



58th Australian General Service Conference Delegates Report

THEME A DESIGN FOR LIVING

This post General Service Conference Report contains some personal reflections on my tenure as Area D Delegate and my participation at the 2016 General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia which was held at Brighton Le Sands from November 3 to November 6 2016. Topic outcomes, advisory actions and bids are also covered. The report concludes with a section on looking ahead to 2017. ODAAT.

***Eastern Region
Area D Panel 56
Mark S***

Hi Fellow Members, my name is Mark S and I'm an alcoholic. I am also your current third year Eastern Region Area D Panel 56 Area Delegate and truly humbled by my experience of attending my third Australian General Service Conference [GSC] which was held at the Novotel Brighton Le Sands from November 3 through to November 6 2016. This 58th Australian GSC was my last as Area D Delegate.

The theme for the 58th GSC was **A DESIGN FOR LIVING**.

Before I go into what happened at 58th GSC I want to take a little time to reflect on my time as the serving Delegate for Eastern Region Area D. What I have learned and why all three Legacies are fundamental to the AA way of life.

1. WHY RECOVERY IS THE FIRST LEGACY

At times being an Area Delegate can be a demanding and tiring job so keeping in fit spiritual condition is paramount to effectiveness. Being free of the wreckage of the past through the first 9 Steps and then continuing to be disciplined in practising the growth Steps of 10, 11 and 12 keep me on the AA beam. In particular Step 11 ensures my thought-life will be placed on a much higher plane when it is clear of wrong motives and as time passes my thinking will be more and more on the plane of inspiration and I will come to rely on it. This is directly relevant to being an effective Area Delegate because the role comes with many frustrations and perceived difficulties. Staying focused and accepting the things I cannot change are of high order when working on Committees at Area and Conference level.

Even more so at the General Service Conference itself where things are moving fast and I blink and it's too late, the discussion has moved on and a different matter is before me. So, thinking on your feet and being awake and alert are important to positive contributions. Being grounded and focused in the moment can be difficult if my mind is wandering or I am gripped with fear so the discipline that comes as a result of practising Step 11 helps me to more efficient. It works, it really does.

2. WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITHIN THE TRADITIONS

Hanging together and working together is a source of growth for me. To carry out important AA work effectively I can turn to the 12 Traditions as my guiding principles. There is much work to be carried out in AA on a continuous basis, none of this happens in isolation, so effective communication with members, groups, committees and other AA entities becomes a challenge. Again, at times frustration and confusion set in particularly when communication is through email. When responses are not forthcoming or members have "gone fishing" when a deadline needs to be met. The Traditions help me to stay on course by remembering I am but a small part of a great whole and a loving God presides over us all. Is God my steering wheel or my spare wheel?

Striving for integrity is also important to me, knowing that I am responsible to those I have the privilege to serve keeps me focused on my primary purpose and cuts off my tendency to be distracted. I love AA and want it be healthy and vital so staying focused and staying connected needs to be my priority.

3. OUR THIRD LEGACY OF SERVICE

Moving from the security I felt in my local country Home Group to serving on the Area D Committee as Secretary and then being elected as the Area Delegate has been both frightening and exhilarating.

Becoming familiar with General Services and the 12 Concepts for World Service meant much reading and study. I asked a former Eastern Regional Trustee to be my Service Sponsor and he obliged by sharing his experience and knowledge. This was very helpful, particularly in the beginning when I was very green. Over the past three years I have learnt much about the bigger picture of AA and how our future through God's grace is with us. We need to choose our Trusted Servants carefully and remember that carrying the AA message through Service is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Being grounded in the principles will ensure our survival and enable our Groups to continue to carry the lifesaving and life giving message contained in the 12 Steps.

THE 58TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE: A DESIGN FOR LIVING

Day 1 Thursday November 3 2016

After arriving at the Conference and having lunch I attended the **Delegates and Observers meeting**. This session is an attempt to let new Delegates gain some practical experience of how Conference functions. The aim is to make you feel more comfortable about participating and thus being a valuable contributor to the process right from the start.

The Agenda included a welcome by Nik R the Eastern Region Area G Delegate followed by four main Agenda items.

- From Topic to Advisory Action
- How Conference Votes
- How do I have a say?
- Wrap up which includes Questions and Answers

I was invited to talk on the Third Legacy procedure.

