

Conference 2003 Rejected Questions

1.

Would Conference discuss Public Liability Insurance for AA Groups? The hirer of the venue should have insurance, but should groups have any additional cover for accidental injuries or injuries caused by violence at meetings. If so, is it better augmented individually by Groups or through Intergroups?

Terms of Reference No. 7 **Each group is autonomous (Tradition 4). See article from the Winter 2001 edition of AA News regarding Public Liability Insurance.**

2.

Would Conference discuss the presence of under 18's at

- a. Open meetings
- b. Closed meetings

There can be suffering alcoholics, friends or relatives of alcoholics seeing what a meeting is like or, under age children accompanying parents/legal guardians who are alcoholics.

Specifically, we have recently had a suffering alcoholic bring her 11 year old son to an open meeting. Some of the language at the meeting and the content of the sharing (especially from his mother) was probably not suitable for an 11 year old.

New members (especially women) do not necessarily have a support network for child-minding and to get to meetings have to bring their children with them. It could be agreed that they are probably aware of bad language and unsavoury happenings already.

Would it be helpful for the secretary to draw to the meeting's attention the presence of children and to ask for moderation?

What is the legal position for an AA member who "looks after" someone else's children at a meeting? Can distractions be offered?

What is the legal position regarding "crèches" at meetings?

Terms of Reference Nos. 5 and 7 **Each group is autonomous in making such decisions.**

3.

Should we re-examine the style of Literature that is currently available in order that it is accessible for the newcomer? Should we re-emphasise the value of the role of Literature Secretary?

Terms of Reference Nos. 5 & 6 **Remit of the Literature Committee and is ongoing. See Guideline No. 2 – Group Officers.**

4.

Would Conference consider the need for Public Liability Insurance and make recommendations?

Terms of Reference No. 7 **Each group is autonomous (Tradition 4). See article from the Winter 2001 edition of AA News regarding Public Liability Insurance.**

6.

WOULD CONFERENCE CONSIDER RECOMMENDING THAT THE G.S.B. CREATES A SUB-COMMITTEE OF YOUNG A.A.s ON 'OUTREACH TO YOUNG PEOPLE'

Term of Reference No. 7

A question already accepted for Conference 2003 was broad enough to possibly cover this subject.

7.

Would Conference consider the development of an induction/welcome/familiarisation pack that could be made available to all new Conference Delegates at the time their Regions register them with GSO?

Terms of Reference No. 5

Refer to Conference 2001, Committee 1, Question 1 and Committee 2, Question 1 also Conference 2002, Committee 6, Question 1.

8.

Prior to Conference 2001, *The AA Group Pamphlet* included the sentence (p21): "*Boasting, disparagement of other groups concerned with the problem of alcoholism or engagement in controversy in any form whether direct or by implication, must be carefully avoided*". Although Conference removed this sentence in at the recommendation of the Literature Committee, it was never presented as a question for Conference, so was neither considered by the Fellowship as a whole, nor scrutinised by Conference committee. Would conference consider reinstating this sentence into *The AA Group pamphlet* and introducing it to the guidelines on PI?

Terms of Reference No. 7

After discussion and research the Committee was unable to trace the quote referred to in any version of the pamphlet.

9.

Our non-alcoholic GSB Trustees work very hard on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous, for which we are immensely grateful. Tradition 11 (Long form) states that, "*our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never any need to praise ourselves. We feel it is better to let our friends recommend us*". Would conference consider whether or not a non-alcoholic GSB Trustee is free to praise Alcoholics Anonymous when dealing with outside organisations? For the purposes of this Tradition does the non-alcoholic GSB Trustee in this situation constitute one of "*ourselves*" or one of "*our friends*"? Would Conference please make recommendations on this matter for the guidance of future PI work.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Non-alcoholics are not bound by our Traditions.

12.

Would Conference consider adding/returning the pamphlet titled "The AA Member - Medication & other Drugs" to the list of AA approved literature in the UK.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Remit of the Literature Committee and have asked for this question to be passed to them, via the General Service Board.

