

## Summary of Topics/Questions not accepted for Conference 2012

1.

**Will Conference discuss an addition to the pamphlet *DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DIFFERENT?* In the A.A pamphlet *Do You Think You're Different?* various types of alcoholic, each believing that once some circumstance or condition (age, race, sexual gender, low/high bottom etc) made them special, and thus perhaps unqualified for AA membership, relate their stories.**

**In spite of the following two passages in the Big Book:**

- 1) *"There is the manic-depressive type, who is, perhaps, the least understood by his friends, and about whom a whole chapter could be written". (The Doctor's Opinion, pxxviii)*
- 2) *"There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest". (How it works, p58)*  
- the pamphlet does not feature any story specific to overt sufferers of mental illness.

Terms of Reference No. 7      Covered in existing literature.

2.

**Would Conference consider adding to the guidelines that all groups when properly registered with address, secretary and treasurer consider adding their registration number to both national and local "Where to Find" directories. In addition, new groups when correctly registered should send two delegates to register with their registration number at their local intergroup to ensure that all new groups follow the correct procedure.**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Local issue and covered in Guideline 2, Group Officers, where it states that it is the Secretary's role to inform the Intergroup Secretary and GSO of any changes.

3.

**Could the Fellowship please revise current Guideline 14 to include Closed Shared Platform Meetings within AA?**

**Although Guideline 14 covers the co-operation between AA and Al-Anon at both AA Conventions and AA Open Meetings it does not address the Closed Shared Platform Meetings now in existence.**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Question contained a contradictory premise and is covered by Guideline 1: Group Meetings; The Closed Meeting, The Open Meeting & The Shared Platform Meeting.

4.

**Would Conference share experience of dual addiction sharing, and consider what action (if any) might be taken to deal with this. Would Conference consider whether honesty is compromised if such members are encouraged/required to refrain from mention of any drug related past? Would Conference consider any likely impact on sister fellowships of acceptance of drug related experience sharing? Would Conference give guidelines to members co-operating with the kind of alcohol and drug addiction bodies referenced in the recent Drug Strategy 2010 document circulated by GSO?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Refer to Tradition 5 (long form) regarding our primary purpose and problems other than alcohol. The Closed Meeting statement read out at the beginning of meetings also addresses this issue.

5.

**The Fellowship is asked to review and make recommendations regarding the eligibility of Delegates for the various service posts at the annual General Service Conference.**

**In order to eliminate the existing misunderstandings and the opportunities of differing interpretations, considerations should include the posts of: Alternate Delegate; Delegate; Committee Chair; Committee Secretary; and Conference Chair.**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Covered by Guideline 3. Conference Chair and Committee Chairs are briefed immediately before the annual Conference with information about eligibility for the various posts to pass on to their Committees.

6.

**Would Conference review the role of the GSR as a trusted servant within the Home Group, with particular reference to the conduct of its Group Conscience?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Covered under Guideline 2: Group Officers and Guideline 3: Service Representatives

7.

**Taking into account the AA preamble will Conference discuss the possibilities of including in the 2015 Census questions relative to the individual faiths and creeds of AA members, so as to gather some indication as to whether AA's primary purpose is attracting membership from multi-faith organisations, agnostics and atheists.**

Terms of Reference No. 6      Insufficient background material and potential issues with the question and Tradition 10.

8.

**Would conference consider the possibility of advertising on Public Transport?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Passed to PI Sub Committee

10.

**There has been a growing prejudice and willingness to try and expel or punish certain individuals or groups over the last couple of years. Can Conference please discuss ways in which itself and the GSB can show more leadership in assisting Unity in areas where this attitude is prevalent?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Conference cannot dictate to Groups, Intergroups or Regions, the Committee felt that Conference therefore had no remit to consider the question as part of the agenda.

However, the question raised important concerns that were also echoed in other submitted questions. Although not strictly a consolidation (Terms of Reference No. 3), a broader question was included on the agenda which was felt addressed these concerns at the level of the Fellowship as a whole.

