

A Summary of Questions not accepted for Conference 2010

2. **Would Conference consider commissioning some literature to assist recovering AAs who are necessarily in positions of control (especially parents, employers) to help them reconcile the practical needs of their lives with the need to work Step 3?**

Terms of Reference No. 6 & 7 Insufficient background material.

3. **Would Conference consider conducting a Mori type poll to discover how the general public presently views Alcoholics Anonymous that we might then better know how to more effectively carry the message?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Not in keeping with Traditions and Preamble.

4. **Are all groups subject to the disability act, in that we are legally bound for access to all wheelchair users? I know we try to do our best to accommodate for all, but where do we stand legally?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Local issue between group and landlord of property where meeting is held although each group ought to exercise a duty of care to members when selecting meeting locations.

6. **Would Conference please discuss how, with the increasing incidence of cross-addiction, AA can stay true to its Primary Purpose without deterring young people from seeking our help?**

Terms of Reference No. 6 & 7 Adequately covered by our Traditions and in the pamphlet '*Problems other than Alcohol*'. Our first duty as a society is to ensure our own survival; we have to avoid distractions and multipurpose activity.

7. **THIS REQUEST IS BASED UPON MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND THAT WHAT I HAVE SEEN OTHERS UNDERGO. MY WIFE RETREATED FROM ALANON SOME TWENTY TWO YEARS AGO AFTER BEING ADVISED TO LEAVE ME, "DETACH WITH LOVE SHE WAS TOLD". SHE IS STILL WITH ME AND WE ARE HAPPY, UNLIKE MANY OTHERS I HAVE MET, WHO WERE DETACHED AND SUBSEQUENTLY DRANK MOST DIED. THEY DO NOT SPEAK TODAY BUT THEIR CHILDREN DO. I WILL NOT GO TO JOINT CONVENTIONS, YES JOINT NO MATTER HOW YOU PHRASE IT. SINCE GINGERS DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO ALANON SOME YEARS AGO, IT IS TAKEN AS A RIGHT TO INCLUDE THEM IN AA FUNCTIONS. WHAT I AM SURE IS WHAT GINGER MEANT WAS HIS OWN DEBT OF GRATITUDE. I WAS IN PI IN 1998, FORMED A LIST OF ALL SCHOOLS WHERE AA SPEAKERS WENT, AND KEPT UP CONTACT WITH THOSE SCHOOLS. TODAY ONE OF MY CONTACTS INFORMED ME THEY DON'T HAVE AA SPEAKERS ANY MORE, BECAUSE OF THE CONFUSING MESSAGE A JOINT PLATFORM GIVES TO 14 YEAR OLDS. COULD CONFERENCE CLARIFY WHAT EXPRESSES AN OPINION ON THE PROGRAM OF OTHERS IN THE FIELD OF ALCOHOLISM MEANS SINCE SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE FELLOWSHIPS PRIMARY PURPOSE?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Best be resolved at a local level also question not clear.

8. **Can the Conference Steering Committee ensure that all background information (including draft guidelines) be published with Conference questions either in AA Service News or as a separate posting to all groups?**

Terms of Reference No. 7

Already a system in place to ensure all relevant material relating to Conference questions is available to groups. If this is not the case in your area please contact your GSR/Intergroup and Region representatives.

10. **Would Conference produce suggested guidelines for the 6 Conference Committees e.g:**

1. To advise them what to do when a discussion reaches stalemate or the Committee is unable to agree upon a particular solution i.e. there is no majority vote.

2. How long to spend discussing a particular question perhaps at the exclusion of time for another question.

3. Should there be a timetable for the time spent in Committee.

4. Guidelines to be reviewed by the relevant service members and the Literature sub-committee and not to be reviewed again in Committee.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered at the beginning of Conference when all Committee Chairs/Secretaries are briefed and given guidance including time keeping and good leadership.

11. **Would Conference consider the suggestion that the "Literature Sub-Committee" send out any changes they anticipate making in the guidelines or literature or information leaflets to the relevant liaison officers pre Conference for their approval?**

Terms of Reference No. 7

Already a system in place to ensure all relevant material relating to Conference questions is available to groups. If this is not the case in your area please contact your GSR/Intergroup and Region representatives.

12. **Would Conference consider changing the structure of the Steering Committee?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/7

Covered by Concept Four – Right of Participation. Similar themed answered by Committee 4 at Conference 2007 relating to members of the same group being elected as serving officers.

13. **Would Conference consider recording and printing questions and responses from the open forum?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/7

Covered in Guideline Three – Conference delegate, Concepts: One – Responsibility, Three – Right of Decision and Four – Right of Participation. Similar theme at Conference 2009, Committee No. 5, Question 2.

