

CONFERENCE DECISIONS AND PROJECTS 2017

PROPOSALS/ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE FULL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

1. Propose that Conference approves that each group ensures that all newcomers receive a copy of the free leaflet "Problems other than alcohol" and that all active members are made aware of the singleness of purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous by giving them a copy of said leaflet as well. This is necessary as so many of the present members do not understand the traditions and are confused of who is entitled to be a member and whether drug addicts with an alcohol problem can be members or not. This leaflet deals with all these issues. In terms of Singleness of Purpose – how can we more effectively protect our identity as A.A. to ensure that focus on our primary purpose is not lost?
 - *This proposal was approved. The free leaflet "Problems other than alcohol" should be given to all newcomers with their Welcome Leaflet.*

2. How can we promote service in A.A.?
 - *This proposal was referred back to areas. Areas need to encourage members by sponsoring and holding workshops.*

3. Proposal that A.A. SA service manual election criteria for GSR's and DCM's should be amended to reflect that "it is suggested that past Delegates should not return as DCM's and GSR's." Members felt this should be done to avoid controversy.
 - *This proposal was approved. The ASA Committee will amend all areas in the Service Manual (Chapters 2, 3 and 6) in this regard.*

4. Proposal that the one year cooling-off period between certain positions be revisited and clarified.
 - *The cooling-off period was removed entirely. We are a society of equals and all members should be given an opportunity to do service. The ASA Committee will update the Service Manual to reflect this.*

5. To request the Regions of AA, via their Area Assemblies and Districts, to identify/ recruit/nominate at least 1-2 non-alcoholic community members (NACM). These persons could be volunteers at the District level but should be approved by the respective Area Assembly. They should work closely with the Area Assembly and the Class A Trustees to initiate/support/promote/ conduct mutually agreed upon projects. A request is also made to the Area Assembly to consider how any budget for such projects (if applicable) could be set aside.
*Note: The current AA Service Manual does not make provision for NACMs (Non-Alcoholic Community Members) at this stage; however, such persons would be a valuable asset to Districts and Areas, particularly in their CF/TF and CPC/PI work.
 - *This proposal was accepted with the following changes/provisions and guidelines: Appointment of Non- Alcoholic Community Members (NACM) to support the work of Class A Trustees. One or two NACMs shall to be appointed by the respective Area Assemblies and shall function within the particular Area.*

Vacancies for this position shall be advertised via Area newsletters/correspondences/notices. The applicant shall submit to the Area Secretary his/her CV and a letter of support from an AA member. These CVs shall be forwarded by the Area secretary to the Class A Trustees for perusal and comment. Shortlisted candidates shall be interviewed by the Area Chairperson/Vice Chairperson and Class A Trustee.

The Area Assembly shall approve or reject the appointment by vote and shall inform the Class A Trustee accordingly.

Profile and Requirements of NACM

- *Must be a non-alcoholic friend of AA*
- *Must be active in community and with knowledge of AA*
- *Must be reliable and of good standing in the community*
- *Must be prepared to volunteer services (no expectation of remuneration)*
- *Basic computer literacy required (including email access and internet)*
- *Availability and flexibility with time to assist on projects (may have to attend day and/or after-hour/weekend meetings on occasion) for 3 year term with an option to extend*
- *Must be referred and/or supported by a member of AA*
- *Own transport will be an advantage*

Roles and Responsibilities

- *Work in conjunction with the work of the Class A Trustees*
 - *May serve on an advisory capacity at Area level and shall not have voting rights*
 - *Shall report to Area level (Area Assemblies should include the NACM report in their monthly report to GSO)*
 - *Assist in the facilitation of Class A projects at Area level (eg set up events, workshops, send out invites, facilitate workshops etc)*
 - *Attend Area meetings monthly*
 - *Negotiate contact with stakeholders in the community*
 - *To be the ambassador of the AA in public with the support of the Area Office*
 - *Be familiar with the 36 AA Principles (concepts, traditions and steps)*
 - *If is the first point of call for 12-stepping, to refer immediately to an AA member. The responsibility for 12 step work stops upon referral*
 - *Uphold the principle of anonymity of AA*
6. Propose that National Committees disband at the end of conference; that tasks and projects are allocated into District/Area service arms for actioning. Monitoring to be done by National Secretaries between Conferences and reported back on by National Secretaries at next Conference.
- *This proposal was rejected. Each National Committee undertook to follow through on projects and to supply regular updated information to National Secretaries. (Please see each Committee's Feedback Report for detailed action plans)*

