

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2022 TOPICS

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOPIC #001/2022 (REFER ATTACHMENTS A AND B)

Pursuant to: **NOTES FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – (Conference 2021)**

“Funds over and above our budgeted operating expenses and our prudent reserve will be moved into a project fund to carry out projects and Conference meeting advisory actions”.

This Topic proposes that projects and advisory actions requiring funding be prioritized by the Conference as to the immediacy of action required.

Groups, Districts, Areas, and individual Members be given the opportunity to contribute to a project/advisory action if additional funding is needed to expedite action.

A transparent mechanism be set up to give feedback to the fellowship.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. Many projects/advisory actions agreed to at Conference are not completed due to insufficient funds.
2. Immediacy of the need for any given project is delayed or not achieved.
3. Groups, Districts, Areas, and individual Members will be more likely to directly fund projects considered of value and immediacy, example: digital media under National PI.
4. Groups, Districts, Areas, and individual Members will have the opportunity to be directly involved in supporting projects/advisory actions that are considered of importance and of immediate need to them and the fellowship. (See attachment B)
5. Gives members a sense of direct ownership/involvement in a project/advisory action.
6. Provides an opportunity for the fellowship to have an advisory project/advisory acted upon expediently

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Conference prioritise advisory actions/projects requiring funding, in terms of immediacy
2. GSB advise Areas, Districts and Groups of funding for a project and the required funding short fall of that project, giving Areas, Districts, Groups, and individuals Members the opportunity to allocate funds to a specific project (See attachment A).
3. As projects are approved by Conference, GSB will create a transparent mechanism to show how they are funded.
4. After 2 years, if there are still insufficient funds, funds will be returned to operating expenses or other advisory actions/projects still requiring further funding as determined by the GSB

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. Advisory actions/projects based on "better carrying the message" will be achieved.
2. Advisory actions/projects will be achieved in a more expedient timeframe.
3. In the case of PI, advisory actions/projects will cover a broader base of entry/contact for newcomers, for example: all forms of digital media would be used and funded.
4. Members become stakeholders in advisory actions/projects, potentially creating more interest in service, which will better serve the still suffering alcoholic.
5. Since unused funding is returned to operating expenses or other advisory actions/projects after 2 years, funds may be reallocated.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

The costs would be the additional time spent in allocating funds within the budget

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

"In all our affairs" is an online meeting. Since no Virtual Area has been created, no District or Area has been asked about this topic.

This topic has been developed from members across Australia attending this meeting.

Some members are past and current Delegates, ex Trustees and the meeting Steering Committee.

TOPIC #009/2022

To remove the No Discount status of more than 17% of the items on the literature price list, items that are priced between \$0.01 and \$40.00, we have to pay freight, and because members expect to pay the official price, we sell these items at a loss.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. I am my district's current literature officer, and have held this position several times since 2004. So I understand our costs.

We receive a 23.5% discount on the bulk of the items we buy but freight takes a little over 50% of that on average, plus we need to supply tax invoice receipt books, if the items were only the very low cost items it would not be a concern, but almost all Public Information items up to \$35.00, some pamphlets, a \$40 sign, a \$15.00 comic book, are not discounted

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Give us the discount on all items over \$0.10
2. For the GSO to send non-discounted items separately, and for them to pay the freight
3. For the GSO to charge flat rate freight, so we all pay at the same rate per kilo regardless of location

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

Increased availability of recovery resources. Because of increased viability of CSO literature funds increases our ability to hold stock, any profit belongs to the district, which regularly donates to Area and the GSO. no profit = reduced ability to donate.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Probably not huge, but not knowing how much non discounted literature is sold by the GSO, I am not in a position to guess

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Was presented to the N Q D of AA district meeting on the 9th of May 2022, and received approval,

Was presented to the Area Assembly of the Area A NER area Round Up on the 11th of June 2022

And also received approval there.

CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

TOPIC #002/2022 (REFER ATTACHMENT)

Provide more clarity and expand on Section four – the District and District Committee Member - in the Australian General Service Manual, Ninth Edition. Unlike Section 5 of the Service Manual which provides a lot of information about the Area, and suggestions on how to set up and run an Area Assembly and who can vote etc, the literature does not provide as much clarity for conducting a District meeting or who makes up a District committee. It is suggested that Section Four of the Manual be updated to provide groups with more guidance on what a District is and how to conduct a District meeting. Information such as the scope of a District Committee could be helpful (which is clear and concise for an Area in the Manual, but not for a District).

