

SECTION 4

2015 CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS SECTION

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2015 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.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Advisory Action #042/2015

Conference resolved that Advisory Action #058/2011, requiring General Service Board Committee Chairmen to send monthly reports to the relevant Conference Committee Chairmen be rescinded.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #043/2015

Conference resolved to request that General Service Board Committee Chairpersons send reports to the relevant Conference Committee Chairpersons following each Board meeting.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #044/2015

Conference resolved that the General Service Board appointment of Robyn N as Central Regional Trustee for a 4 year period, which commenced on 11 July 2015 be ratified by Conference.

Voting: No disapproval
Carried

Advisory Action #045/2015

Conference resolved that the General Service Board elect Bill H as Northern Regional Trustee for a 4 year period, commencing 1st January 2016.

Voting: No disapproval
Carried

Advisory Action #046/2015

Conference resolved that David E be appointed as World Service Delegate for a four year period, commencing 1st January 2016.

Voting by Third Legacy Procedure
Carried

CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #011/2015

Conference resolved that AA Guideline 22 be reviewed and that grammatical and other errors be corrected, including the reference to the Al-Anon anonymity statement. There is reference in this Guideline to the Al Anon anonymity statement: "*What you hear here...*"

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #028/2015

Conference resolved that the wording “as a suggestion a table be made available, if possible, for Flyers for Rallies, roundups and tag-a longs, bearing in mind that only material relating to AA events be available” be added to the guidelines for conventions.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 4; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #038/2015

Conference resolved that the National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum be requested to incorporate sessions for people with special needs into their programme and that Guideline GL-30 be updated to include this suggestion.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action#041/2015

Conference resolved that the following paragraph be added to Section 5 ‘The Area’ of the Service Manual:

“Two hats

In AA it seems there are always more service positions than people to fill them. And if we do manage to fill them, we create still more. As a result, some members may feel pressure to shoulder more than one service role at a time. On the surface this may appear to be expedient. After all ‘someone has to do it’. However, the following issues need to be considered by any member contemplating donning two hats;

- *Holding two service positions simultaneously deprives other members of the opportunity to serve.*
- *Sometimes it’s better to leave a position vacant for a while. Someone will decide to step up, or be encouraged to volunteer, if they understand the need.*
- *When a member wears two hats, there is a real danger of a conflict of interest and an inclination to undue influence.*

When it comes to general service, experience shows it’s usually better to do one job well than two jobs poorly.”

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

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #008/2015

Conference that a committee consisting of 6 Delegates (a balance of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year) and 3 Trustees be formed to investigate information contained in the background of Topic 008/2015 and to formulate a plan of how to conduct an inventory of the Australian AA Structure. The plan to be brought back to Conference next year.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

The following Conference members volunteered to work on the committee:

Georgie J (Area A Eastern Region)
Pat L (Area B Eastern Region)
Phil G (Area C Eastern Region)
Lachlan B (Area E Eastern Region)
Peter O’D (Area D Southern Region)
Seija L (Area A Central Region)
Andy P (Area B Central Region)
Katharine T (Area A Northern Region)
Brett F (North Eastern Regional Trustee)
Paul B (Eastern Regional Trustee)

Mick C (Southern Regional Trustee)
Bruce M (General Service Trustee)

Advisory Action #012/2015

Conference that this topic (regarding action to take when a delegate is not carrying out his/her duties) be accepted in principle and that the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee be asked to review the Area Delegate section of the Service Manual, taking into consideration the points made in this topic, and that the reviewed section be brought back to Conference next year.

Voting: For: 20; Against: 10; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #025 /2015

Conference resolved that this topic (regarding regions and States not being part of our Fellowship's structure) be added to the plan for conducting an inventory of the Australian AA Structure – refer Advisory Action #008/2015.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #032 /2015

Conference resolved that, when an Area bids at Conference to host a National event, such as the National PI&CPC Forum or the National T&CF Forum, an undertaking be given by the Delegate that it is understood that the relevant National Co-ordinator is an ex officio member of the committee and, as such, will be contacted to be involved in the planning of the event and the production of the event programme. Conference further resolved that Guideline GL-30 '*PI&CPC and T&CF Co-ordinators & Forums*' should be updated.

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

Advisory Action #040 /2015

Conference resolved that this topic (regarding whether non Area Delegate Conference Members should have a vote at Conference committees) should be added to the plan for conducting an inventory of the Australian AA Structure – refer Advisory Action #008/2015, and that Concept IV Right of Participation should be considered.

Voting: For: 16; Against: 12; Abstentions: 2
Carried

CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #036/2015

Conference resolved that the Conference Treatment Facilities Committee be renamed the Treatment Facilities & Special Needs Committee. All non-remote areas now listed under the scope of the Conference Remote Communities Committee (those separated from the programme and Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous by language, culture, impairment of sight, hearing, mental health and other permanent or temporary distabilities) to be transferred to the Treatment Facilities & Special Needs Committee.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0
Carried

COMBINED CONFERENCE TREATMENT & CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEES

Advisory Action #010/2015

Conference resolved that Guideline GL-30 '*PI&CPC and T&CF Co-ordinators and Forums*' be updated to clarify and determine the nomination and appointment processes for all Co-ordinators.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #050/2015

