

# Conference 2004 Rejected Questions

1. We call on the 2004 Conference to submit proposals to Conference 2005 for holding a Conference every two years commencing 2007.

Holding Conference every two years would half the present financial cost to Alcoholics Anonymous, improve the preparation procedure in presenting questions to Conference, give more time to hold pre-Conference and post-Conference workshops thus raising our members' awareness to the importance of Conference to the AA service structure.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**                      **Has been well debated over the years. Having an annual Conference also gives the GSB the opportunity to report to the Fellowship yearly.**

2. **re: Advertising in Newspapers**

This has attracted some debate in our Intergroup, as we are aware that the general move is away from this type of advertising and focusing on other avenues.

We are advised that as the Helpline number is in the phonebook that newspaper adverts may not be a necessary expense.

Our experience has been that in much of our area newcomers have made first contact after finding our number in the local newspaper.

Would Conference consider that in certain geographical locations, the local papers may in fact be the best method of advertising our Helpline number.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**                      **Tradition 4 – Autonomy**

3. Please could Conference advise the appropriate response by the telephone service when there is a request for information and assistance by a person who professes to be an alcoholic under the age of 16?

Please could Conference further advise as to safe practice for 12<sup>th</sup> Stepping such a minor, and an appropriate way of ensuring that their needs are met, while protecting the reputation of the Fellowship?

Please could Conference further advise the best practice if a minor wishes to attend a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous as an alcoholic, both protecting the interests of the child, the group and the Fellowship itself?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**                      **Nothing legally has changed since the General Service Board issued the statement regarding 'Twelfth-Stepping Minors'**

4. In view of the fact that many members with sobriety of 3 years and over are not entering service in the Fellowship, it seems pretty widely accepted that there is a shortage of people doing jobs. But in the desperate scramble for jobs to be filled, I have noticed a trend towards members with short term sobriety (months to 2 years) being co-opted into jobs to their own detriment and that of the Fellowship as a whole.

In my experience I have found it difficult to find out the required length of sobriety amongst the, often lengthy, job descriptions in the guideline book.

Would Conference consider a separate leaflet with firmer guidelines laid out for length of sobriety for all jobs within AA? Also a full explanation as to why these guidelines are necessary. (I have often seen newcomers upset because they can't be GSR after a few months!)

**Terms of Reference No. 7            Clear guidance in Guidelines 2, 3 and 4.**

6. This Group asks Conference to remind the General Service Board of the need for all Groups to forward surplus monies to their local Intergroup not GSO.

Any funds sent to GSO by Groups the local Intergroup will be made aware of it and credited to their amount forward to Region.

**Terms of Reference No. 7            Well documented in Guideline No. 12**

7. This Group welcomes the resolution to the General Service Board from Conference 2002, Committee 1, Question 1, Para 7 but is of the opinion it does not go far enough in maximising the volume of opinion supporting the question.

We call upon Conference to submit a resolution to the General Service Board that all questions submitted must receive support at Group, Intergroup and Regional level before being placed on Conference Agenda.

This does not apply to members of the General Service Board class as loners and housebound if no Intergroup is nearby.

**Terms of Reference No. 5            Three year rule.**

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

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

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

10. Could the final version of the Conference report please be available on the Fellowship's website within 30 days of the end of each year's Conference?

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7            Admin responsibility of GSO but will be placed on website as soon as final version is ready.**

12. Would Conference consider that the 0845 7 697 555 A.A. helpline number or its equivalent, the BT Link-line number, should **not** be published anywhere in the National 'Where to Find'.

**Terms of Reference No. 5/7            actively pursued by the Telephone Sub-Committee of the General Service Board**

13. Modem technology has made it possible for many A.A's to own and use mobile phones both inside and outside meeting rooms. Technology has now made it possible for mobiles to be fitted with cameras which can take pictures of members inside meetings and for these pictures to be emailed to people inside or outside the Fellowship or even posted on to the internet.

As this latest technology clearly represents a threat to the anonymity of all members attending an AA meeting what does Conference suggest that individual groups do to curb the use of this equipment in meetings or other places where AA's meet?

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7**      **issue for the group conscience and would refer you to Traditions 4 and 12.**

14. Would Conference consider the removal of Trustees from Conference Committees at the General Service Conference 2004.

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7**      **Refer to the AA Service Manual 2002-2003 page S51.**

16. The 'Yellow Card' is not in-keeping with AA principles as it stands.

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7**      **Insufficient background material.**

17. In view of increasing Web-site usage, would Conference consider and make recommendations on the wisdom of creating a new Trusted Servants post i.e. Web Site Officer at:

- (a) Intergroup level
- (b) Regional level.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Work in progress by the Electronic Communications Committee.**

18. What more can be included in the AA Service Handbook on Public Information (last approved by Conference in 1992) and the very similar Section 17 of the UK Service Handbook to encourage more use of the media in attracting still suffering alcoholics to AA?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Actively pursued by the Board's Public Information Sub-Committee.**

20. Would Conference consider making all posters and contact cards available with the 0845 telephone number in addition to blank posters and contact cards?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **informed these are now available on request from GSO.**

21. Would Conference consider how A.A. can better help suffering alcoholics who are put off A.A. by the word God?

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

22. Would Conference give more guidance on staying within the A.A traditions whilst carrying out PI & Health Liaison service?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Work in progress by the Public Information Committee**

23. The issue of young people contacting the Fellowship via telephone services and at group level is becoming problematic due to difficulties complying with child protection legislation.

