

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2018 TOPICS

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

TOPIC #002/2018

Can and should Dogs be allowed at AA Meetings and if not , why is it still happening and how do we stop it before someone is sued or hurt or a meeting is kicked out its premises .

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

- 1.Happening continuously
- 2.Dogs are in the top 5 fears of all people
3. Councils have notified CSO about no dogs at meetings , a group told a member that CSO had said it was ok dogs where in their meeting hall , the member contacted the council and of course a irrate council employee contacted CSO and asked why they where telling members this , as council have strict policies on no Dogs in meetings , of course CSO did not know any of this .
- 4.Most council , church and shire halls would have a no dog policy
- 5.Someone could be bitten , fall on a lead , a small dog and also very it is very unhygenic with fleas and urine stains found on floors .
6. Obvious Health and Safety issue

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

- 1.Notify all groups of our insurance policy if there is a incident involving dogs .
- 2.Ask all groups too contact venue hirer to see if dogs permitted on their premises .

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

- 1.Some people will be free to attend where there is no Dogs
- 2.Not a risk to public controversary if a meeting is kicked out or the council is contacted again
- 3.No risk to members being sued or injuries occurring

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?

It has been a subject of discussion as long as I can remember at CSO , District and Area and always put in local newsletter for dogs not to be at meetings , I am aware it has been discussed at conference , could we discuss again .

TOPIC #006/2018

Resolve that urgent legal action be taken against “AA Vic” for breaches of our AA copyrights which they are violating, and a fund be established Australia-wide to ensure that these necessary actions be financed to preserve the copyrights from destruction.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

For some years, at least since “AA Vic” registered itself as a separate organization, and whose right to sell, buy and print AA and Grapevine copyrighted material was withdrawn, this outside organization has constantly sought illegal means to obtain AA literature or sections of it. If this is not stopped through legal enforceable action, these copyrights will become null and void, not just in Australia but, because we are signatories to the International Copyright Agreement, AA worldwide will lose its copyrights. The literature, etc. will no longer be ours or protectable.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

It is the Board’s legal responsibility and it says it doesn’t have the funds. A solution would be a nationwide campaign to raise the funds in an organised fashion, eg a crowd-funding activity via the securer AA websites, etc.

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

It will protect and preserve our literature copyrights and fulfil our responsibilities to AAWS, and in this regard, sick alcoholics of today and the future will retain control of the written AA message. Without it the message will be open to be changed in whatever way an individual desires, and it will be lost.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Costs of legal action could be quite small or very large, but without the action, the costs could be the loss of the AA message altogether, and a future for the Fellowship.

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

Yes, all three approving.

TOPIC #007/2018

That the General Service Conference advise the General Service Board to take the following immediate action to resolve the following threat by the ‘AA Reviver’ to the Australian AA Fellowship.

1. Commence legal action to prohibit this company from using the copyrighted Trademark ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’ in any of its publications. A letter from the General Service Board’s solicitor, sent in May 2017 was ignored, and it has been publically stated that there is no intention of compliance.

2. Commence legal action to prevent this company from importing, selling or publishing AA copyrighted material, including the Big Book. It has been publically stated by a director of this company that there is no such thing as ‘Conference approved, copyrighted literature’.

3. Take action to advise the Australian Charities & Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) that the status of this company, which has registered itself as a charity (see attachment), should be thoroughly investigated and that it has no legal connections to Alcoholics Anonymous. The company has applied for and been granted exemption from income and fringe benefits tax and GST.

4. Take action to ensure that all members and groups are aware that all members/groups are aware that purchasing literature from this company is harming their Fellowship.

5. Ensure that all convention/rally committees, particularly in New South Wales, are aware that this company is contravening the international legal licensing agreement between the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia and AA World Services Inc.

6. Advise that any groups purchasing and displaying this literature will be contacted and made aware of the ramifications of their actions. Should they continue to purchase illegally imported material, they will be removed from the National Website listing and their office bearers will no longer be eligible for public liability insurance coverage.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. The General Service Board's solicitor wrote to this company in May 2017. The letter was ignored and the 'responsible person' listed with the ACNC has publically stated that he intends to ignore any communication of this nature. The only option left appears to be to commence legal action.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Suggested in topic.

