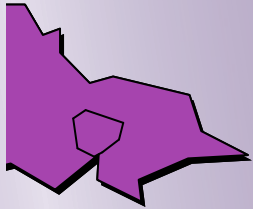


D-Liberation

December 2017-
January, 2018
Volume 9 Issue 1



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Appendix 1 Conference Considerations and Resolutions, from Area Delegate, Peter.

Note from the editor

Hello to all members reading this edition. Many of us know that the festive season and New Year can be a tricky time to be a sober alcoholic. I am using the advice given to me by older, sober members when I was in early recovery: increase the meetings and stick close to members.

In this edition, we hear from Rita S and Danny R, both writing about their experiences of and reasons for, doing service.

Peter O is rotating off the position of Area Delegate and will write up his reflections of the role for our next edition. Other outgoing Area Committee members are: Anil, Alternative Area Delegate, Jenny, Webmaster and Michael, Treasurer. Elected members for the next two years are listed below. All new position-holders will commence their roles from March next year.

We also had a change of Southern Regional Trustee: Mick C completes his stint at the end of December. Penny C of Bendigo's Chapter 6 Motorcycle Group is the incoming Trustee. Mick's service position may have changed but his commitment to the Fellowship and its primary purpose remain as strong as ever.

Disclaimer: I can't be sure that the **massaged** AA logo at the end of this edition of the newsletter is, in fact, conference approved. I included it because I liked the **message**

Deadline for articles for the February-March Newsletter is **28th February.2018**
Email: arednewsletter@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE – At the Area Assembly on 3/12/17 a resolution was carried to **discontinue** handling book-orders through Area D. The reasoning for this can be found on the website: ared.org.au

Area D Committee Contact Emails:

Area Position	Email Address
Chairperson	areadchair@gmail.com
Secretary	theareadsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	areadtreasurer@gmail.com
Delegate	areaddelegate@gmail.com
Literature	areadliterature@gmail.com
Registrar	areadregistrar@gmail.com
Public Information	piaread@gmail.com
Area Newsletter	areadnewsletter@gmail.com

ELECTION FOR VACANT POSITIONS AT AREA D ASSEMBLY 3/12/2017 - RESULTS

- **Area Delegate:** David A, Ballarat BB, Friday Night
- **Alternative Area Delegate:** *Remains Vacant*
- **Treasurer & Literature Officer:** Anny S, Breakfast with Bill & Bob, Geelong
- **Web-master:** Matt N Clifton Hill BB group

Final Area Assembly Reports

The Area Delegate's Report

In lieu of a regular Delegate's Report, Peter has submitted the 'Conference Outcomes, Topics and Other Matters. This reflects the focus of work for the last quarter of 2017. It is at the end of this newsletter- appendix 1 .

Yours in Service and Fellowship, *Peter*

Treasurer's Report

Area D Assembly December 2017

This is the report for the period 15.08.2017 to 18.11.2017.

There is currently \$7164.15 in the Area D bank account.

The Area received donations from the groups of \$836 which is down by \$700 on the last period.

There were 11 group literature orders for the quarter.

The Area is holding \$4020.49 for the PISC.

Area is awaiting 2 invoices from GSO for Group literature orders which will total approximately \$417. These will be paid in December.

Allowing for the prudent reserve of \$1400, the Area has available funds of \$1326

It was decided at conference that only CSO's would be entitled to purchase literature at a discounted price and the Area will absorb the freight costs for 2 orders received after the decision was implemented.

Hopefully this will be my last report to assembly in my role as Treasurer of Area D.

Thank you to the Committee for their support and to the Groups for giving me the opportunity to be of service.

Yours in service

Michael P

The slogans on the walls, which at first made me shudder, began to impress me as truths I could live by...Commitment and Service were part of recovery
From: Big Book, 4th Edition, p245

Webmaster's Report

Area D Webmaster Report December 2017

The Area D website is kept updated as things arise - see <http://aread.org.au/>

Things you can do on the website:

- Register your Group & GSR either on line (see right hand side of Main Page) or download printable form from Main Page & post to Area D, P.O. Box 535, Yarraville, 3013
- Register on line to receive the D-Liberation Area D e-mag (see right hand side of Main Page)
- Find information on next Area D Assembly (Main Page & under Area Assembly tab)
- Find information on Conference & Conference Topics (under General Service Conference tab)
- Find the most recent addition of the Area D D-Liberation e-mag (see right hand side of Main Page or go to the D-Liberation Archive on the top tab bar (past editions are filed in their year)
- Find information regarding activities being run by Area, Groups or Districts under the Announcement tab

This is your Area D website - I encourage people to send in any information updates they want to see listed to: areadwebmaster@gmail.com or send in any suggestions they may have to make the website more user friendly.