13.

Does the membership of the Fellowship reflect the ethnic diversity of the communities in which it exists?

If it does not, can Conference

- a. identify the existence of any direct or indirect discrimination at any level within the Fellowship, its literature or programme of recovery or any other factor(s) which may cause under-representation of people from minority ethnic groups and
- b. develop and recommend a strategy for addressing this issue?

If such a strategy is considered necessary, would Conference consider it appropriate for the Fellowship to work with external agencies such as the Commission for Racial Equality in order to formulate a plan of action?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Report on this subject is being prepared for Conference 2003. May wish to re-submit and/or re-word this question in the light of the Report.

14.

Conference was at some time in the past, given both the authority and responsibility for the approval of the National Liaison Meetings for each of the service disciplines within the Fellowship. Apart from the annual National Treasurers' meeting, where it was agreed that there would always be a need to hold an annual review of the Fellowship's finances, these meetings were to be held according to the needs of the particular discipline. It would appear that the current procedure is dependent on whether or not the General Service Board Trustee designated for that particular service assignment considers it necessary.

- (a). Would Conference therefore review how this change has taken place and whether the best interests of the members is being fulfilled by any abdication of either responsibility or authority by the Conference delegates.
- (b). In order for Conference to be more effective in dealing with these matters, would it not be appropriate for all the activities conducted by the specific disciplines to be subject to annual review by a Conference Committee/s? This procedure would not only place the burden of responsibility back onto the Conference as a whole, but it would also provide the Conference delegates with an up to date picture of the specific needs for each of the service disciplines. These annual reviews ought to be carried out by Conference in order for the General Service Board Trustees to implement the various recommendations in their day-to-day management of the Fellowship's affairs, which can then be reflected in their own report to the following Conference.

Make recommendations

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is already in place. Refer to Conference 1994, Committee 4, Question 1 and Committee 6, Question 2.

15.

- a. Would Conference consider and make recommendations on how the importance of Tradition 11 could be more effectively highlighted to the membership and what the dangers of ignoring Tradition 11 will eventually mean for the Fellowship as a whole?
- b. Would Conference also consider and make recommendations on how the breaking of anonymity should be dealt with?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Conference 1994, Committee 2, Question 1 and Conference 1991, Committee 5, Question 1. This question is going to be considered as a possible topic for the Open Forum.

16.

Flyers advertising 'AA and Al-Anon' Retreats are being displayed, along with AA literature, at meetings, thus implying endorsement/affiliation. Newcomers may be unaware that retreats are not

sponsored events, or part of our primary purpose. Please discuss and make recommendations.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Conference 1994, Committee 1, Question 3. This question is going to be considered as a possible topic for the Open Forum.

18.

Would Conference review the manner in which the Fellowship in the UK supports the AA WS International Literature Fund, currently provided for from the balance due on the fare costs for the two World Service delegates. In 1991 Conference was asked to approve a donation to the newly established International Literature Fund equivalent to £10,000 (\$16,000), since that time Conference has largely been excluded from the process of decision-making regarding this fund. The subsequent payments have been purely at the discretion of the General Service Board, and these donations have been the airfare rates equivalent (not claimed from WSM), and donated to the ILF. Giving authority to the WSM to dispense with this amount of money as they deem appropriate.

Make recommendations

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Conference 1991, Committee 1, Question 2.

20.

Do shared platforms create anonymity problems? If so, what should be done?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is fully covered in Guidelines 1, 5 and 15.

21.

Should venues for national service workshops be rotated round the country, as has happened with the Archives?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Conference 1994, Committee 4, Question 1 and Committee 5, Question 1.

22.

Review the content and operation of the Fellowship's website, and make recommendations for improvement so that it is at least as good as the Fellowship's North American website.

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is an ongoing matter dealt with by the Electronic Communications Committee.

There is a question on the agenda asking "What does the Fellowship want to see an Official AA Website contain?"

23.

Review the Fellowship's publications and printing styles, to improve their visual appeal and literary style.