Can Conference suggest ways that 12 Step and sponsorship work with minors, may be carried out while keeping within national child protection legislation? If necessary by requesting the production of a new Guideline on this subject.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**            **nothing legally has changed since the General Service Board issued the statement regarding ‘Twelfth-Stepping Minors’.**

24. Would Conference consider that members without computers may be excluded from service and that all service commitments should be available to all members?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**            **members without computers are not excluded from service.**

25. Is the current Regional structure in AA GB the most effective way to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers in light of declining AA membership reported in the Census?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**            **the whole subject has been referred back to Conference 2004 (Terms of Reference No. 4).**

26. Would Conference discuss why the miracle described in the Big Book is no longer occurring?

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7**            **Possible Friday evening topic.**

27. Would Conference consider creating where appropriate the post of Treatment Liaison Officer?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**            **Post already exists in the Health Liaison Officer.**

30. Some groups are growing steadily across all age ranges and Big Book sales are consistently high. They practice the principles of the Twelve Steps & Traditions and have strong sponsorship into service. AA GB generally is not enjoying the same success. Would Conference explore ways of assisting groups seeking guidance? Please consider the following points as aids to progress:

(A) Suggest ways in which the Fellowship as a whole can assist groups to become more structured in their approach to carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

(B) Make suggestions to those groups who want to avoid the dilution of the Steps and Traditions through the influence of outside agencies etc.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**            **Autonomy - this type of issue needs to be discussed at local level.**

31. Please discuss ways in which we can better achieve unity within our Fellowship, considering the following points.

- (a) Gossip
- (b) Responsibility and minority opinion
- (c) Accountability not mistrust

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7**            **Insufficient background material.**

32. Would Conference consider approving, and including in the literature order form, a desk sign asking AA meeting attendees to switch off their mobile telephones?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Autonomy - issues such as these are best discussed at local level in the group conscience.**

34. Al-Anon are able to provide Al-Ateen meetings for the children (12yrs upwards.) of alcoholics. With the ever increasing number of under age drinkers, how does AA. intend to address this problem and provide meetings for the under age drinker/alcoholic?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **nothing legally has changed since the General Service Board issued the statement regarding ‘Twelfth-Stepping Minors’**

35. Would Conference consider having a group conscience Conference regarding the “structure” of our Fellowship? Considering the question on Committee Three (change) how many more Regions would want to change their boundaries and make Conference unworkable.

Could we have an open mind and see if the North American-Canada structure could be of help to us. I know the laws of our country are different in some ways but not in all, so let’s use the ideas of others if it can help.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **The whole subject has been referred back to Conference 2004 (Terms of Reference No. 4).**

36. Would Conference consider the process whereby items in the U.K. Printing (edition) of the Big Book are selected or rejected-bearing in mind the importance and relevance of specific stories to U.K. alcoholics.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Due to copyright the UK publication is an exact copy of the American Big Book but these stories are available in the book ‘Experience, Strength and Hope’.**

37. Would Conference consider making the two films “Bill’s own story” and “Bill discusses the Twelve Traditions” available on video tape.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Available on request from GSO.**

38. Would Conference review the structure of Regions in GB, with the aim of limiting the size of Conference without restricting formation of new Regions if appropriate?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Whole subject has been referred back to Conference 2004 (Terms of Reference No. 4).**

39. Would Conference review the regional structure to take into consideration population size and investigate how this could be done without increasing the numbers attending Conference?

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **Whole subject has been referred back to Conference 2004 (Terms of Reference No. 4).**

40. Will Conference look into the growing concern of members who are seeing members publicly announcing they are openly taking mind altering drugs such as cannabis and then taking up positions in their group or groups they attend.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**      **A matter that should be dealt with locally.**

41. Given Conference 2003's recommendation that the Fellowship gives PI activity an increased focus at every level and acknowledging that we have finite resources and limited opportunities to raise awareness of AA via the media, would Conference recommend ways in which our message of recovery can be better carried via all media sectors.

In particular would Conference address the use of experienced full time staff to provide information-based quotes to the media to support the work already being done by 'friends of AA' and non-alcoholic trustees with the media.

Would Conference also consider and recommend accordingly whether the appointment of a specific staff member (full time or part-time) to co-operate with the media at all levels would better help the Fellowship carry its message to the still suffering alcoholic.