My term as Webmaster is coming to a close and I want to thank the Area members for this incredibly rewarding service position. I encourage anyone who has even a mild interest to consider nominating for the position of Webmaster. I knew nothing about it when I took it on and am grateful for the skills I have learned during the past couple of years. Thank you for this service opportunity.

Yours in Service

Jenny H

Report to the Area D Assembly of 3rd December

The North-West Intergroup is a group of AA volunteers answering any phone calls made from members of the general public in Melbourne's Northern and Western suburbs to AA's National 1300 22 22 22 Help Line.

For AA members the North-West Intergroup provides an opportunity to help carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. There are several ways that AA groups and AA members can participate with us in ensuring this vital work is carried out.

Groups can help by making financial donations to the North west Intergroup which will assist us meet the costs of our monthly bills from Telstra, website costs, PO Box, brochure printing and a small rental costs for our quarterly meetings and our training days. We do not run an office and all workers are volunteers. We aim to keep costs to a minimum.

AA Groups can also participate by sending a Group representative to our 1 hour quarterly North West intergroup meetings in February, May, August and November each year. All Group representatives are welcome to participate and contribute to the decision making on maintaining and improving our efficient operation.

Individual AA members can participate by volunteering to answer calls on the AA Help Line roster. This could be for just a few hours per month. The calls are diverted from the main Help Line to your own mobile phone so you don't have to go anywhere to do the volunteering. A minimum of 18 months continuous sobriety is required of Help Line volunteers. There is an annual workshop to help volunteers to be confident in their service.

The website has more information <http://aanorthwestmelb.org.au/> and volunteer forms. Or email intergroupcommittee@gmail.com and ask about volunteering.

Yours in service,

Barry H

Grief really hurts and so do other types of pain...However, now that we are free of alcohol, we have so much control over our thinking.

Living Sober, p.48-9

Members' Stories of Service

My Journey of Service

By Rita S
Steps in Seddon

In my early years of sobriety I was too caught up in my own recovery to think about doing much service. Still the self-centred alcoholic back then (which is perhaps quite common) given that I was desperate to stop drinking and for my life to change. When I did finally join a group, I began to take on different service roles over the years such as group treasurer or secretary. I did not understand the role of representing the group in the general service structure of AA. I attended District meetings but had very little understanding of what we were supposed to be doing. Nor did I fully understand the general service structure, or know that such a document as the service manual existed. I was not the best GSR by any stretch of the imagination. However, it was through my involvement with a strong home group who had regular group conscience meetings, and held regular Traditions meetings, that I began to learn about service and the structure of AA.

I became involved in the committee that established the North West Intergroup and the 12-step phone service for the north and west of Melbourne. I took on various roles over the 5 years I was involved. This experience built up my confidence and understanding of how to *be equal member of* a committee and how things are done according to traditions. I began to feel more connected in AA and made some stronger friendships. It gave new life to my AA journey, which at times had become boring or stale.

For the past 12 months I have had the privilege of holding the chairperson role for Area D. This was a big incentive for me to buy a Service Manual and begin learning about the important role of the General Service arm of AA: how it works, what the role of the different positions are, how the voice of local groups is carried to make important decisions about AA as a whole, nationally and internationally. I began to see how important all this was to maintain the unity and singleness of purpose of AA. My sobriety depends on it, as does the future of AA for all those suffering alcoholics still to seek help.

To any newcomers, or those not yet involved in service, here are my *suggestions* to think about:

- If you feel that you are on the outskirts of AA, then try taking on a service role
- If you feel that you are bored with AA and not getting as much out of it as you used to – try a service position
- If you want to learn more about service in AA then start by joining a home group that holds regular group conscience meetings, and read the Group Handbook
- Remember you do not have to be an expert, just give it a go
- Remember that the full amazing AA experience has three parts: recovery, unity and SERVICE - don't sell yourself short by only focussing on your own recovery.

Addiction, Awareness, Acceptance & Service in Detox

By Danny R
Laverton Primary Purpose

My name is Danny and I'm an alcoholic. I was trapped in active addiction for approximately eighteen years. During that time, I was in and out of various institutions: prisons, rehab, detox units. I was also in and out of the rooms of AA, but I could not understand what was presented, and I began to think that change was not possible for me.

But, like so many others in the rooms describe it, I had no other place to go, but the rooms, and this is where, eventually, I identified and was accepted.

