

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONFERENCE 2022

1.

Can GSB investigate the feasibility of a system which allows groups to set up and manage their own generic AA email addresses, for the purpose of publishing group contact details online and in meetings listings? The aim would be to avoid the endorsement and affiliation implied by the use of third party domains (eg, '...@gmail.com'), and to eliminate the risk of losing log-in details that can arise with personally-registered addresses.

Terms of Reference No. 8

Referred to the GSB Electronic Communications Sub-Committee for discussion and consideration

2.

Are criteria and conditions for attendance at AA Zoom meetings (not to do with misbehaviour), such as "Must have camera on," appropriate, given Tradition Three (The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking), and these quotes from "As Bill Sees It:" page 134, "No AA can compel another to do anything;" and page 186, "We wish to be just as inclusive as we can, never exclusive?"

Terms of Reference No. 9

The Steering Committee felt that each group is autonomous, and such decisions ought to be taken at the group level as long as they do not affect AA as a whole (Tradition Four).

5.

Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make recommendations on whether applying for and receiving Government Grant funding is contrary to Tradition 7, and whether funds received under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ("furlough") should be repaid?

Terms of Reference No. 8

The AAGB Honorary Treasurer address this question in the annual report for Conference 2022

6.

Dogs in meetings. Will Conference please consider producing guidance on how the attendance of dogs at AA meetings should best be handled?

Terms of Reference No. 9

It was felt that as each group is autonomous, this issue is best handled by each individual group as they see fit (Tradition Four).

7.

Would the conference discuss ways in which the fellowship could help to lessen the workload of the GSB trustees?

Terms of Reference No. 12

It was felt that this question asks about a matter concerning the General Service Board and should therefore be resolved at the board level.

9.

Given that Zoom has been embraced by the Fellowship as a whole during the pandemic and given that a virtual meeting eliminates the need to travel and be at a physical venue which saves a lot of time and cost for everyone involved, would Conference and the Board consider holding virtual rather than face to face meetings in the future?

Terms of Reference No. 10 & 12 Found that this question had insufficient information as it was not clear whether it asks for Conference or Board meetings to be held online.

10.

How can the Fellowship *as a whole* communicate more effectively and more quickly?

Will the Board create an interactive facility on the website, or lead the Fellowship in adopting some other means of real time communication for an interactive information flow.

Terms of Reference No. 10 Some of the background information was found not to be accurate.

11.

How can the Fellowship respond to the 2020 survey?

The 2020 survey indicates that the overall number of members is falling, and that a third of current members are over 60. The implications are that those of us who are enjoying recovery, particularly those who have done so for some time, are not carrying the full message of AA effectively to newcomers.

Terms of Reference No. 10 Some of the background information was found not to be accurate.

12.

Would the fellowship share experience and make recommendations on the sale of recovery memorabilia and merchandise, e.g., jewellery, medallions, clothing, and gifts etc. at group meetings and conventions in order to raise money for AA purposes?

Terms of Reference No. 6 The Steering Committee felt that it was unclear how the background of the question pertains to the question itself.

15.

Could the conference discuss and instruct the General Service Board to provide improved transparent financial reporting to enable the fellowship to better understand how our donations are being spent and allow us to hold the board to account for these?

Terms of Reference No. 8 Referred to the AAGB Honorary Treasurer for clarification.

18.

Could the conference discuss and recommend to the board improved ways to manage the resignation of sub-committee members perhaps with an impartial inventory or exit interview in the spirit of inventory laid out in the big book? A business that fails to take a proper inventory often goes broke. This would help to improve the service structure and the working relationship between the General Service Board, the General Service Office and the sub-committees.

Terms of Reference No. 8 Discussed at length and concluded this was a matter for the General Service Board rather than the whole Fellowship. It was felt that the GSB are better placed to investigate this and action improved ways to manage sub-committee resignations.

20.

Would Conference request the publication of a reasonable timeframe for reporting progress on recommendations and actions required made to the GSB by Conference, back to the Fellowship? And for that reporting to be via a platform accessible to all members.

Terms of Reference 10

Considered the background to be inaccurate as no feedback to questioner is mentioned in the Terms of Reference. The Committee already monitor progress on the Matrix which is reported at the next Conference. Also, that time frames are impossible to set as all recommendations vary and can take longer or shorter periods to complete.

21.

Would Conference make recommendations on:

Encouraging the GSB to recruit volunteers & expertise for GSB 'working party' projects.

Currently some projects given to the GSB by Conference are dealt with by a Trustee-only working party.

These projects deserve the sufficient time and resource to be dealt with comprehensively and in a reasonable time frame. This surely can't be possible if the burden falls solely on Trustees who are already loaded with numerous responsibilities.

