

## **SECTION 6**

# **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel, Brighton Le Sands  
Thursday 3rd November 2016 4.30pm – 6.00pm

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### ROLL CALL

Paul M (Chairperson)	Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region
John B	Delegate, Area E, Eastern Region
Dominic H	Delegate, Area B, Western Region
Joe H	Alt.Delegate, Area H, Eastern Region
Paul B	Chairperson, Trustees' Literature Committee
Kerry S	Western Regional Trustee
Tony C	Co-ordinator
Non-voting observers:	
Vanda Rounsefell	Trustee Emeritus

### APOLOGIES: Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed the following changes were made:  
Scope: paragraph (e): change "National Office" to "General Service Office."

Note that for this year's committee, non-delegate committee members agreed to suspend their voting rights.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)

The Action List was reviewed.  
The committee notes that:  
011/2015 has been completed.  
028/2015 is in progress – Guidelines GL- 14 and GL- 15 are being reviewed.  
038/2015 Guideline update is in progress with Correctional Facilities Committee.  
041/2015 has now been completed.  
058/2011 It is understood that this action was rescinded and was being sent back to the Conference floor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **TOPIC 003/2016**

**An additional wording to the Guidelines for Conventions to read “Groups/District should be careful not to neglect their Group/ District/ Area/ C.S.O and G.S.O financial donations in order to support Conventions.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be accepted and be included in the revision of Guidelines GL-14 and GL-15.**

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#### **TOPIC 006/2016**

**That the General Service Conference reviews the section ‘How AA Chooses its Regional Trustees’ and formulates a fair process, eliminating the opportunity for politicking, favouritism and undue influence, to ensure that the General Service Board is comprised of Regional Trustees with a proven level of experience and desired qualifications.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as the fair process for selecting regional trustees already exists and if the process is followed, the candidate nominated has a fair opportunity for acceptance.**

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#### **TOPIC 010/2016**

**That the Section of Primary Duties of an Area Delegate in the Service Manual be reviewed. Some delegates (fortunately the minority) do not appear to be fully aware of these duties. For example, at a recent significant Area event, the delegate was not present, no reason for the absence was given, no message from the delegate was read out and the majority of people in attendance did not know who the delegate was. Point 6 of this section says: Conventions and other get-togethers held in the Area or Region are also important events for the Area Delegate to attend. These represent additional opportunities to talk to AAs about General Services – those AAs who might never be reached otherwise”. If this point and other points are no longer considered to be relevant or important, the service manual needs to be changed.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected. It is noted that the Service Manual, Section 6, "The Area Delegate", clearly defined the duties expected of the Delegate. These remain relevant and important today.**

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#### **TOPIC 011/2016**

**That the Regional Forum guideline be changed to include the following statement:**

**If a region wishes the attendance of General Service staff, Trustees (other than the relevant Regional Trustee), World Service Delegates or National Co-ordinators at a forum, the Areas within the region should jointly bear the cost of travel, accommodation and meals and registration for their invited guests. This is the case in other countries, e.g. USA/Canada. The General Service Board should only pay the cost of the Regional Trustee to attend and any staff overtime expenses claimed.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected in its current form and that the topic be re-worded so that the intention is clear as to which participants should be covered by GSB and which by Area.**

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#### **TOPIC 012/2016**

**That the following statement be included in the Area and District sections of the Service Manual:**

**"Should an Area require a Trustee (other than the Regional Trustee), General Service Office staff member, World Service Delegate or National Co-ordinator to attend an Area or District event, such as an Area Assembly, Rally, Workshop, etc. the costs for travel, accommodation, meals and registration of the guest/s must be covered by the Area or District. This includes invitations for the General Service Office staff to operate literature stands at rallies, a job which could be done by local volunteers."**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted in the following edited form, and that a place be found for it in Guideline GL-14 and in Section 5 Part 2 of the Service Manual, under "Area Activities".**

**Topic to read:**

**“Should an area or District require a Trustee (other than the Regional Trustee), General Service Office staff member, World Service Delegate or National Co-ordinator to attend an Area or District event, the costs for travel, accommodation, meals and registration of the guest/s should be covered by the Area or District”.**

**The committee suggests that that this item be placed under Guideline GL-14 and under Section 5, Part 2 of the Service Manual “Area activities.”**

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#### **TOPIC 018/2016**

**We propose that the General Service Conference review the internal communication systems being used within Area E, Eastern Region in an effort to produce helpful guidelines on how other AA Areas may want to structure their internal communications to improve direct communication within the AA membership.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected due to lack of information on the communications system in use in Area E Eastern Region. However we encourage Area E (ER) to forward their ideas on improving communication to next year’s Conference.**