Just over nine years ago I was homeless and my partner of fourteen years had left. I was introduced to a man who facilitated supported accommodation in Coburg. It was a place where men could go if they wanted to get sober and clean and have a look at the program of AA, as outlined in the Big Book. I had truly had enough of the life I'd been living – for so long- and I'd truly had enough of myself.

In this setting, I engaged in being receptive and started to understand what it meant, to be powerless over alcohol. I started to understand why I was the way I was. For the first time, I guess, I was truly open to listening and I connected with what I heard and connected with a big truth: why things had been happening to me, over and over and over, for almost two decades.

As a result, I now understand that unless I can, daily, access the required power, I am likely to go insane again: drink again and possibly take my own life. So, the formula that was presented to me, in that house was: *trust God, clean house and work with others*.

I also know that talking to other people with addictions is the best way for me to stay connected and aware of what is wrong with me. This is what we mean, in AA, when we say: *give it away to keep it*. Alcoholism is a terrible affliction, and, although I don't want to present as a victim, I am aware that once a person is in its grip he or she is on a steep, moral decline. Realising, and accepting, what was wrong with me has made me acutely empathetic to other sufferers.

It also compelled me to begin to try to help other sufferers. In this service, I attempt to help others by describing what I suffer from. I know I am powerless over my own illness, and therefore, definitely powerless over others. But, I also know I'm best fitted to help others through my own experience.

It's easy to sit back at a meeting of AA and wait for others to come in, but what about those who have never heard of AA, or don't know what it offers or how to connect with meetings? This is why I started to work on the detox Rosters for AA members to visit and speak to people there. I also pray for guidance and to show me where I can be helpful.

The work I've done to understand and accept my own situation, means I can now make a visit to detox with a little more empathy, compassion and a sense of gratitude for the gift that was given to me. The service of talking to people in detox has been a humbling experience and kept me grounded. I am no better or worse; and this fact, once learned, has had an enormous impact on helping me to remove my judgement over others.

I am also acutely aware that in order for me to keep what I have I must, freely, give it away. Visiting DAS-west in Footscray regularly has allowed me to grow in effectiveness and to develop better understanding of how to talk to others about alcoholism.

I have witnessed newcomers turn up to a meeting, as a direct result of listening to members who visited the detox. To me, this is direct evidence that speaking at detoxes is a two-way street: the newcomer benefits, and older, sober members benefit too by being helpful-during detox visits and after.

When I go into a detox, I may meet a patient who is ready to listen and connect. I'd like others reading this to believe that when AA members fulfil their primary purpose by visiting detox centres, they offer the opportunity for sick people to get well. On a personal level, this service fills me with gratitude and hope.

'Trust God, clean house and work with others'. I am grateful that I still know these are the things I need to do stay well. I know now that the time that I spend in detoxes is good for me and reaps benefits for those around me as well as aiding my own sobriety.



Pic- 12sobersteps.com

Area Events

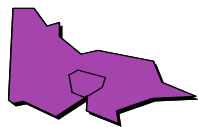
For meetings in late December, early January & beyond check the AA time: aatimes.org.au

There's a lot on over summer; a small sample is included here:

<p>Friday to Monday 5th to 8th Jan</p>	<p>AA Halls Gap Camp 2018</p> <p>AA Weekend with Al-Anon Participation</p> <p>Acacia Camp</p> <p>Grampians Road, Halls Gap, Victoria (map)</p> <p>Stay overnight for \$35 per night. Children under 12 \$15 Toddlers free.</p> <p><i>For further info call Susy 0407052763 or Marl 0417845879</i></p> <p>Download Flyer</p> <p>Halls Gap Camp Committee</p>
<p>Wednesday 10th Jan 12:00pm</p>	<p>Rapid Fire Topic Meeting</p> <p>Bendigo Daytime Wednesday AA Group 34th Anniversary</p> <p>St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall</p> <p>24 Myers Street, Bendigo (map)</p> <p>Please bring a plate to share</p> <p>Bendigo Daytime Group</p>
<p>Wednesday 10th Jan 7:30pm</p>	<p>Williamstown Meeting 58th Anniversary (Western Unity Group)</p> <p>St Andrew's Hall</p> <p>91 Cecil Street, Williamstown (near cnr Thompson Street) (map)</p> <p>Supper provided</p> <p>aawilliamstown@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Christian T 0423167097</i></p> <p>Download flyer</p> <p>Western Unity Group</p>

