

Literature for Conference Committee 2012 - Background Information

The Structure Handbook of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain

New format for the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain:

1. The Structure Handbook being presented to Conference 2012.
2. The Service Handbook to be presented to Conference 2013.

In summary:

1. Concerns have been expressed over the years that the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain is neither portable nor 'user-friendly'. As a result, few members buy one for themselves and its use within groups is inconsistent.
2. The idea has grown that a change in format would enable individuals and groups to refer to the contents more readily – something simpler and more portable.
3. Conference 2010 approved in principle the splitting of the contents into two separate books to be presented at future Conferences:
 - The Structure Handbook Conference 2011
 - The Service Handbook Conference 2012

Note: The Structure Handbook was not accepted by Conference 2011 and the Literature Committee has been asked to look at it again. One of the reasons for rejection was that the content went to several different committees.

The aim:

1. Two books similar in size to Living Sober.
2. The Structure Handbook which would possibly need to be revised every 5-7 years.
3. The Service Handbook, the contents of which change more often, to be revised every 2-3 years.
4. Revisions would be Conference approved and a new edition produced.

Content:

1. Conference 2012 is being asked to consider the format of the proposed Structure Handbook.
2. The text is Conference-approved and unchanged from the existing AA Service Handbook for Great Britain except where necessary for reasons of:
 - consistency
 - clarity
 - historical accuracy
 - compliance with current practice
3. What does not appear in the Structure Handbook will be in the Service Handbook which is scheduled to go to Conference 2013.
4. The wording defining Open and Closed meetings will be presented to Conference 2012. The current AA Service Handbook for Great Britain and the proposed Structure Handbook will reflect the decision of Conference.

Penny A
Trustee for Literature
December 2011