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#### **TOPIC 020/2016**

**That the questions and answers of the “Ask it Basket” session at Conference be minuted in the Report to Conference.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee, having been unable to reach a majority decision, recommends to Conference that this topic be brought to the Conference floor for discussion.**

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#### **TOPIC 048/2016**

**The General Service Board recommends to Conference that the attached guideline be accepted as per the request made in**

**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.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be accepted with the following change to the Advisory Action 055/2015 to read: “A description of the linkage between Remote Communities Regional Co-ordinator roles and Areas in Service Structure.”**

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#### **TOPIC 054/2016**

**The Board requests an addition to the Australian General Service Manual, to replace the Section on page 98 under the heading “Regional Trustees and Representation’. See attached text.**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted, with the following amendments to the documents attached (Conf folder pg 103):**

- 1. Under “Chairing AA event Planning Committees” : first line to read “Regional Trustees encourage and assist....”**
- 2. Last paragraph, under Relationships with Central Service Office” to read on line 3, “Service Offices. With some, due to the overlap of local services, They may have a courtesy non-voting position.....”.**

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#### **REPORT ON CHANGES TO CORE DOCUMENTS DURING THE YEAR (DIG REPORT)**

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee notes that there was no DIG report issued this year. A revised version of the Service Manual 2016 was printed, and appears at the AA Service website.**

#### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**Dominic H was elected Chairperson.**

**No other delegate eligible at this time for the position of Alternate Chairperson.**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel Brighton le Sands, NSW

Thursday 3rd November 2016 4.30pm – 6.00pm

### ROLL CALL

Chairperson:	Georgie J, Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region
Alternate Chairperson	Pat L, Delegate, Area B Eastern Region
	Wally H, Delegate, Area A Central Region
	Christian G, Delegate, Area A, Western Region
	Andrew M, Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region
	Tony V (Chair, Trustees' International Committee)
	David E (World Service Delegate)
	Brett F (North Eastern Regional Trustee)
	Maurice Smith (Class A Trustee)
	Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

Non-delegate committee members agreed not to vote on committee recommendations.

### APOLOGIES

Maurice Smith

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and the following changes were made:  
The word 'Ideally' was inserted at the beginning of the first sentence of Composition. This would now read: "Ideally, the voting members of the committee will be made up of...."

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)

The Action List was reviewed. No recommendations were made.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

##### TOPIC 008/2016

We were recently sent a lot of negative information regarding the Convention held in Fiji over Easter. On checking we discovered that there was significant misinformation and that this convention had achieved some remarkable results –

several new members of existing group in Fiji, raised awareness of how AA can help among 100 professionals and 70 village elders and the establishment of an Al-Anon group (previously there was no group). We have also learned that since the Convention a member of the Fiji Government who attended the Convention has attended the World Health Organisation Convention in Geneva, Switzerland and informed their delegates how AA is helping Fiji. We ask that the General Service Conference and members throughout Australia continue to support carrying the message in Fiji and to support organised and regular initiatives to carry the message to countries in our zone, where there is little or no AA presence.

The Conference International Committee recommends that the General Service and members throughout Australia continue to support carrying the message in Fiji and support organised and regular initiative to carry the message to countries in our zone, where there is little or no AA. The International Sponsorship fund is available for this purpose. However, if proposed expenditure exceeds \$5,000, approval should be sought from the Conference International Committee on behalf of Conference, as per Advisory Action #011/2010.

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#### TOPIC 009/2016

That the election process for International Delegates and the cost of sending these delegates to meetings be reviewed and that in each March issue of AA Around Australia and on the service website, the following information be provided to the Fellowship:

Cost of our international delegates travelling to World Service Meeting or Asia/Oceania Service Meeting (whichever is applicable that year).

Cost of accommodation/meals or levy for these delegates to attend these meetings.

A list of outcomes/achievements of these meetings.

Would the Conference explain to the Fellowship why these delegates are not selected from the existing General Service Board or General Service Office, as is the case in many other countries. This would give two votes back to the General Service Conference.

The Conference International Committee recommends to Conference that the first two paragraphs of the topic be rejected. The information on costs of sending International Delegates to the World Service and Asia Oceania Service Meetings is available in financial report and reports of the meetings are also available. These reports can be found on the Service Website.

The Conference International Committee recommends to Conference that it is not necessary to discuss the selection process of International Delegates and the delegate/non delegate ratio at Conference as this topic will be addressed by the Structure Review Committee.

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**TOPIC 016/2016**

Cancel further plans and initiatives in Asia Oceania region/zone including sending delegates overseas until AA Australia takes its inventory

GSO/GSB to provide all costing for members airfare/accommodation, weekend wages if applicable relating to AOSM since 1999

Focus entirely on Australian PI/CPC for next 5 yrs

Refer attached material

The Conference International Committee recommends to Conference that in keeping with our 'I Am Responsible' declaration, the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition and the fact that AA Australia is a senior Fellowship in the Asia/Oceania Zone, we have a responsibility to carry the message to other countries.