During this meeting a lively discussion began about the makeup ratio of Delegates and other voting Conference Members [Trustees both class A and Class B, World Service Delegates & GSO Office Manager] in the various Conference Committees which led to a slight reorganising of the Agenda so this could be discussed by all Conference Members. After some clarification and robust discussion this led to non-Delegate Conference members voluntarily suspending their voting rights in the Conference Committees for 2016.

Roll Call and getting to know you Meeting

This meeting included a recital of the Declaration of Unity, the reading of Long Form of the 12 Traditions, the 12 Concepts for World Service, and an opening address from the Chair of the General Service Board [GSB] Brett F. This was followed by a financial report from the Fiji Convention delivered by Class A Trustee Maurice Smith and a presentation on the Conference Theme: **A DESIGN FOR LIVING** by Melinda M the Southern Region Area B Delegate. This meeting was attended by all Conference members.

After dinner, I attended my first Conference Committee the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee.

Conference Committees: Conference gets through its workload in just four days by having multiple Committees deliberate in parallel on the Topics. The Committee recommendations are then reported on the Conference floor on Saturday for collective decision. Conference need not accept the Committee's recommendation. If it refuses a Committee's advice, the matter can then be discussed and decided in general session. This ensures that Conference committees do not represent "authority".



Correctional Facilities Committee

Chairperson: Mark S

After reviewing the Composition, Scope and Procedure Document the Committee reviewed the Action List from 2011-2015.

ACTION LIST

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 or forwarded to the Area, District or intergroup for hand delivery.

NEW BUSINESS

We only had one topic to cover **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.

After discussion, the Committee made the recommendation as follows: The Correctional Facilities Committee recommends to Conference that this Topic be rejected because it negates an Areas autonomy and may duplicate services already provided by CSO's, Districts or Intergroups.

Election of new Chair and Alternate

2017 CHAIRPERSON: John B was elected Chairperson and Peter D was elected Alternate Chairperson

Day 2 Friday November 4 2016

After breakfast and an AA meeting attended by a handful of Delegates the day started with the preview of the day's events in the main Conference room. After the preview, I attended my first Committee Meeting for the day.



PI and CPC Committee

Chairperson: John O

After reviewing the Composition, Scope and Procedure Document the Committee reviewed the Action List from 2011-2015.

ACTION LIST

The Committee noted that Brett F will update Conference on the progress of Advisory Action **054/2015** relating to the membership survey.

NEW BUSINESS

We had two Topics to cover in this Committee.

TOPIC 037/2016 GSO staff and GSB members would benefit from undertaking Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training.

The Conference PI and CPC Committee recommends to Conference that this Topic be accepted and that this initiative proceeds.

Topic 047/2016 The name of the National Coordinators be changed to National Advisors and these positions be rotated between each other, e.g. Treatment Facilities, Correctional, PI and CPC and Remote Communities.

The Conference PI and CPC Committee recommends to Conference that this Topic be rejected. The Committee considered that there was no need to change then National Coordinators title, nor to prescribe rotation among the various National Coordinators.

REVIEW NATIONAL WEBSITE

The Conference PI&CPC Committee reviewed the National Website. The Committee accepted the National Website Report for 2016 and commended the work done through the year by the website team, particularly in the migration of the site in a new format.

REVIEW SERVICE WEBSITE

The Conference PI & CPC Committee reviewed the Service Website. No formal report has been received by the website administrator Julie L of North East Region. However, Julie managed a significant change to the sites look and functionality over recent months. The Committee expressed thanks to be relayed to Julie for her splendid work in achieving that objective.

Election of new Chair and Alternate

2017 CHAIRPERSON: Andrew M was elected Chairperson and Mal Y was elected Alternate Chairperson.

After morning tea, I attended the Literature Committee.



Literature Committee

Chairperson Greg H

After reviewing the Composition, Scope and Procedure Document the Committee reviewed the Action List from 2011-2015.

ACTION LIST

002/2015 recommended to Conference for voting

015/2015 completed

021/2015 refer to board

010/2014 completed

018/2013 completed

014/2012 completed

025B/2011 completed

058/2011 superseded

NEW BUSINESS

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.

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.

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.

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 Conference.

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 this Topic be accepted and that the submitter be asked to provide specific details in collaboration with the GSO.

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 this Topic be accepted with the following amendments.