14. **In light of the current economic climate, and the revelation that our Fellowship is running at a deficit of some £60,000 this year, would Conference ask the GSB, on an annual ongoing basis, to publish full financial figures for the expenditures incurred by each of the Sub Committees and working parties under its control?**

Would Conference also ask the GSB to make clear the anticipated budgets for each of these service bodies for the next financial year?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Much of this information is already available but this question has been passed to the Finance Committee of the GSB for attention. AA financial information is available in the public domain – www.charitycommission.gov.uk and our charity number is 226745.

16. **Would the Fellowship consider that all future Guidelines be reviewed and amended by the appropriate Liaison Officers and Board Trustees at their Annual Seminars and Workshops.**

Terms of Reference No. 7

Where possible this is already being done and Guidelines must always represent the collective experience of the Fellowship therefore all Guidelines are brought to Conference for the membership's approval.

18. **Will Conference discuss the role of Conference approved literature, for use in meetings and sponsorship, in maintaining the ultimate authority of a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience, our singleness of purpose and unity of the Fellowship?**

Make recommendations, with regard to the apparent influence on some AA groups of outside organisations, in the form of foundations, publishing companies and websites, whose mission statements and publications are intended to influence the direction of AA.

Terms of Reference No. 5

Already covered at Conference 2007, Committee 5, Question 2.

21. **That alternatives for expense reduction be examined, adopted and implemented such as:**

- (a) holding the General Service Conference every other year, as is the European Service Meeting and World Service Meeting, with use of other means such as email for approval of the annual General Service Board and General Service Office reports in the alternating years.**
- (b) no Conference question be added to the Conference agenda unless the question clearly affects English language AA in Europe as a whole and addresses a specific problem beyond the resources and autonomy of local groups, intergroups, and regions. (In other words, no more 'how can we do better' or 'share your experience, strength and hope' questions at the expensive Conference level with limited time available.)**
- (c) that delegates limit their service reports back to their region, intergroup and local group business meetings to the specific questions that they were responsible for addressing in their committee, and leave their sharing of their spiritual experience at Conference to sharing at their regular AA meetings, not business meetings, on the known communications principle that the less said, the more the message of what is said can get through to the intended audience.**
- (d) that all financial reports and budgets for the Board, the GSO, and the General Service Conference be examined using an all-expense 'pie-chart' type of display to clearly and specifically illustrate what percentage of Seventh Tradition funds are going directly to carrying the message, and what fund allocations to other expense areas might be decreased with a view to increasing the percentage used to carry the message or support local groups, intergroups and regions in carrying the message.**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Subject area of the question was too varied with many different topics, however some of these are covered in this year's questions/topics for Conference.

24. **Would Conference consider the possible harmful effects of splinter groups who do not follow AA Guidelines?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Guidance is already available in Traditions 1, 3 and 4; also Warranty Six of Concept 12.

25. **Would the Fellowship please discuss and make recommendations how AA can hold meetings in venues owned by outside organisations, without giving the implication of affiliation or association to the outside organisation? At present, some groups/meetings name themselves after the venue.**

Terms of Reference No. 5 Discussed at Conference 2007, Committee 1, Question 2.

26. **Would the Fellowship please discuss and make specific recommendations pertaining to AA members visiting and carrying the message in locked/secure hospital wards and treatment/rehabilitation facilities; including length of sobriety required?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Adequate guidance in current literature i.e. Section 17, page 2 of the Service Handbook for GB, also Guidelines 9 and 7.

27. **Would conference please discuss and share experience about the new practice at Conference 2008 and 2009, that the board members of GSB can only be asked questions in the open sharing session, and make recommendations for the future. In other words: Could Conference consider whether it is satisfied with the relationship between the General Service Board and the Fellowship?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/6 Background attached not directly relevant to the topic, in addition a floor action at Conference 2007 dealt with questions to the Board from the floor and this is presently being addressed.

28. **Non-AA literature and other items (not approved by Conference) are sold at AA events and conventions by private businesses (including individual AA members). Would Conference please consider this practise in context to our Traditions?**

Terms of Reference No. 5 Similar topic discussed at Conference 2007, Committee 5, Question 2.

29. **Conference should re-consider the question of allowing the sale of non-AA literature at AA meetings, albeit at separate tables.**

Terms of Reference No. 5/7 Group autonomy, also similar topic discussed at Conference 2007, Committee 5, Question 2.

30. **Would Conference consider holding a GB AA World Convention separate from the International Convention held in North America every 5 years?**

Terms of Reference No. 5 Similar topic discussed at Conference 2006, Committee 2, Question 2, although technically beyond three years it was felt that this topic had received sufficient discussion in recent years.

31. **Would Conference ask the GSB to undertake a feasibility study into the creation of a new service position with Trustee specifically responsible for Housing?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/6 The need for guidelines on this subject were not clear from the background provided. In addition the topic of the home bound was covered at Conference 2008, Committee 6, Question 1.