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**TOPIC 044/2016**

**AA #050/2015**

That Conference look at the viability of holding Australasian Conventions in the Asia/Oceania Zone in a developing country on a five year rotational basis. EG East Timor, Solomon's, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Cambodia, Laos and New Guinea. This would assist us as part of our responsibility to carry the message to developing countries and to encourage the development of service structures.

The Conference International Committee recommends to Conference that the topic not be voted on as written. The Committee recommends that, in the event that there is not a bid for a National Convention, the Fellowship be asked to consider the following options:

- a) Bring forward the Convention scheduled for the following year.
- b) Hold a Convention in a country within the Asia/Oceania zone.
- c) Do nothing.

d) **Submit their own ideas.**

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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Extract from Box 459 re Fiji Convention**

**Letter from Al-Anon re Fiji Convention**

Correspondence was noted.

### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Pat L was elected Chairperson for 2017.

Andrew M was elected Alternate Chairperson for 2017.

## **REPORT**

### **CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at:**

**Novotel Hotel, cnr. Grand Parade & Princess Street, Brighton Le Sands,  
NSW**

**Friday 3rd November 2016      8.00pm – 9.30pm**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Chairperson	Andy P, Delegate, Area B, Central Region
Alt. Chairperson	Nik R, Delegate, Area G Eastern Region
	Melinda M, Delegate, Area B, Southern Region
	John O'L, Delegate, Area C, North Eastern Region
	Greg H, Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region
	Geoff S, Alt. Delegate, Area F, Southern Region
	Mike E(Chairperson, Trustees' Treatment Facilities Committee)
	Bill H(Northern Regional Trustee)
	Tony C(Co-ordinator)

**APOLOGIES:** Nil.

#### **REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

The document was reviewed and no changes were made.  
Note that for this year's committee, non-delegate committee members  
agreed to suspend their voting rights.

#### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)**

The Action List was reviewed. The committee was satisfied that all Actions  
have either been completed or were in progress.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONSTO CONFERENCE**

There were no topics allocated to this committee

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## **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**John O'L was elected Chairperson**

**Nik R was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting held at:

Novotel Hotel, cnr. Grand Parade & Princess Street, Brighton Le Sands,  
NSW

Friday 3rd November 2016      8.00pm – 9.30pm

### ROLL CALL

Chairperson:	Mark S, Delegate, Area D Eastern Region
Alt. Chairperson	Pat L, Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region
	John B, Delegate, Area E, Eastern Region
	Mal Y, Delegate, Area C, Southern Region
	Peter O'D, Delegate, Area D, Southern Region
	Ray M, Delegate, Area E, Southern Region
	Mick C, Chairperson, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee
	Bruce M (General Service Trustee)
	Chris S (Co-ordinator)

### APOLOGIES

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and the following changes were made: take out "The Chairperson of the Trustees Correctional Facilities Committee, The General Service Office Manager and A World Service Meeting Delegate" for this meeting at this conference

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)

The Action List was reviewed.  
005/2012 Show CD rom to conference. National Corrections Coordinator to liaise with Area Corrections Coordinators, District Corrections Coordinators, Intergroup Coordinators and—in Areas where there is no Coordinator—the Delegate, to assemble a list of names, titles and addresses of Corrections personnel for the disc (along with the letter from the GSB Chair) to be posted too or forwarded to the Area, District or Intergroup for hand delivery.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **TOPIC 051/2016**

**Each Area in Australia to set up a corrections sub-committee similar to Area C North Eastern Region. This is similar as outlined in the Service Manual.**

**The Conference Correctional Facilities Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected because it negates and Area's autonomy and may duplicate services already provided by a CSO, Districts or Intergroup.**

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## **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**John B was elected Chairperson**

**Peter O'D was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel, Brighton Le Sands, NSW  
Friday 4th November 2016 8.40am – 10.30am

### ROLL CALL

Chairperson: Andy P, Delegate, Area B Central Region  
Alt. Chairperson: Peter O'D, Delegate, Area D Southern Region  
Melinda M, Delegate, Area B Southern Region  
Nik R, Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region  
John B, Delegate, Area E Eastern Region  
Wally H, Delegate, Area A, Central Region  
Pat L, Delegate, Area B Eastern Region  
Mick C, Class A Trustee  
Paul B, Eastern Regional Trustee  
David E (World Service Delegate)  
Kerry S (Western Regional Trustee)  
Valerie Martin (Co-ordinator)

Non-voting observers:  
Vanda Rounsefell (Trustee Emeritus)

Non-delegate committee members agreed not to vote on committee recommendations.