<p>Friday to Sunday 19th to 21st Jan</p>	<p><u>New Zealand AA 55th National Convention</u> Extravagant promises? We think not. Te Papa Tongarewa 55 Cable Street, Wellington, New Zealand (map) Registration details on convention website wellingtonconvention2018@gmail.com <i>Phone: Dan +64274384614</i> Download flyer 2018 NZ Convention Hosting Committee</p>
<p>Saturday to Sunday 3rd to 4th Feb</p>	<p><u>VICYP AA Convention 2018</u> The Fourth Dimension Meat Market Pavillion 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne (map) <i>Pre-register now at vicypaa.org</i> <i>Join us for a jam-packed weekend of recovery and fellowship at an incredible venue... For more info, to volunteer for service, find out about our upcoming events, or to make a donation, please visit vicypaa.org</i></p>
<p>Sunday 4th Feb 4:00pm - 6:00pm</p>	<p><u>Spotswood Vs Galiamble Cricket Spectacular</u> Digman Reserve Hobsons St, Newport <i>followed by meeting at the new venue.</i> Spotswood Group</p>
<p>Saturday to Sunday 10th to 11th Feb</p>	<p><u>Ballarat Alcoholics Anonymous 67th Anniversary Weekend</u> With Al-Anon participation Eureka Hall 119 Stawell St Ballarat (map)</p>
<p>Sunday 4 March Workshop 11 AM Lunch 12 Noon Assembly 1 PM</p>	<p><u>Area D Assembly</u> Hosted by Ballarat District General Assembly BallaratVenue- TBC Workshop : Dealing with disruptive or predatory behaviours in the group</p>

About Area D



Area D Southern Region is a part of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Structure of Australia. As such we fully participate in the Australian General Service Conference. We also support the AA National Office in any way we are able.

Bordered by the Yarra river, the Area includes the Western and Northern suburbs of Melbourne and extends to include other major cities such as Geelong and Ballarat, and regional centres such as Daylesford.

Disclaimer: Except for material identified as being taken directly from AA Conference Approved Literature, articles published in this Newsletter are the experience and opinion of the author, and are not necessarily the opinion of AA.



<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=Gu0b5V9t&id=BFF58F25C2ED340E465C2FF2213D7E3E154196F9&thid=OIP.Gu0b5V9tGhBOSjwHsz4QAAD4D7&q=AA+pictures&simid=608046042503315942&selectedIndex=22&ajaxhist=0>

Next Newsletter will be published April 2018.

Appendix 1 **Conference Outcomes, Topics and Other Matters**

SECTION 1 – OUTCOME OF TOPICS

No.	Topic Detail	Committee Recommendation to Conference	Conference Decision
1	The General Service Conference requests that the Fellowship considers the Structure Review Committee's attached <i>Investigations and Structure Review Plan for the Australian AA Structure</i> .	That Conference accept the topic to undertake an inventory of the Service Structure and produce a simple plan to achieve this. (See Appendix A for details of simple Plan adopted and Format adopted for Conference Workshop Discussion)	Recommendation approved. (Refer Appendix A for details of simple Plan).
2	That a Register is created of Australian AA members with fifty years plus of sobriety, which will be held in the Australian AA Archives. The responsibility for the initial gathering of members names for the Register, and the maintenance of the records thereafter, to be included in the role of the Area Registrar, and that pages 54/55 of the Australian AA Service Manual are updated accordingly.	That the Topic be rejected on the basis that the proposed register places personalities before principles and that the proposal as stated would require Conference to direct all Areas to comply	Recommendation accepted.
3	The production of 2 new Public Information postcards aimed at attracting young people with drinking problems into recovery in AA. The postcards have 2 separate images. One for male and female. The images used were accepted at Conference in 2015 as PI Posters and are in circulation now. The questions on the reverse of the postcards are off the conference approved teenage brochure currently available at GSO. The postcards are not to replace the current literature but to offer an alternative means of attracting younger people into AA. These postcards are easy to put on coffee tables and doctors waiting rooms and indeed any professional organization we go to in the course of our normal PI activities. They are also good to have at meetings especially newcomers meetings. The aim is to raise awareness that AA is available to anyone no matter what age and young people can go too.	That the Topic be accepted	Recommendation accepted

