

1.

In light of the fact that the GSB has allowed some sub-committees to suspend and remove trusted servants from post, and that Regions and Intergroups have been known to follow similar practice, would Conference consider and recommend the introduction of a means of defence, representation and/or appeal in these circumstances which is more robust than just Concept V, and that when AA sees fit to revert the inverted triangle for such purposes, its trusted servants should expect no lesser treatment than an unpaid, uncontracted volunteer would receive in an employment scenario as recommended by ACAS.

I understand that our Trusted Servants are not employees, but they are volunteers and should be protected from arbitrary, uninformed or excessive punitive action without any form of defence, as volunteers in the workplace are.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Already adequately answered in existing literature, in particular Tradition 4 group autonomy and Concept V, "The traditional "Right of Appeal" should also permit any person in our service structure, whether paid or unpaid, to petition for the redress of a personal grievance, carrying his complaint, if he [or she] so desires, directly to the General Service Board." . Refer to page 34 of the AA GB Structure Handbook.

2.

Minority Report

Terms of Reference No. 11

Felt that this question was contrary to Tradition 10, as it discusses many outside issues which AA ought not to have an opinion on. The committee also felt the question as submitted was far too lengthy to be discussed in full at Conference.

3.

Would Conference share experience and make recommendations for the re-introduction and re-vamp of the old style loose leaf (A4) Guidelines, to run alongside the new AA Structure Handbook and AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that the material is already available in existing literature, and that this literature, particularly the Structure Handbook, is regularly updated with the latest version published online.

4.

I would like AA in the UK to consider publishing the pamphlet "The 4 Absolutes".

Terms of Reference No. 11

Felt that the question concerns an outside issue, which is contrary to Tradition 10, and that it would also divert us from our primary purpose, Tradition 5.

5.

I would like the Conference to consider putting a Big Book (in Electronic/multi-lingual format) on the International Space Station.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Understands that the Big Book (in electronic/multi-lingual format) is available on AA websites and therefore it can already be accessed from the ISS via the internet if required.

6.

Would Conference consider adding a paragraph about the origins of the yellow card and its purpose to the pamphlet *Understanding Anonymity*?

Terms of Reference No. 11

Considers that this question concerns an outside issue, which AA does not have an opinion on (Tradition10). The committee also notes that the Yellow Card (Let it Stay Here Card, 3850) is already Conference Approved literature.

7.

Would Conference review, consider and make recommendations on the wording of Chapter six "AA and Healthcare in the Community", with specific reference to:

- A) Page 53 in "the AA SERVICE HANDBOOK for GB 2017" para 6:5 bullet point 2 "approach patients without the permission of the doctor in charge" – change to "approach patients without the permission of the nurse in charge.
- B) Reference to Hospital Liaison Officer, page 52 para 6:5 change to Hospital Coordinator.
- C) Create a "Guidelines for Hospital Visitors including Young People" and amend page 53 "ADDITIONAL HINTS" para 6:7.

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to the General Service Board for consideration

9.

Would Conference share experience of AA Meetings in Prisons which are attended by outside agencies and if possible make recommendations on how to deal with this?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that it was adequately covered in existing literature. Refer to Structure Handbook in particular page 57, paragraph 2.

10.

Please may AA either locally or nationally have either a separate telephone number for females or an option on the national number and local?

Point being will AA raise the bar for safeguarding vulnerable adults and have a safe number?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that it was adequately covered in existing literature. Refer to guidance in the Structure Handbook, Section 5, Violence and Personal Conduct, page 84. Also in our pamphlet Q&A on Sponsorship, page 10 "AA experience does suggest that it is best for men to sponsor men, women to sponsor women".

11.

AA's Telephone Service responds to telephone calls but email enquiries are answered by the Online Response team in AA's Electronic Communications Service. Would Conference consider the option of combining its resources to offer a fully fledged Enquiry Response Service? The service would offer a response to all enquiries whether they're made by telephone, by email or through Chat now. Discuss and make recommendations.

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to the General Service Board for consideration.

12.

Would Conference consider changing the Terms and Conditions for Service as given in the AA Structure Handbook for GB 2017 for members of Convention Committee as shown below?