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and no changes were made

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)

The Action List was reviewed. The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee noted that Advisory Action #012/2015 (regarding review of the Area Delegate section of the Service Manual) had not been implemented and recommends that the Trustees' Literature Committee be asked to complete this task and bring back to Conference 2017.

It was noted that Advisory Action #032/2015 (update of Guideline GL-30) had been completed.

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends that Advisory Action #001/2010 be rescinded and that a form be designed and sent to all delegates, asking them what personal contact details (address, phone, email) they want to be included in the folder. If the completed form is not sent back to the General Service Office, no information will be published.

## **REVIEW TOPICS FROM 2015**

### **REFERRED TO STRUCTURE REVIEW COMMITTEE IN 2015 – NO RECOMMENDATION MADE** **REFERRED BACK TO POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE BY CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE 2016**

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.

#### **TOPIC 025 /2015**

**Regions and States are not part of our Fellowship's service structure. Using either expression in relation to Areas is confusing. It has diminished the importance of the Areas so that, being fixed in States or Regions, we have never properly developed Areas as they should be.**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that discussion on this topic be deferred, pending the outcome of the plan submitted by the Structure Review Committee.**

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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.

#### **TOPIC 040 /2015**

**The Fellowship is asked to provide feedback to the General Service Conference 2015 on whether non Area Delegate Conference Members (Trustees, World Service Delegates, GSO Manager) should have a vote at Conference Committee level.**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that discussion on this topic be deferred, pending the outcome of the plan submitted by the Structure Review Committee.**

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **TOPIC 014/2016**

**There should be a fairer representation of marginalised communities such as homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, indigenous, mentally ill, disabled, refugees and women, at the General Service Conference. Their special issues are not being properly addressed by AA.**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected on the basis of geography and that there are no barriers to service in AA.**

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#### **TOPIC 027/2016**

##### **Australian Aboriginal Recovery in AA**

**It would be beneficial to have a greater effort focussed on the Indigenous Australian and it is believed that efforts will be more effective if native traditions and approaches were incorporated.**

**Refer attached material**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee acknowledges the sentiments of this topic but recommends to Conference that specific requirements need specific requests and it is the responsibility of local Groups, Districts and Areas to respond to these requests.**

## **TOPIC 043/2016**

**Address the imbalance between Delegates and other voting members of conference**

### **“Who Conference Members Are**

**At the annual meeting of the Conference in November, Area Delegates should ideally constitute more than two-thirds of the voting members. Other voting Conference members are Trustees, International Delegates and the National Office Manager.” (service manual Page 72)**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee notes that the 2016 General Service Conference has a two-thirds majority of delegates and recommends that this topic be rejected as Concept IV respects the rights of participation on the Conference floor.**

## **REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS BY STRUCTURE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that the plan submitted by the Structure Review Committee be updated by the Structure Review Committee and circulated as a 2017 Conference Topic by the Conference Agenda Committee as soon as possible following Conference to give the members and groups adequate time to discuss and provide feedback to their delegates.**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that the Conference Agenda Committee set up at special four hour session at the beginning of Conference 2017 to discuss the Structure Review Plan.**

## **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION**

**The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that Advisory Action #041/2013 be rescinded and that non-delegate members of Conference Committees should no longer have a vote at Conference Committee level.**

**ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**Peter O'D was elected Chairperson**

**Wally H was elected Alternate Chairperson**

## **REPORT**

### **CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Novotel Hotel, cnr. Grand Parade & Princess Street,  
Brighton le Sands, NSW  
Friday 4th November 2016 8.40am – 10.30am**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Chairperson	John O', Delegate, Area C North Eastern Region
Alt. Chairperson	Ray M, Delegate, Area E Southern Region
	Mark S, Delegate, Area D Eastern Region
	Dominic H, Delegate, Area B Western Region
	Andrew M, Delegate, Area C Eastern Region
	Mal Y, Delegate, Area C Southern Region
	Delegate, Area A Northern Region (no delegate)
	Brett F (Chairman Trustees' PI&CPC Committee)
	Bill H (Northern Regional Trustee)
	Tony V (World Service Delegate)
	Tony C (Co-ordinator)

**APOLOGIES:** Nil.

#### **REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

**The document was reviewed and no changes were made.  
Note that for this year's committee, non-delegate committee members  
agreed to suspend their voting rights.**

#### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)**

**The Action List was reviewed.  
The Committee noted that Brett Fulloon will update Conference on the  
progress of 054/2015 relating to a membership survey.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **TOPIC 037 /2016**

**GSO staff and GSB members would benefit from undertaking Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training**

**Refer attached material**

**The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted and that this initiative proceeds.**

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#### **TOPIC 047/2016**

**The name of the National Co-ordinators to be changed to National Advisors.**

**These positions to be rotated between each other, eg. Treatment Facilities, Correctional, PI, CPC and Remote Communities.**