Terms of Reference No. 10

Concluded that the GSB already seek up-to-date expert advice and assistance when and where required.

22.

Would Conference suggest clarification on the reporting of progress on the recommendations made to the GSB by Conference?

Terms of Reference No. 10

Considered the background to be inaccurate as no feedback to questioner is mentioned in the Terms of Reference. The Committee already monitor progress on the Matrix which is reported at the next Conference. We consider that it is not possible to set a time frame, as all recommendations are different and can take longer or shorter periods to complete.

24.

Is our sacred AA Preamble 'of its time' and now needs tweaking to be more specifically inclusive of race and gender?

Terms of Reference No. 3

Liked this question but there were several submissions regarding the Preamble, all of a similar nature. All were discussed and chose a preferred question which we hope will also satisfy the spirit of your question.

25.

Would conference consider highlighting or drawing attention to the chapter on 'For AA members in the Alcoholism Field' from the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Agree that, as you point out, the subject matter is in the chapter "For AA members in the Alcoholism Field" is already available for any member to read for themselves in the AA Structure Handbook for AA GB. The Committee feel that this question is better dealt with at group level, either through sharing, to point the person in the direction of the Handbook or discussed at a group conscience meeting, rather than at Conference.

26.

Given the Fellowships extensive use of Social Media throughout the Pandemic as a means of communication would Conference offer guidance on its benefits for the Fellowship.

Terms of Reference No. 6

Found the question content to be rather vague. Before it could be given further consideration, it was requested that you provide further supporting background to the question, but unfortunately, we have not received a reply to our communication.

27.

Would Conference share their experience and make recommendations on:

The potential benefits to Intergroups and Regions of a shareable resource library of external liaison materials.

- **Could the GSB, in conjunction with the Sub Committees, create a dedicated platform for shared information**
- **Easy access to document & flyer templates, artwork, posters and images, and digital posters, that the fellowship could optionally use or amend, would assist the fellowship in carrying the message of AA externally.**

Terms of Reference No. 8

Have already accepted another, more general question related to the AA GB website, which may cover this particular area more extensively. However, this question has been referred to the General Service Board Sub Committee as the Committee thought that this suggestion was a good idea.

28.

Could the fellowship, from its experience, make recommendations on how best the GSB Sub Committees could support the work of Intergroup's and Regions, and better raise awareness of AA externally.

Terms of Reference No. 8

Considered that the background was not pertinent to the actual question. We have however, referred your

question to the General Service Board as we felt that this is something that they can best deal with. We will request that the relevant sections in the Handbooks and the AA GB website are updated accordingly.

30.

Question 1a - What is the timescale for GSB to report back to the Fellowship in general upon Conference recommendations, and more specifically, with regard to the working party from the Committee 6 Question 3 recommendation to Conference 2021?

- 1b Why was wider Fellowship participation not sought for the working party?

Terms of Reference No. 10

Were of the opinion that the submission was rather confusing, in that there were questions within the question. We felt that some of the background was inaccurate; that online intergroups do have a voice if they join an intergroup and that the Conference 2021, Committee 6, Q3 working group is already underway using online workshops and we will have the benefit of the Committee 6, Q3 responses obtained from the wider Fellowship prior to this year's Conference.

31.

Alcoholics Anonymous is fellowship of men and woman who share their experience, strength and hope.

81 years ago the big book of Alcoholics Anonymous was written, mainly men (+ 1 woman) were the sole members of AA. Today's membership is very different. It is, with this in mind, that I raise this issue. Our membership over the past 81 years has changed dramatically to include more women and also more young single parents.

Is it possible that our Website, 'Find A Meeting' page now reflects our wider range of members and allows, per Group Conscience, the admittance of children to meetings by showing a symbol to reflect this.

When you enter into the Details section of the Website, 'Child Friendly' could be added to support the symbol.

Also, the 'Accessible' drop down menu could also have 'Child Friendly' option added too, enabling a smarter search.

I feel this would enable parents to find meetings that meet their needs and allow them to take their children should they need to. It would also allow members who do not wish to attend meetings where children are present, the opportunity to do so too.

I raise this issue as I (and numerous other members who have spoken with me), feel uncomfortable sharing when children are in meetings. Twice I have turned up to a meeting desperate to share about a resentment and children have been present. I feel quite strongly about not sharing in front of little children; my content is not child friendly due to the subject matter alone. Our membership is of Men and Women from all different backgrounds and the subject

matter alone is of an adult theme. I do however recognise that young parents don't always have childcare options, but do need meetings.

Today though to reflect the changing membership need, I believe these changes could satisfy all members.

Terms of Reference No. 12 Could have legal repercussions and issues pertaining to safeguarding. Also, that each group is autonomous (Tradition 4), and are free to decide whether their meeting is 'open' or 'closed,' which is already denoted on the website.