Reference : The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017. Annex B Terms of Reference for Convention Committees.

3. *An appropriate number of members are elected as delegates to serve for three years on the Convention Committee. The committee elects its officers from these delegates to serve for a suitable term, ensuring the principle of rotation*
4. *Committee officers rotating out of service are ineligible for re-election during the next three years. Other delegates rotating out are ineligible for re-election during the next twelve months*

Background: The Scottish National Convention Committee found themselves in difficulty and the SNC for 2017 had to be cancelled. One of the reasons for this was that the Committee had reached the stage that personnel were standing down after rotating out in the knowledge that they would return to the same role in twelve months. Rotation had lost the spirit and meaning of intended AA rotation. The Committee had grown away from the Terms of Reference and become unworkable.

It is recommended that the wording in para 4 of this section of the Structure handbook be amended to read:

4. *Committee officers rotating out of a post are ineligible for re-election to the post they vacate and may not apply for any other Officer post for five years. The exception would be if an Officer stood for the role of Chair. Any member holding the office of Chair will be ineligible for re-election to the Convention Committee. Other delegates rotating out are ineligible for re-election during the next three years.*

This would ensure that proper rotation be carried out allowing new members a full opportunity to step up to this important Service post. This would also ensure that the Committee remains within the spirit of rotation in AA and that the Committee does not become self-electing.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that the concerns were already adequately addressed in existing literature. Refer to the Structure Handbook, pages 122-125.

13.

Would the Fellowship please discuss and consider making recommendations to explore the creation of (but not limited to) guidelines in relation to convicted paedophiles & sex offenders taking on, or more specifically ought not to take on, service positions at all levels of the fellowship that may enable them to pose a risk to vulnerable individuals within the fellowship or their dependents.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that it was adequately covered in existing literature. Refer to guidance in the Structure Handbook, Section 5, Violence and Personal Conduct, pages 83-86.

14.

Could AA Intergroups as a whole adopt a new service position role of a "where to find liaison officer" to work alongside the ECLO?

Terms of Reference No. 9

Felt that this question is best dealt with by Intergroups (Tradition 4). In addition, Intergroups can already create any aemail address they want for any service position they have.

Contact GSO for more details. The committee also notes that one of the responsibilities of the GSR is to see that up-to-date Group information for the AA directory is sent promptly to GSO - refer to page 81-82 of the Structure Handbook.

15.

Would Conference consider reviewing Guideline 11 (revised April 2008) making clear the difference between affiliation and co-operation when working with professionals in the prison environment?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that it was adequately covered in existing literature. Refer to Service Handbook in particular pages 57-28.

16.

Groups are having problems opening bank accounts because the banks do not have a clear and easy way to understand the definition of what exactly local AA groups are (legally) under banking rules. This is a national issue applicable to all Groups and it is a problem which is likely to get worse with time.

Would Conference share experience and make recommendations? Such recommendations might include, for example:

- producing a simple, agreed definition of a Group , for banking purposes only, to assist in opening bank accounts?
- asking the Board to approach the bank Regulator, to see if a simple protocol can be agreed which can be circulated to all banks, to assist in this matter.

Terms of Reference No. 3

Chose another similar question, which also captured the spirit of this question, to include in the agenda instead.

17.

Would the Fellowship make available for sale a reprint of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. By that I mean the actual original edition in its first printed form?

Terms of Reference No. 12

felt that it would not be possible due to copyright restrictions.

18.

Would the fellowship consider the creation of a new paid position in employing an IT Manager?

Terms of Reference No. 12

Understands that the GSB can and will employ these services if and when required.

19.

Would Conference consider adding the service position of Group Greeter to the list of Group Officers in the AA Structure Handbook for GB and in 'The AA Group' pamphlet? Also, would Conference suggest an appropriate length of sobriety for this / these group position (s)?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that each group is autonomous, and that suggested the basic group service positions are already adequately covered in existing literature.

20.