32. **Would Conference please discuss and provide guidance to Regional Assemblies on the Regional Officers ability to rotate out of one Service position after three years and then take on another service position for a further three years, addum finitum?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/6 Background supplied insufficient to identify a topic and similar topics were covered in earlier Conferences, i.e. Conference 2007, Committee 4, Questions 3.

33. **Would Conference please ask the literature sub-committee to sanction the translation of more AA pamphlets into the Welsh Language?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 GSO stock levels indicate that the existing translations are rarely used.

34. **In order to help AA grow in Great Britain what can Conference suggest to help encourage Sponsorship, the Steps, Service and sharing recovery (Tradition 5) at meetings?**

Terms of Reference No. 5 This topic had been discussed thoroughly in the past three years, namely at Conference 2007, Committee 2, Question 1; Committee 4, Questions 2 & 3 and at Conference 2009, Committees 3, 5 and 6, Question 1.

35. **To help improve the recovery rate in Great Britain should Doctor Bob's "Back to Basics" programme, which was highly successful in the 1940's, be introduced to the UK?**

Terms of Reference No. 6/7 Covered by Tradition Four and group autonomy also no background material.

38. **Using Tradition Four as a reference point, would Conference consider the possible harmful effect on the Fellowship, as a whole, of those A.A. groups forming within it, claiming to be a part of it, but not following the guidelines of it?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Would most suitably dealt with at group level – Tradition Four and group autonomy.

40. **Could Conference share experience, strength and hope with reaching out to geographically distant groups?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/7 Similar topics discussed at Conference 2008, Committee 3, Question 2 and Committee 6, Question 1. No background information supplied.

41. **How do we maintain Unity in AA? (This question was directed toward dealing with issues such as personalities before principles in Intergroup business, in-fighting between groups, etc. etc).**
- Terms of Reference No. 5/7 Similar topic discussed at Conference 2008. No background information was supplied so it was unclear how this topic would differ from that of 2008.
42. **Could Conference please abstain from using slang words in AA literature but instead only use universally used English terms?**
- Terms of Reference No. 6/7 Not clear what is meant by 'slang' as no examples or background information supplied.
43. **Would Conference consider the commissioning of a medical/professional guide on nutrition and diet for alcoholics in recovery with special emphasis on early recovery?**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 In the spirit of Tradition 10, AA would not commission literature on this subject. Living Sober may be of use and Share and Roundabout articles could be written by members on this subject.
46. **Could Conference discuss and recommend a guideline for Great Britain AA on the Fellowship's relationship with Clubs?**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 No need had been demonstrated for a Conference level discussion on this subject and no evidence for the need for specific guidelines.
47. **Would Conference consider the merit of Region and the purpose it fulfils within the service structure of the Fellowship with specific reference to the aims of Region as set out in Guideline 6 as it is the feeling of many Regions that the grassroots membership does not see any purpose or relevance in the existence of Region.**
- Terms of Reference No. 6/7 Regional issue also the background material did not show that this is indeed true.
49. **In the light of the financial crisis of the past 12 months would Conference review in detail AA's overall financial position and in particular its current assets, income and expenditure as well as its financial approval processes at a national level.**
- To facilitate this the GSB Treasurer is requested to prepare and circulate a detailed analysis and management accounts covering the last 2 years to relevant committee members in advance of Conference.**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 This is already done on a regular basis through the Regional Treasurers meeting.
53. **Can Conference provide guidelines for members and sponsorship on new media technologies specifically the internet and social networking sites in the context of the Eighth Tradition and the Fellowship's spiritual foundation.**

Terms of Reference No. 5/7

Covered at Conference 2008, Committee 6, Question 2 also covered in present AA literature.

57. **Whilst mindful of Traditions 4 and 7, could Conference consider setting up a service board or committee to advise on Public Liability coverage and similar related issues and to assist co-ordination by Intergroups of economically addressing such obligations?**

Terms of Reference No. 6/7

Insufficient background material – may be an issue that should be discussed at Intergroup/Regional level as each group is autonomous.

58. **Would Conference consider and decide if AA Great Britain is best served by continuing to have English Speaking Continental Europe as a Region?**

Could AA as a whole be better served by English speaking members in Continental Europe having a service commitment in their country of residence?

In the present economic crisis is it financially prudent for AA Great Britain to continue to support Continental European Region (CER)?

Consider financial implications in deliberating these topics.

Terms of Reference No. 7

This topic was fully discussed at Conference 2001. Also see Conference Digest.