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is the ongoing function of the Literature Committee.

24.

Should not each Conference committee have a specific remit, as before?

Terms of Reference No. 5

This was a recommendation of Conference 2002, Committee 6 and is in hand by the Conference Steering Committee.

25.

Could the General Service Conference Digest be updated with a consolidated index?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is in the process of being done.

26.

Could the subject of the accountability of Treasurers be the subject of a committee for 2003?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This matter is fully covered in the Service Handbook and Guideline No. 12.

27.

Can't the preliminary Conference report be distributed to groups immediately after the Conference?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This would be very costly apart from being duplication.

29.

Would Conference please consider separating the position of General Secretary and GSB Secretary, making the GSB Secretary a rotating position from among its own members?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is not possible under UK law. Refer to the Companies Act 1985, Section 283.

32.

Would Conference please consider the idea of recommending GSRs elect Conference Delegates at the Regional assemblies?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Conference 2001, Committee 1, Question 1.

33.

Breaches of copyright are apparent in many internet sites which in some way are related to Alcoholics Anonymous, whether a disclaimer is used or not. On-line versions of our literature appear, primarily the 'Big Book' in all 3 editions, (but other material in image or pdf format is also to be found). It has not been approved by any General Service Conference in this or any other country that an on-line version be produced. An audio file of the Big Book can also be found on the internet. The Fellowship has been determined (1978, 1986, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, Advisory Actions, AAWS) that there should be no change to the first 164 pages of the Big Book, does the General Service Conference in Great Britain and Continental European Region consider this form of publishing and breach of copyright acceptable?

Make recommendations and advisory actions bearing in mind copyright laws vary in different countries, but this form of media used for publishing is global.

Terms of Reference No. 7

We are not experts in international copyright law. Will be under discussion by the Electronic Communication Committee.

34.

Bill W. said (Warranty 2 of Concept 12), in his essays on The 12 Concepts for World Service, 'Next comes the question of whether A.A. as a whole should go in for what amounts to a money charity to individual newcomers and their sponsors-via the selling of our books at cost or less. Up to now we A.A.'s have strongly believed that money charity to the individual should not be a function of the A.A. groups or of A.A. as a whole. To illustrate: when a sponsor takes a new member in hand, he does not in the least expect that his group is going to pay the expenses he incurs while doing a Twelfth Step job. The sponsor may give his prospect a suit of clothes, may get him a job, or present him with an

A.A. book. This sort of thing frequently happens, and it is fine that it does. But such charities are the responsibility of the sponsor and not of the A.A. group itself. If a sponsor cannot give or lend an A.A. book, one can be found in the library. Many groups sell books on the installment plan. There is no scarcity of A.A. books; more than a half million are now in circulation. Hence there seems no really good reason why A.A. services should supply everybody with cheap books, including the large majority who can easily pay the going price. It appears to be altogether clear that our world services need those book dollars far more than the buyers do.

Some of us have another concern, and this is related to so-called book "profits." The fact that A.A.-Headquarters and most of the groups sell books for more than they cost is thought to be spiritually bad. But is this sort of noncommercial book income really a profit after all? In my view, it is not. This net income to the groups and to A.A.'s General Services is actually the sum of a great many contributions which the book buyers make to the general welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous. The certain and continuous solvency of our world services rests squarely upon these contributions. Looked at in this way, our Reserve Fund is seen to be actually the aggregate of many small financial sacrifices made by the book buyers. This fund is not the property of private investors; it is wholly owned by A.A. itself.'

Surely this is a massive example of the sort of charity we should not be involved in.

These breaches of copyright must have an effect on the revenue raised through the sales of literature, and consequently the ability to fund other efforts in carrying the message around the World.