In view of the variable accuracy and attractiveness of AAs' representation in soap operas and other TV dramas, would Conference ask GSB to explore the possible utility of retaining a specialist outside communications agent to facilitate the carrying of AA's message to the makers of such programmes?

Terms of Reference No. 11

Felt that AA's representation in TV is an outside issue on which AA has no opinion, (Tradition 10). Preventing misunderstanding of the A.A. programme is the responsibility of the General Service Board's Public Information Committee. Please refer to: The AA Service Manual Combined With The Twelve Concepts For World Service 2016-2018, page S71.

21.

Would Conference ask GSB to take advice on whether it is, in fact, legally possible for any timely, useful, but non-audited financial information to be released to the membership other than in person through the Treasurer service structure?

Terms of Reference No. 12

Believed that the audited and complete annual report is adequate. In addition, the G.S.B. releases quarterly accounts to the Regional Treasurers, which may be circulated to the entire Fellowship.

22.

Would Conference ask GSB to form a working group combining PI and ECLO disciplines, specifically charged with reviewing opportunities for the fellowship to strengthen its use of online advertising, social media, and other modern digital strategies by which AA may better carry its message to the still suffering alcoholic generally, and better to attract visits to AA's website specifically. Would GSB invite and finance that group to draw on professional online marketing expertise from outside of the fellowship to that end.

Terms of Reference No. 12

Believed that the ECLO and PI committees already work together. Some digital strategies had been researched for example, search engine optimisation, and were found to be prohibitively expensive.

23.

Would conference consider asking GSB to take specific, professional legal advice concerning insurances, administrative procedures and other steps that might reasonably be taken to safeguard AA's reserves from potential negligence claims?

Terms of Reference No. 12

That the GSB is not legally responsible for members, groups, intergroups or regions. Intergroups have public liability insurance which covers the respective groups.

26.

Would the Committee consider launching an official Alcoholics Anonymous UK Podcast?

Terms of Reference No. 3

Chose another similar question, which also captured the spirit of this question, to include in the agenda instead.

27.

Would the Fellowship consider asking the General Service Board to implement one other format of the Serenity Prayer Card which at present is listed on the literature order form.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that the existing form of the Serenity Prayer Card was adequate.

28.

Do we still have a way out on which we can agree?

Terms of Reference No. 9

Believes that A.A.'s existing literature describes our "way out". It was also felt that this is a question that may be better asked when taking Group inventory.

29.

In which ways can we create more unity to attract newcomers?

Terms of Reference No. 9

felt that Traditions 1 and 5 and A.A.'s service literature would help to answer this and that it was essentially a question better addressed during Group Conscience.

30.

Has the General Service Board (GSB) been living up to its stated aims?

Terms of Reference No. 9

Believed that the Board's Annual Report provides the information necessary for the Fellowship to assess whether the GSB is living up to its stated aims. Delegates are free to question Board members during the General Service Conference.

31.

Would Conference discuss whether it's time AA Great Britain adopted the process followed by AA in America for electing Conference Delegates, that is, Conference Delegates are elected not merely by a quorum of the Regional Assembly (Area Assembly in the US) officers, but by a quorum which also includes all GSRs in that Region.

Reference: Chapter 4, S36, 537 and S38 of the AA Service Manual (US version, combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2012-2013 Edition)

Terms of Reference 7 and 9

Felt that Tradition 4 maintains the autonomy of the Regions in GB and CER

and how they choose to elect their delegates. It was noted that there are Regions in AA GB whose delegates are indeed elected and/or ratified by the GSRs.

32.

Does Conference believe that AA in 2017, is still true to the original vision of the founders

Terms of Reference 3 and 6

Chose another similar question, which also captured the spirit of this question, to include in the agenda instead.

34.

Would Conference discuss how AA Great Britain can co-operate and learn from the experience of AA in America, in particular with regards to the way GSO New York helps groups work with outside agencies at local levels there, and the way in which it conducts AA's overall public relations in America.

This could include requesting to send observers to the US/Canada General Service Conference and / or inviting observers from GSO New York to visit our own Conference (the process for this has been confirmed by GSO New York).

Terms of Reference No. 12

maintains that this is already standard practice.

35.