No.	Topic Detail	Committee Recommendation to Conference	Conference Decision
4	That the boundaries of the Areas within Western region be changed as per attached map.	That Conference accept the topic and agree to the boundary change as submitted	Recommendation accepted and that such changes continue to be submitted to Conference for approval
5	I would like to see the story My Southern Friend added to the Next Australian Edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous , on Pg 56 in We Agnostics- who are you too say there is no God and the Doctors Opinion – the man that hid in a deserted ban determined to die are the same man Fitz M who story is our Southern Friend pg 208 4 th edition of the Big Book	That the topic be rejected on the basis that it may result in the sacrifice of an Australian story and that stories reflect the membership	Recommendation accepted
6	Disruptive behaviours within AA. Additional information for Group Handbook. <i>GSO Australia contact USA World Service Office and request that we use the attached guideline in the Australian AA Group Handbook.</i> <i>Particular reference to this addition to be published in the next available copy of AA Around Australia.</i> <i>Great Britain and USA have guidelines accepted at Conference</i>	That the Topic be rejected. However the proposer be asked to consider pitting up two topics at another Conference: one a <i>Guideline of Safety and AA</i> and secondly a <i>Paragraph for addition to the Australian Group Handbook</i> referencing the Guideline. (issues raised in discussion included (a) need for Groups to address the issue via Group Conscience; the potential legal implications in any such Guideline; the fact that no member is above the law in relation to such offending)	Recommendation accepted
7	Increase word limits on new topic form Further clarity needed for the form before next year's conference Delete all 50 word limits in each section of this topic form and use 6 numbered points in each section to help with submitting topics	That Conference reject the topic on the basis that the present word limits and numbered points are guidelines only	Recommendation accepted
8	That the Advisory Action #020/2014, 'Conference resolved that Regional PI&CPC, Treatment and Correctional Facilities Co-ordinators be appointed to assist with the work of the National Co-ordinators', be rescinded and the Fellowship asked if they see the need for these service positions.	That Conference accept the Topic and rescind the Advisory Action 020/2014 on the basis that it seems to add an extra unneeded layer that could be handled by Area Co-ordinators	Recommendation accepted
No.	Topic Detail	Committee Recommendation to Conference	Conference Decision

9	That: <u>Each topic for conference should contain a single issue.</u> The desired outcomes are clarity, unity and inclusiveness in the Topic process.	That Conference accept the Topic and that on the current Topic Form the following be added as the first checkpoint under “ Ways to get your Topic accepted”: <i>Each Topic for Conference should contain a single issue</i>	Recommendation accepted
10	When a Delegate cannot or will not complete their term and the Alternate Delegate has to attend conference in their place the Alternate delegate will assume the duties and term as a full delegate thus eliminating them from a 4 or 5 year term and possible burn out (1 or 2 years as alternate and 3 years as delegate).	That Conference reject the topic on the basis that this is satisfactorily covered in Service Manual page 61: <i>“The Conference has affirmed the limit of the term of Area Delegate as one three year period – with the exception of an Alternate delegate who, after filling one year of the Area Delegate’s term, may be elected to serve a term of his or her own. The overall limit of attendance at Conference as an Area delegate is therefore four Conferences.”</i>	Recommendation accepted.
11	That it be written into the Service Manual that the only time an Alternate Delegate can attend Conference in a non-Delegate position, is when the elected Delegate cannot attend. If the Delegate position has been vacated and the Alternate Delegate or anyone else is not willing or unable to take on the position, another person from the Area should be elected to attend Conference once only. If the Area wishes to send the Alternate Delegate, they will be considered to be the Delegate Elect and have served one year of the Conference agreed three year term.	That Conference reject the topic on the basis that this is satisfactorily covered in Service Manual page 61: <i>“The Conference has affirmed the limit of the term of Area Delegate as one three year period – with the exception of an Alternate delegate who, after filling one year of the Area Delegate’s term, may be elected to serve a term of his or her own. The overall limit of attendance at Conference as an Area delegate is therefore four Conferences.”</i>	Recommendation accepted
12	The General Service Board recommends that the General Service Conference 2017 discusses how Alcoholics Anonymous will remain adequately funded if our society becomes cashless within the next few years, as predicted by financial experts.	That the Topic be rejected as it was considered premature. Following Conference discussion, it was agreed that the General Service Board do appropriate research and present a recommendation to 2018 Conference	Altered Recommendation accepted
No.	Topic Detail	Recommendation to Conference	Conference Decision