11.

**More and more AA groups are being denied their basic right of membership in local Intergroups. This action also denies them participation in Region and Conference. Can Conference please clarify this situation so that minorities in AA are no longer banished from our Service/Conference structure and that their conscience is heard?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      As above

12.

**Would Conference please consider the formation of a non –Geographical intergroup or Region open to all and any AA group within the UK.**

Terms of Reference No. 7      As above

13.

*Service Manual GB*

**Conference is requested to consider rejecting the idea of separating the Service Manual GB into two separate components or make a lasting commitment to ensure that the two elements, the history section and the service structure are always sold or supplied together and that it will not be possible to purchase one of the elements on its own.**

Terms of Reference No. 5      Discussed within the last three years (Conference 2009 and 2011).

14.

**There seems to be wide spread differences in AA as a whole, differences in ways to run a group, sponsor people, carry out service and a service manual which can be interpreted in many ways dependant on the interpreter.**

**Whilst differences can be a good thing and productive in many ways, AA as a whole requires stability and strength at its foundations if we are to carry out our primary purpose to maximum ability. Leaders, people who can speak up with out fear of isolation, people who know the history of AA and know the literature, which was written to and still here to guide us. Whilst the literature is flexible and can be adapted and expanded, it is always seen as the basic for AA as a whole. It is to the basic we must look to in times of disunity, in times of disagreement, in times of slander and times of uncertain future.**

**Would Conference please suggest a way in which AA as a whole can get back to these basics to achieve strong unity, agreement where there is disagreement and understanding where there is misunderstanding. Our fellowship needs leaders.**

Terms of Reference No. 6      CSC requested more background information which was not forthcoming.

16.

**In light of the Conference recommendations of committee 6, question 1, 2007 would Conference give advice on how disenfranchised groups can be integrated into the Intergroup service structure?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Covered by our Traditions.

17.

**Inventory question**

**How can Intergroups and regions ensure that they adhere to the twelfth tradition and always place principles before personalities?**

**Would Conference share experience and give guidance on how we ensure that the spiritual principles espoused in Tradition 12 are not corrupted by squabbles and differences of opinions.**

Terms of Reference No. 5/6      Insufficient background and discussed at Conference 2011, Committee 5, Question 2.

18.

**Inventory question**

**In order to ensure unity would conference please give advice on how disenfranchised groups could establish their own Intergroup in order to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic and participate fully in the AA service structure?**

Terms of Reference No. 5      Discussed at Conference 2011, Committee 5, Question 2

19.

**Would conference consider introducing a guideline for regions which recommends that conference delegates be required to give a guarantee, on election, that they, or will become fully conversant with the practices and procedures of AA and with the following literature:**

- **GB Service Manual**
- **World Service Manual**
- **Conference Charter and Warrantees**
- **12 Traditions**
- **12 Concepts**
- **AA Comes of Age**

Terms of Reference No. 5      Conference 2010, Committee 5, Question 2 and Guideline No. 5

20.

**Inventory Question**

**Would Conference consider ways in which they could demonstrate their leadership by promoting a greater understanding of Concepts and Warranties across the Fellowship?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Topic adequately covered by a similar question already placed on the 2012 agenda

21.

**As guardian of the Three Legacies in GB would Conference consider:**

- a) what action should be taken regarding external websites and publications which make personal attacks on AA Groups and individual members by name.
- b) giving guidance to the Fellowship on the involvement of AA members in such websites.
- c) giving guidance to groups and individuals under attack from such websites.

Terms of Reference No. 7      Covered by existing Guidelines and Tradition 10

22.