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 of new Chair and Alternate

2017 CHAIRPERSON: Geoff S was elected Chairperson and Joe H was elected Alternate Chairperson.

Day 3 Saturday 5 November 2016

Eastern Region Area D Delegates Post Conference Report 2016 THEME: A DESIGN FOR LIVING

Day three of the GSC was jam packed with Agenda items and went until about 9.00 pm. Day three is the day that all the Conference Committees report back to the full Conference Floor. Each Area Delegate who is the Committee Chairperson reports back to the full Conference by going to the microphone and reading back the written report from his Committee that was prepared the night before by the GSO Staff member who was the Co-ordinator of that particular Committee.

Recommendations related to each Topic are read, debated and then voted on. Saturday Program below:

DATE AND TIME	SESSION
7.30am - 8.30am	Breakfast
8.30am - 8.40am	Preview Days Events
	Reading of Administrative Procedures: Nik R
8.40am – 10.30 am	Trustees Nominating Committee Report: Brett F
	Conference Committee on Trustees Report and voting on recommendations: Nik R
	Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Paul M
	Conference Policies and Admissions Report and voting on recommendations: Andy P
10.30am – 11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00am – 1.00pm	Trustees TF Committee Report: Mike E
	Conference Treatment Facilities Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Andy P
	Trustees Correctional Facilities Report: Mick C
	Conference Correctional Facilities Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Mark S
	Trustees International Committee Report: Tony V
	Conference International Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Georgie J
	Trustees Budgetary and Finance Committee Report: Maurice Smith
	Presentation of Financial Report and acceptance: Maurice Smith
	Conference Finance Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Greg H
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 3.15pm	Trustees Literature and Archives Committee Report: Paul B
	Conference Literature Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Greg H
	Trustees PI and CPC Committee Report: Brett F
	Conference PI and CPC Committee Report and voting on recommendations: John O
	Trustees Remote Communities Report: Kerry S
	Conference Remote Communities Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Melinda M
3.15pm – 3.45 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.45pm – 5.00pm	Trustees General Service Conference Committee Report: Bruce M
	Conference Agenda Committee Report and voting on recommendations: Nik R
	Date and Theme of Conference 2017
5.00pm – 5.15pm	Ratification of Trustee Elections (if any)
5.15pm – 5.30pm	Bids for National T and CF Forum 2019
	Bids for National Convention 2020
5.30pm – 6.00pm	Bids for 2017 Regional Forums
6.00pm – 7.30pm	Dinner

Voting

The Vote sequence goes as follows:

1. The Chair first attempts to find a "Sense of Conference" by asking "Is it the sense of Conference that..... ?" an absense of "NO" signifies that the vote can be taken without discussion.
2. If there is any disagreement, discussion is followed, then a vote by a show of hands or ballott.
3. Scrutineers count the raised hands or votes in front of everyone.
4. Chair reads out the numbers for and against (or abstaining) and declares the motion won or lost according to the required 50%; 67%; 75% or other.

Minority Voice

After a deciding vote on a Topic, the Conference Chair asks if there is any "Minority Voice". This is an opportunity for a Conference Member who voted against the majority to put the case that the Conference got it wrong and promptly needs to redress the situation. After hearing the minority voice, any Conference Member who voted with the majority can either move to revote on the original motion or prepare a new motion.

Below is a list of Advisory Actions that were discussed, debated, deliberated and voted on on day three of the GSC.

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2016 TOPIC OUTCOMES

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 #005/2016

Conference recognised the position of Trustee Emeritus as an invaluable, ongoing resource for the Fellowship and resolved that this position should be continued.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #023/2016

Conference 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 Topic 023. Conference resolved not to change the role of Trustee Emeritus. 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 the General Service Conference.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0

CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #003/2016

Conference resolved that the following wording be added to Guidelines 14 and 15 and in the appropriate section of the AA Group Handbook:

Groups and Districts should be careful not to neglect their Group/District/Area/CSO and GSO financial donations in order to support Conventions.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #012/2016

Conference resolved that, should an Area or District invite a trustee (other than Regional trustee), GSO staff member/s, World Service Delegate or National Co-ordinator to attend an Area or District event (excluding Regional/National Forums and approved special events), the costs for travel, accommodation, meals and registration of the guest/s should be covered by that Area or District. This paragraph should be inserted in Guideline 14 and in Section 5, part 2 of the Service Manual "Area Activities".

Voting: For: 31; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0

Advisory Action #020/2016

Conference resolved that the questions and answers of the 'Ask It Basket' at Conference be minuted in the Conference Report.

For: 17; Against: 13; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #048/2016

Conference resolved that Guideline GL-35 Remote Communities be accepted.