Our General Service Conference in 1998, approved the Guideline on Copyright and logos. We now see various symbols/logos similar to our registered mark being used by bodies both in and outside of our Service Structure, are we in danger of following exactly in the footsteps of America, where the proliferation of so many variations of the circle and triangle resulted in the decision that as it was not possible to maintain any integrity in the symbol, then no symbol could be used. There is a level of trust implied by the use of the logo, who can we trust when there are so many different logos purporting to be Alcoholics Anonymous. Perhaps it is a different 'branch of Alcoholics Anonymous', we are one Fellowship, with one message....

Tradition One (long form), Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

Tradition Four (long form) With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Tradition Five (long form) Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Would Conference consider the implications of Groups, Intergroups and Regions producing material in printed format and on the internet which incorporates any logo other than the one registered. Make recommendations.

Terms of Reference 7

As above.

35.

Many of the web-sites have links to other organisations, many of them are outside of AA and are involved in making money, some of them have absolutely nothing to do with Alcoholics Anonymous, links to churches, tourist information, hotels, travel companies, and many other types of organisation. This is in breach of Traditions:

Tradition Four (long form) With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever

take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Tradition Five (long form) Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tradition Nine (long form) Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Tradition Ten (long form) No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues - particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

Would Conference consider the implied endorsement or affiliation to other bodies by the nature of these links from one web-site to another, or by 'Banner Advertisements' included in web-sites. Make recommendations.

Should links from Web-sites other than those approved by the General Service Conferences in their host countries, be barred from our Web-site?

What action would Conference recommend be taken regarding websites operated by members of the Fellowship within our Service Structure using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous, when Traditions are being broken. Make recommendations

Terms of Reference No. 7

As above.

36.

While the practice of letting people know about AA, and carrying the message of recovery through our 12 Step Program to the still suffering alcoholic are the responsibilities of each member. We should always remember Tradition Eleven (long form) Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not to be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

Would Conference consider and make recommendations on actions necessary to protect the Fellowship within the 'Service Structure for Great Britain and Continental European Region' and Worldwide.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Conference 1994, Committee 2, Question 1 and Conference 1991, Committee 5, Question 1. This question is going to be considered as a possible topic for the Open Forum.

37.

For many of us the Big Book is a vital tool of sobriety and it has been considered so ever since it was published (cf AA Comes of Age, p22). Last year, sales of the Big Book in Great Britain were about

6,500. This is a very low figure -an average of about two books per group *per year*. At £8.20 the Big Book is too expensive for many new members to buy. In the US the Big Book retails for, on average \$4.50 per book, roughly one third of the price here. Cheaper Big Books would mean more newcomers could afford it and so would stand a greater chance of staying sober.

Would conference make recommendations as to how the price of the Big Book in this country can be reduced by consideration of, amongst other factors: a) the reduction or removal of profit; and b) the reduction of cost price (that is, the cost before profit is added), either by finding a cheaper printing company in this country, or by importing from the US instead?

Terms of Reference No. 7 **Refer to Conference 1988, Committee 2, Question 5.**

39.

Would Conference discuss the use of mail shots and whether they are the most time and money efficient way of making PICPC contacts and raising the Fellowship's profile?

Terms of Reference No. 7 **Refer to the PI Guideline where this is given as a valid way of making contact.**

40.

Would Conference consider giving guidance over the interface between PI, CPC and the other liaison officer roles?

Terms of Reference No. 7 **The Guidelines are very clear. Refer to the AA Service Handbook pages 77- 79 and 113 – 117.**

42.

The Chairperson's job is vital to an AA committee, so would Conference consider producing guidelines on the duties of a Chairperson in AA Committees?

Terms of Reference No. 7 **This information is already available in the Guidelines.**

43.

Would Conference consider whether combining Share magazine with AA News would increase circulations and readership of both?

Terms of Reference No. 7 **These two publications have different and distinct purposes.**

44.

Would Conference consider whether sales of Living Sober and Came to Believe relative to other AA books would suggest whether they are still worth publishing?

Terms of Reference No. 6 **Lack of background material.**

45.

Would Conference consider whether publishing, each decade, a paper back of modern UK Stories to supplement stories in the Big Book would provide greater identification for newcomers in this country?