**Could Conference advise and give guidance on the selling of raffles to friends and family in aid of conventions. This breaches Guidelines 4, 6 and 7 (accepting outside contributions).**

**These tickets are being sold out with the convention venue and in addition they bear the Logo and the three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous, is this not a breach of copyright?**

**These tickets are being sold to outside bodies in aid of Alcoholics Anonymous, they also have a section where the purchaser of the tickets needs to put their name and address or telephone number, again breaching any Guidelines on anonymity.**

**To allow the sale of these tickets the sponsoring body (Intergroup) sanctioned applying for a gaming licence at a cost to the Fellowship. These raffle books have the name and address of the promoter who is a member of the Fellowship and we believe that this raffle goes against everything that Alcoholics Anonymous stands for.**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Local issue and covered by Guideline 15

24.

**Please consider the following and make recommendations:**

**How well does opening new groups, in areas well served with meetings/groups, support our 12 Traditions?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Topic adequately covered by a similar question already placed on the 2012 agenda

26.

At the Regional Electronic Communication Liaison Officers meeting held in York on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August 2011, Guideline 19 was carefully reviewed, and five amendments are proposed to further clarify the intent of this Guideline. Conference are asked to approve the following amendments:

**Page 1 – Email – Para 2: Add at end:** Care needs to be taken when using 3<sup>rd</sup> party email programs for sending and receiving emails because this can lead to a breach of anonymity.

**Page 2 - Local Websites – Para 3: Add at end:** The use of AA GB hosting enables support, continuity, and accuracy of local websites.

**Page 2 – Local Websites – Para 4: Add at end:** and to ensure appropriate anonymity.

**Page 3 – AA GB Website – Para 5: Insert after “does not link to”:**, nor draw any information from,

**Page 3 – Important Points to Remember – Bullet 5: Add new bullet point:** Personal data, such as email addresses and telephone numbers, should not be published on the web.

Terms of Reference No. Referred to the Literature Sub Committee

27.

**Terms of Service for Delegates**

**Can Conference discuss and provide clarification on terms of service for alternate delegate and delegate, including when a delegate is eligible to stand for Conference Chair and Trustee.**

Terms of Reference No. 5      Discussed in the last three years and covered in Guideline No. 5.

28.

**Would the A.A. Groups of our fellowship consider to what extent we are living up to our responsibility as those having "Final responsibility and ultimate authority" for AA services? Are we using and responding to reports by the General Service Board and Conference to the best of our abilities and for the utmost good of A.A. as a whole? Are we responsible?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Part of the above was accepted on the agenda and the rest was covered by inventory questions undertaken by existing Committees.

29.

**Would the Fellowship seek a group conscience at all levels of Service on whether we as a fellowship are satisfied with the level of 12<sup>th</sup> step work that is being done at the various levels of Service?**

**Does the amount of energy and the type of work being done best serve the spirit and intent of 'Carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic'.**

**Will the committee make both an assessment and recommendations?**

Terms of Reference No. 5      Discussed at Conference 2010, Committee 6, Question 2 and Conference 2011, Committee 4, Question 2.

30.

**Would Conference reconsider the decision taken in 2008 to prohibit "external links" on the AA (GB) website?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Referred to the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee.

31.

**Could Conference suggest practical ways in which group registration information, and hence the national "Where to Find" directory (printed and on-line) could be kept up to date?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Already covered by existing structures.

32.

**Would the Fellowship consider the cost of maintaining GSO in its current form given the threat to self-support outlined in AA Service News 146 and the requirements of Tradition 7? In doing so perhaps the Fellowship might share our experience of practicing Tradition 7 as groups and individual alcoholics with the aim of helping GSO to achieve self-support without having to rely on requests for increased donations.**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Existing literature deals with the use of AA money in particular Guideline 12 and leaflets such as 'The Pot'.

33.