Voting: For: 31; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #054/2016

Conference resolved to accept the submitted text to replace the existing text in the Service Manual under the heading 'Regional Trustees and Representation, with the following amendments:

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."

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #056/2016

Conference resolved that the Trustees' Literature Committee should be requested to review the Area Delegate section of the Service Manual (as per Advisory Action #012/2015) and bring back their recommendations to Conference 2017.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #057/2016

Conference resolved 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 wish to be included in the folder. If the completed form is not sent back to the General Service Office, the email address only will be published.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #027/2013

Conference resolved to accept this topic, which requested greater effort be focussed on the indigenous Australian. However, specific requirements need specific requests and it is the responsibility of Groups, Districts and Areas to respond.

Voting: For: 31; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #058/2016

Conference resolved 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.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 1; Abstentions: 2
Carried

Advisory Action #059/2016

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.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #060/2016

Conference resolved that the CD ROM produced as a result of Advisory Action #005/2012 should be approved as a service item, but requested that the heading be removed.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #008/2016

Conference resolved to recommend that the General Service Conference 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.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #044/2016

Conference resolved to reject the topic as written. Conference resolved 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 an event in a country within the Asia/Oceania zone, if we are invited.
- c) Do nothing.
- d) Submit their own ideas.

Voting: For: 23; Against: 8; Abstentions: 0
Carried

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #061/2016

Conference resolved to accept the audited accounts for year ended 30 June 2016.

Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #001/2016

Conference resolved that a one or 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.

Voting: For: 29; Against: ;2; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #007/2016

Conference resolved that the costs of Conference (flights, accommodation, meals, venue hire (including equipment) be published in AA Around Australia and on the Service Website. Conference further resolved that an article about their experience and the value of Conference be written by delegates and published in AA Around Australia and in the Conference Report.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #017/2016

Conference resolved that the General Service Board be requested to publish costs of travel/accommodation/air fares at PI&CPC Forums/Events in Australia on the Service Website.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #019/2016

Conference resolved 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 the General Service Conference.

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

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #062/2016

Conference resolved to accept the General Service Board's recommendations re National Alcoholics Anonymous Australia E-Magazine, which resulted from Advisory Action #002/2015.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #004/2016

Conference resolved that the Twelve Step banners should be printed with 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'.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #024/2016

Conference resolved 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.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #036/2016

Conference resolved that the submitted corrections to be made to the Australian Edition Big Book before the next printing. There is no need for a recall of existing books.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #038/2016

Conference resolved that a special committee consisting of indigenous members should be set up to discuss the production of a booklet/pamphlet on the Twelve Steps for indigenous Australians. On completion, a draft to be brought back to Conference for approval.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #039/2016

Conference resolved that the DVD 'The 12 Steps and What They Mean to Us' be changed but that the submitter of the topic be asked to provide specific details on collaboration with the General Service Office. The Conveners of the National Indigenous Convention should also be consulted.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #045/2016

Conference resolved that the submitted document on the General Service Conference process be produced and made available on the AA Service Website, with the following amendments:

Text on right hand side to be removed
References to Area be removed

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #040-3/2016

Conference resolved to request that the General Service Board produces a workbook offering suggestions on how to carry the message to members/groups and professionals in a remote setting. It is requested that this be brought back to Conference 2017 for approval.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Advisory Action#029/2016

Conference resolved to accept the revised Conference Topic form submitted by the Conference Agenda Committee.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #063/2016

Conference resolved that Conferenced 2017 be held at the Novotel Hotel Brighton Le Sands, NSW from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th November 2017.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #064/2016

Conference resolved that the Conference Agenda Committee should meet by tele-conference in 2017 on Saturday 17th June at 11.30am EST to formulate agendas and on Saturday 12th August at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #065/2016

Conference resolved that the deadline for receipt of Conference 2017 Topics should be 4pm (EST) Friday 30th June.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #066/2016

Conference resolved that the theme for the General Service Conference 2017 should be 'A Vision for You'.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

BIDS

Advisory Action #067/2016

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area A, Eastern Region, to host the 2018 Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #068/2016

Conference resolved to accept tentative bids to host the 2020 National Convention by Area C, North Eastern Region and Area F, Southern Region.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #069/2016

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area C, Eastern Region to host the Eastern Regional Forum in 2017.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE TOPICS 2016 VOTED ON, BUT NOT RESULTING IN ADVISORY ACTIONS

CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

TOPIC 006/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to review the section "How AA Chooses its Regional Trustees" in the AA Service Manual. A fair process for selecting Regional Trustees already exists and, if the process is followed, the candidate nominated has a fair opportunity for acceptance.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2
Carried

TOPIC 010/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to review the section 'Primary Duties of an Area Delegate' in the Service Manual. The existing section clearly defines the duties expected of the Delegate and these remain relevant and important today.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

TOPIC 011/2016

Conference resolved to rejected the proposal to change the Regional Forum Guideline to include the suggested wording in the topic. This topic should be returned to the topic submitter with a recommendation that it be re-worded so that the intention is clear as to the expenses of which participants should be covered by the General Service Board and which should be covered by Area.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1
Carried

TOPIC 018/2016

Conference resolved that the proposal to review the internal communication system being used within an Area be rejected, due to lack of information. The Area is encouraged to forward their ideas on improving communications to next year's Conference.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

TOPIC 025/2015 (REFERRED BACK TO CONFERENCE 2016)

Conference resolved to defer discussion on this topic (regions and States are not part of our Service Structure) pending the outcome of the plan submitted by the Structure Review Committee.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 3
Carried

TOPIC 040/2015 (REFERRED BACK TO CONFERENCE 2016)

Conference resolved to defer discussion on this topic (should non-Area Delegate Conference members have a vote a Conference committees) pending the outcome of the plan submitted by the Structure Review Committee.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1
Carried

TOPIC 014/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that marginalised communities should have a fairer representation at Conference. There are no barriers to service in AA. Representation at the General Service Conference is determined on the basis of geographical location not culture.

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

TOPIC 043/2016

Conference resolved not to address the imbalance between Delegates and other voting members of Conference, as Concept IV respects the rights of participation on the Conference floor. It was noted that the 2016 General Service Conference had a two-thirds majority of delegates.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0
Carried

RECOMMENDATION FROM COMMITTEE

Conference resolved to reject the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation 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.

Voting: For: 15; Against: 15; Abstentions: 1
Lost

CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

TOPIC 051/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that each Area in Australia set up a corrections sub-committee as it negates an Areas autonomy and may duplicate services already provided by a CSO, District or Intergroups.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

TOPIC 009/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that the election process for International Delegates and the cost of sending these delegates to meetings be reviewed and published. 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.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to discuss the selection process of the International Delegates and the delegate/non-delegate ratio at Conference as this topic will be addressed by the Structure Review Committee.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1
Carried

TOPIC 016/2016

In keeping with our 'I Am Responsible' declaration, the 5th 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, Conference resolved to reject the proposal to cancel further plans and initiatives in the Asia Oceania zone, including sending delegates overseas until AA Australia takes its inventory

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOPIC 002/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that the General Service Board compensates Host Planning Committees holding Conventions as this is an Area issue and is covered in Guidelines 14 and 15.

Voting: For: 31; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

TOPIC 015/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to abolish the Cost Equalisation Scheme. Delegates coming in from Darwin should not have to pay more than Delegates coming from Sydney.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

TOPIC 030/2016

Conference resolved to reject this topic regarding financial reporting, as a resolution had already resulted from Topic 001/2016.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

TOPIC 031/2016

Conference resolved to reject this topic which suggested that, where possible, teleconference should replace face to face meetings to reduce costs. Teleconferencing was already used where appropriate and feasible. Face to face meetings are crucial in many circumstances.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

TOPIC 033/2016

Conference acknowledged this topic but did not recommend any action. In recent years, the General Service Conference and the General Service Board have created Remote Communities Committees. A National Indigenous Convention and a National Newsletter are also under consideration.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

TOPIC 034/2016

Conference resolved to reject this topic regarding financial reporting, as a resolution had already resulted from Topic 001/2016.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE PI&CPC COMMITTEE

TOPIC 037/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that General Service Office staff and General Service Board members undertake Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 4; Abstentions: 2
Carried

TOPIC 047/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that the title of National Co-ordinators be changed to National Advisors and that these positions be rotated between each other. Conference considered that there was no need to change the National Co-ordinator's title, nor to prescribe rotation among the various National Co-ordinators.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

TOPIC 040-2/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that the role of Remote Communities Co-ordinator/Committee Members be included in the Area Structure in the Australian AA Service Manual. These positions are not part of the Service Structure.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

TOPIC 041/2016

Conference rejected the proposal to consider holding a National Convention in the Northern Territory in 2020. Conference suggests that Area A Northern Region be encouraged to submit a bid to host a future Australian National Convention.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

TOPIC 013/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to abolish the use of panel numbers.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0
Carried

TOPIC 021/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that rejected topics or those forwarded to the General Service Board should be sent to the appropriate Conference Committee that would have handled them had they been accepted. 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.

