

SECTION 7

ASK IT BASKET/CONFERENCE INVENTORY SESSION

ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS DISCUSSED

Question

Areas want to communicate with groups but find it difficult. Is it possible to use GSO contact emails and addresses to send communications?

Comments

It is the responsibility of Areas to compile a contact list of all groups in the Area. Some delegates find this difficult. It may involve visiting all groups in the Area.

There is no list of all groups in Australia.

The General Service Offices cannot release contact details without permission.

An email database is the most efficient way of communicating with groups.

Word of mouth communication will encourage people to use the website.

In one Area, each committee member and regular Area attendees were allocated a number of groups to visit to get contact details. Many members didn't want to be contacted.

If the General Service Board or Office want to contact all groups, we rely on communication via the Delegates

One Delegate had acted as Area Registrar visited all groups in his Area over an extended period and had a 75% success rate in getting contact details.

Any Area can put a notice in AA Around Australia or on the websites asking for groups to supply contact details to Area for communication purposes.

The recent fellowship survey indicated over 80% of members wanted email communication.

Question

Should the Agenda Committee have full rotation so non-one is consistently on it?

Comments

This question appears to relate to the committee co-ordinators. Co-ordinators are allocated to committees, based on their tasks in the office. It is the role of the Conference Co-ordinator to allocate the most appropriate co-ordinators to committees. It is important that co-ordinators stay on committees as they are the ones that have the institutional memories of what has occurred during those committees in the past.

Question

Could the Chairperson be trained in Roberts Rules prior to chairing.

Comments

Chairing can be confusing and complex. Need to have someone available who is familiar with the Conference Administrative Procedures and voting.

We do generally adhere to Roberts Rules in the committees and during full Conference sessions.

Question

As per Advisory Action #025/2017 (reports from Trustees to delegates)
In the hope of improved communications will Trustees please commit to doing this, thank you. I believe this is on the Plan on the Page for Trustees.

Comments

This Advisory Action is on the Action List of each Trustee Committee.
Chairs of Trustee Committees will endeavour to submit reports to the relevant Conference Chairs following each Board meeting.
You can direct questions to Trustee Committee Chairs via the committee co-ordinator at the General Service Office
If it is a question relating to the General Service Board, individual Trustees should not be answering.
Most delegates would have contact details for their Regional Trustee.
Members of Conference committees can obtain contact details during the committee meeting.

Question

What are we doing to help the still suffering alcoholic?

Comments

Comments were not recorded.

Question

How will the AA budget be shared please? Emailed to Delegates and in AA Around Australia? Just for clarification.

Comments

Budget will be included in Conference folder next year.

Question

If the Ask It Basket is supposed to be a vehicle for Conference Inventory, can we ask for this to be stipulated clearly in the Guidelines/Service Manual/Conference folder etc. so that members of Conference are able to know this.

Comments

The Conference agenda shows 'Ask It Basket/Conference Inventory'.
There is an explanatory session on the Ask It Basket at the pre Conference Delegates Meeting.
It needs to be made clearer at the Delegates Meeting. Let the Conference Agenda Committee know.

Question

Point of order. After hearing the minority voice any Conference member who voted with the majority can either a) move to re-vote against motion b) prepare a new motion

Comments

Need to have flow charts to assist Conference Chairs. They will be made available next year.

Question

Why is there a Board confidentiality agreement? Although we have Tradition 2 trusted servants with delegated authority Concept 3 Right of Decision.

In Tradition 9 the Board is directly responsible to those they serve. How can the Board be answerable to the Fellowship for their actions when there is a confidentiality agreement and information on the Board's actions and decisions is not freely available – or is it?

Comments

Most Board resolutions are published in the Conference folder. The only ones not published are those involving individual members, for privacy reasons. Discussions relating to resolutions are confidential. Legal advice was that only resolutions, not discussions, should be recorded in Minutes.

Board members should feel free to express their opinions on a subject without fear of it being broadcast to the Fellowship, just as Conference members are.

Members should back off and let our Trusted Servants do their job. Stop spreading gossip and misinformation.

Question

In relation to the aa.org.au website providing information for health professionals and the media, what information should be included? For example:

- Newsletter for Professionals. Only current item September 2018 AA Around Australia.
- Media and Public Relations. Anonymity letter to the media.
- Press Releases. Press release 1/2010.

Who is responsible for updating this information?

Comments

Need to have regular and current information.

It was always the responsibility of the Chair of the Trustees PI&CPC Committee.

Press releases are important and should be published at least three times a year.

We need to have professional help in preparing press releases if we want to have them published. Former Class A Trustee Mike Munro is always happy to help prepare national press releases.

Important to have quality control with press releases, to protect AA's image with the public and professionals.

Question

Is it written in our manuals suggesting Alternate Delegates should not be elected Chairs on Conference Committees and if not, should it?

Comments

There is an existing Advisory Action suggesting that Delegates should only chair one committee. In some cases, we have one Delegate chairing three committees and others none. This Advisory Action will be put in the Conference folder next year.

Alternate Delegates should not be elected as Committee Chairs or Alternate Chairs. In the past this has happened and the Alternate has not come back the following year.

Question

The sense of the room yesterday, it was agreed on that inventory of the General Service Structure of AA is long overdue, needed and would be of benefit. If Conference stated that, it's our responsibility to act for AA. How do we now move forward and take a General Service Structure Inventory.
Do we need help?

Comments

Could we enlist assistance from other countries?

With the previous suggested process, there was no clearly identified problem as to how the fellowship runs. A topic with clearly identified problems could be submitted.

We should never be telling others to do inventory, only be responsible for taking our own. Recent discussions look like we are telling others to do their inventory.

If there aren't enough people attending Area Assemblies, the Area needs to look at themselves, not others.

Have a look at what we do well and what we don't do so well.

If a new set of questions was put together, it would be seen as a new topic. It

A few years ago, a Conference inventory was attempted, using a set of approximately 40 questions. It was messy and was eventually replaced with the Ask It Basket/Conference Inventory. Unfortunately most of the questions in the Ask It Basket do not relate to improving Conference.

Question not in basket

If re-wording of a Conference committee recommendation is necessary, should it go back to that committee to be re-written, rather than to the Board.

Comments

The general consensus was that the committee should be involved, particularly the Chair.