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

1. The copyright will be preserved.
2. The finances of individual AA entities such as Central Service Offices and the General Service Office will be protected.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

As there is a clear licencing agreement in place, which is being contravened, it is anticipated that sound legal advice will be given to the Reviver Bookshop and that a costly (for them) legal matter will be avoided by their agreement to cease and desist.

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

Yes. This is a matter of deep concern to many members.

TOPIC #014/2018

Increase awareness of Delegates to Conference and the Fellowship as a whole of the total role the GSO plays in the functioning of AA in Australia and that these functions are essential to the survival of AA in Australia.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. Give Delegates a complete picture to take back to the groups
2. No Guideline for the GSO in the Guidelines
3. Boost revenues for the GSO
4. Cut unnecessary questions to the GSO
5. Lack of knowledge of Management committee, General Service Trustees and Secretaries role
6. Understand why bodies like the Reviver are not part of any service structure

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. GSO staff brief Delegates on functions of GSO and why it is essential to the functioning and stability of AA in Australia
2. Produce a handout for Delegates
3. Increase transparency

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

1. More secure and efficient GSO
2. greater respect for the GSO

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil. Would not need to be a long time needed at conference

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

No

TOPIC #025/2018

The fellowship requests that the GSB

a) Seek legal counsel regarding the use of the letters "AA" and the words "Alcoholics Anonymous" by AA Reviver Inc (AARI)

b) Produce another "Cease and Desist " letter to AA Reviver Inc stating that the name of AA ought not to be brought into public controversy by the production of materials implying they are endorsed by AA as a whole

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. AA Reviver Inc are producing material implying it is endorsed by AA
2. The material infringes copyright by using our name
3. It seriously detracts from the program of AA
4. Newcomers and professionals have access to it
5. It undermines GSO literature sales

6. AA Reviver Inc. is self - promoting and preying on members for financial gain (See pg 37 Australian AA Group Handbook)

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. GSB seek legal advice regarding our registered name/copyright
2. They produce another "Cease and desist" letter to AA Reviver Inc

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

1. Prevent AA being drawn into public controversy
2. Prevent dilution of the basic text
3. Protect AA copyright
4. Provide an example of our Traditions
5. Ensure faith in the GSB/GSO acting to protect our Copyright
6. Set a precedent regarding the production of material implying affiliation with AA

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Appointment with legal advisor \$/hr ? consultation fee

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

This topic has been the outcome of several members input and suggestions...Upon receiving the material related to this matter there wasn't time to get to Assembly.

CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

TOPIC 012/2018

Guest speakers during the dinner dance at National Conventions

Could we please abolish the practice of inviting AA members to speak during the dinner dance at National Conventions. Not all Conventions do it, but those that do usually get it horribly wrong. People have usually paid over \$100 for a ticket and are never notified prior to purchase that there will be a guest speaker or who that speaker will be. Dinner dances are social occasions, where you can catch up with old friends and meet new ones. There are plenty of opportunities to listen to AA members speaking during the convention. It is not necessary during a dinner dance and extremely discourteous and boring to spouses and partners who might be in attendance, especially if the speaker is narcissistic. Sharing ones AA story should be about carrying the message, not entertainment. Tradition 12 states that we are to place principles before personalities and to practice a genuine humility.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Past experience outlined in the topic.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Yes, just stop doing it!

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

A much more enjoyable social event.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

No cost.

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

Consulted with many AA members, who agree.

TOPIC #024/2018

Authorise a guideline on hints and suggestions on Internet safety to be available for use in AA online and print publications.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. As use of social media and the Internet becomes increasingly ubiquitous, a guideline for Internet safety for AA members would help protect both members and AA from inadvertent anonymity breaks.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. AA in the UK have produced an advisory wallet card that could be adapted for use in Australia.
2. The text could be adapted, authorised and made available for regular publication in AA magazines and on AA websites. (See attached copy adapted from the AA Great Britain card *Hints and Suggestions for internet Safety* ¹)

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

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of AA traditions, protecting both members and AA as a whole. As per Tradition 12, "We of AA believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are practice a genuine humility."

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

No cost – authorised wording to be available for AA magazines, newsletters etc. (print or electronic) and for use on AA websites. Can be downloaded and printed as wallet cards or A5 sheets.