13	The Board recommends to Conference that an agenda and procedures for the Delegates meeting should be produced, so that it is clear that the original intent of this meeting was an induction for new delegates and that it cannot be used as a means to introducing a subject which should have been submitted as a Conference Topic. Refer Advisory Action Advisory Action #30/99: Conference recommends that, following the opening and roll-call of Conference, the first matter of business be an orientation session conducted by Delegates who have previously attended Conference, to explain to the new Delegates what will happen, what their role will be, and hence how they may be expected to participate. In particular this could include explanations of the committee system, the Robert's rules meeting procedures followed, how the voting system works and the right of a minority voice.	That this Topic be rejected on the basis that the existing document "Delegates and Observers Meeting" adequately covers the Agenda and Procedures for this meeting	Recommendation accepted
14	The Board recommends to Conference that whenever a new piece of literature or project is initiated by the General Service Conference, the Conference Committee that has made the recommendation should be fully involved in the process.	That the Topic be accepted (enhances greater participation of Conference members, helps to spread workload)	Recommendation accepted
15	The Board recommends that Conference considers the viability of having separate National Forums for Treatment Facilities, Special Needs, Correctional, Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and Remote Communities, so that there was specific focus in each of these areas.	That this Topic be rejected on the basis of cost and, that in developing the Forum Program, Planning Committees ensure adequate balance between the distinct areas of service .(Other ideas raised: potential for lack of attendance and lost opportunity for cross pollination of ideas)	Recommendation accepted
16	The Board recommends to Conference that clearer guidelines for submission, allocation and rejection of Conference topics be formulated and included in the Composition, Scope and Procedure document of the Conference Agenda Committee. Guideline GL-28 should be referred to.	That the Topic be accepted and referred to the Conference Agenda Committee for redrafting its <i>Composition, Scope and Procedures</i> document with respect of submission of Topics to Conference	Recommendation accepted
No.	Topic Detail	Recommendation to Conference	Conference Decision
17	The Board resolved to recommend to Conference that discount on literature to Areas and Districts only be available for PI&CPC initiatives by Areas and Districts.	That Conference approve the topic with the addition of <i>Treatment and Correctional Facilities</i> initiatives and <i>Remote Communities</i> initiatives	Recommendation accepted

	When there is a local Central Service Office, groups should purchase their literature from that office.		
18	The Board resolved to recommend to Conference that a series of Australian pamphlets for members with specific special needs be produced.	That the Topic be rejected on the basis of lack of definition of Special Needs and the likely prohibitive cost. (In discussion of this recommendation it was proposed that <i>Special Needs</i> Committee be changed to <i>Accessibility</i> Committee)	Recommendation accepted
19	The Board resolved to recommend to Conference that a section be included in the AA Group Handbook concerning members with other addictions. Some members have more than one addiction and, if only attending AA meetings, may not get the help they require. Directing them on where to seek help from other organisations for problems other than alcohol is not endorsing, but providing information.	That the Topic be rejected on the basis that it impinges on the principles of <i>singleness of purpose</i> and <i>group autonomy</i> and the fact this is covered in the current brochure " <i>Problems other than alcohol</i> "	Recommendation accepted

SECTION 2 - FINANCES AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017

Conference accepted the Financial Statements for the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous for the year ending 30 June 2017.

During the deliberations of Conference there was considerable discussion on the financial position as reflected in the Financial Statements.

This discussion arose in several ways, including:

- (a) Conference Report by Chairman of GSB
- (b) Address/Presentation to Conference by GSB independent, third party accountant
- (c) Input from Chairman of Trustees Finance Committee
- (d) Discussion of Financial Statements and Queries from Conference members prior to resolution to accept the Statements
- (e) Discussion of specific Conference Topics such as 012/2017 – impact of move to cashless society

The key points arising from the above discussion were:

- Appointment of independent third party as
- GSB committed to enhanced transparency. Is aware that some Groups are withholding funds from GSO pending evidence of such a commitment. Conference approved for GSB to engage the accountant (up to a maximum fee of \$3000.00) to undertake the breakdown of the Travelling Expenses item in 2015-2016 accounts.

In line with the commitment to greater transparency, an independent third party has been appointed as Accountant(s) to GSB

- Substantial deficits resulting from 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 financial years are unsustainable going forward
- Preferred Prudent Reserve for GSO equates to 9-12 months expenditure. Current prudent reserve is 4.7 months
- Under normal circumstances, opportunities for reduction in expenditure are limited. Clearly there is the need to increase Income, with increased Member/Group contributions an essential avenue. Delegates urged to encourage Groups to contribute.
- During 2016-2017 GSB was advised of a previously unknown significant liability to ATO with respect to FBT which has now been met. Professional advice previously provided to GSB with respect to any FBT liability was incorrect. GSB is currently considering possible avenues for compensation in relation to this matter.
- GSB has implemented some decisions with a view to reducing Expenditure:
 - No funding of Guest Speakers at National Convention
 - 1 World service Delegate to attend AAWS Conference rather than both
 - 2 Staff Members rather than 3 to attend GSB Meetings
 - 2 Staff Members rather than 3 to attend National Conventions
 - Tight budgetary control. Planned projects for 2017-2018 are finalised. When unplanned items arise or unplanned Projects are suggested, GSB will need to scrutinise very carefully – do we have the funds?
 - As far as possible, GSB Meetings to be arranged for completion in one day, thereby enabling fly in- fly out for Trustees to avoid accommodation costs
 - AA Around Australia to be reduced to twice per year
- Financial Statements for 2016-2017 Financial Year to be available on AA Service Website