**Terms of Reference No. 7                      work in progress by the Public Information Sub-Committee**

42. Would Conference consider that the 2 videos, " Bills story" and "Bill discusses the Traditions" be made available to the Fellowship in GB adding them to the literature order form.

**Terms of Reference No. 7                      Available on request from GSO.**

43. Currently a Region is a fixed geographic region and each Region has a fixed number of delegates. Would Conference review the principles that dictate the number of Regions that participate in Conference and the number of Conference delegates assigned to each Region?

**Terms of Reference No. 7                      Whole subject has been referred back to Conference 2004 (Terms of Reference No. 4)**

44. Would Conference consider whether the Fellowship should be encouraged to submit questions for Conference through the structure and to focus on our primary purpose when submitting questions?

**Terms of Reference No. 5                      Three year rule.**

45. Would Conference consider the production of a small, inexpensive publication with brief "shares" of experience, strength and hope to assist groups, intergroups etc to carry the message?

**Terms of Reference No. 7                      Passed to Literature Committee.**

46. In the light of the recommended answer from Committee No. 6 to question No. 1 at Conference 2003; would Conference, via the Conference Steering Committee, please consider that the official AA website for the UK simply contains the AA preamble (which tells the world and its people exactly what AA is and exactly what AA is not) coupled with the national help-line number (0845 7697555) for the sole purpose of encouraging each and every potential newcomer (and other interested parties) to call Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Terms of Reference No. 5                      Three year rule.**

47. Referring to the recommended answer from Committee No. 5 to question No. 1 at Conference 2003; would Conference, via the Conference Steering Committee, please clarify and/or verify that all proposed changes made to AA literature by the GSB Literature Committee and the existing structure be always offered for endorsement, final ratification and approval by Conference, the collective conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous?

**Terms of Reference No. 5                      Three year rule.**

48. 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            Three year rule.**

49. Would Conference please produce a guideline for the use of mobile phones within the telephone service and 12-step work, with particular regard to:-

1. cost to Fellowship
2. reimbursement to monitors/responders and 12 steppers
3. confidentiality of text messaging.

**Terms of Reference No. 7            Tradition 4 – autonomy, passed to Telephone Sub Committee**

50. Nothing in AA is as important as the group. Therefore would Conference discuss and make recommendations regarding the encouragement of all members to join a group. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition reminds us that if there is no group conscience meeting held by a group then God is not being heard. Since the Traditions deal specifically with group discipline, without adequate members no group can function correctly

**Terms of Reference No. 7            Well covered in the guidelines and the pamphlet ‘The AA Group’**

52. Can the Fellowship discuss and make recommendations how best we can reach out and be available for the alcoholic who is deaf. Would Conference consider a register of signers held at Intergroup and Regional level, an excellent way of fulfilling the AA Pledge?

**Terms of Reference No. 7            Register of signers available from Telephone Liaison Officers or GSO/NSO/SSO.**

53. Would Conference consider ways in which members could be encouraged to adopt a 'Home Group', and promote, through sponsorship, the 'Home Group Principle'?

**Terms of Reference No. 7            Well covered in literature and Guidelines.**

54. Does Conference consider that an individual member can obtain any 'life skills' from service within the Fellowship?

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7            Insufficient background material.**

55. Would Conference consider ways in which Groups can respond effectively to those who advocate rigid and extremist interpretations of AA's programme of recovery?

**Terms of Reference No. 7            Issues such as this need to be discussed at local level, Tradition 4 – autonomy.**

56. We ask AAWS for the Career Officer to be reinstated in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book, preferably in all printings but especially in the England printings.

**Terms of Reference No. 7**

**Due to copyright the UK publication is an exact copy of the American Big Book but these stories are available in the book 'Experience, Strength and Hope'.**

57. As the primary text for alcoholics the 'Big Book' has long been considered the foundation of recovery for Alcoholic's Anonymous. In view of the Big Book's fundamental importance many countries have adopted a policy of keeping the price of the book deliberately low in order to ensure its affordability and accessibility to the suffering alcoholic.

Would Conference consider reducing the cost of the Big Book in the UK and adopting the policy of many other countries worldwide by maintaining a low price which would encourage its purchase by the newcomer?

**Terms of Reference No. 6/7**

**Background Information.**

58. Would Conference consider reviewing the contents of the New Group Literature Starter Pack with a view to now include the Serenity Prayer Card

Conference 2000: Committee No. 4 approved the material in the New Group Literature Starter Pack at cost price of £20.00.

In the light of changes within society and the Fellowship over the past four years, i.e. younger members, gay community, hard of hearing, blind persons, physical disabilities, ethnic and black community, and non English speaking new members, would Conference consider, changes to any of the material in the New Group Literature Starter Pack, taking into consideration the cost of any price increases and postage, which at present (August 03) is £4.95

**Terms of Reference No. 7**

**Insufficient new literature to request a formal review.**