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

Proposal approved by Group Conscience and Area Assembly 2 June 2018

TOPIC #028/2018

That the Australian Service Manual should be made available in large print format.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. The current font is too small for most people to read comfortably.
2. Many members are put off studying this important book because of the font size.
3. It makes the Service Manual appear exclusive and complicated.
4. First impressions last.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. The Australian Service Manual should be enlarged to A4size with the same size font as the Service Manual Section 14 "The Guidelines".

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

1. Anything that makes transmitting our 3 Legacies easier is useful to all alcoholics.
2. Larger print is welcoming, rather than off-putting.
3. All of the other books important to our programme are available in large print.
4. This most important 3rd Legacy material should be just as easily available to all.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Unable to imagine, except it probably should not happen until the next reprint

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

At a recent meeting of the Group, it was unanimously agreed to forward this Topic. All members present commented on the difficulties incurred with the very small print in the Service Manual.

TOPIC#030/2018

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that Guideline 30 page 160 be amended as follows.

Under the heading Finance, it currently states 'As for Regional Forums, the Board will pay for a National Office staff member or Board member, preferably the Chair of the relevant Trustees' Committee to attend the Forum'.

Suggest replacing this sentence with:

'The Board will pay for the National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Co-ordinators and the Chairs of the Trustees' Treatment & Correctional Facilities Committees to attend, if available'.

The Forum Committee is responsible for funding any other invited guests to attend'.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

To eliminate confusion and to clarify where financial responsibilities lie. T

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Contained in topic.

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?

Minimal

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

Discussed at July 2018 Board meeting.

TOPIC #031/2018

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that inaccurate information on page 90 of the Australian AA Service Manual be removed.

The last paragraph under the heading 'Where Do Zonal Delegates Come From?' states: *"Australia looks after Papua-New Guinea, Indonesia and many countries in South-East Asia such as Burma, Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia. New Zealand responds to the vast Area of Oceania, with its thousands of tiny island communities"*.

The Board does not know where this statement originated, but it is inaccurate and misleading.

This was possibly included as a result of some informal discussion at a previous Asia/Oceania Service Meeting. However, the Statement of Purpose of the AOSM quite clearly states: *"The AOSM recognizes that it has no authority over any AA service or group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself."*

It also conflicts with our 'I Am Responsible' statement.

There are several other General Service and Central Service Offices within Asia/Oceania, which carry the message within the zone.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

The Board was recently challenged about its involvement with Fiji as it was believed that carrying the message in Fiji was the responsibility of New Zealand.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Contained in topic.

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

The Service Manual will not contain inaccurate information.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal.

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

Discussed at July 2018 Board meeting.

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

TOPIC #013/2018

Advise the Fellowship of the amounts raised by them as a result of their fundraising efforts for funding the Brown Paper Bag over the Founders Day week.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

When fundraising has been done in the past; the monies raised have been forwarded to GSO. The funds raised are apportioned to Balance Sheet Liability Accounts – 75% for the purpose of carrying the message within the Asia/Oceania zone and 25% to be sent to GSO New York for the International Literature Fund, which is used solely for translation of Conference approved AA literature into languages other than English. This is in line with:

Advisory Action #005/2003

Conference resolved that 75% of funds collected from groups and members in the week of 10th June for the International Sponsorship Fund be used to sponsor literature and PI&CPC activities in the Asia/Oceania zone and that the remaining 25% be forwarded to GSO New York as Australia's contribution to the International Literature Fund.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

As these monies have been earmarked for separate appropriations previously, it should be relatively easy to show them as stand-alone receipts, rather than just a part of general income.

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

1. This will reduce to a large degree the angst being heard about and felt in the Fellowship concerning receipt of income and the disposal of same. Many members have expressed the wish to contribute to fundraising like this (and others) but all they want to know what amounts are received and how the monies are spent.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Unfortunately I do not know the amounts involved in this process. I am sure that the accountant at the request of the Board will be able to have this information available for Conference members to discuss.

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

Time was not available to be discussed at the Group, District or Area levels.