SECTION 3 - OTHER MATTERS

(1) 2018 General Service Conference – Relevant Dates

Conference to be held Thursday 1st – Sunday 4th November

Conference Agenda Committee Meeting to formulate Agendas – Saturday 16 June

Deadline for submission of Conference Topics – 4.00pm Friday 29 June

Theme for 2018 Conference – *The Fellowship's Future*

(2) Composition, Scope and Procedure document for Conference Committees

Conference resolved that the following be added to the C,S,P document for all Conference Committees:

To optimise communication and understanding of Trustee activities during the year, the Chairs of Trustees' Committees act as Trustee Liaison to advise their related Conference Committees during the annual General service Conference. They also write to their corresponding Conference Committee chairpersons following the February and July Board meetings and confer with them during the year as necessary to keep them informed, seek advice or draw on additional skills

(3) Addition to Guideline 22 – Members visiting Correctional Facilities

To comply with Advisory Action 022/2014, the following text to be included in the Guideline:

GSO has setup a Correctional Facilities Correspondence Service for prisoners wishing to correspond with AA Members. All correspondence to be addressed to P O Box 44 Arncliffe, NSW, 2205. Full details of this correspondence service can be found in the pamphlet 04U-36 "Corrections Correspondence Outside" which can be obtained from your local Central Service Office or GSO. It is suggested that members participating in this service take normal precautions to ensure their own privacy and safety by only corresponding via the above post office box and by not revealing any personal details(e.g. postal or email address, telephone no, date of birth, employer). It is suggested that members do not send gifts or make purchases on behalf of prisoners.

(4) Revised Area Delegate Section of the Australian Service Manual

The Charter and Service Manual Committee advised Conference that it had insufficient time to review the proposed revision in order to determine a recommendation for consideration by Conference. The proposed revised section constituted a very extensive document. Conference therefore agreed to the following: *That the GSO Manager send the document containing the proposed revision to all Delegates for responses in order that an agreed document may be considered by 2018 Conference.*

(5) Australian Content Videos for National Website

Conference was shown a video comprising brief responses of four members responding to questions on AA and how it has impacted on their lives. Conference responded very positively to the videos, but requested that adjustments be made to better ensure the visual anonymity of the members. Subject to these adjustments, it was agreed to project be completed.

(6) Committee to advise/assist with the development of Indigenous Literature(Advisory Action 038/2016)

The Chair of the Trustees Literature Committee advised that thus far only one indigenous member had nominated for this Committee. The implementation of this Advisory Action is thus still in progress.

(7) DVD/CD ROM For Prisons and Prison Inmates

This has now been completed and available. It is intended for distribution to all General Managers (or equivalent) or most appropriate Personnel in all Australian Correctional facilities. Area Delegates will be pivotal in ensuring the distribution occurs as effectively as possible in line with the stated purpose

of the publication. Utilisation of contacts at the local level rather than blanket distribution is the preferred method to ensure success.

(8) Trustee Appointments

- (a) Approved extension of term of Mike W as a General Service Trustee to ensure continuity.
- (b) Ratification (i.e no disapproval from Conference) of appointment of Lachlan B as a General Service Trustee
- (c) Ratification (i.e no disapproval from Conference) of appointments of Class A Trustees: Tom Faunce and Ruby Jones
- (d) Recommended to GSB that Andy P be appointed as Central Regional Trustee – decided by Third Legacy Procedure
- (e) Recommended to GSB that Penelope C be appointed as Southern Regional Trustee
- (f) Recommended to GSB that Paul J be appointed as Western Regional Trustee
- (g) Recommended to GSB that Brian S be appointed as World Service Delegate – decided by Third Legacy Procedure