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. There has been confusion over who has the right to vote at our local District Meeting, and the service literature does not provide clear suggestions about this. We are aware our District is autonomous, but we believe the Service Manual could be updated to further assist groups and Districts. There has been confusion around a District 'committee' and a District 'Meeting'. The group handbook states: "In many cases **district committees**, composed of all the GSR's in a given district, serve as a filter to the Area Assembly." (Page 41, The Australian AA Group Handbook). Should the wording be changed **district meeting**? This is just an example of where some of the confusion lies.
2. There is no clarity in the Service Manual around who sits on a District Committee and how they are elected, such as there is for the Area.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. We ask the General Service Conference to consider updating Section Four in the Australian Service Manual, and Guideline GL-05. In the Manual things to update could include how to conduct a District meeting or set up a District committee.
2. This update could include clear guidance on who votes in a District meeting, and an explanation of the importance of the GSR at District meetings.
3. Clarify what a District Committee role is e.g., to provide assistance to groups and Public Information in the District. Provide a clearer definition of a District meeting versus a District committee in our Australian AA Group Handbook.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. A better understanding of district meeting procedures, particularly voting procedures
2. Importance of the Group will be further understood by its members to assure proper functioning of the structure of AA.
3. An increase in participation of GSR'S at District and Area Assemblies strengthens Unity

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil costs. Any updates could be included in future reprints or editions of the Guidelines, Australian AA Group Handbook. The new edition of the Australian General Service Manual comes out in binder form – saving groups and members on having to buy or print the entire Manual, they can just print Section Four and replace it in their current Manual binder.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Home group endorsed the Topic. Discussed at our local District meeting (what was outcome?) in March and discussed at Area Assembly in May (provide outcome).

CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

TOPIC:#003/2022

A meeting currently exists on the first Sunday of every month that provides an Auslan Interpreter (as well as Closed Captions on Zoom) for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alcoholic Community in Australia. We are requesting a broad Australia-wide campaign be mobilised to raise awareness that this meeting is available.

Every Deaf and Hard of Hearing Person in Australia needs be aware that this meeting exists. We are seeking help from AA groups, Area Assemblies, and the General Service Conference to raise awareness that AA welcomes and will support the Deaf/HOH if they wish to investigate a 12-step solution to alcoholism. In addition, closed captions for the meeting also aid many older, sober members with age-related hearing loss.

A core group (2-5 members) of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are attending regularly, after 5 months from our local word-of-mouth campaign.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. No 12 Step meeting or any 12 Step Support has consistently been available in Australia for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alcoholics. We are unaware of any treatment facilities with this capacity.
2. Members of PNP group have personal experience in the Auslan community. Discussions at the Group Conscious led to initial efforts to take action.
3. Auslan (Australian Sign Language) is unique to Australia. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alcoholics in Australia are not able to attend online Zoom meetings that might be available in other countries as they do not speak AUSLAN. So, we seek an Australian solution for Auslan speaking alcoholics.

4. Our current experience (and subsequent positive results) make it clear that the enormity of this issue, is beyond our groups capacity to move it forward. If a weekly meeting could be established, many might benefit.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Inform AA working committees and groups that a consistent hybrid AA meeting now exists in Auslan. Ask that they contribute ideas that include the D/HOH within their areas of expertise. These ideas can be passed back to a working committee.
2. Create and publicise a TTY Line * for potential D/HOH members to communicate and obtain information about AA. This would be the Deaf equivalent of a phone call to the local AA office.
3. Implement an awareness campaign throughout AA's Public Information Committees.
4. Produce a targeted online advertising campaign for the Deaf /HOH Community. Communicate to this segment through social media, blogs, community boards, Facebook pages and at recreational activities frequented by the Deaf/HOH community. These campaigns could convey our message with more photographs and fewer words.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. If the Deaf and Hard of Hearing don't know about us, they will never have the opportunity to explore AA and recovery through the 12 Steps.
2. The advent of Zoom and hybrid meetings presents an opportunity for D/HOH alcoholics to create their own meetings and AA network throughout the country. After some members learn the Steps and Traditions, they will be able to work with others in a more positive and effective way than any hearing person. We can't comprehend their needs and roadblocks. We don't have their experience.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

The current cost to Progress Not Perfection to pay for an interpreter for one hour is currently \$284.00.

The yearly cost for supplying a monthly Auslan Interpreter is \$3408.00.