32.

Would Conference consider and make recommendations on the feasibility of merging Regions within AAGB? This could facilitate more service positions being filled, by drawing from a wider geographical area and continuing to fulfil AA's primary purpose to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The larger and perhaps more service proactive Region could propose two Trustees to represent the larger geographical Region.

Terms of Reference No. 10 Agreed that every region is autonomous and can merge with others, or not, as they choose. The Committee also considers it to be based on a false assertion that, more Regions mean a bigger workload and that having fewer Regions, would mean that service positions would be easier to fill.

33.

Could Conference recommend that, in the same way that questions can be submitted from any part of the fellowship, - Individuals, Groups, Intergroups, Regions - that responses from the Fellowship to these questions be gathered in the same way.

Terms of Reference No. 10 The Committee considers that feedback for Conference questions is already possible through many channels including members of the CSC who are themselves Conference Delegates.

34.

Shouldn't advisory material which is placed onto the General Service Office website be as carefully vetted as AA literature and other material which has the endorsement of General Service Conference Approval

Terms of Reference No. 10 The Committee does not consider that all material published on the AA GB website requires Conference approval. There is however a robust vetting process in place performed by appropriate trusted servants.

35.

Could an examination of the 9th Tradition provide a way forward with some of the difficulties we are now experiencing with the maintenance and distribution of reliable, up-to-date Where to Finds (WTF)?

Terms of Reference No. 3

The Committee considered the broad spirit of this question regarding inclusion of groups in the national Where to Find had merit although the background material was somewhat confusing. The subject has been included in a re-written question.

37.

Would conference please consider what should we avoid or what should we not do to encourage others into service or applying for service roles?

Terms of Reference No. 5.

The Committee considered that this question had been asked in different forms within the last three years.

38.

Following a question at conference in 2017 with regards to more positive poster designs and our submission of 4 designs which were submitted and accepted for conference in 2018, we would like to submit 6 different image designs with the following variations: a) curved or straight line design b) with and without QR code to link to our meeting finder or webpage or newcomers section for example d) Variation in slogan from "There is a Solution" to "We can help" e) 3 different types of design with blank sections that local intergroups and regions can adapt for local use

Terms of Reference No. 8

The Committee considers that the poster designs submitted are best reviewed by the PI/Communications sub-committee prior to any possible review by Conference.

39.

Please can conference consider the fellowship being able to supply "12 step discs" in order to help the still suffering alcoholics or at least consider a national trial of this successful way of carrying the message of our fellowship?

Terms of Reference No. 9

The Committee considers that this is more appropriately pursued through the local intergroup and region structure.

40.

Would Conference be willing to discuss the idea of the Fellowship publishing a special anniversary 80th year edition of the Big Book with the original 164 pages of text but with members stories from Great Britain and CER at the back?

Terms of Reference No. 5

The question was discussed and rejected at Conference 2019.

41.

Can members, groups and conference please consider and clarifying the employment status of trusted servants at meetings and groups that are giving up their time and responsibility to do service. Are they volunteers or just participants at a meeting? Is it correct that the fellowship should allow outside agency to define who is or who is not a volunteer for our fellowship?

Terms of Reference No. 10

The Committee considers that this is a legal definition and AA is not above the law. It would therefore not be appropriate for Conference to review

42.

Would Conference share experience on how to maintain the fellowship's important social aspects of the "meetings before and after the meeting" for groups that meet online?

Terms of Reference No. 8

The Committee considered that this question fell broadly within the scope of Conference 2021 Committee 6 question 3. The question has therefore been referred to the Working Group set up to address the online meeting best practices.

45.

Would the fellowship consider conference being held in person for one year and then online for two years so every delegate serving their three years at Conference would get one physical Conference and two online Conferences.

Terms of Reference No. 3

The Committee considered the broad spirit of this question regarding holding future Conferences online had merit but was maybe too specific in its approach. A more broadly focused question has been accepted.

46.

Would Conference consider discussing the possibility of using gender neutral language in AA Literature? For example, changing 'men and women' to 'people'. This will include those outside of the gender binary.

Terms of Reference No. 3

The Committee considered the broad spirit of this question regarding non-binary language had merit but it did not include any background material. Two similar questions with background material addressing different aspects of this issue have been accepted.

47.

In the light of growing disputes regarding the application of the twelve steps and twelve traditions can conference provide guidance to AA as to how groups using different steps and traditions should be viewed and reconciled within the context of the legacy of AA UNITY.

Terms of Reference No. 3

The Committee considered that the broad spirit of this question had merit but the background material was lengthy and confusing. A similar question has been accepted.