TOPIC #015/2018

Rescind Advisory Action #029/2013:

Conference resolved to accept the Conference International Committee recommendation that Conference hosts an Asia/Oceania convention in place of the 2016 National Convention and that Asia/Oceania conventions be held, on a 5 year rotational basis, in a developing country in the Asia/Oceania zone. Countries such as East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Cambodia, Laos and New Guinea could be considered amongst possible venues. This would assist us as part of our responsibility to carry the message to developing countries and to encourage the development of service structures.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Advisory Action #029/2013 conflicts with the newer Advisory Action #044/2016, in that it states that "that Asia/Oceania conventions be held, on a 5 year rotational basis".

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Contained in topic

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

Clarifies to the fellowship the manner in which International Conventions are to be decided upon and not automatically every 5 years as Advisory Action #029/2013 permits.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

No cost to the fellowship.

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

This has been discussed at length with past Regional Trustees, Conference Delegates and District. The topic has overwhelming support. Unable to discuss at an Area Assembly as one has not been held for some time.

CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

No topics were allocated to this committee.

CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No topics were allocated to this committee.

COMBINED TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS/CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEES

TOPIC #001/2018

To combine our PI&CPC and TCF National Forums into 1 National 2 Yearly Event to be held over 3 days on the Queens Birthday Long Weekend .

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

- 1.Lack of attendance at Forums
- 2.Cross Pollinate ideas
- 3.More communication in all of the fields which involve the 3rd person too reach the suffering Alcoholics

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

- 1.It once was this way before it was separated into 2 National Forums
- 2.Vote at Conference

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

- 1.More ideas to help reach them
- 2.Less stress on committees for forum
- 3.Held over Queens Birthday June long weekend every year for easier program for all areas

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil , will save our fellowship money

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

Yes at Area , CSO and 2017 Conference , all have supported this idea after previous attendances at recent forums , has been discussed in past

TOPIC #029 2018

In 2014 (Advisory Action 049) Conference resolved that the month of March be recognised as National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Month. It was envisaged that this would raise awareness of these two very important arms of service at a national level. Information on service in these areas was to be highlighted and shared nationally. The General Service Board recommends that the General Service Conference discusses what the Fellowship is doing to make this happen.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Little or no recognition of T&CF Month since the Advisory Action.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

The General Service Conference and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia take action.

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

The message will be carried to more alcoholics in Treatment and Correctional Facilities and those with special needs.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal

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

Discussed at July 2018 Board meeting.

CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

TOPIC #004/2018

Can we have on our National or local websites or meeting lists for a AA meeting to be a child friendly or non- child – friendly meeting ??

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

- 1 Their are meetings listed on our local AA meetings list on our website and newsletter as child friendly
- 2.A group has asked to be non child friendly
- 3.Is it a dangerous advertisement for the safety of children?
- 4.Members are always saying there are sexual predators in AA

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

- 1.To be neither and groups too say too this is a open meeting of AA – all are welcome or if not a child friendly meeting it to be a closed meeting of AA.
- 2.A meeting to provide childcare for the duration of the meeting .

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

- 1.Not be labelled a place for sexual predators if there is a incident

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil , in next printing of local meetings list and newsletter remove child friendly

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

No

TOPIC #009/2018

Create a 2019-long national PI sub-committee to coordinate events that allow the press, media, book festivals etc to report on and celebrate the 80th anniversary of the first publishing (1939) of ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

2019 marks the 80th anniversary of the first publishing of ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’, our principle text for getting sober. It is one of the biggest selling non-fiction books in history and this anniversary may be of general interest to the press, media, book festivals etc.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

That a National PI Sub-Committee be created to coordinate events that give the Big Books 80th anniversary maximum prominence beyond A.A. itself across 2019. Target audience will be the media, press and book festivals. Activities could include coordinating/writing press releases and articles, media liaison arranging speakers etc.

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

The Big Book is the cornerstone of A.A’s 12 step program of recovery. To focus people’s attention on its historical significance is to inform the general public – alcoholics and non-alcoholics alike – as to its purpose, which is of course inextricably linked to A.A’s primary purpose.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

This is difficult to say. Costs would perhaps depend upon the extent to which outside writers would be required to generate material to be released to press and media.

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

No. I had this idea post the June Area Assembly, but I did run it by other Delegates who approved of it as it appears above.

