

SECTION 4

2016 CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS SECTION

**GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2018
ADVISORY ACTIONS**

The group conscience of the Fellowship of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in Australia was expressed in the following Advisory Actions to the General Service Board, based upon the recommendations from the Conference Committees, as indicated in the headings. The background to these Advisory Actions and the submissions from the Groups, individual members or from the General Service Board in the form of Topics which led to them were presented in full detail to all Areas prior to Conference.

**TOPICS DISCUSSED BY MULTIPLE COMMITTEES - TREATMENT & SPECIAL NEEDS,
PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY,
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.**

Advisory Action #001/2018

Conference resolved to accept the recommendation of the combined T&CF and PI&CPC Committees that the PI&CPC and T&CF National Forums be combined into one national, biennial event, but that the date and length of the event be left to the planning committee.

Voting: For: 19; Against: 9; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #029/2018

Conference resolved that Areas be requested to provide feedback to the National Co-ordinators on local initiatives during National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Month in March.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Advisory Action #033/2019

Conference resolved to recommend to the General Service Board that Judy W be elected as Eastern Regional Trustee for a four year period, commencing 1st January 2019.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #034/2019

Conference resolved to recommend to the General Service Board that Stephen R be elected as North Eastern Regional Trustee for a four year period, commencing 1st January 2019.

Voting: By Third Legacy Procedure, out of the hat
Carried

CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #024/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee's recommendation that an Australian Guideline on internet safety be produced, with some content being derived from existing AA Guidelines published by GSO New York and Great Britain.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #028/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee's recommendation that the Australian Service Manual should be made available in large print format.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #030/2018

Conference resolved that page 160 of Guideline 30 be amended to read:
The General Service Board may pay for the relevant Chairs of Trustee Committees and the relevant National Co-ordinators to attend Forums. The Forum is responsible for funding any other invited guests to attend.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #031/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee's recommendation that the following inaccurate and misleading information in the last paragraph under the heading 'Where Do Zonal Delegates Come From? (page 50)'
"Australia looks after Papua-New Guinea, Indonesia and many countries in South-East Asia such as Burma, Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia. New Zealand responds to the vast Area of Oceania, with its thousands of tiny island communities".

It is unknown where this statement originated, but was possibly included as a result of some informal discussion at a previous Asia/Oceania Service Meeting. However, the Statement of Purpose of the AOSM quite clearly states: *"The AOSM recognizes that it has no authority over any AA service or group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself."*

It also conflicts with our 'I Am Responsible' statement.

There are several other General Service and Central Service Offices within Asia/Oceania, which carry the message within the zone.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #035/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation regarding Advisory Action #021/2016 that, as submissions received to date were not sufficient to provide an acceptable draft of a new Section 6 of the Service Manual (The Area Delegate), a subcommittee, including Chris B and Paul J be established and charged with the responsibility of presenting a final draft for presentation to Conference 2019.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2
Carried

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #002/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that a statement be made advising groups that group problems should be resolved by group conscience and that the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the General Service Office have no responsibility for solving group problems.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #036/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that, having reviewed all documents presented by the Structure Review Committee, that there be no further action on this matter.

Voting: For: 20; Against: ; Abstentions: 0
Carried

CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #037/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee's recommendation that a subcommittee be formed to review the Correctional Facilities Guideline. Recommendations for changes to be submitted to a future Conference for approval.

It was noted that Correctional Facilities Committee members Paul C, David A and Bill H were willing to be part of the subcommittee and that the National Corrections Co-ordinator and any other interested parties throughout Australia would be invited to participate.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #013/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference International Committee's recommendation that the General Service Office advise the Fellowship of the amounts raised by them via the Brown Paper Bag Collection over the Founders Day week.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #015/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference International Committee's recommendation that Advisory Action #029/2013 be rescinded as it was replaced by Advisory Action #044/2016.

(Advisory Action #029/2013: Conference resolved to accept the Conference International Committee recommendation that Conference hosts an Asia/Oceania convention in place of the 2016 National Convention and that Asia/Oceania conventions be held, on a 5 year rotational basis, in a developing country in the Asia/Oceania zone. Countries such as East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Cambodia, Laos and New Guinea could be considered amongst possible venues. This would assist us as part of our responsibility to carry the message to developing countries and to encourage the development of service structures)

Voting: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #038/2018

Conference resolved that the Composition of all Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure documents be altered to replace 'General Service Office Manager' with 'A General Service Office Staff Member'.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #016/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the General Service Office prints the United States 4th Edition Big Book as well as the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #021/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the proposal to publish AA Around Australia electronically only be rejected but that an 'opt out' option be published in AA Around Australia for groups or individuals to get their copy electronically and an email database be maintained.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 3; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #022/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee recommendation
Conference that the proposal that AA Around Australia be a monthly publication be rejected
and that it resumes being a quarterly publication from 2020

Voting: for: 27; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #039/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the audited accounts for year ended 30 June 2018 be accepted.