**The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected. The committee considered that there was no need to change the National Co-ordinator's title, nor to prescribe rotation among the various National Co-ordinators.**

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## **REVIEW NATIONAL WEBSITE**

**The National Website was reviewed. The committee accepted the National Website report 2016 (attached) and commended the work done during the year by the website team, particularly in the migration of the site to a new format.**

## **REVIEW SERVICE WEBSITE**

**The Service Website was reviewed. No formal report has been received from the new website administrator Julie L (of North Eastern Region). However, Julie managed a significant change of the site's look and functionality over recent months. The committee expressed thanks to be relayed to Julie for her splendid work in achieving that objective.**

## **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**Andrew M was elected Chairperson**

**Mal Y was elected Alternate Chairperson.**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel, cnr Grand Parade & Princess Street,  
Brighton Le Sands, NSW  
Friday 4th November 2016 8.40am – 10.30am

### ROLL CALL

Chairperson: Greg H, Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region  
Alt. Chairperson: Georgie J, Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region  
Christian G, Delegate, Area A, Western Region  
Paul M, Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region  
Kenneth H, Alt. Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region  
Joe H, Alt. Delegate, Area H, Eastern Region  
Geoff S, Alt. Delegate, Area F, Southern Region  
Maurice Smith, Chairman, Trustees' Finance Committee  
Mike E, General Service Trustee  
Bruce M, General Service Trustee  
Chris S, Co-ordinator

### APOLOGIES

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and the following changes were made: take out "The Chairperson of the Trustees Finance Committee, The General Service Office Manager and A World Service Meeting Delegate" for this meeting at this conference

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)

The Action List was reviewed.  
029/2015 Not feasible for legal reasons Cancelled.  
012/2014 ER Area H Delegate to follow up.

### NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
CONFERENCE

TOPIC: 001/2016

**AA Around Australia** includes an annual financial statement. (Can be extracted from General Conference Report)

Assuming members should access the AA Services website and find the conference report is abdicating responsibility and undervaluing the rights of members to be informed

The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted in the following form, that a one – two page financial summary be published in the December edition of AA Around Australia with directions to the Service Website and other options for more detailed information.

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**TOPIC #002/2016**

A suggestion to the General Service Board regarding compensation for Host Planning Areas Holding Conventions

The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected because it's an Area issue that is covered in Guidelines 14 and 15

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**TOPIC 007/2016**

In the interest of transparency, that the General Service Board publish the following itemised information in AA Around Australia and on the Service Website following every General Service Conference.

Cost of flights

Cost of accommodation

Cost of meals

Cost of venue hire, including equipment

List of those Areas who did not cover the cost of their delegate attending Conference and reasons why, including initiatives taken to fund the cost.

The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as the committee do not accept the background or suggested solution. However, in the interests of transparency the cost of flights, accommodation, meals, venue hire, including equipment for Conference be published in AA Around Australia and on the service website. Furthermore that an article be published in AA Around Australia and included in the Conference Report from delegates about the experience and the value of Conference.

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**TOPIC 015/2016**

**That the Conference Cost Equalisation Scheme be abolished and Areas assume the responsibility for travel, accommodation and expenses for their Delegate to attend conference. The General Service Office will provide a venue for the annual General Service Conference in Sydney**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected. People coming in from Darwin should not have to pay more than people coming from Sydney.**

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**TOPIC 017/2016**

**GSO/GSB to account for travel/accommodation/airfares and use of members contributions at PI/CPC forums/events in Australia**

**Allow Groups and members to do PI/CPC as per tradition 5 and Step 12**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as it is ambiguous. However the costs be published on the Service website**

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**TOPIC 018/2016**

**We think that internal communication within AA Australia could be improved to better connect members and assist in the promotion of AA events and service opportunities. Our inability to communicate effectively within the wider fellowship is a stumbling block to the engagement and participation of AA members in intergroup events and service.**

**This topic has already been dealt with in another committee**

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**TOPIC 019/2016**

**That the costs of General Service Board (GSB) meetings be met from AA general revenue funds, and that collected Conference levies need only to go towards the cost of Conference, not Board meetings.**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted**

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**TOPIC 030/2016**

**Financial Reporting for GSO**

**Shareholders of Alcoholics Anonymous (Members of AA) request a copy of the Annual GSO Financial Report to Conference to be made available in the second yearly edition of "AA Around Australia" newsletter. This would include a detailed breakdown of the yearly expenses incurred by GSO.**

**Refer attached material**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as it is already covered in 001/2016**

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**TOPIC 031 /2016**

**Teleconferencing Around Australia**

**Considering the costs of travel and accommodation for GSB, Delegates and GSO staff to attend events around Australia and Asia Oceania, where possible, teleconferences to be used in the future.**