TOPIC #010/2018

A.A. Australia would benefit from replacing it’s PI poster – “A.A. It Works” – with a contemporary option.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. A.A. has only one colour A4 General Audience Public Information poster available for sale to members.
2. It’s images are out-dated – white pages, 7-digit phone numbers, a drunk lady in fairly dated clothes.
3. Some prospective members may not identify with such images.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Replace this poster with a more contemporary one – see sourced UK examples. This could be sourced/adapted from another region’s poster or designed from scratch.
2. I suggest that the text remains the same (i.e. ‘It Works’), but that a QR Code be added.

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

1. A contemporary looking generic full-colour poster may more effectively encourage those still suffering from alcoholism to consider A.A. as an option in 2018, moving forward.
2. A.A. benefits through having refreshed PI options.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal costs if A.A. can source a current poster example from another country – e.g. UK. If we elect to design our own poster, then design costs would be incurred.

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

Yes. This topic was discussed at the June Area Assembly. It was decided to submit the topic in its original form.

TOPIC #011/2019

Currently A.A. Australia has a number of quite large, detailed publications on the nature, possible actions and value of Public Information, but we lack a simple, easy-to-read document that outlines PI basics at a grass roots, individual member level.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

A.A. pamphlets are used to raise member/non-member awareness of specific A.A. subjects. Currently there isn't a A4 pamphlet outlining simple Public Information activities that can be taken at a local community, grass roots level, by members or A.A. groups – i.e. the current PI Workbook focuses largely on PI Committee activities.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

That the national PI coordinator work with interested members to develop a DL bi-fold pamphlet suggesting local community, grass roots PI activities. Contents could explain what PI is and suggest activities that individual members/groups can carry out, independent of PI Committees, District or Area involvement.

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

PI is essential in carrying the A.A. message, to both the general community and the still-suffering alcoholic. A.A. groups operate in local areas, and this pamphlet will focus specifically on what a group or individual member can do to create close, direct communication with their own back yard.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Costs would be the same as for the design, file storage and printing of any new DL bi-fold A.A. pamphlet.

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

Yes...

TOPIC #032/2018

Conference directs the General Service Board to investigate enhancing the Meeting Search Function on the National Website to include the Area and Region each listed meeting nominally falls under, based on the meetings geographical location.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

A high level of unawareness exists amongst many groups and members with regard to General Service and its structure, so making this information automatically visible whenever a meeting is searched on the website will connect groups & members to their nominal Area and Region, thereby enhancing awareness and increasing the possibility of greater participation in General Service.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

As per the Topic, enhance the Meeting Search Function on the National Website to include the Area and Region each listed meeting nominally falls under, based on the meetings geographical location.

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

The fellowship will benefit by enhancing awareness and increasing the possibility of greater participation in General Service. Any increase in the rate of General Service participation can only result in benefits for the alcoholic who still suffers.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

There will be associated costs involved with enhancing the existing Meeting Search Function on the National website, but these costs wouldn't be prohibitive in comparison to the benefits of groups and members becoming more aware of which Area and Region they can nominally participate in.

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

This Topic has the approval of the Area H Assembly in Eastern Region

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOPIC #016/2018

GSO recommends that AA Australia recommence printing the US 4th Edition Big Book alongside the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. Prior to the launch of the 2nd Edition Australian Big Book, GSO Australia printed the 4th Edition Big Book.
2. A year before the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book was due to be launched, Conference decided that the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book would be the only one printed by AA Australia and that the US 4th Edition Big Book would be purchased from AA World Services.
3. Currently, the cost of importing a US 4th Edition Big Book is about 2.5 times the cost of printing the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book.
4. Demand for the US 4th Edition Big Book and the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book are about the same.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. GSO prints both the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book and the US 4th Edition Big Book

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

1. Currently, the retail price of the imported US 4th Edition Big Book is \$25, and the Australian 2nd Edition Big Book \$17.60. It's reasonable to assume that both would be the same retail price.
2. Due to demand, there are times when the US 4th Edition is in an out of stock situation.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

There would be a one off cost of printing the 4th Edition in cost effective quantity that would be more than amortised by sales over a period.

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

This is a recommendation from the General Service Office.

TOPIC #017/2018

That Topic # 017/2017 voted into Advisory Action be revoked.

