

Questions\Topics for discussion at Conference 2008

Committee No. 1

1. Can delegates share experience from within the Fellowship of how best to pass the message of AA within the healthcare system?

Background

See Guideline No. 9 'AA and Healthcare in the Community'.

2. Would Conference endorse the writing and publication of a book, detailing the history of the AA Service Structure in Great Britain?

Background

With over 60 years of AA in Great Britain, we have as yet to produce a comprehensive written history of our efforts.

"AA Comes of Age" is a US/Canadian publication that provides an excellent picture of the development of our Three Legacies. The how's and why's of the many unique features of our Fellowship's service structure are presented, giving today's member the benefits of our founding members hard earned experience. This volume is so useful, that it is suggested reading for Delegates attending the General Service Conference of AA Great Britain.

We too, here in Great Britain now have a body of experience that deserves dissemination within our Fellowship. There have been points where we have had to adapt our service structure to meet conditions, where we have been successful and where we have been wrong.

One of the most important principles of AA is the "group conscience." Key to that is being "informed", which moves us out of the realm of opinion and into consensus based upon the facts. An "AA Comes of Age in Great Britain" would move us forward, so we might better use our energies to carry our vital message.

Committee No. 2

1. Can delegates share experience from within the Fellowship of how best to pass the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to both employers and employees.

Background

See Guideline No. 8 'AA and Employment'
2000 Conference Report (Committee 3, Question 2). "It was strongly felt that the lack of candidates for any post was not sufficient reason to abolish it. Committee 3 did NOT recommend removal of the title and merging the

No. 5 'Regions'

3. How can the Fellowship support members for whom English is not their first language.

Committee No. 4

1. Our primary purpose is to carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic, but are we as a Fellowship best using modern communications and methods to carry the AA message? Discuss and make recommendations.
2. Would Conference consider the appropriateness or otherwise of links to outside sites from the GSO AA Great Britain website and make recommendations.

Background

See Guideline No. 19 'AA and Electronic Communications'

Committee No. 5

1. Discuss and share experience as to whether AA is communicating with the Probation Service (Social Services in Scotland) at the governmental, national and local levels in the most effective manner possible?

Background

See Guideline No. 13 'Probation/Social Services'.

2. Discuss and share experience as to whether AA is in communication with the Armed Services at all levels in the most effective manner possible?

Background

Pamphlet 'AA and the Armed Services'.

3. Review revised Guideline No. 11 'AA in Penal Establishments'.

Background

Revised Guideline No. 11.

Committee No. 6

1. Discuss and share experience how groups reach out to the housebound.

Background

See Guideline No. 1 'Groups'

Pamphlet 'The AA Group'

From the 1984 Conference Report:

The Elderly, Hard of Hearing and Housebound Members.

Let us remember that this is a sharing and caring programme. The importance of making ourselves aware of those in need was stressed, whether members are housebound because of illness, disability or their circumstances (e.g. single parent families and those suffering from agoraphobia). One Region reported the use of a notice board to notify members of those who might be in need of support or transport. It is recommended that appropriate international symbols for disabilities (wheelchair or ear) be inserted in the national "Where to Find" to indicate where these facilities are available.

It was suggested that housebound members might feel greater involvement if asked to participate in telephone service work, passing Twelfth Step calls on to the more mobile members. Meetings can be arranged in the homes of the housebound, or even in a hospital. In one case this led to a new AA hospital group being formed.

Some older members are worried about travelling at night, and a special effort should be made to ensure them a safe return home.

Lost contacts have sometimes been re-established with the help of the Social Services and this channel could possibly be utilised more often to advantage.

In the case of the hard hearing, it should be ensured that the sufferer is placed with a clear view of the speaker, and the speaker, should speak clearly and out into the room. In some areas members have learned sign language to communicate with the totally deaf.

2. Traditions 11 and 12 deal with the issue of Anonymity in the Fellowship. Would Conference consider how these Traditions can be preserved in the light of the ever increasing media presence in modern day society?

Background

Traditions 11 and 12

Anonymity Statement (letter to the media)

3. Review revised Guideline No. 7 'Public Information'.

Background

Revised Guideline No. 7.