As there has been some criticism of Advisory Action #029/2013 (which recommended that an Asia/Oceania convention be held in place of National Conventions on a five year rotational basis, to assist us as part of our responsibility to carry the message to developing countries and to encourage the development of service structures), Conference resolved that the Conference International Committee should formulate a topic based on Advisory Action #029/2013 and submit it to the Conference Agenda Committee by the 2016 Conference Topic deadline date.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #033/2015

Conference resolved that \$2000 be donated to the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat to assist with the running costs of the Secretariat, subject to the receipt of a Budget and Profit & Loss Account from the Secretariat. A letter to that effect to be written to the AOSM Policies, Admissions & Finance Committee, the AOSM Secretary, Treasurer and Chairperson. The General Service Office Management Group is requested to provide templates for these accounts by February 2016, to assist in the process.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #019/2015

Conference resolved that the General Service Board should investigate the viability of setting up an online bookstore, in consultation with Central Service Offices.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #029 /2015

Conference resolved that that two General Service Office staff members be listed as signatories of last resort to any group bank accounts set up with Bendigo bank. Groups would be able to elect to have these signatories applied to their Bendigo Bank accounts. This is suggested so that groups have a method of last resort to gain access to their bank accounts in the event that one or more group signatories cannot be located. The release of funds using the signatories would only be instituted at the written request of the group.

Voting: For: 18; Against: 12; Abstentions: 0

Advisory Action #030/2015

Conference resolved that the General Service Conference increase the annual current limits for bequests and donations by individuals to the General Service Board, as follows:

Donations: Increase from \$6,050 to \$15,000

Bequests: Increase from \$14,850 to \$25,000.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #051/2015

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee recommendation that the audited accounts for year ended 30 June 2015 be accepted.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #052/2015

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee recommendation that the budget for year ended 30 June 2016 be accepted and that the people responsible for producing it be commended.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #002/2015

Conference resolved to accept the proposal of the publication of a national Australian Fellowship magazine (similar to the North American AA Grapevine) in principle, but referred the topic back to the General Service Board for investigation and requested that a viability and feasibility study be brought back to Conference 2016.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #015/2015

Conference resolved that the National Website has a link to the Great Britain Conference approved cartoon video, so both young people and professionals are able to view the questions aimed at getting young people to look at their drinking.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #021 /2015

Conference resolved that a section on Service Sponsorship be included in the AA Group Handbook.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #024/2015

Conference resolved that two new Public Information posters aimed at attracting young people with drinking problems into recovery in AA be produced as Category 3 literature.

Voting: For: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #031 /2015

Conference resolved that the submitted 'Self Support' card be printed and made available to groups as a Category 3 literature item.

Voting: For: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #034/2015

Conference resolved that a calendar of events be published on the service and national websites.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

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

Advisory Action #005/2015

Conference resolved that, under the heading 'Type' on the National Website meetings database an ID meeting label be included

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #014/2015

When AA exhibits at a professional event, as it does regularly, it is suggested that a list of contacts is obtained and passed on to the National PI&CPC Co-ordinator following the event.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #022 /2015

Conference resolved that a National Technology and Social Media Advisor position be created to assist the Fellowship with the challenges we are facing in the new digital age.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #053/2015

Conference resolved that the Service Website should be updated and upgraded in function and appearance.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #054/2015

Conference resolved to accept the presented membership survey questions. Conference further resolved that the membership survey be an online format and that the survey be conducted as soon as possible, with a deadline run date of three months.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #037 /2015

Conference resolved that the Conference Remote Communities should change their Composition, Scope & Procedure Document to reflect that this committee will focus only on carrying the message to people living in geographically remote communities in Australia.

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

Carried

Advisory Action #055/2015

Conference resolved that Remote Communities Guidelines be produced including information on:

- Why the Remote Communities fund was set up
- The process for application for funding
- Full details of the administration of the Remote Communities Fund, including funding approval guidelines
- Clarification of the processes for appointing and reporting for Remote Communities Co-ordinator positions
- A description of the linkage between Regional Co-ordinator roles and Areas in the Service Structure.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Carried

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #056/2015

Conference resolved that the 2016 General Service Conference be held from Thursday 3rd – Sunday 6th November at the Novotel Hotel, Brighton Le Sands, NSW.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #057/2015

Conference resolved that the Conference Agenda Committee meets by teleconference on Saturday 18th June 2016 at 11.30am EST to formulate the Conference agenda.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #058/2015

Conference resolved that the Conference Agenda Committee meets by teleconference on Saturday 13th August 2016 at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #059/2015

Conference resolved that the deadline for receipt of topics for the 2016 General Service Conference be 4pm Friday 24th June.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #060/2015

Conference resolved that the theme for the 2016 General Service Conference would be 'A Design for Living'.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

BIDS FOR REGIONAL FORUMS

Advisory Action #047/2015

Conference resolved to accept the following bids to host Regional Forums in 2016:

Area D, Eastern Region

Area B, North Eastern Region (tentative bid)

Area D, Southern Region (tentative bid)

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

BIDS FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION 2019

Advisory Action #048/2015

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area B Eastern Region to host the 2019 National Convention.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

BIDS FOR NATIONAL PI&CPC FORUM 2017

Advisory Action #049/2015

Conference resolved to accept the bid from Area B, Central Region, to host the National PI&CPC Forum 2017.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

FLOOR ACTIONS

Advisory Action #061/2015

Conference resolved that when a Conference Committee recommendation is lost, the next step is to go straight to the original topic and vote on that topic or its amendment/s directly.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0