**Taking into account how much guidance is given in the guidelines about how a group should set about choosing a GSR to be sent to represent that group at Intergroup, and considering our traditions, particularly three and two, would the Fellowship discuss and offer guidance as to whether an Intergroup could ever refuse to accept that group service representative.**

**Following on from this and remembering in particular tradition one and AA unity, would Conference share their thoughts as to whether a Region might refuse to accept Region Reps sent from an Intergroup in their area.**

**There is no such thing as the 'perfect' meeting, that will suit everybody in AA, so is it more helpful to be inclusive and to learn from each other; to go to different meetings, to share our own experience strength and hope, to leave useful AA literature for discussion, and to welcome all alcoholics to all AA meetings.**

Terms of Reference No. 6 Insufficient background material and covered by Tradition Four.

34.

**Would Conference consider the role of the plenary session at Conference which is currently used just as an open forum for debate and where in 2002 Conference voluntarily decided not to use its right of debating issues and taking votes on them, and consider whether this is the best use of time at Conference which meets only for 2.5 days each year, and whether it is in accord with Tradition 2, as the Conference Delegates are Trusted Servants and the Fellowship's Group Conscience may express itself during this session like any other session, with Concepts III (Right of Decision), Concept IV (Right of Participation) and Concept VII (Conference Charter is not a legal document), and would Conference decide to give itself back the right to vote in this like any other plenary session.**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Based on incorrect premise, in that the Open Forum has never allowed for voting to take place, and previously took the form of a workshop.

35.

**Would Conference consider publishing and selling an e-book edition of the Big Book (in co-operation with AA US/Canada as required)?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Beyond the terms of reference of Conference.

37.

### **BIG BOOK TYPOS**

**Would Conference consider amending the following two words in the Big Book, believed to be typographic errors: p103 change 'symbol' to 'symptom'; p153 change 'chip' to 'ship'?**

Terms of Reference No. 7 Beyond terms of reference of Conference

38.

**As far as we are aware, there is no Conference approved Step 4 template online. Can conference set a precedence for AA's severely disabled members whom have problems writing, but are able to utilize a computer?**

Terms of Reference No. 6      Insufficient background material

39.

**Is there more that AA in Great Britain ought to be doing at a national level to reach out to national-level press, in order to increase awareness and understanding of the AA program?**

Terms of Reference No. 5      Discussed at Conference 2010, Committee 6, Question 2.

40.

**Are there too many Questions for Conference each year?**

**The process caters for 6 committees considering 3 questions each, totalling 18 questions. At group level, it is unrealistic for a conscience meeting to give sufficient time and consideration to all 18 questions, certainly at one sitting. Similarly, at Intergroup level, the process of collating responses and giving input to Regional and Conference reps is cumbersome.**

**In any given year, there are perhaps five or six questions which really require detailed and thoughtful debate. Currently many of the 'questions' are really handbook reviews or 'rhetorical' questions, or ones relating to specialist or minority issues. Questions in this category don't benefit so much from input from the groups all over the country. It would be better if the focus of the groups and intergroups could be directed towards debating the really important issues affecting AA here and now. Groups would then need to come up with such fundamental questions and work, before Conference, to gain support for them.**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Local issue.

41.

**Does there need to be a review of AA's Service Structure?**

**There are many liaison posts at Region and Intergroup vacant? According to the Directory of Intergroup and Regional Officers, there are 16 Regions, each with 14 officers, totalling 224. Of these 69 (31%) are listed as 'vacant' or 'refer to Chairman/Secretary'.**

**Are there too many 'liaison' functions? Could some functions be streamlined to cut out the Regional level, so that in some categories like Health, PI, Probation etc, the Intergroup liaison officers could deal directly with GSO, using the AA website to communicate? Would it be appropriate to set up a review of the structure of AA in the UK, in view of changes in the use of technology in the UK, within and outside AA.**

Terms of Reference No. 5      Discussed at Conference 2011, Committee 5, Question 1.

42.

**Can the pamphlet "Now that you have stopped", which is part of the AA Newcomers pack, be updated and amended to exclude controversial suggestions and include some additional helpful**



**suggestions?**

Terms of Reference No. 7      Passed to Literature Sub-Committee.