**GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2019 TOPICS**

**CONFERENCE FLOOR**

**TOPIC #005/2019 ATTACHMENT**

**Operation of Conference Delegates Committees**

**To rescind Floor Action 2013/041 “Resolved by a show of hands, that all Conference Committees should change their CS & P documents so that all Conference members have equal participation rights in keeping with Concept IV.” Thereby returning the operation of the Conference Delegates Committees to their intended operating formula.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Floor Action 2013/041 contained two contentions.

1. A breach of Concept IV was occurring that needed to be addressed.
2. That the ability for non-Area Delegates to vote on these Committees would correct a fault in their operation.

Both contentions were erroneous.

The attached additional information explains why.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Rescinding Floor Action 2013/041 will mitigate the risk of Area Delegates Committee recommendations being inadvertently influenced by the vote of a Trustee or a Committee Co-ordinator and will move the operation of the Area Delegates Committees some way back towards their intended operating formula.

The attached additional information explains why.

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

The central principle underpinning our structure is the capacity for the A.A. Groups to retain the ability to direct the GSB. This small yet significant correction in the operation of the Delegates Committee system, provides confidence that the Conference does represent the Group’s voice.

The attached additional information explains why.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

There are no monetary costs involved in implementing this Topic.

**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 submitted at our Area Assembly, further developed by some Area Committee members and finally ratified by the Area Committee.

**CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #001/2019**

**That Conference undertake a review of its current voting structure, having regard to the Right of Participation, to identify options for change that would enable Area Delegates to constitute more than two-thirds of the voting members at the Australian General Service Conference.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. The Conference Plan drawn up by Bill W. envisaged that Area Delegates would constitute more than two-thirds of the voting Conference Members and that the society should be confident that it can rely upon Tradition II, our Group Conscience and our trusted servants.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. The Conferences’ Policies and Admissions Committee and Report Charter and Service Committee review the Conference Committee review other Conferences’ voting structures and submit options for consideration at a subsequent Conference.

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

1. Tradition I, the unity of AA being the most cherished quality our society has.

2. Tradition II, we can rely upon our Group Conscience and its trusted servants

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Minimal costs of communication costs for Committees.

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

Discussed with members as no Area Assembly held.

**TOPIC #012/2019**

**Encourage alcoholic-addicts to maintain anonymity as a drug addict at AA meetings.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Increasingly, at A.A. Meetings, members are identifying as Alcoholic-Addict. Some share extensive details of their drug use. This encourages non-alcoholic addicts into A.A.as they identify with drug stories, claiming “A.A. is stronger than N.A.”.

In “Problems other the Alcohol” Bill encourages alcoholic and non-alcoholic addicts to solve the alcohol and drug problem together, but warns, “such a dual-purpose group should not … use the A.A. name. Neither should … addicts be encouraged to … become A.A. members”. To attempt this will damage the addict, alcoholic and A.A.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Add the following statement to the open meeting Primary Purpose Statement.

“If you also identify as a drug addict, it is important for our common welfare that you maintain your anonymity as a drug addict and focus on your problem with alcohol.“

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

A.A. must avoid multipurpose activity. A.A. groups are the only place where the focus is solely alcoholism. This is essential to overcome denial.[[2]](#footnote-2)

“Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety”. The welfare of alcoholics and A.A. depends upon the preservation of this principle.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Minimal costs – revised statement could be downloadable from the A.A. website.

**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 presented to the Area Assembly on May 18th 2019. The topic was approved for submission by 11 votes to 3. The original version exceeded the word count, was edited, resubmitted to the Area Committee on 8 June 2019 and unanimously supported with one abstention.

**CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #009/2019**

**Currently there is no specific provision for members to leave a nominated Central Service Office a sum of money in their will. This topic suggests that the AA Guideline relating to CSOs, GL-12, should make such a provision.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Some members may wish to will funds to a specific CSO. Currently the only documented way that members can specifically bequeath money to AA, is to the General Service Office (Details page 115 of the AA Service Manual).

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

This topic suggests that GL-12, item 4 - ‘Suggested Methods of Financing a Central Office’ –be amended to include specific provision for members to leave a CSO money in their will. Currently it outlines that members can make annual contributions to a CSO of up to $6,050.