THIS IS THE TOPIC WHICH WAS PASSED:

"That the Board recommends to Conference that discount on literature to Areas and Districts only be available for PI&CPC initiatives by Areas and Districts. When there is a local Central Service Office groups should purchase their literature from that office."

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. See attachment, for the list of *known* multiple bureaucratic hoops required to set up a CSO.
2. This action seems to put smaller Districts at considerable disadvantage compared to large Metropolitan areas, because smaller Districts cannot sustain the running of a CSO, PLUS a District Committee.
Setting up an unsustainable CSO, in haste is foolhardy.
3. This Topic did not seem to be debated fully, nor seemingly were the implications fully realised at the 2017 conference. – (20/20 hindsight vision.)

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. The Literature Discount be made available to all members of AA in Australia, via the GSO, CSOs or mail order.

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

1. By avoiding confusion about the cost of literature.
2. By avoiding the ill-considered action of setting up CSO's in places which cannot sustain them, just to qualify for the literature discount.
3. By keeping the system simple and straightforward.
4. By keeping the system fair and equitable for all AAs in Australia.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

- The Literature Discount is worth some money to Groups and Districts, and CSOs.
- Cost to GSO – unknown.

TOPIC #021/2018

That *AA Around Australia* be published electronically only

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. AA is cutting services to the Groups including *AA Around Australia*, due to budgetary issues.
2. AA expends large amounts of time and money every year on printing, folding, enveloping and posting hundreds of issues of *AA Around Australia*.
3. All issues of *AA Around Australia* are posted electronically on the General Service Office's website.
4. In the context of AA's severe budgetary issues, it makes no sense to print, fold, envelope and post hundreds of copies of the newsletter every time the newsletter is published when the newsletter is posted electronically on the GSO's website and so is available to members to either read online or print copies if desired.
5. Printing hundreds of copies of *AA Around Australia* is not environmentally responsible.
6. Printing, folding, enveloping and posting hundreds of copies of *AA Around Australia* places a heavy burden on GSO staff, a burden which is unnecessary.
7. If *AA Around Australia* is published electronically only, the funds used to print, fold, envelope and post hundreds of copies of *AA Around Australia* every time it is published could be put to good use for other AA purposes.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Publish *AA Around Australia* electronically only, either by emailing it to subscribers or by posting it on the GSO website, or both.

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

The time and money AA saves on printing, folding, enveloping and posting *AA Around Australia* can be put to good use for other AA purposes.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil. If implemented, this topic will save AA money.

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

This topic was endorsed by the Group conscience of the Big Book Recovery Group and by Area at its Topics Assembly on 20 May 2018. The topic was not endorsed by the District because at 20 May 2018, there was no District in existence in Area.

TOPIC #022/2018

That *AA Around Australia* be a monthly rather than a 6-monthly publication

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. *AA Around Australia* is a vitally important vehicle for AA Groups and AA service bodies in Australia to communicate and share information.
2. Communication and the sharing of information is vital to AA's work and its proper functioning.
3. *AA Around Australia* has been reduced to a bi-annual publication due to the GSO's budgetary issues and the cost to the GSO of printing and postage.
4. With technology as advanced as it is today, *AA Around Australia* should be published more frequently, not less frequently.
5. If budgetary constraints are the hurdle to publishing *AA Around Australia* more frequently, then the answer is to publish the newsletter electronically only. If members wish to have a hard copy newsletter, AA members and AA services bodies are at liberty to print copies.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Make *AA Around Australia* a monthly rather than a 6-monthly publication.

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

1. Alcoholics will benefit enormously from increased communication and information sharing in AA.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Nil. If this topic is implemented, AA will save money.

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

This topic was endorsed by the Group conscience of the Big Book Recovery Group and by Area at its Topics Assembly on 20 May 2018. The topic was not endorsed by the District because at 20 May 2018, there was no District in existence in Area.

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

TOPIC #008/2018

That the attached Remote Communities Workbook be reviewed by conference and if agreed be available as a resource to the fellowship and added to Guideline GL-035 Remote Communities as suggestions on how to carry the message to members/groups and professionals in a remote setting.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. The original workbook was submitted to conference in 2016 and as there were questions in regards to copyright this submission contains the Remote Communities Workbook and an email from the BC Yukon Area 79 Panel 67 Remote Communities Chair stating that there is no copyrights on their workbook or site.