Term of Reference No. 7 **This would be costly and difficult to organise.**

47.

Would Conference clarify how the guideline on Copyright/Logo in the UK Service Manual relates to the "individual or group opinion" found in Regional and Intergroup websites?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Without background material the Committee was unable to get the full meaning of the question.

48.

Would Conference consider updating the list of literature available for PICPC in the UK Service Handbook?

Terms of Reference No. 6.

Insufficient background material.

49.

Would Conference consider whether the line "Groups must work within AA's Traditions and Guidelines" in Guideline 1 in the UK Service Manual goes against Tradition 4?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is fully explained in the long form of the Traditions. Refer to the Big Book pages 565-568.

50.

Would Conference consider changing the terms of reference for Conference questions, thus allowing a number of smaller (but significant) questions to be chosen for discussion at Conference, rather than limiting itself to 6-10 larger questions when large questions of significant value are not always available? Would Conference also consider how this would relate to moving towards permanent topic-based committees?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This has already been covered in the review of Section 10 of the AA Service Handbook.

51.

Would Conference consider whether the statement that "subsequent discussion, participation by non-members is welcome" in Guideline 1 contradicts Tradition 5?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This subject is fully covered in AA literature.

52.

Would Conference consider a version of the Big Book should be translated into modern English, and also with a more equal view on men and women? This would co-exist with the current Big Book rather than replace it.

Terms of Reference No. 7

This has been fully covered by US & Canada Conferences. Refer to the Preface of the Big Book.

53.

Would Conference consider whether the reference to female officer workers in the 12 Concepts be removed, or at least italicised or bracketed somehow?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to the AA Service Manual (2001-2002 Edition) page 61, footnote 10.

54.

Would Conference consider whether, in the UK Service Manual, 6a of Sect 10-4 contradicts Article 7 of the UK Conference Charter?

Terms of Reference Nos. 6 and 7

This is expanding on the process not contradicting. Refer to the AA Service Manual (2001/2002 Edition) page S92.

55.

Would Conference consider whether the phrase "all that is required is to share one's experience" in Guideline 7 on PICPC is misleading and contradicts the pamphlet "Speaking at non-AA meetings"?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background material and the quote is taken out of context, and therefore misleading.

56.

Would Conference please confirm the status of Liaison Officers as "Officers" of the Committee they are on, with the same officer status as the Chair, Secretary etc?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to AA Service Handbook pages 65-66 and 68.

57.

Would Conference consider whether giving the GSR more active involvement in the Conference Structure would encourage the GSRs to reduce group apathy in General Service; and would Conference consider ways of providing this more active direct involvement?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to the Guidelines and AA literature.

59.

Would Conference consider whether the Share/Roundabout representative position has been effective, and if not, consider removing it so as to free up people for other service?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background material.

60.

Would Conference consider whether the current regional system is leading to the delegates representing the Regional assembly more than the groups in the region?

Terms of Reference No. 6

It was opinion and impression rather than facts in the background material.

61.

Would Conference please clarify the relationship of Regional service officers to Intergroup service officers?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Guidelines fully explain this.

62.

Would Conference consider whether a dividing of the UK service structure into a Conference structure and an external liaison structure would improve efficiency and unity?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This matter is covered by Tradition 4 – autonomy.

63.

The UK Service Manual Section I-I gives broad reasons why the UK Structure deviates from the 12 Concepts essays. Would Conference examine the major deviations and consider whether these are still

has evolved into a relationship of deference which leads to the delegates, for all practical purposes, leaving too many policy decisions to the board?

Terms of Reference No. 5

Refer to Conference 2001, Committee3, Question 1.

73.

Would Conference consider the GSB's usage of their Right of Decision and Veto over the last 8 years, and whether the frequency and application of that usage has been within the spirit of the 12 Concepts?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Specific background material needed.

74.

Would Conference discuss the practice of "Groupism" and "Sponsorism" in the service structure during debate and when votes are taken on service positions, and particularly how all sober informed members can be given equal access to the Legacy of Service?