**Refer attached material**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as it is already in use where appropriate and feasible. The committee feels face to face meetings are crucial in many circumstances**

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**TOPIC 033 /2016**

**Primary Purpose of AA Australia IN Australia**

**AA Australia is bound to upholding the 5th Tradition first and foremost with its own people**

**Renewed focus is urgently required on our own struggling Remote Aboriginal Communities, through national 12<sup>th</sup> Step work and appropriate distribution of group funds.**

**Refer attached material**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected, when it comes to carrying the message to alcoholics there are no boundaries.**

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**TOPIC 034 /2016**

**In the interest of accountability and transparency we want a detailed breakdown of ALL expenditure (wages, airfares, travel, accommodation etc) by GSO to be published in the first issue of “AA Around Australia”**

**This report can be expanded from the financial report printed in the Conference Report**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as it is already covered by 001/2016**

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**REVIEW AUDITED ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**The Audited accounts were not reviewed**

**REVIEW BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

**The Budget was not reviewed**

**ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**Georgie J was elected Chairperson**

**Christian G was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel Brighton le Sands, NSW

Friday 4th November 2016 11.00am – 1.00pm

### ROLL CALL

Acting Chairperson: Melinda M, Delegate, Area B, Southern Region  
Delegate, Area A, Northern Region (no delegate)  
Ray M, Delegate, Area E, Southern Region  
Andrew M, Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region  
Wally H, Delegate, Area A, Central Region  
Kenneth H, Alt. Delegate, Area A North Eastern Region  
Dominic H, Delegate, Area B, Western Region  
Kerry S, (Chairperson, Trustees' Remote Communities Committee)  
Mike E (General Service Trustee)  
Bill H (Northern Regional Trustee)  
Tony C (Co-ordinator)

### APOLOGIES

Kenneth H was assigned to the Finance Committee

### REVIEW/ ACCEPT COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and no changes were made. Note that for this year's committee, non-delegate committee members agreed to suspend their voting rights.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST

The Action List was reviewed and the committee was satisfied that all Actions had been completed or had progressed.

### NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

TOPIC 040 -1 /2016  
Advisory Action #037/2015

That the current definition of Remote Communities in the AA Service Manual page 105 be changed in accordance with Advisory Action #037/2015<sup>1</sup> and be defined as: “by any individual or group isolated by geographic remoteness or cultural isolation”. This then also changes the scope of the role as carrying the message to people living in geographically remote communities and/or cultural isolation within Australia. These changes may then impact on the roles of the National and State/Territory Coordinators.

The Conference Remote Communities Committee advises Conference that the AA Service Manual Eighth edition (revised 2016) has already been amended to comply with Advisory Action #037/2015 (see Conference Folder page 227).

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#### TOPIC 040-2/2016

That the role of Remote Community Coordinator/Committee Members be included in the Area Structure in the Australian AA Service Manual. This could be achieved by an addition to page 48 number 8, which could read as per the example below:

##### 8. Public Information and Remote Communities report.

The inclusion of the Remote Community Committee members into Area can provide the committee members with voting rights at Area meetings and also the ability to combine activities with Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community, Treatment and Correctional Facilities and the ability for Area to agree and fund Remote Community Projects. There should to be a caveat that only One Remote Community Committee per Area attend the Area Assemblies these persons are to be nominated by the State/Territory Remote Community Committee as there representative.

Further inclusion of Remote Communities could be incorporated into GL-30 PI&CPC and T&CF Coordinators & Forums. This inclusion would reduce duplication of other Forums and prevent draining of limited service resources and service members which would be required to run separate functions.

The Conference Remote Communities Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as these positions are not part of the Area service structure.

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**TOPIC 040-3/2016**

That the following draft workbook be reviewed by Conference and if agreed be available as a resource offering suggestions on how to carry the message to members/groups and professions in a remote setting.

The Conference Remote Communities Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted.

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**TOPIC 041/2016**

We ask Conference to consider holding a Convention in the Northern Territory in 2020. This would be a 12<sup>th</sup> Step call to suffering alcoholics in 'a Remote Region of Australia', which is 'Isolated by distance and language.' This region needs AA's help.

The Conference Remote Communities Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected, with a suggestion that Area A Northern Region be encouraged to submit a bid to host a future Australian National Convention.

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**REVIEW SERVICE WEBSITE REMOTE COMMUNITIES PAGE**

The Remote Communities page on the Service Website was reviewed, and the committee was satisfied with the content appearing there.

**ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Wally H was elected Chairperson.

Dominic H was elected Alternate Chairperson.