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

There will be greater clarity around the subject of (a) where members can will a portion of their estate within AA as a fellowship, and (b) the limit of this amount.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Nil. It would require re-wording of an existing Guideline.

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

Yes. Approved with the above changes.

**TOPIC #019/2019 ATTACHMENT**

**Amend the Australian Conference Charter on page 72 of the Australian Service Manual, (restoring it to our founder Bill W’s original wording) to read that “Area Delegates make up at least two thirds of the Conference body”.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. When AA in Australia adopted the Conference Charter from AA in the USA and Canada, the requirement that Area Delegates should make up no less than two thirds of Conference membership was removed.  The effect of this is that Groups in Australia are not the final authority in the Conference Structure. (See attachment)

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Restore the Conference Charter to restore it to our founder’s original intention that Delegates make up no less than two thirds of the Conference membership.
2. It is beyond the scope of this topic to suggest the nature of the change or time frame for its implementation, however see attachment for suggested process.

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

1. Alcoholics in Australia will have the ultimate authority in their own fellowship as intended by our founders.
2. It is frequently said with pride that AA Groups are the ultimate authority in AA or that AA is a bottom up organisation.  This is currently not the case in Australia.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

The cost of amending the Charter and establishing a process and timetable to implement this change will be small.

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

Area unanimously support and endorse this topic and regard this to be a serious matter of grave concern to AA Australia as a whole

**TOPIC #022/2019**

**That conference resolve to correct the lack of 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor, as stated in the Conference Charter.**

**Due to a historic flaw and our inability to increase the number of Areas in Australia in our General Service structure, there is not a 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor. This proposal will restore the 2/3 majority required by Concept 1.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Since its formation, the General Service Conference in Australia has never had a 2/3’s majority as set out in Concept 1.  Therefore, a restoration of the groups, to their intended ultimate authority is proposed as set out in Concept 1. (Australian Service Manual - Page 144)

At present, if there is a full complement at Conference, the following members have a vote -

21 area delegates votes

12 board members/trustees

2 world service delegates

1 GSO manager

Total 36 voting members at conference

This demonstrates that area delegates do not have a 2/3’s majority at conference as set out by the Conference Charter.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Yes. Delegate votes count double, hence voting would look as follows -

**42** Area delegate votes

12 board members/trustees

2 world service delegates

1 GSO manager

Total**57** voting members at conference.

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

What was intended, as stated by our founders in St Louis in 1955, and as per the Conference Charter, will be restored and preserved. This will benefit Alcoholics Anonymous Australia ensuring that the integrity of our General Service Conference approaches that which our founders intended.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

We propose that in all votes at conference, *Area Delegate votes should count double to all other voting members of Conference*. Hence voting would look like this.

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 three Area Assemblies and at group and district levels since December 2018.

**CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

**No topics were allocated to this committee**

**CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE**

**No topics were allocated to this committee.**

**CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

**No topics were allocated to this committee.**

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

**TOPIC #008/2019 ATTACHMENTS X4**

**AA could do with a few more colour A4 PI poster options. Please find my suggested options attached.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Our current national PI posters focus prominently on the problem of alcoholism, containing photos of people struggling with the disease. The submitted new posters focus entirely on a positive, aspirational message of strength and hope. This approach supports the AA foundations belief of there being a solution.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.The suggested posters are my solution. The images have been sourced from royalty-free photos (Pixabay).

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

Some people respond to positive, hopeful messages when they are attracted to a proposition. A ranger of poster option along these lines will potentially appeal to alcoholics whom may not be connecting with our current poster options.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Just normal printing and distribution.

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

Yes. Area Assembly June 2 2019

**CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #020/2019**

**General Service Board establish a permanent AA Convention bank account**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Establishing a bank account by each Convention Committee is difficult and time consuming and an account is often needed before a Committee is fully set up. The requirements for establishing an account are now even more difficult with new banking regulations.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

General Service Board establish a permanent AA Convention bank account and each new Convention Committee would become signatories for their Convention period. To cover the overlap period the “new” Committee could use Area banking facilities or be given “seed funding” to cover early printing and publicity costs until they take control.