Survey Question

Part 1: Will conference consider allowing/ asking all intergroups to conduct the next survey? Then report back to region and region report back to GSO.

Part 2: Will conference consider increasing the frequency of the conduction of the Survey to every 3 years to coincide with the USA

Part 3: Will conference consider adding the following question to the survey:

1. **How many years has your Home Group be running. 1yr – 5yrs, 5yrs – 10yrs, 10yrs – 15yrs, 15- 20yrs, 20yrs +**
2. **Size of Home Group i.e. how many members**
3. **How many members are over 1 yr.5yrs, 10yrs, 15yr, 20yrs Sober**
4. **Does your Home Group display the Steps, Traditions and Concepts at its meetings?**
5. **Does your Home Group Offer Newcomers Sponsorship?**
6. **Is your Home Group Active in service at Group, intergroup, region and conference ie Delegate/ Subcommittee?**
7. **Is your Home Group active in PI in your local community**

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred this question to General Service Board Sub Committee for consideration.

36.

Would conference consider changing the wording of 'open' & 'closed' on national and local meetings lists?

Terms of Reference No. 3

Chose another similar question, which also captured the spirit of this question, to include in the agenda instead.

37.

What can we do as a fellowship to show newcomers and the public at large that we are not stupid, boring and glum?

Terms of Reference No. 7 and 11

the AA Service Handbook adequately describes PI work and that, in line with Tradition 11, we should not promote ourselves.

38.

Would Conference consider asking the Board to place a disclaimer on our national website, to state that we are not affiliated with any other AA websites?

Terms of Reference No. 11

Believes that Tradition 10 is our best protection, ie: this is an outside issue on which A.A. should express no opinion.

39.

Do conference believe that the way Questions for conference are written and undertaken is the best way to approach it?

Terms of Reference No. 5 and 7

Felt that current practice is in line with our Traditions and the Service literature. All questions and topics for Conference originate from within the Fellowship. The question was also similar to Committee 4, Question 1, Conference 2015.

40.

a. What does the fellowship feel that Conference and Regions can do to foster confidence in the grass roots membership for the Conference process?

b. What does the Fellowship want from Conference?

Delegates to gather experience from around the country, collate, discuss and make recommendations.

Terms of Reference 7 and 9

Believes that the Conference Charter states the purpose of the General Service Conference in The AA Structure Handbook. The delegate's responsibility to discuss the Conference agenda with the group, intergroup and region is also set out in the AA Structure Handbook. All topics and questions for Conference are initiated by the AA Fellowship.

41.

Would Conference discuss, consider and make recommendations to further update the section on 'The Group, sub-section 5: Violence and Personal Conduct' on pp.82-85 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, to include and make

specific reference to the internet? In particular, to include, under the sub-heading 'About Behaviour', suggestions about members' behaviour:

- a. when using AA's own online facilities and services; and**
- b. when contributing to, posting on, or using other non-AA internet sites to share their experience or make comments about AA.**

Terms of Reference No. 7

Felt that the guidance on violence and personal conduct, p83 - 86 in the AA Structure Handbook applies to all groups.

42.

Would Conference discuss, consider and make recommendations on how the General Service Board, Trustees and NATs could work with the press, radio and television at the national level to increase public awareness of AA and so make better use of the media to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic?

"Awareness" ought to include:

- * not only awareness of AA as an organisation and how to get in touch, but also**
- * awareness that AA offers a solution to alcoholism for those who need and want it**

Terms of Reference No. 8

understands that the PI Sub Committee are already working on this. This question will be passed to the Trustee responsible for consideration.

44.

Would Conference consider the results of the latest survey of AA in Great Britain and form a view on whether the Fellowship is growing or declining?

Terms of Reference No. 5

This had been discussed at Conference 2017, Committee 5, Question 2.

45.

Would Conference provide guidance on how online AA meetings should monitor and check inappropriate behaviour?

Terms of Reference No. 7 and 9

Is already covered in existing literature: Tradition 4 – Group autonomy, the AA Structure Handbook page 83 – Violence and Personal Conduct, Hints & Suggestions on Internet Safety.