Terms of Reference Nos. 6/7

The meaning of the question unclear. Refer to the pamphlet "The Group".

75.

Would Conference consider whether the practice in some service committees of withholding votes from the Liaison Officers is against Concept 4?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background information.

76.

Would Conference discuss whether the practice in some service committees of trying to limit the number of serving members from one group actually leads to a demotivation of sponsoring into service for the very groups that are doing it the most?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background information.

77.

Would Conference review whether the CSC has actually been able to fulfil Section 10.9 (c), given its limited resources and full agenda, and if not suggest how the progress of Conference recommendations can be better examined?

Terms of Reference Nos. 5/7

Refer to Conference 2001, Committee 3, Question 1 and Committee 6, Question 1.

78.

Would Conference please give guidance of whether AA Raffles at Intergroup Conventions should be only for the purposes of entertainment, and not for fund raising, and how their use for fund-raising relates to the UK Charity Laws?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Intergroups are not legal entities and are therefore outside Charity Laws.

79.

Could Conference please examine whether Intergroup Conventions are adhering to the Charity Laws of the UK?

Terms of Reference 7

As above.

the GSR via Regional delegates.

88.

In most AA groups there is a Chairman/Secretary who has the responsibility for the smooth running of the meeting. This may involve anything from stopping a non alcoholic drug addict sharing to inviting a disruptive drunk to leave. Could Conference consider a guideline specifically to assist the chairman in giving interventions at meetings.

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Tradition 5 and the pamphlet "Problems other than alcohol".

90.

What can we do to bring Conference closer to the groups, as well as more accountable for the decisions they make?

Terms of Reference No. 7

The structure is already in place.

92.

What sustained diplomatic efforts are being made by Conference to re-instate the long standing Tradition that newspapers do not report on people attending AA meetings, whether in the public eye or not?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Our Traditions are not binding on outside agencies.

93.

Isn't it time to try to change the present ratio of the General Service Board to attract more non-alcoholics into it? Wouldn't it be fairer to try a ratio of 10 non-alcoholics and 10 alcoholics, with a casting vote for the Chairman, who could be elected for three years by a simple majority vote of the 20 members of the Board, whether he or she was alcoholic or not?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background material.

95.

Would Conference consider recommending the inclusion of Share/Roundabout on the literature request form?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Every item on the Literature Order Form is Conference approved whereas the contents of Share and Roundabout are not. The Literature Department send out, with every order, a Share and Roundabout subscription form.

96.

Would Conference consider the approval of a full time member of staff to look after media liaison, working at either GSO, York or SSO, London?

Terms of Reference No. 7

GSO already has a member of staff responsible for media liaison.

97.

That Conference re-examine the Terms of Reference and constitution of the Conference Steering Committee and make recommendations.

Terms of Reference No. 5

Refer to Conference 2001, Committee No. 3, Question 1.

105.

There is some confusion amongst a growing number of members on the issue of the use by members of illegal substances and their role within the Fellowship.

The entitlement to membership of a person who has a problem with drink and drugs is not a problem if they come to deal with the alcohol.

The concern is over, should a member hold office at any level in the group, i.e. Secretary, Treasurer, become a telephone responder or 12th stepper if they are still using the substances referred to.

Does this situation cloud the following:

- a. Is the member "sober"?
- b. Is the right message being carried?

Would Conference please share its experience and give guidance?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Group autonomy.

106

Will this General Service Conference discuss and produce unambiguous guidelines for Public Information which promotes our Primary purpose, to help the alcoholics who still suffer, based on the experience of members that treatment does not work for alcoholics?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Tradition 10 and the Guidelines are adequate.

107.

As a group we would like to put forward the question to Conference as regards to telephone numbers in the Where to Find. My own number has been there since our group started almost 12 years ago until now. It will remain there until such times as it is possible to have our Where to Find minus these phone numbers.

It is of concern to us that these numbers are subject to abuse by being there and we are asking for a solution via perhaps the helpline which is in place. With that number in place is it not possible to eliminate all these others and ask that each group give their numbers for the personal use of the helpline people only.