Cost for TTY dedicated Help Line: Unknown
Cost for online campaign:

The AA Facebook campaign ICD costs \$550.00 per month.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

PNP members are dedicated to continuing this program. The concerns within our group relate to sustained funding of the project.

Area are supportive and have offered to form a working committee dedicated to helping PNP.

Board Members with exposure to our Deaf members at the Melbourne Convention in 2022 are encouraging.

*A TTY device consists of a keyboard and display screen, with the telephone handset placed on top of the TTY or a direct phone line connected to the TTY, This enables the Deaf to communicate by telephone.)

TOPIC #004/2-22 (REFER ATTACHMENTS A, B, C AND D)

To have conference approved literature of a less formal, easier to read and us type that improves a Treatment Facility's patient's engagement with Alcoholics Anonymous after they have left the facility and also if possible, whilst they are in their facility.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Many years of experience in AA service involved in Treatment Facilities service has made apparent to those doing so that there is a weakness these detainees and patients must overcome to maintain momentum with their recoveries. That being the gap between inside their facility and AA on the outside (And to a certain extent how much they can engage with AA whilst inside their facility too). So many patients and detainees are keen but quickly succumb to the outside world when they don't have a plan of their own involving our program and fellowship in easy to comprehend suggestive terms.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Our Area's Correctional Facilities team have put together a simple suite of documents on the theme 'Bridging the Gap'. The documents are not as formal in appearance as all directions or literature from Correctional or Treatment facilities and contain useful pragmatic suggestions.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

The documents are hoped to help give focus back to the detainee or patient or client of what is so important to do in between being in and landing outside of a facility and what to do next(Often they are bombarded with all kinds of instructions and hoops to jump through with AA blending into the far background). That these documents may be all that is needed for some to maintain their ongoing recovery, to bridge this gap and be a continuing member of our fellowship is our hope and aim. That is good for both fellowship and individuals from many points of view not the least being the public perception of AA as a public resource and service in different types of facilities.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Print Costings estimates: -
Bridging the Gap Trifold Brochure - \$0.40 ea.
Bridging the Gap A4 Flyer - \$0.20 ea.
Bridging the Gap A5 Flyer - \$0.20 ea.
Bridging the Gap Business Card - \$0.12 ea

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

The Area's CF Team have had positive feedback from the Eastern Region Corrections Committee and the material has also been positively received by our local Correctional Facility support staff (During a test run of the documents) and our Area Assembly has also approved the topic's content and intent.

CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

TOPIC #004/2-22 (REFER ATTACHMENTS A, B, C AND D)

To have conference approved literature of a less formal, easier to read and us type that improves a Correctional Facility detainee's engagement with Alcoholics Anonymous after they have left the facility and also if possible, whilst they are in their facility.

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

TOPIC #005/2022

Institute National Put up a AA Poster week of December 11 to recognise one of our co-Founders's sobriety dated.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

- 1. Encourage PI&CPC in our Fellowship
- 2. Reach the still suffering Alcoholic

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

- 1. Organize on a National Level through AAAA, The Mixer and CSO's

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

- 1. AA will be found at more locations for those friends and family members of Alcoholics
- 2. The suffering Alcoholics may find AA

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil, voted on at conference will make it what the groups want and each group can contribute for their own posters for their group members

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Consulted with GSO

TOPIC #18/2022

The General Service Board advises Conference that a new Committee, has been formed to reduce the workload of the Trustees' PI&CPC Committee. This new committee has been named the Technology & Social Media Committee. The overall scope of the committee will be any member service or supporting function that heavily relies on technology or that is/will be impacted by changes in technology, e.g. tasks relating to the National and Service Websites, Social Media, Communications and Member Services.

The General Service Board recommends that the General Service Conference forms a corresponding committee.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

The new committee will attend to tasks such as

Websites

- Public Website aa.org.au
- GSO Literature store literature.aa.org.au
- Meetings List meetings.aa.org.au
- members / service website - members.aa.org.au
- Other websites utilised/provided by GSO

Social Media

- Video - YouTube Channel
- Official Social Media Accounts
- Other

Communications

- Video Conferencing - Zoom / Teams / Other
- Whats APP groups (Official ones....)
- Mailing Lists (MailChimp)
- Polling (Member Polls)
- EMail
- Magazines
- Blogs

Member Services

- 1300 AA AA AA (Telephone)
- Chat Service
- CSO Support
- Digital / Virtual Events (Conventions / Conferences / Other)

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Not applicable.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

Reduced workload on current committees

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal cost.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Discussed at General Service Board meeting July 2022.