Voting: For: 21; Against: 9; Abstentions: 1
Carried

TOPIC 032/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to rotate the Conference Committee Co-ordinator positions. 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.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0
Carried

TOPIC 049/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to limit the number of topics to a maximum of three per committee, as it requested putting a quota on the voice of the Fellowship.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

TOPIC 050/2016

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that Delegates be given a presentation of the 12 Concepts before Conference. There are time constraints and Delegates should have knowledge of the Twelve Concepts for World Service when they attend Conference.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Day 4 Sunday 6 November 2016

After a preview of the day's events there were Floor Actions.

Normally the only time Conference considers a Floor Action is when an emergency has arisen. Thus, Floor Actions are usually matters that are too late to be put on the Agenda or arise as a by-product of Committee deliberations.

Floor Actions are subject to the following procedures:

1. They are considered as the final item of Conference.
2. For each Floor Action, a Sense of the Conference is taken whether to entertain the motion.
3. If a simple majority of Conference votes (by a show of hands) not to entertain the motion, the item is not heard. If defeated, the matter can be brought back as a Topic the next year.
4. Conference takes a sense of the Conference as to whether the Floor Action is mentioned in the Conference Report.

FLOOR ACTIONS

Advisory Action #070/2016

Conference resolved to request the General Service Board to consider forming a specific committee to deal with indigenous matters.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

During this GSC, particularly in the Conference Literature Committee I became more aware than ever that I felt ill equipped to make informed decisions on the Topics to do with Indigenous Literature. So, forming a specific Committee in regard to Indigenous matters within the Fellowship would help in making respectful and informed decisions on Topics.

Floor Actions were followed by an Ask It Basket and Conference Inventory questions. This session gives all Conference members a chance to talk about what's on their mind and ask any questions that have come out of Conference. After morning tea, there was a continuation of the Ask It Basket and Conference inventory questions. The Conference concluded with closing remarks from the Chairman Brett F, farewells from third year Delegates and then a couple of Conference Member photographs.

MOVING FORWARD

The AA Fellowship in Australia is at an important turning point.

Topic 001/2017

The General Service Conference requests that the Fellowship considers the Structure Review Committee's attached investigations and Structure Review Plan for the Australian AA Structure. I believe it would be beneficial for Area D to conduct a Workshop on the Committee's investigations and review so the Fellowship can become more informed about the Topic.

Advisory Action #062/2016

Conference resolved to accept the General Service Board's recommendations re National Alcoholics Anonymous Australia E-Magazine, which resulted from Advisory Action #002/2015.

The name for the magazine is **The Mixer**: The Australian Magazine of Alcoholics Anonymous - taken from Chapter 2 of the Big Book (p. 17): "We are people who normally would not mix.". This is an exciting initiative and I am looking forward to the first edition in March 2017. Each Area is being asked to elect an Area Editor who will encourage members to submit content and form part of a Group Conscience Australia-wide, together with the interim committee, to consult and decide on important issues arising (e.g. selection of content, controversial submissions, changes to format, etc.) This will happen through email and phone/Skype discussions where required.

Corrections Work in Area D

Finally, I am corresponding with our Eastern Regional Corrections Co-ordinator and our Area D T and CF Co-ordinator to organise a Workshop/Presentation in Nowra in March 2017. I am talking to local willing members about attending so we can restart communication with the South Coast Correctional Centre in Nowra with a view to the Fellowship taking meetings back into the facility. If anyone is passionate or interested in this work, there attendance will be appreciated. More details to follow soon.

Thanks to my loving wife, AA groups in Area D, my fellow Area Committee Members our Regional Trustee and the GSO for the support, encouragement and action over the last three years. I rotate off as the Area Delegate after our Area Assembly on February 5 2017 at Campbelltown and Garry S takes on the role of the new Area Delegate.

It has been a privilege to serve over the last three years, but three years is enough in this role, in fact if I am giving my best attention to the role, two years seems more realistic. When you are working, and have a family and other commitments including Sponsorship in the Fellowship the third year for me was a real challenge. I wouldn't change any of it for quids, but just for now, I am going to stay sober and I might even find time to go fishing. I hope God is there, I am sure he will be.

In Gods Service,

Mark S

Eastern Region Area D Delegate

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