46.

Would Conference please share their experiences on how to deal with the ever increasing vacancies at Intergrups and Regions and are we meeting the Founders vision for the Fellowship?

Terms of Reference No. 3

Chose another similar question, which also captured the spirit of this question, to include in the agenda instead.

47.

Would the Conference discuss whether the Board should develop and submit a 5-year active plan for Public Information?

Terms of Reference No. 12

There already is a 5 year plan in operation, this is ongoing and the responsibility of the General Service Board.

48.

Would Conference discuss the wording of a possible “declaration of fellowship”, to take its place with our “declaration of unity” and our “responsibility pledge”?

Terms of Reference No. 7

felt that this is a World Service issue and is also covered by Tradition 1 and in existing literature.

49.

Would Conference review the booklet ‘Meeting In A Pocket’, and consider approving it for AA-GB?

Terms of Reference No. 8

This will be submitted to Literature sub-committee for consideration, although it is already covered by existing literature, including The Little Book.

50.

Would Conference recommend producing and making the ‘Newcomers Packs’ available free-of charge?

Terms of Reference No. 11

Referred to the Literature and Finance committees. Tradition 7 each group is full self-supporting.

52.

As a convention is not a group (not self supporting, raffles etc.) should the practice of singing songs or poetry during a meeting be allowed to continue.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered by Tradition 4 - each group is autonomous (including the convention sponsoring body). See Handbook pages 122-124 for guidance on Conventions.

53.

At an AA convention during an AA meeting, should the practice of singing songs or poetry of a sectarian or religious nature be allowed to continue?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered by Tradition 4 - each group is autonomous (including the convention sponsoring body). See Handbook pages 122-124 for guidance on Conventions.

54.

During an AA meeting should the practice of singing or the use of poetry be permitted?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered by Tradition 4 - each group is autonomous (including the convention sponsoring body). See Handbook pages 122-124 for guidance on Conventions.

55.

At most AA conventions raffles are held, as we cannot discriminate or wish to offend purchasers of these tickets, how should we prevent non AAs contributing to AA funds through this type of practice?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered by Tradition 4 - each group is autonomous (including the convention sponsoring body). 7th Tradition finances are usually collected through registration fees and "passing the hat", not through raffles. See Handbook pages 122-124 for guidance on Conventions.

56.

What is the purpose of an AA convention?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered in existing literature. See Handbook pages 122 - 124. A Convention offers the opportunity for members to connect in fellowship and by sharing their experience, strength and hope together.

57.

Does AA need guidelines in a pamphlet form for any group or members wishing to hold a convention, with clear guidelines for set up, accountability, responsibility of finance and the adherence to traditions?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Covered by Tradition 4. It would be an unnecessary duplication of literature. See Handbook pages 122-124 for more guidance on Conventions

59.

Would the fellowship discuss and share experience on how conventions are funded and what represents a "Prudent Reserve" and consider if the wording on page 122 under Finance in "The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017" needs to be revised.

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is adequately covered by Tradition 4 - each group is autonomous (including the convention sponsoring body). See Handbook pages 122-124 for more guidance on Conventions

60.

Would the fellowship discuss and share experience regarding our public relations policy as indicated in Tradition 11.

Especially, that attraction remains sufficiently strong to persuade new members to both come and stay and also that its preference over promotion is sometimes interpreted as a justification not to publicise the fellowship at all.

Anonymity, not invisibility should always be our aim.

Terms of Reference No. 5
62.

This question was adequately discussed at
Conference 2014, Committee 5 Question 2

Would the Fellowship share experience on how best to respond when members of the public (non-AA members) attend “open” meetings for academic research, journalistic reporting, medical interest, etc. and take notes on and/or record what is being shared?

Terms of Reference No. 7
64.

Already be covered in existing literature,
Traditions 4, 11 and 12. The Blue Card
"Who you see here etc...." Understanding
Anonymity (AA pamphlet)

Would Conference approve the withdrawal of the recently produced "deaf' top table card and leaflet.

Terms of Reference No. 8

This is already being dealt with by
GSB. This question will be referred to
GSB