**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE TOPIC** – Operation of Conference Delegates Committees

One of the fundamental principles that drove Bill W to create our General Service Conference was his belief that the collective conscience of the A.A. Groups, via their elected Area Delegates, should always have the capacity to direct the General Service Board, rather than the other way around. In order to achieve that ideal, Bill created the Conference Committee system, one part of which is the Conference Delegates Committees, comprised of Area Delegates and one non-voting Committee Co-Ordinator (usually a GSO staff member). One of the primary responsibilities of these various Area Delegates Committees is to discuss Topics before delivering **their** recommendations to the Floor of Conference. At that point, all members of Conference may participate in discussion of those recommendations and those Conference members with the right to vote may exercise that vote in determining whether or not a Delegates Committee recommendation becomes an Advisory Action, or whether it is rejected.

At some point in the history of our Australian General Service Conference, we deviated from this system by allowing General Service Trustee’s and other members of Conference to sit on and participate in the deliberations of these Area Delegate Committees. Perhaps this was an attempt to address deficiencies in the operation of the Trustees Committee system? Regardless, it could be argued that the unintended consequence of that decision was a dilution of the Area Delegates ability to make recommendations to the entire Floor of Conference. I.e. The General Service Board, via its Trustees was now participating and having the ability to influence the recommendations of the Area Delegate Committees.

**Please note: This Topic is not suggesting that Trustee’s and other members of Conference no longer be allowed to sit on & participate in the deliberations of these Committees. It seeks only to ensure that they not have a vote.**

Floor Action 2013/041 compounded that deviation from Bill W’s Conference design by providing Trustee’s & Committee Co-ordinators with full voting rights on these Committees.

The Floor Action referred to Concept IV by suggesting that Trustee’s & Committee Co-ordinators are being deprived of the Right of Participation if they are not permitted to vote on these Committees. That conclusion is erroneous because as mentioned above, the Conference design provides all Conference members with the right of participation on the Floor of Conference.

Furthermore, if the aim of Floor Action 2013/041 was to “return the operation of the Conference Delegates Committees to their intended operating formula”then the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the 2013 Conference erred in this regard also, because what in fact occurred as the result of this Floor Action, was the operation of these Committees veered still further from their intended operating formula.

Finally, concerns remain about whether the use of a Floor Action to introduce this subtle yet significant change was appropriate in that it appears not to meet the criteria laid down for the use of Floor Actions. The Conference Administrative Procedures state that “Normally the only time Conference considers a Floor Action is when an emergency has arisen”. Considering the fact that the Committees had been operating in a particular manner for many years prior to 2013, it’s difficult to imagine how this constituted an emergency.