(9) Future National Conventions, National Forums and Regional Forums

- (a) 2018 National Convention to be held in Perth at Easter March 29th - April 2nd – Planning progressing very well
Early Bird registration now available. Refer www.aanatcon2018.com.au.
- (b) 2018 Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum to be held in Byron Bay
- (c) 2018 Southern Regional Forum – Area D to confirm if it will host this Forum
- (d) 2019 PI and CPC Forum – bid accepted from Area E Eastern Region
- (e) 2019 National Convention – to be held in Canberra at Easter April 18th – 22nd
- (f) 2020 National Convention – bid accepted from Area C North-Eastern Region, with location to be Toowoomba, probably Sept/Oct
- (g) 2021 National Convention – Areas in Central Region(SA) to make a bid; Area F Southern Region considering same

(10) Membership Survey

1400 responses had been received by Conference. The Survey will remain open for several months with a view to obtaining a greater response, thus enabling increased quality of conclusions from a larger quantum of data

SECTION 4 – APPENDIX A

Topic 001/2017: a recommendation to the fellowship.

The conference policies and admissions committee recommends to conference that the fellowship undertake an inventory of the Service Structure and produce a simple plan to do this.

An Inventory Committee be formed that would communicate digitally. 2 members from each region.

Inform the fellowship of the recommendation from conference to take structural inventory.

No set time-line other than:

2018: The findings so far, and tell us what you want.

Discussion paper and on-line survey.

- Circulate a Discussion paper informing the fellowship on the general service conference workshop (2/11/17), adding that an on-line members survey will follow for the fellowship to participate.
- The on-line survey to be activated around the time of the discussion paper.
- The survey will seek the following information:
 - Are we fulfilling our primary purpose?
 - What, if any, are the issues at local, area, regional, national levels of structure?
 - What would you change?
 - *Floor action addition: Are you aware of the service structure? If interested in service, would you like to be contacted by your local area? (survey also containing links to websites)*
- Findings submitted to conference 2018.
- The conference submission would be an inventory document to inform the desire for structural change if any, or to address smaller matters via topics of conference.

2019: Here's what you told us, so what are we going to do?

White paper.

- Circulation of a White Paper containing:
 - Issues you want addressed.
 - Talking points – for and against.
 - The ramifications and details of changes.
 - Our collective responsibility for the changes.
- Convene workshops similar to 2017 workshops to educate, review, discuss with members
- Report to conference 2019.

Conference Workshop Structure Review Documentation 11.00am-1.00pm (Sessions 1 & 2); 2.00pm-4.00pm (Sessions 3 & 4) – Thursday 2 November

Agenda for Structure Review Plan workshop at the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 2017 to consider the Structure Review Committee's documents *Investigations* and *Structure Review Plan for the Australian AA Structure*.

The workshop is a sharing session. No decisions, conclusions or recommendations should be made at this time. The workshop is an opportunity for conference members to discuss the proposal, in some detail, in the light of the experience of the participants and for conference to get *a sense of the fellowship* on the proposal. Topic #001.2017 will be separately considered by the **Policies and Admissions Committee** and its recommendations made to the conference for final deliberation and vote.

Questions for consideration

Sessions 1 & 2

- 1) Reflecting upon *Concept I*, what was your area's response to the problems of unity and structure identified in topic 008/2015? (see Attachment A in the Investigations document) What has been the experience of your own area in this regard?

- 2) Reflecting upon *Concept II*, what structural problems, if any, were identified in your own groups/districts/ areas, local CSO's, as a result of discussions on the proposed plan?

Sessions 3 & 4

- 3) Reflecting on *Concept XII*, how was the proposed plan received by your area? What strengths and weaknesses, if any, did your area identify? Would such a plan adequately address the problems, if any, identified in questions 1 and 2? What modifications, improvements, rethinking, if any, might need to be made before such a plan might be implemented?
- 4) Reflecting on *Concept IV*, if conference were to approve the plan, or some variation thereof, how would conference ensure it had the endorsement of the fellowship as a whole to successfully execute it? Is such a plan feasible at all, without broad fellowship support?

The format

A short (10 minute) introduction by the Workshop Co-ordinator, explaining the background to the topic, outlining the purpose of the workshop and the format the workshop will take. Time should be taken to go back through the documents to make sure everyone is familiar with the contents.

Conference will then divide into (approximately) five groups of six, each group to be selected by the co-ordinator, utilizing a ballot or alternating selection around the room. Each group then selects *a timekeeper, a note taker and a group leader. The constitution of each group will change half way through - that is after Session on Q.2*

At the end of each session, all return to full Conference and Group Leaders will report back to the Conference Floor on the sense of the group regarding the question/s under consideration.

Each Session (4 in total) to comprise 30 minute small group discussion and 20 minute report back.

At the end of Session 4 Report