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

TOPIC #008/2022

To add wording to any relevant pamphlets and the service manual to better reflect or clarify that when there is no local CSO then an AA District could become the responsible entity for that role and could be supported by local group contributions.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

There is often confusion as to how local is defined when groups are distributing their contributions. Quite often some see a CSO located long distances from them in another AA Area as their "local office while their group in fact belongs to an AA District in their own AA Area. The financial outcome for Districts is that funds for their local PI work / phone service / web page finishes up in a CSO which has no connection to the AA Districts or relevant groups in that locality.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

If the wording better explained the term local and how a district can take the place of a CSO when no CSO resides within an AA Area it would allow members of these groups to make well informed decisions in regards to the distribution of group contributions.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

This would allow for the opportunity for Districts to be better funded and better placed to carry out their primary purpose as regards to PI work within the district. Enabling districts to fund PI initiatives to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic within the local area and also allow for better opportunity for districts in carrying out their full roles in the service structure. Naturally the autonomy of each group would still allow distribution of contributions to be allocated to whoever the group decides.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION

A one cost for printing brochures and changes to the service manual.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

This topic was raised and discussed initially at District 9 and taken to Area B where it was raised and was voted to be put on hold, however the Area Chair and Area Delegate after more discussion are happy to endorse the topic. District 9 has unanimously voted to put this forward as a topic. It has also been discussed and endorsed by our World Service Delegate.

TOPIC #010/2022

The members of Conference request that the Board investigate and pursue mechanisms by which Australian members (and the worldwide fellowship generally) can have a say in future decisions regarding changes to our key literature.

At present, changes to our most important AA literature - including the Big Book, the 12&12 and the Preamble - can only be approved by the North American General Service Conference. This means that only members from the USA and Canada can have a say. Members in the rest of the world are excluded from the process.

‘The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship’ ...

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

As stated in Concept One (quoted above) the whole fellowship has responsibility and authority for world services. However, members in 178 of the countries in which AA has a presence do not get a vote on proposed changes to our key literature. Members in the USA and Canada have a say, as they elect delegates to the North American General Service Conference – but the rest of us do not.

Given the central, vital role of literature in supporting all three legacies, and the affection and gratitude we feel for our core publications, we believe it’s time to allow the whole fellowship to participate in considering and approving any changes.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

There might not be a solution – but this topic seeks to start a process to find one if possible.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

We would all benefit from an improved sense of participation, inclusion and global unity. Our literature would be truly ours, wherever we live.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Expected to be minimal.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Endorsed by my home group, District and Area.

TOPIC #011/2022

That the Conference agree to make the AA Australia Group Handbook freely available to all members as a downloadable PDF.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

My research efforts for a recent Area Assembly Workshop led me to trying to locate a PDF, downloadable version of the AA Australia Group Handbook. I could not locate one, and yet for groups it serves a very similar function to the AA Australia Service Manual and Guidelines, which are downloadable, cost-free.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Make the AA Australia Group Handbook available for download, cost-free, alongside the AA Service Manual and Guidelines on aaservice.org.au. This would also allow many group, district, area and other service-related websites to also offer it as a download, as they currently do the manual and guidelines.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

Having a strong group service focus does not just lead to our own sobriety, but to that of countless others. It literally fulfils AA's singularity of primary purpose. I am assuming it is in recognition of this fact that the conference has decided to make both the service manual and guidelines as freely available as possible to the fellowship, without cost. It is for this reason that we could also make the group handbook available. Effective examples of altruistic service - i.e. the types that benefit the alcoholic who still suffers - often stem from being involved in an informed, involved, '24/7' group, but to be a part of one takes knowledge and application of the contents of the handbook. Why make this most essential of all group information sources something we have to pay for? Doesn't this literally restrict the carrying of our vital message?

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal to zero, I would imagine. No doubt the handbook exists as a PDF already and any IT implementation costs should not be prohibitive.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

I raised this suggestion at the most recent Area D Southern Region assembly, and whilst it was not formally voted on, it was discussed. There seemed to be no dissent amongst the attendees. On that basis, I proceeded to write up and submit this topic.