59. **Would Conference consider and make recommendations on the continuing role of the National Telephone Sub-Committee (NTSC) within the Fellowship in the UK?**

Over the past three years the NTSC has held Telephone Seminars as well as the annual Regional Telephone Officers meetings but no further technological initiatives have been recommended to the Fellowship by the Sub-Committee.

The main role at present appears to be in overseeing the payment of the BT Telephone Bill for the 0845 number which the Regions in mainland UK subscribe to. This function could as easily be conducted by General Service Office staff under the direction of the General Secretary with oversight by the GSB Trustee for Telephones.

Could one Conference Committee consider the current functions of the NTSC and measure them in relation to those outlined in the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee as published in *AA Service News Special Telephones Edition February 2007*?

Financial implications, GSB Trustee report and Minutes of NTSC meetings should be taken into account in the deliberations. These will be available through the Trustee or General Secretary.

Terms of Reference No. 7

This question has been forwarded to the Telephone Sub-Committee for discussion.

60. **Could Conference consider and decide if there is any further requirement for a Continental European Region (CER) to be part of the AA Great Britain structure? Consider financial implications in deliberating this topic.**

Terms of Reference No. 7

This topic was fully discussed at Conference 2001. Also see Conference Digest.

62. **Would Conference consider whether a guideline should be written for submission to Conference 2011 which gives a suggested length of sobriety which a sponsor needs to have before undertaking sponsorship for the first time?**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 Well covered in existing AA literature. Possibly good topic for a Region workshop.
63. **Can Conference discuss the benefits of a system of support from Intergroups for new GSRs (Buddy System)? Would this be beneficial to both Groups and Intergroups?**
- Terms of Reference No. 5 Discussed at Conference 2009 and is covered in existing AA literature.
65. **Would Conference discuss the pros and cons of Regions employing a member of staff to coordinate and manage PI work?**
- Terms of Reference No. 6 No supporting material.
66. **The present hard cover version of our 12 & 12 as printed by AA(GB) differs from the Soft cover and pocket versions as issued by AAWS New York. Either a) - This edition should be withdrawn and a new version issued or b) the soft cover and pocket versions should not be supplied by GSO (GB).**
- In the interest of all members of AA in GB, I believe that our beloved 12 and 12 should be examined by the Conference Committee to see what can be done to bring all the versions into line so that a 12 & 12 will be the same where ever it comes from, and a report given to Conference for it to be considered by the Literature Committee.**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 Forwarded to the Literature Committee for discussion.
67. **Would Conference consider that all proposed changes made to AA literature are always tabled as questions for Conference?**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 Question not entirely clear and background was not fully relevant to the question.
68. **Would Conference consider current procedures for selection of non-GSB members of the national sub-committees and clarify their roles, accountability and status at Regions?**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 Forwarded to the General Service Board for discussion. There are procedures that are recommended to be followed e.g. that a CV must be presented to the Chair of Region.
69. **In order to allow as many members of the Fellowship to participate in our third legacy of service should Service meetings be held at venues that are centrally located and accessible by public transport? Please will Conference discuss and make recommendations.**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 Is a local issue and is covered in existing AA literature, i.e. AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.
70. **Would Conference discuss the need for a non-geographical Region within the UK service structure.**
- Terms of Reference No. 7 Conference 2005 looked at Regions in great detail, also that this is a local issue and covered in Tradition Three.

71. **Would Conference consider ways in which awareness could be increased of the “AA Bill of Rights” – the 6 Warrantees?**
72. **Would Conference consider ways in which we can improve our application in the UK of the 1st Warranty?**
73. **Would Conference consider ways in which we can improve our application in the UK of the 2nd Warranty?**
74. **Would Conference consider ways in which we can improve our application in the UK of the 3rd Warranty?**
75. **Would Conference consider ways in which we can improve our application in the UK of the 4th Warranty?**
76. **Would Conference consider ways in which we can improve our application in the UK of the 5th Warranty?**
77. **Would Conference consider ways in which we can improve our application in the UK of the 6th Warranty?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/7

This topic was discussed at Conference 2007.

78. **Would Conference consider whether ‘weak’ AA is pushing out ‘strong’ AA in Great Britain?**

Terms of Reference No. 6/7

Insufficient background material.

- 81a. **Would Conference discuss improvements to the audit process so that full details of the accounts and operational practices of the General Service Board can be examined and discussed by Conference and the Fellowship of AA as a whole?**

Terms of Reference No. 7

Forwarded to the Finance Committee of the GSB for discussion.

83. **Discuss the use of Interpretations of the AA programme in the form of Twelve Step recovery guides, sponsorship guides and guides to conduct AA meetings, which are produced outside of AA. Is there the danger that the simple AA message may become confused with other interpretations and be lost? Should such guides be used to conduct AA meetings or to sponsor AA newcomers?**

Terms of Reference No. 5/7

Discussed at Conference 2007.