National Helpline, some do not. This does not appear to be a by-product of geography or density of population. Glasgow does, London

does not. Rural Essex provides 24-hour and is a mobile phone reception area while other rural areas do not achieve full cover.

2. Conference 2006 agreed to the removal of the 24-hour statement from our National Helpline advertising. This appears to be a big step backwards for those areas which have worked hard to achieve full cover and succeeded.
3. The Fellowship as a whole is in need of guidance from our Group Conscience as to the aims and objectives of our telephone service in order to achieve a unity of purpose and to focus our efforts in the right direction.

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

2. Consider what AA group information ought to be published in the official *Where to Find AA Great Britain and English Speaking Europe*. Make recommendations.

- **Should AA Groups have names?**
- **Should meetings be listed as specialist meetings?**
- **Should there be provision for email addresses and group contact numbers and/or postcodes?**

Background

1. The only requirement for membership - and therefore the only prerequisite for attendance at any AA meeting - is a desire to stop drinking; that each group has only one primary purpose, which is to carry the message to the alcoholic (whoever and whatever that alcoholic may be), and that AA has no opinion on outside issues, whatever they may be. Also that any meeting calling itself an AA meeting can operate in any way it likes - as long as it does not affect other groups or AA as a whole.

The increasing number of specialist (non-restrictive) groups sanctioned by AA by inclusion in the official *Where to Find AA Great Britain and English Speaking Europe* could damage AA as a whole, and newcomers as individuals.

2. The *Where to Find AA Great Britain and English Speaking Europe*.
3. A questioner's home group was formed in 1987 and named "How it Works". We felt it set us apart from less "solution" based groups and stated our aims.
In the early to mid 1990's the Group was told that it had been recommended that AA Groups should not have names and consequently we dropped our name and changed our entry in the *Where to Find AA Great Britain and English Speaking Europe*. We found this helped us practice Tradition One.
4. Traditions
5. Group News in any *Share* magazine.
6. Quote – Bill W. in the Twelve and Twelve, page 187, "We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have".

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2008.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2008.

FORTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2007

COMMITTEE No. 2

	ROOM
First Meeting Friday, 21 April	5.00 pm - 5.45 pm
Second Meeting Saturday, 22 April	9.00 am - 12.45 pm
Third Meeting Saturday, 22 April	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Completed Reports to Secretarial Staff	5.00 pm

CHAIRMAN	ISABELLE S	CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION
SECRETARY	JOHN F	SOUTH WEST REGION

	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	Eastern Region
	London Region North
	London Region South
	Midlands Region
	North East Region
	North West Region
	South East Region
	South Midlands Region
	Wales & Borders Region
	East of Scotland Region
	Glasgow Region
	Highlands & Islands Region
	Scotia Region
	South West Scotland Region
	Share
	Observer
	Observer

1. Has the discussion of the Concepts at last year's Conference improved the working practices throughout the service structure since then?

Background

Conference 2006, Committee 2, Question 1.

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

2. Consider the following to assist the Fellowship with an easier interpretation of our Guidelines in the following areas:

- a) Whenever our Guidelines are updated or new Guidelines issued could they be standardised in the description of the recommended period of sobriety required?
- b) Could a one page index of the current Guideline Revision Issues and dates be included in the Guidelines each time they are updated?

Background

Here is an example produced by one Intergroup Secretary:

Length of Sobriety Recommended for AA Service Positions

(as at 3 August 2006)

Note: Full Copies of AA Guidelines can be obtained free from GSO, York

Service Position	Suggested Continuous Sobriety	Guideline Title	Guideline Number
Group Officers	At least one year plus regular attendance at meetings	Group Officers	2 Rev Jan 2000
Group Chair	At least two years plus have had other Group experience	Group Officers	2
GSR – General Service Representative	Two or three years	Group Officers	2
Regional Rep.	At least three years	Service Representatives	3 Rev Jan 2000
Conference Delegate	Reasonable period of sobriety and at least five years as active members of the Fellowship	Service Representatives	3
Intergroup Officers	Ideally not less than two years	Intergroups	4 Rev April 1995
Regional Reps.	At least three years and Intergroup experience	Regions	5 Rev April 2005
Conference Delegates	Minimum of five years continuous sobriety	Regions	5
Telephone Service	Approximately twelve months	AA Telephone Services	6 Rev April 2002
PICPC Work	Sold continuous sobriety	PICPC	7 Rev April 2005
Employment Liaison Officer	Ideally not less than three years	AA and Employment	8 Rev Dec 2002
Prison Group Sponsor	Preferably three years	Penal Establishments	11 Rev April 1997
Group Treasurer	Preferably at least one year	Finance	12 Rev April 2001
Intergroup	As Group Treasurer	Finance	12
Region	Previous experience at Group and Intergroup	Finance	12
Intergroup	Ideally not less than two years	Probation/ Social Services	13 Rev April 1998
Region	At least three years	Probation/ Social Services	13 Rev April 1998