TOPIC #015/2022 (REFER ATTACHMENT)

To edit and adopt the District Committee Member (D.C.M.) Kit Contents page for general service in Australia. Form: F-153W on aa.org. [District Committee Member \(D.C.M.\) Kit List | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. To have a list of literature for the DCM to reference, as like with other service kits.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Adopt the same template from aa.org, leave the hyperlinks to the literature that is the same as used in Australia. Edit any references to literature that are not used in Australian service structure and replace with Australian equivalent.
2. Make this available for purchase as a kit, much like the other service kits e.g., Corrections, PI, CPC.
3. Make the kit contents page available for free download for the DCM's to compile themselves if they wish.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. It will make it easier for the DCM's to have an understanding of their role, and how to best serve their district.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

2 days administration to edit template, review, and upload to aa.org.au
\$600

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Yes, discussed with the Area C assembly who supported the topic.

TOPIC #016/2022 (REFER ATTACHMENT)

To edit and adopt the General Service Representative (G.S.R.) Kit Contents page for general service in Australia. Form: GSRLISTW on aa.org. [GSR Kit Contents \(aa.org\)](#)

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. To have a list of literature for the GSR to reference, as like with other service kits.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Adopt the same template from aa.org, leave the hyperlinks to the literature that is the same as used in Australia. Edit any references to literature that are not used in Australian service structure and replace with Australian equivalent.
2. Make this available for purchase as a kit, much like the other service kits e.g., Corrections, PI, CPC.
3. Make the kit contents page available for free download for the GSR's to compile themselves if they wish.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. It will make it easier for the GSR's to understand their role, and how to best serve their group, district and area.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

2 days administration to edit template, review, and upload to aa.org.au
\$600

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Yes, discussed with the Area C assembly who supported the topic.

TOPIC #21/2022

The General Service Conference requests permission from the General Service to produce and sell an 80th anniversary medallion.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

To raise awareness in the Fellowship of this event.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Not applicable.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

Contained in background.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

To be advised.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Discussed and approved at the General Service Board meeting July 2022

TOPIC #023/2022 (REFER ATTACHMENT)

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that a new Australian Commemorative Big Book be produced to commemorate AA Australia's anniversary and that the attached Foreword be approved. The normal process for production of a new piece of Conference approved literature, as described in the Australian AA Service Manual, will be followed.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Contained in topic

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Not applicable.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

A new piece of literature available.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Depends on quantity produced. Approximately \$50,000.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Discussed and approved at the General Service Board meeting July 2022

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

TOPIC #012/2022 (REFER ATTACHMENTS A AND B)

That the General Service Conference (GSC) of Australia instruct the General Service Board to set a policy that endorses the spirit of Rotation by ceasing the extension of terms of Regional Trustees, General Service Trustees, and GSB Chairpersons.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. The General Service Board is made up of x2 General Service Trustees alcoholics (who form part of the management group and are heavily involved in the running of The General Service Office), 6 Regional Trustees alcoholics, x4 non-alcoholic Class A Trustees, The General Service Office Manager alcoholic, and x2 World Service Delegates alcoholics (who attend Board Meetings but only get to vote on World Service matters). There is a history of the Australian General Service Conference extending Trustee and Board Chairperson terms, not in line with one of AAs guiding spiritual Principles. Rotation. (See additional information attached, sent from the GSO to better inform the groups re the history of extended terms).
2. Tradition 9 the long form states rotating Leadership is the best, Concepts XI & XII and multiple sections in the AA General Service Manual support the spirit of Rotation.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. The GSC instruct the GSB to set a Policy (as above).
2. Leave jobs vacant so that they can be filled. A filled position is impossible to fill.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. The Trustees of AA are concerned with everything happening inside and outside AA that may affect the health and growth of the movement (General Service Manual p95). AAs health and functioning benefits the alcoholic.
2. AA Australia will be more aligned with the Spiritual Principles set out in the Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts, which benefits the alcoholic.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

The Topic unanimously supported by the home group, endorsed by the local district, discussed at Area Assembly, supported, suggested word changes by Area made to Topic.

TOPIC #017/2022

The General Service Board requests that the Conference supports the Board's intention to change Article 4 of its Articles of Association by rewording that last sentence to read:

'Any Trustees having retired shall not be eligible for reappointment, except in the case where a Class A Trustee has retired before completion of their term of office'

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Class A Trustees are difficult to find. Several past Class A Trustees have resigned due to unforeseen circumstances, which no longer exist, but are now willing and able to resume these duties.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

Class A Trustees play an important role as the public face of AA when carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Discussed at General Service Board meeting July 2022.

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

TOPIC #013/2022

That the General Service Conference (GSC) of Australia take its Inventory. The last formal Inventory of the GSC was undertaken in 1994 (28yrs ago).