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel, cnr. Grand Parade & Princess Street,  
Brighton Le Sands, NSW  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 11.00am – 1.00pm

### ROLL CALL

(Chairperson)	Greg H, Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region
(Alt. Chairperson)	Pat L, Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region
	Mark S, Delegate, Area D, Eastern Region
	John O'L, Delegate Area C, North Eastern Region
	Georgie J, Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region
	Joe H, Alt. Delegate, Area H Eastern Region
	Geoff S, Alt. Delegate, Area F, Southern Region
	Mal Y, Delegate, Area C Southern Region
	Paul B (Chairperson, Trustees' Literature Committee)
	Mick C (Southern Regional Trustee)
	Tony V (World Service Delegate)
	Chris S (Co-ordinator)

### APOLOGIES

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and the following changes were made: take out "The Chairperson of the Trustees Finance Committee, The General Service Office Manager and A World Service Meeting Delegate" for this meeting at this conference

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)

The Action List was reviewed.  
002/2015 this be recommended to Conference for voting  
015/2015 completed  
021/2015 refer to Board  
010/2014 completed  
018/2013 completed  
014/2012 completed  
025-B/2011 completed  
58/2011 superceded

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **TOPIC 004/2016**

**Producing The Twelve Step banners that have the same punctuation and emphasis as those used in the Big Book. Specifically:**

- 1) Use of an m-dash in Step One (an m-dash is a large dash)**
- 2) Emphasis on the words 'as we understood Him' by italic font (or underline) in Steps Three and Eleven.**
- 3) Use a comma in Step Eleven, not a dash.**
- 4) Place a comma after the word 'steps' in Step Twelve.**
- 5) Use of lower case to be used for the banners, this then shows the emphasis, by use of a capital letter, in the words 'Power', 'God' and 'Him'.**

**The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted.**

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#### **TOPIC 024/2016**

**To make the page layout and paragraphs of the chapter The Doctor's Opinion compatible with the US/UK versions and the pocket version of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.**

**The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted.**

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#### **TOPIC 036/2016**

**The attached corrections need to be made to the Australian Edition BB before next printing or consider a recall of the ones already printed**

**Refer attached material**

**The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted. There is no need for a recall.**

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**TOPIC 038 /2016**

**Production of a booklet/pamphlet on the Steps for Indigenous Australians**

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be referred to the conference.

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**TOPIC 039 /2016**

The format of *“The 12 Steps and What They Mean To Us” DVD* submitted and approved at Conference in 2010, had been changed without further consultation.

- a. Change the DVD back to its original format.
- b. Change the title of the dvd to : “AA for the Indigenous Australian”
- c. Use a label that is Aboriginal oriented without any reference to the artist ( Re: anonymity)

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be accepted and that the submitter be asked to provide specific details in collaboration with the GSO.

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**TOPIC 045/2016**

That Conference consider adopting Area E Eastern Region’s new document on the General Service Conference (GSC) process that visually displays in a simple and clear way the annual timeline and various stages as AA’s collective group conscience is expressed through our service structure each year and make it available to all AA members.

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be accepted with the following ammendments  
Text on right hand side to be removed  
References to Area E be removed  
The item to be made available on the AA service website.

**ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**Geoff S was elected Chairperson**

**Joe H was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel, cnr. Grand Parade & Princess Street,  
Brighton Le Sands, NSW  
Friday 4th November 2016 11.00am – 1.00pm

### ROLL CALL

(Chairperson) Nik R, Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region  
(Alt. Chairperson) Peter O'D, Delegate, Area D, Southern Region  
Kenneth H, Alt. Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region  
Paul M, Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region  
Andy P, Delegate, Area B, Central Region  
Christian G, Delegate, Area A Western Region  
John B, Delegate, Area E, Eastern Region  
Brett F, North Eastern Regional Trustee  
Maurice Smith (Chairman, Trustees' Nominating Committee)  
David E (World Service Delegate)  
Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

Non-voting observers:

Vanda Rounsefell (Trustee Emeritus)

Non-delegate committee members agreed not to vote on committee recommendations.

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and no changes were made.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2016)

The document was reviewed. No recommendations were made.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **TOPIC 005/2016**

That the Conference resolves to discontinue the position of Trustee Emeritus following the completion of the 2016 Australian General Service Conference.

The Conference Committee on Trustees recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected and that Conference recognise the Trustee Emeritus position as an invaluable, ongoing resource for the Fellowship.

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#### **TOPIC 023 /2016**

That the General Service Conference change the role of Trustee Emeritus at the conclusion of the 2016 Australian General Service Conference

The Conference Committee on Trustees noted that the Trustee Emeritus is not a Board member and does not have full participation rights at the General Service Board or at the General Service Conference as stated in the topic. The committee recommends that this topic be rejected . The position provides a readily available and constant source of knowledge pertaining to issues Conference members may be unaware of and it was felt that this was worthy of a seat at Conference.