We had some Canadian visitors at our group from Vancouver and they enlightened us to the fact that they have a system which seems to work. Why not here.

One of the visitors told us the story of how when someone joined their group and was given group phone numbers all their houses were burgled.

Upon asking this question at our Intergroup we feel we were given an answer that was not quite suitable. The objection being that certain people used the number of the helpline to ask questions such as "Where is that group?", "Where is that dance?" etc. etc.

We feel that it is well overdue that the harassment of people who are still getting calls after various circumstances, not excluding death of an individual, should try to be rectified. Also do not forget the abuse factor. I have been subject to this personally and I can assure you it will not sway my decision to remove my phone number and install one or two of the many female members of my group.

May I also say that over the last thirty odd years I am no stranger to 12th stepping people and was very involved at an earlier time in our City when there were not many cars or telephones available. May I also reinforce that this concern is based on the knowledge of my dealings with many AA members, many on a one to one basis. Hope you can formulate this question for me as I feel it is so important.

Terms of Reference No. 5

Refer to Conference 2002, Committee 2, Question 2.

108.

Would Conference agree to rename the PICPC Committee "Community Information Committee" - CI for short?

Terms of Reference No. 5

Refer to Conference 2000 and 2001.

109.

Would Conference recommend that the national helpline number works as a 24 hr service manned by AA members and that answer services through outside agencies are unacceptable?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background material.

110.

Would Conference recommend that all committees and sub-committees within the Fellowship ask their members to practice the principle of rotation, i.e. 3 years maximum?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Fully covered in the Guidelines.

111.

Would Conference consider having a census of all groups every 10 years instead of 5 as the costs and the value of the results do not justify the expense involved?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background material.

112.

Would Conference consider that alterations/amendments to Guidelines be considered by two Committees at Conference.

Terms of Reference No. 5

Refer to Conference 2002, Committee No. 3.

113.

Would Conference share their experience in Prison Sponsors Groups with a view to revising Guideline No. 11?

Terms of Reference No. 6

Insufficient background material.

114.

Does Conference agree that the matter of damaging conduct within Fellowship need to be addressed as a matter of urgency?

Terms of Reference No. 5

Refer to Conference 2002 at which the Personal Conduct Matters Guideline was approved.

115.

Would Conference agree that it is entirely appropriate to suggest that a conduct card be read out at the beginning of meetings with a view to focusing the meeting on our Primary Purpose and how that purpose is and isn't best served?

Terms of Reference No.5

As above.

124.

Would Conference please clarify the legal status of the Concepts, and whether the GSB and GSO are therefore legally obliged to follow them?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Concepts have no legal status.

125.

Would Conference consider whether all reference to internet/online "meetings" in the introduction to the 4th Edition of the Big Book needs to be removed?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Conference has no say in the production of the Big Book.

126.

Would Conference consider ideas for a system whereby the minutes of the GSB's AGM can be obtained by the Fellowship?

Terms of Reference No. 7

All AGM issues are stated in the Board Report.

127.

The provision of complete and up to date 12th step lists has become of increasing importance with the introduction of the national Telephone Service alongside local Helplines.

In the light of a growing body of experience among AA members in Great Britain, would Conference please clarify:

- a) Who is responsible for the provision and communication of 12th Step lists?
- b) The recommended frequency of updates of these lists?

Would Conference comment on the use of mobile phone numbers as opposed to landline numbers?

Would Conference consider expanding Guideline 6 to include recommendations as to the above matters?

Terms of Reference No. 7

This is Intergroup responsibility – usually the T.L.O.

128.

As in line with other fellowships should it be suggested (requested?) that sharing be confined to alcohol and issues relating to alcohol?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Refer to Tradition 5 and recommendation from Conference 1996, Committee 3, Question 2

129.

Is it acceptable or advisable for children to accompany their parents to closed AA meetings?

Terms of Reference No. 7

Group is autonomy – Tradition 4.