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. A business which takes no regular Inventory usually goes broke.
2. We take a personal Inventory in step 4, groups, Districts and Areas take Inventory, it's a fact finding and fact facing process to search out the flaws which cause failure, to disclose damaged or unsalable goods, to get rid of them promptly and without regret. It's a value exercise. BB p64

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. The GSC agree that an Inventory is necessary, and form a subcommittee of the GSC to undertake the work.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. Preservation of the health of the GSC and the General Service structure of AA is about AAs future. See Article attached "Why do we need a Conference" p70 The General Service Manual by the late Bernard B Smith non-alcoholic Trustee.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Unable to determine, possibly minimal. It will require time and effort.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Topic was supported by the Group, District, and Area

TOPIC #014/2022

When an Area is unable to immediately field a Delegate to Conference then the Area, as an option, can elect a previous, but not the retiring, Delegate to serve a term of 1 year.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

- 1. This means the area maintains its 'right of participation'
- 2. That the 2/3rd majority of Delegates to non-delegate voters will be more closely achieved
- 3. It will give the Area more time to find a Delegate
- 4. We already have the option for the Alt. to serve a 4 Year Maximum term when a Delegate cannot fulfil their term
- 5. We basically work on the North American service System, which does not always suit us in Australia, mainly because they have a greater A.A population to draw service people from.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

- 1. A simple update to Section 6 of the Australian service manual at next printing – Stating that *When an Area is unable to immediately field a Delegate to Conference then the Area, as an option, can elect a previous, but not the retiring, Delegate to serve a term of 1 year.*

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

- 1. Most Area's/Districts/Groups have trouble recruiting members to do general service work and this will help keep the Area and its members advised of things happening in A.A and it will mean the Area members will still have a voice and a vote at Conference

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal just a change to the next printing of the service manual

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Yes - Discussed at Area assembly and workshopped before submission.

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

TOPIC #019/2022

The General Service Board requests that Conference extends the scope of the National Combined Forum and that it be renamed The Combined National PI&CPC, Correctional Facilities, Treatment Facilities & Accessibility and Remote Communities Forum.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

So that there is equal focus on all areas of our carry the message activities.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Not applicable.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

The Fellowship will be more aware of our responsibilities to carry the message in remote areas.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal cost.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Discussed and approved at General Service Board meeting July 2022.

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

TOPIC #20/2022

The General Service Conference recommends to Conference that the sum of \$2000 be donated to the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat to assist with the running costs of the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Contained in topic

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Not applicable.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

Will assist in carrying the message to developing countries.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

\$2000

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Discussed and approved at the General Service Board meeting July 2022

CONFERENCE FLOOR

TOPIC #22/2022

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that the 2025 National Convention be held in Sydney to celebrate AA Australia's 80th anniversary and that it be hosted by the General Service Board.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Contained in topic

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Not applicable.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

Celebration of a milestone event in AA Australia's history.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

To be advised.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Discussed and approved at the General Service Board meeting July 2022

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED BY CONFERENCE BUT HAVE BEEN REFERRED DIRECT TO THE TECHNOLOGY TEAM WHO WILL ADVISE CONFERENCE OF THE OUTCOME.

TOPIC #006/2022

That the National AA website, needs to be improved for those in search of a meeting. Currently the search function needs to be more accurate for finding meetings by location.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

When searching for some meetings by postcode the search achieves a nil result (for example Camperdown 2050 and Dulwich Hill 2203). When using “choose different location” it should appear near the top of list.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Resolve the data search issue.
2. Prioritize the search options eg: suburb location first.
3. Check that postcode locations deliver for all meetings.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

1. Confused newcomers will have clear and accurate meeting information
2. Simplification will mean it takes less time to achieve a meeting data result
3. Members and newcomers will experience less frustration on help calls
4. Less confusion for those on various diverter calls late at night especially

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Unknown.

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

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TOPIC #007/2022

A search for meetings with wheelchair access on AA.org.au returns only x 4 nationally.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Accessibility information is crucial for all alcoholics

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

On the 'add a meeting' form make a section for accessibility with a checkbox for wheelchair access, a checkbox for Auslan and a free text field for any other details regarding accessibility.

HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?

If an alcoholic is in a wheelchair and don't know whether they can access the premises they are unlikely to go.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

A small amount of time for the members updating the website

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Topic supported by the group and area.

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NO TOPICS WERE REJECTED THIS YEAR