2. The AA Service Manual and GL-35 Remote Communities Guideline does not provide adequate suggestions on various ways that the message can be carried to the alcoholic and professionals who live in remote locations.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1.The solution has been provided in the form of a workbook and attached to the topic.

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

1.The workbook will provide some guidance on ways committees and interested AA members can carry the message to members and professions.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

The cost would be minimal and it is suggested that the proposed workbook be attached as an addendum to the Guideline GL-35 Remote Communities and be reviewed at conference each year by the Remote Community Committee.

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

The topic was presented at the North Eastern Area B Assembly on the 2nd of July 2018 and fully supported by all those present.

Attachments:

- A. Remote Communities Workbook
- B. Copy of Email from Dick V. BC Yukon Area 79 Panel 67 Remote Communities Chair

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE
--

TOPIC #003/2018

A separate section containing 10 of the original stories from the Big Book be added in the next Printing of the Australian Edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

- 1. Stories that connect to the first 164 Pages
- 2. So we dont lose and separate our program from its original content and authors
- 3.We never wrote Book but we use and it works
- 4.To respect our Heritage of Recovery

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1.Add Separate section at next printing in front of Book

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

- 1.Know our Heritage
- 2.Experience of our original members who wrote the Big Book

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Minimal to change

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

Fully Supported at Area

TOPIC #018/2018

That all our Literature should be displayed on the website in pictorial form.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. Many out-of-town members have no simple access to a CSO or District Office, and therefore cannot see what is available.
2. We need to encourage buying and reading of our literature.
3. Many groups are unable to keep a full stock of literature, due to cost.
4. Literature stored in meeting rooms can be prone to damage during storage
5. More and more literature ordering is being done on-line
6. Last year a member created a flip-file of our books for the use in a Home-Group. It was well received, but expensive to create and laminate, and hard to keep up to date with prices and new books available. Having all the information on the Website would be much simpler and much less expensive.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Photograph each book cover, pamphlet, banner and visual media cover.
2. Include a brief review for each publication and cover type (eg 12X12 standard size soft cover.)
3. Include the price.
4. Display it all on the website.

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

1. As many members as possible should have easy access to all out literature as if they were browsing in a shop.
2. Literature is a very valuable source of help and support to AA members
3. It may help increase literature sales, and thereby increase revenue to GSO.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Absolutely minimal costs, because it would only involve digital photography, researching and typing up the accompanying information, and uploading to the website. Only some effort for an interested member and a great way to do service.

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

The idea was mentioned at our June Area Assembly, without disagreement.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

No topics were allocated to this committee.

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

TOPIC #026/2018

That a provision be made in the Conference Agenda Committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure document for the presentation of *Minority Reports* to the General Service Conference.

Concept V paragraph one. *In the light of the principle of the 'Right of Appeal', all minorities – whether in our staffs, committees, corporate boards, or among the trustees – should be encouraged to file minority reports whenever they feel a majority to be in considerable error. And when a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect AA as a whole, it should then charge itself with the actual duty of presenting a minority report to the conference.*

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. Prior to Conference 2015 a group of 23 past trustees and delegates signed a letter to the general service board expressing serious concern about past decisions made by conference and the board. The letter also took issue with a document circulated by the board, at the request of conference, explaining the history of these decisions. A number of signatories had been conference members at the time these decisions were made. They disputed the board's account. The board choose not to respond to the issues raised in the letter and the signatories were extremely disappointed. They felt the minority voice had not been adequately heard. The board did recommend that the signatories put their concerns in a topic to conference however, in the view of the submitter, the issues raised in the letter constituted a *Minority Report*, as defined in the above quote, and not a topic, which is an actionable recommendation to conference.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

- 1) Provision be made in the Conference Agenda Committee's Composition Scope and Procedure document for the presentation of *Minority Reports* to the general service conference.
- 2) That guidelines for *Minority Reports* be drawn up which would require the following qualifications: a respectful tone, thorough research and accurate reporting of facts, avoidance of personalities and, in keeping with warranty five, such reports would not be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.

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

1. Tradition One: *The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has.*

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?

This issue has been raised at a number of regional forums and service workshops in Eastern Region – hence the topic.