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### **REVIEW TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS AND RECOMMEND QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO CONFERENCE FOR RATIFICATION**

There were no nominations to be reviewed.

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### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Nik R was elected Chairperson

Christian G was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Hotel, cnr. Grand Parade & Princess Street,  
Brighton Le Sands, NSW.

Friday 4th November 2016 2.00pm – 3.15pm

### ROLL CALL

(Chairperson)	Nik R, Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region
(Alt. Chairperson)	Melinda M, Delegate, Area B, Southern Region
	Dominic H, Delegate, Area B, Western Region
	Andy P, Delegate, Area B, Central Region
	Kenneth H, Alt. Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region
	Delegate, Area A, Northern Region (no Delegate)
	Bruce M (Chairperson, Trustees' General Service Conference Committee)
	Valerie M (Co-ordinator)
	Georgie J (observer)

Non-delegate committee members agreed not to vote on committee recommendations.

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and no changes were made.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2011-2015)

The Action List was reviewed. No recommendations were made.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2016 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

#### TOPIC #013/2016

That we abolish the antiquated and confusing system of panel numbers at the Australian General Service Conference. It was originally introduced in Australia in

the hope of stimulating members and groups interest in the General Service Conference. It was envisaged that all delegates, when they went to meetings would say something like "I'm Bob, a member of Serenity Group and a Panel 22 Conference member". It was vaguely hoped that all members would then rush up to Bob after the meeting and Bob would be able to convince them of the importance of participating in the General Service structure. Unfortunately Bob has never been seen at meetings so there is absolutely no point to us having panel numbers.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the use of panel numbers at the Australian General Serviced Conference be abolished as it serves no meaningful purpose.

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#### TOPIC 021 /2016

Topics for Conference that are rejected or forwarded onto the GSB should be sent to the appropriate Conference Committee who would have handled them had they been accepted. That Committee can then recommend to Conference if the topic should indeed be presented to the fellowship as a topic the following year.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected. Topics that have been rejected by the Conference Agenda Committee are included in the Conference folder. Any delegate has the right to request that a rejected topic be discussed either at committee level or as a floor action. Whether or not to do this would be at the discretion of the committee or the full Conference. Topics forwarded to the General Service Board have not been rejected and are usually referred to the Board for legal or administrative reasons. The Board will discuss the topic and make a recommendation to the following Conference.

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#### TOPIC 029 /2016

##### Conference Topic Form Reformat

Change to the Topic for Conference submission FORM for conference topics. When trying to encourage members to participate and submit Topics for Conference it has been experienced that there is resistance to the current form being too confusing.

The Conference Agenda Committee acknowledges the concerns raised in the topic recommends to Conference that the attached revised topic form be adopted.

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**TOPIC 032 /2016**

**Rotation of Conference Committee Co-ordinators**

To bring the role of Conference Committee Co-ordinator in line with other service positions within the General Service structure, Conference resolves to introduce at the completion of the 2016 General Service Conference, a method of rotation for all Conference Committee Co-ordinators that ensures that no Conference Committee is co-ordinated by the same individual for any more than four consecutive years.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected. The Conference Co-ordinators are selected in accordance with the skills and knowledge required in their roles at the General Service Office, which do not rotate.

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**TOPIC 049/2016**

The number of topics to each Conference Committee be limited to a maximum of three per committee.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as it requests putting a quota on the voice of the Fellowship.

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**TOPIC 050/2016**

At General Service Conference the Delegates be given a presentation of the 12 Concepts similar to the Delegate information sessions before Conference. This is to be a visual presentation that the delegates can then take back to their Areas. This will help them better carry the message to the members there.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected. Conference is not the right forum for such a presentation. There are time constraints and delegates should have knowledge of the Twelve Concepts for World Service when they attend Conference.

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## **DATE AND VENUE – CONFERENCE 2017**

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that Conferenced 2017 be held at the Novotel Hotel Brighton Le Sands, NSW from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## **DATES FOR AGENDA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017 & DEADLINE FOR CONFERENCE TOPICS 2017**

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the Agenda Committee should meet by teleconference in 2017 on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am EST to formulate agendas and on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the deadline for receipt of Conference 2017 Topics should be 4pm (EST) Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEME OF GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2017**

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the following themes be considered for Conference 2017.

1	Taking Responsibility
2	Death by Apathy
3	Not a Glum Lot
4	Giving Back
5	AA in the Digital Age
6	A Vision for You
7	The next Generation of AA
8	Sponsorship – the Lifeblood of AA
9	Sobriety 2.0 – Challenges and Opportunities for AA in Technology

<b>10</b>	<b>Hand It Over</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Love and Tolerance is our Code</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Rule 62</b>

**ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

**Nik R was elected Chairperson**

**Dominic H was elected Alternate Chairperson**