Advisory Action #040/2018

Conference resolved to support the Conference Finance Committee's decision to change point (h) of their Composition, Scope and Procedure document to read: 'That the budget prepared by the GSB be based on large matters of general funding of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia.'

Voting: For: 21; Against: 8; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #018/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that all our literature should be displayed in pictorial form on the national website.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #041/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the following text be included in the AA Group Handbook, under the heading 'Service Sponsorship':

A.A.'s "Third Legacy", Service, is anything that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer. The A.A. Service Manual, The Guidelines and the Twelve Concepts for World Service are our main guides for all service. They have been put together using the knowledge gained from A.A. experience going back to A.A.'s founders.

Sponsorship in A.A. is basically the same, whether guiding another through A.A.'s Twelve Steps of recovery or in their service to their group. It can be defined as one alcoholic who has made progress in recovery and/or performance in service, sharing this experience with another alcoholic who is just commencing the journey in A.A. Both types of service spring from the spiritual aspects of A.A.'s three legacies, Recovery, Unity and Service. The basis of all sponsorship is the power of example.

The Service Sponsor begins by encouraging the member to become active in their home group. As the member serves in different roles and levels of A.A. service, the Service Sponsor is not only a guide in service commitments and responsibilities, but also a useful resource for the member when encountering the unique vagaries that exist in A.A. service. A Service Sponsor is usually someone who is knowledgeable in A.A. history, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions and has a reasonable background in A.A. service with a sound understanding of the Alcoholics Anonymous service structure.

The service sponsor should be mindful that not all members will have the desire or experience to move beyond certain levels and, and therefore might be required to suggest tasks appropriate to individuals' abilities and interests. Of course, our experience is, we can learn on the job in AA"

Voting: For: 28; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0

CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #009/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation to reject the proposal to create a 2019-long national PI sub-committee to coordinate events that allow the press, media, book festivals etc to report on and celebrate the 80th anniversary of the first publishing (1939) of 'Alcoholics Anonymous'. Conference recommends that this suggestion be forwarded to the National PI coordinator.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0

Carried

Advisory Action #010/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation to reject the proposal to replace the PI poster – "A.A. It Works" – with a contemporary option as there is still demand for this poster. Conference recommends that members and groups be invited to submit suggestions for a new poster or posters to be submitted to Conference for consideration.

Voting: For: 23; Against: 6; Abstentions: 0

Carried

Advisory Action #042/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that the membership survey results will be published at the Service website as soon as data is prepared in a report form.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #008/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Remote Communities Committee's recommendation that the submitted Remote Communities Workbook be made available as a resource to the Fellowship and added to Guideline GL-035 (Remote Communities), with the following changes:

- Add to text of "Funding for Remote Communities" the following: "Members or Groups who wish to make contributions to the Fund need to specify that their donation is for this Fund".
- "Remote AA Members": The text underneath this heading be replaced with a single link to the AA Service website, for more information.
- Specific email and phone contacts for more information be replaced with GSO email and telephone numbers.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #026/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the Agenda Committee produces a guideline re the submission of minority reports, to be brought back to Conference 2019 for approval.

Valerie Martin will contact the current committee after Conference for their input to pass on to the new committee.

Voting: For: 20; Against: 8; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #043/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the Agenda Committee will produce clearer guidelines for the submission, allocation and rejection of Conference Topics and brought back to Conference 2019. Guideline GL-28 will be referred to. Following approval from Conference, these guidelines will be included in its Composition, Scope and Procedure Document of the Conference Agenda Committee.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #044/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the 2019 General Service Conference be held from Thursday 7th – Sunday 10th November 2019.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #045/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the 2019 Agenda Committee teleconferences be held as follows:

Saturday 15th June 2019 at 11.30am EST to formulate agendas.

Saturday 17th August 2019 at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference Committees.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #046/2018

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the deadline for receipt of 2019 Conference topics be 4pm EST on Friday 28th June.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #047/2018

Conference resolved that the theme for the 2019 General Service Conference would be 'Our Primary Purpose'.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

BIDS

Advisory Action #048/2018

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area G Eastern Region to host the 2020 National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #049/2018

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area F Southern Region to host the 2022 National Convention in Melbourne.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #050/2018

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area C Eastern Region to host the 2019 Eastern Regional Forum.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

FLOOR ACTIONS

Advisory Action #051/2018

That the General Service Conference of AA Australia sends a letter to the delegate body of the Richmond Central Service Office advising that the General Service Conference supports the Notice of Motion to communicate with the General Service Board with the view to future reconciliation. Should the motion be defeated at the delegate body meeting, the General Service Conference is still willing to support reconciliation.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