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

Benefits would be:

Ease and consistency of financial transfer between successive Committees, saving considerable time and effort.

A rolling bank account would give an immediate cash base for the new Committee

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Once off staff cost to set up the account.

Annual arranging of signatories and contact information.

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

Group is proposing the Topic. The Topic was taken to the May 2019 Area B Area Assembly and supported unanimously.

**TOPIC #021/2019**

**A New Funding System for the AA Convention**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Convention Committees have difficulty getting good cash flows in the first 6 months and the local Area or Meetings step up to help with funding, often at the expense of 60:30:10 funding and or other activities.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Each Convention be funded by Groups/Meetings nationwide contributing the cost of one or more registrations in the three-six months following the previous Convention.

The Group/Meeting could nominate an attendee, or allow their contribution to fund attendance of members from the Convention area rehab or detox centres

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

Benefits would be:

* Greatly improved cash flow to fund early key deposits.
* More certainty of funding to set registration costs.
* Allow more equitable access. In particular, it would allow more new or early AA members to attend, allowing the healthy renewal of the Convention.
* More secure funding may enable regional centres to run a Convention.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Staff time to duplicate the GSO Group Contributions list for use by the Convention Committee to register contributions.

Convention committee to receipt all contributions

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

Group is proposing the Topic. The Topic was taken to the May Area B Area Assembly and supported unanimously.

**CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #016/2019 ATTACHMENT**

**To compile and publish a selection of personal stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AA members, their journey to AA and experience, strength and hope.**

**The book could be an excellent resource to carry the message to prisons, health services and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations.**

**The book will have a national focus – sharing stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members from all States and Territories; including, if possible and appropriate, a cross-section of stories from men, women, young Indigenous people, transgender, disabilities.**

**I have attached a copy of my own personal story which may or may not be included in the book, but attach it as an example of the style of written content that might be similarly adopted by other members to appeal to Indigenous readers. See Attachment A.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who could potentially benefit from the publication would be significant given the high rates of alcoholism in some communities and the impact that alcoholism has on our communities.

2. Through the publication of the book, it is envisaged that readers will identify with the personal stories of other Indigenous members and be attracted to AA’s message.

4. Other Indigenous peoples in the world (e.g. Maori, New Zealand, Native American, Inuit Canada) have developed specific culturally-appropriate AA literature to carry the message to Indigenous communities.

5. There are a number of Aboriginal AA members with long-term sobriety who are aging and or regarded as elders in the community. It would be timely to document and share their personal stories as part of a legacy for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as well as the broader Australian community.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Establish a Working Group (group conscience) to oversee the project – including Terms of Reference and classifications. The Group would meet regularly by telephone and/or face-to-face if practical, to steer the project. The group could be a special sub-committee of the Literature General Service Conference and/or Trustees Committee.

2. Send out a request for personal stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members.

3. Review and select final stories to be included in the book.

4. Develop a list or national database of prospective agencies and community organisations to distribute the book to.

5. Develop a Working title, artwork of the book.

6. Compile and record written personal stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members – their journey, experience, strength and hope.

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

1. Some Indigenous people live in remote or regional communities where there are few, or no AA meetings. The book would help carry the message to those communities and could be sent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services, legal services and other community organisations.

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are First Peoples of Australia. A stand-alone book of personal stories about and for Indigenous people would be a powerful statement of AA Australia’s commitment to helping carry the message to Indigenous people in our community who still suffer.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Estimated Cost ($)** |
| Artwork – Indigenous Design 5.25 x 8” soft cover B& W | $500 |
| Editing & Printing - 2000 copies x $2.50 per book | $5000 |
| Shipping (e.g. USA to Australia) | $4,500 |
| **Total** | **$11,000** |

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

The topic is supported by my group, , although the topic was developed through feedback from members at the Regional Forum meeting, held on the Gold Coast in February 2019.

The topics has not been raised at the local District or Area Assembly meetings because of time constraints and given that the topic has more of a national focus, but in my role as Area C Secretary, I will provide a report to the next assembly in August.

The topic is supported in principle by the Chairperson of the Area Corrections Committee and the National Coordinator of Public Information and CPC Committee as well as the World Service Delegate.