3. Review the role and structure of the Conference Steering Committee and make recommendations.

Background

1. The role of the Conference Steering Committee (CSC) is defined in Paragraph 5 of Section 10 of the *AA Service Handbook for Great Britain*. It is now felt that the defining items and particularly Item seven have allowed the Committee to become too rigid and censorial. The result is that many questions have been rejected only to be replaced with ones which the grass

roots themselves would not accept because of their complexity and questionable validity to everyday matters.

2. "Experience is the thing of supreme value in life". Every year the CSC loses the experience of its members. Only one delegate member (the Conference Chair) remains on that committee for another year should Conference elect the Conference Chair from one of the previous CSC members, which is not always the case. Conference structure, timings and agenda are important to the unity, good feeling and smooth running at Conference. But the delegate committee organising these matters could practically disappear every year. Normally the more important a service the position, the longer its rotation period. Obviously there are limits to this, given the three year rotation period of delegates. However in the US the Agenda Committee (their version of the CSC) has alternately rotating delegate members, so all members don't rotate off at the same time and experience is kept on the CSC longer.
3. Conference Steering Committee Terms of Reference.
4. Conference 2001, Committee No. 3, Question 1 recommendation.

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

- 4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2008.**
- 5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2008.**

FORTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2007

COMMITTEE No. 3

	ROOM
First Meeting Friday, 21 April	5.00 pm - 5.45 pm
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Completed Reports to Secretarial Staff	5.00 pm

CHAIRMAN ROGER W CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

SECRETARY STEVE E NORTH EAST REGION

	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
Joe F	Eastern Region
Danny L	London Region North
Kevin M	London Region South
Prag S	Midlands Region
Ingrid K-K	North West Region
Tom S	South East Region
	South Midlands Region
Jennie K	South West Region
	Wales & Borders Region
Gus H	East of Scotland Region
Carole McI	Glasgow Region
	Highlands & Islands Region
Betty S	Scotia Region
	South West Scotland Region
	Observer

1. Would Conference please discuss "Gift Aid" and whether it is in keeping with our Seventh Tradition?

Background

1. The following letter from GSO confirms no knowledge of when or where it was decided to join Gift Aid scheme:

"18 July 2005

Thank you for your letter received today regarding Gift Aid and Tradition Seven.

Our records go back over twenty years to 1987 when Gift Aid was done through a Deed of Covenant so we are unfortunately unable to establish when it was authorised or by whom.

It is true there are those, some members of the Fellowship, who are opposed to Gift Aid on

the grounds you mention and those who think it is a wonderful way to give a little extra to the Fellowship, deciding, as we can only claim their personal tax on the gift, it is their choice as to whether the Inland Revenue keeps it or it comes to AA, the fact that the system takes it to the Inland Revenue first, being irrelevant.

As we can not decide the conscience of any member of the Fellowship, Gift Aid remains a personal choice.

*Best wishes from all at GSO
Yours sincerely,
Management Accountant"*

2. Page seven of Gordon Brown's Budget Speech in 2000:

"From 6 April this year for every pound any taxpayer gives to charity, the government will add an extra 28 pence.

And to encourage payroll giving, for every pound contributed through the pay packet, the government will add up to 50 pence worth of tax relief.

Tax relief will be available not just for cash donations, but for gifts of shares.

To encourage corporate giving, any company can, from 1 April, receive tax relief on the full amount of any donation.

Within prescribed limits, I will go further in exempting ticket sales for charitable fund raising events from VAT, so that the contributions people make will go straight to the charities they support.

Each of these measures will also help those charities and non-government organisations who, with the churches, have, for decades, led the crusade to combat Third World poverty and secure debt relief.

With these reforms, this government matches their commitment because it shares their cause – a virtuous circle of debt reduction, poverty relief and economic development for the poorest countries."

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

2. Does Conference need to be extended by either a half-day or one full day in order to discharge its duties to the Fellowship as a whole?

Discuss and make recommendations in the light of the financial implications to AA UK and the extra burden placed upon the individual delegates.

Background

The estimated cost of extending Conference by a half day will be approximately £11,000 and one full day in the region of £15,000.

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

3. Review revised Guideline No. 2 'Group Officers'.

Background

Revised Guideline No. 2

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

4. Review revised Guideline No. 12 'Finance'.

Background

Revised Guideline No. 12

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

5. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2008.

6. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2008.

FORTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2007

COMMITTEE No. 4

	ROOM
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Third Meeting Saturday, 22 April	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Completed Reports to Secretarial Staff	5.00 pm

CHAIRMAN PENNY A LONDON REGION NORTH

SECRETARY RACHEL M SOUTH EAST REGION

	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
Margaret J	Eastern Region
Jim H	London Region South
Roy K	Midlands Region
John C	North East Region
Tom P	North West Region
	South Midlands Region
Pat C	South West Region
	Wales & Borders Region
Jim R	East of Scotland Region
Clark S	Glasgow Region
Alex P	Highlands & Islands Region
Anthony N	Scotia Region
	South West Scotland Region
	Continental European Region
	Observer

1. How many members from one Group should be in service at Intergroup/Region/Conference etc?

Background

1. Traditions.
2. At a Region meeting there were eight members of one Group in service, each had voting rights. There are over 200 Groups in this Region.

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

2. Share experience of practical ways of encouraging people into service.

Background

A large number of service positions are vacant at intergroup and regional level despite many discussions about sponsorship into service, leading by example and the personal benefits of service.

- 3. Do we always elect people into service for the good of AA, rather than just because they are willing to fill a vacancy, or, because we think it will do them good? Discuss and share experience.**

Background

Concept 9 Essay in the *AA Service Handbook for Great Britain* (section 18, pages 27-32)

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

- 4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2008.**

- 5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2008.**

FORTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2007

COMMITTEE No. 5

	ROOM
First Meeting Friday, 21 April	5.00 pm - 5.45 pm
Second Meeting Saturday, 22 April	9.00 am - 12.45 pm
Third Meeting Saturday, 22 April	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Completed Reports to Secretarial Staff	5.00 pm

CHAIRMAN WILLIE M HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

SECRETARY NEIL J SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	Eastern Region
Terry W	London Region North
Eamon D	London Region South
	Midlands Region
Robin M	North East Region
Rene D	North West Region
Wyn J	South East Region
	South West Region
Geoff C	Wales & Borders Region
	East of Scotland Region
Geoff T	Glasgow Region
Andrina C	Highlands & Islands Region
Willie Mac	Scotia Region
Kay D	South West Scotland Region
	Continental European Region
Dave A	Observer
	Observer

- 1. Discuss and share experience as to whether AA is communicating with the Prison Service at the Governmental (Home Office), national and local levels in the most effective manner possible.**

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

- 2. Discuss the distribution of non-AA literature at group level and make recommendations.**

Background

Copies of local examples attached.

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

3. Review new Guideline No. 20 'Archives'.

Background

New Guideline No. 20

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2008.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2008.

FORTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2007

COMMITTEE No. 6

	ROOM
First Meeting Friday, 21 April	5.00 pm - 5.45 pm
Second Meeting Saturday, 22 April	9.00 am - 12.45 pm
Third Meeting Saturday, 22 April	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Completed Reports to Secretarial Staff	5.00 pm

CHAIRMAN	BARRY W	EASTERN REGION
SECRETARY	PETER F	SOUTH EAST REGION

	General Service Board
	General Service Board
	General Service Board
Guy C	London Region North
Sharon C	London Region South
Geoff B	Midlands Region
Paula B	North East Region
William O	North West Region
	South Midlands Region
Ron G	South West Region
	Wales & Borders Region
Hugh H	East of Scotland Region
Susan C	Glasgow Region
Jeremy W	Highlands & Islands Region
Margaret M	Scotia Region
	South West Scotland Region
Andrew G	Continental European Region
James K	Roundabout
	Observer
	Observer

- 1. Share experience and consider ways that groups can carry the message to local communities and whether localised notices in newsagents, corner-shops, taxi companies etc. of local meetings, giving place, time and phone contact details for local group officers is acceptable.**

Background

*The AA Group sections 18 and 19
AA Service Handbook on Public Information
Hints for 12th Steppers*

Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.

- 2. Discuss, share experience and make recommendations on how the Fellowship can better meet the needs of members with disabilities.**
- 3. Consider which items are suitable for inclusion in the Diary in approved media facilities in Great Britain such as *AA Service News, Share, Roundabout* and the website and make recommendations.**

Background

There have been complaints over the last few years that Al-Anon, Alateen and other non-AA conventions/events have often been prominently advertised in the Diaries.

Advertising beginning with words such as “AA Convention (with Al-Anon participation)” would appear to be acceptable while those with “Al-Anon or Alateen (with AA Participation)” are not.

These anomalies can be confusing.

- 4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2008.**
- 5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2008.**