The topics is also supported by over 25 Indigenous AA members who have indicated strong support and willingness to participate and/or contribute their stories to the book in the event that their personal stories are selected by the Working Group for publication.

We have also sought support from the National Convention, Toowoomba 2020 Planning Committee to help spread the word about the book and empower Indigenous voices in AA as part of the Convention. The Working Group will also assist the Toowoomba 2020 Planning Committee in establishing an Indigenous presence at the 2020 Convention.

**CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #006/2019**

**That AA Australia provide functionality for members to subscribe to email updates on aa.org.au and that this be used to communicate with the fellowship on any matter affecting all AA members, and to distribute the electronic version of AA Around Australia.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

There is also a future use case for additional newsletters.

The only way the GSO communicates directly with members is via AA Around Australia. This is published twice yearly or quarterly, and is largely reliant on a group or member receiving a hard copy by post or remembering to download from aa.org.au.

This is not an effective means of communicating to the maximum number of members in a short time frame.

There have been recent initiatives requiring member action or a need to communicate important information that have been handicapped due to lack of means to distribute information quickly, eg. membership and service structure surveys, and information about ‘illegally’ sourced literature.

**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?**

Standard letter postage is $1 per letter. Time and money will be saved, as well as the cost of envelopes, paper and manpower.

The fellowship as well as future members will benefit from a fellowship who have ways and mean in place to communicate effectively and efficiently as a whole.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Using MailChimp, prices range, but for example 2,500 subscribers can be emailed for $29.99 per month and 15,000 for $129 per month.

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

Yes, presented to and endorsed by the Area Assembly on June 2, 2019.

**TOPIC #010/2019**

**That AA Australia produce a 9th Step Promises banner.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. There is a clear need and wish for such a banner, evidenced in the many banners already hanging in meetings, and that many meetings read the Promises at the end of the meeting.

2. For newcomers, these Promises inform them of what is really on offer in AA, offering both hope and realistic expectations.

3. While there are many promises through the Big Book, if you were to ask anyone, ‘could you show me where the Promises are?’, most would point to pp. 83-84 (4th edition).

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. That the Australian Fellowship put these banners on a sound footing, as the property of AA (rather than printed informally/privately), by producing them ourselves.

2. Groups would then have the option of purchasing from AA Australia, with profits going to the Fellowship.

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

1. Newcomers arrive with all sorts of misconceptions about what is on offer in AA. The 9th Step Promises offer a clear expression of what is on offer through doing these Steps.

2. They offer hope.

3. They have already become part of our folklore, this will formalise them.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Initial costs of production, which will generate a profit as for other AA literature sold by the GSO. The Literature Committee would need to consider carefully the form of the Promises banner – e.g. whether to number them or simply to put as a quotation as in the Big Book.

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

Area in support, with concerns about there being other promises – suggested not numbering them. Home Groups broadly supportive, also question whether they be numbered. Broad support around the Fellowship for the basic idea, that a banner would offer newcomers guidance around what is on offer and hope.

**TOPIC #013/2019**

**That the GSB (In consultation with our current volunteer archivist) employ a professional Archivist to assess our archives in order to**

**A) Ensure we are employing best practice with regard to storage, management, integration and access of the material and**

**B) Learn how we can digitize relevant material .**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1Our archives document the evolution of the General Service Structure in Australia. They are also a vital resource, and an essential research tool for individual members, groups, districts and Areas needing to background and develop topics for conference.

2. In the digital age we need to quickly address the issue of electronically transferring appropriate material in order to facilitate easy access for our current and future membership.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.Solution one – Seek professional advice from a qualified Archivist.

2.Solution two – Outsource digitization to a professional company.

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

1. The fellowship will benefit from enhanced researching capabilities. This will occur by having the archives digitized with word search capability. Topics to Conference are the primary tool for presenting ideas to conference for discussion and action. Accurate topic research is therefore essential for the efficient use of time for this very expensive yearly exercise - where *money and spirituality meet*. The more efficiently conference operates, the more efficiently we will be able to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Bill led the way, always embracing new technology.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

1)The Sydney Archive specialist company TIMG would charge an hourly rate of $65.00 to advise a volunteer on the best way to advance digitization. According to the consultant, it would only take a few hours. It was pointed out, however, that we would require the correct equipment if we were to digitize the material ourselves.

2) Outsourcing digitalization. TIMG charge between $250 and $350 per box to digitalize material – less for a Not For Profit (around $200.00 per box). This would include black and white and colour material, in PDF or document format. Most importantly, it would include *Optical Character Recognition*, essential for efficient research purposes. The digitized material is delivered on USB.

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

**TOPIC #015/2019**

**That a large 288cm x 233cm and giant 244cm x 415cm Concepts banner be produced for display at AA National Conventions and AA Rallies. These sizes are what are currently available from GSO for Steps and Traditions**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1.The 12 Concepts are our Third Legacy of Service but at Conventions and Rallies there is no appropriate banner to depict this.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.Have a sign writer fabricate and produce the two banners as per sizes mentioned above

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

1.The Concepts are the protectors of our Steps and Traditions and a vital part of our World Service Structure.

2. .Provides greater in-depth knowledge for those interested in service work in our fellowship

3. Brings our Third Legacy more to the attention of our fellowship members

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

A preliminary costing is about $500 to $1,000 for each banner.

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

Group are in full backing of this topic and District and Area are fully supportive as well

**TOPIC #024/2019 ATTACHMENT**

**Advisory Action #006/2017**

**Conference resolved to reject the proposal to include additional information on disruptive**

**behaviours in the AA Group Handbook. However, it was resolved that the proposer be**

**asked to consider submitting two topics at another General Service Conference –**

**(1) a Guideline of Safety in AA and**

**(2) a paragraph for addition to the AA Group Handbook,**

**referencing the Guideline.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. The ongoing safety of new members and other vulnerable members

2. This topic has been raised repeatedly over the years

3. Conference asked that it be resubmitted

4. A much needed inclusion for the AA Group Handbook

5. A much needed reference to the Australian AA Service Guidelines be added regarding this topic

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.See attachment

2. The autonomy of each group can add further information within their opening /closing meeting format

3. The additional information can be agreed upon at Group Conscience through Tradition 2

4. The information can be made available to other groups by presenting examples at Area Assembly/Regional Forums

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

1.It will help members be aware that there is a safety issue related to financial and sexual predation within the rooms as well as bullying and harassment

2. Each time this topic has been raised it has encouraged healthy dialogue within the fellowship, this demonstrates a clear need for guidelines.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

The cost of the extra formatting of the service literature and minimal extra printing costs

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

No need, this was a follow on from the request from Conference.

**TOPIC #027/2019**

**The General Service Board requests that the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia advises whether it wishes to have four issues of AA Around Australia annually and whether or not this publication should be made available electronically to individuals.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. There have been few complaints about the publication being reduced to two issues annually.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

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

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

**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 2019 Board Meeting.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES**

**No topics were allocated to this committee.**

**CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #011/2019**

**That the time frame between Topics for Conference closing and being distributed should be revised.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1.) It is very difficult to offer full participation of all Groups and Districts in such a large area in such a short time frame.

2.) Topics can be complicated, and members need time to consult, and refer back to groups before submitting their votes to the Delegate.

3.) This process seems very rushed and pressured, which does not leave time for careful and prayerful reflection and thought.

4.) We need to give new (and old!) members the time and grace for careful explanations, and consideration.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.) That Topics for Conference submissions close at the end of the month of May, in any given year, rather than at the end of the month of June.

2.) That the Topics for Conference are considered and allocated by the Trustees Agenda Committee and the Conference Delegates Committee, by the end of June in any given year, and published on the website by mid-July in any given year.

3.) Even with an extra 4-6 weeks, there should still be a sense of urgency in the matter of Topics for Conference. Something mentioned in our literature about not resting on our laurels?

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

1. Greater understanding of the process for all members of the fellowship.

2. Inclusiveness.

3. Time to consult other more experienced members if it is a complicated situation.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Nil apparent.

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

Passed at Area Assembly. May, 2019

1. See Appendix 1.

   2 George E. Vaillant, M. D. Class A (Nonalcoholic) Trustee A.A. General Service Board, 2002, “Singleness of Purpose”, in About AA A Newsletter for Professionals, Fall/Winter [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)