PROPOSALS FOR SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES, STRUCTURES AND ADMIN

1. Propose that the term of the Delegate be increased to 4 years to get the most out of Delegates.
 - *This proposal was rejected. The 3 year term still applies.*
2. There are many demands on our Class A Trustees and more demands will be forthcoming in the years ahead. They also have a personal life. Furthermore, whenever one rotates out, there should always be two experienced trustees on the Board. Thus it is proposed that the number of Class A Trustees be increased from two to three.
 - *This proposal was rejected. The proposal to adjust the Conference balance over the next 7 years would require for 2 more Delegates if another Trustee is appointed. It would also cause additional cost to the*

fellowship. NACM's have already been set up and there is no need for an additional Class A Trustee at this stage.

3. Most members do not know that they belong to a huge, vibrant organization due to their lack of knowledge or exposure. Like the frogs in a well, meetings, sponsors and an occasional rally is all the A.A. they know. They do not know the truth that it is the members who are supposed to suggest to the various entities how to run the show. It is therefore proposed that GSO prepare workshop material to explain the dynamic nature of the A.A. structure and how it operates so that all regions can use that format to disseminate such valuable information to the entire fellowship.
 - *This proposal was approved as well as the video's being developed and produced by GSO. Material will be made available to the Fellowship to use at workshops/forums etc.*
4. Propose that each service arm committee at Conference develop a workshop kit for use by all areas. Finance and Archives had been completed by GSO, but assistance is needed with other service arms. Information is available on the website and in the service kits and needs to be combined for use.
 - *This proposal was approved. Each Service Arm Committee at Conference to develop a kit.*
5. Conference to provide guidelines on how to deal with SAYPAA.
 - *This proposal was rejected. SAYPAA members are AA members and do not need to be dealt with separately.*
6. Conference to adjudicate whether the Free State continues to fall under JWRA jurisdiction.
 - *JWRA has traditionally raised funds for the Free State Delegate to attend Conference. It has always formed a part of the Central Region. It was a 1999 Conference decision that we re-affirm. JWRA is the largest area under the Central Region and as such is best to finance the cost.*

CPC AND PI

1. There is a dire need to reach out to the black population in the townships. How can we respond effectively to this?
 - *This proposal was approved. Suggestions and guidelines: To use the database of the social work projects that are stored at Area Offices in order to contact social workers in outlying areas. Choose neutral ground (eg a sports club, recreational facility; avoid religious facilities if possible to hold meetings; this is to avoid unintended messages of religious confliction). CPC/PI persons should have a meetings' checklist in order to set up any group (eg setting up meetings, check venue, rental etc). In relation to the proposal, members need to focus on the 'us' and 'we' instead of the 'them' and 'they'. We also need to realise that there is a growing middle-class and that should be our target market.*
2. How to ensure continued support for a small group to carry the message, especially in outlying areas and keep going "Back to Basics".
 - *How can we support other groups? Members should attend meetings of other groups/areas in addition to their own group. Take newcomers to the other groups as well. We need to adhere to*

the principle of singleness of purpose. Try to bring in a variety of, and dynamic speakers. Try to rather have upcoming groups joining other groups nearby instead of opening new groups.

3. How can we promote CPC/PI as a group function?

- *Distinguish between CPC and PI work. These are two different functions within one.*
- *Proposed that every member contact at least one person on the CPC list below:*

<i>CPC</i>	<i>PUBLIC INFORMATION</i>
<i>Social worker</i>	<i>New pamphlets</i>
<i>Psychologist</i>	<i>Public talks</i>
<i>Doctors</i>	<i>Magazines</i>
<i>Sangomas</i>	<i>Radio</i>
<i>Psychiatrists</i>	<i>Schools</i>
<i>Priests</i>	<i>Corporate</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>Wellness days</i>
<i>Metro/traffic</i>	<i>Municipalities</i>
<i>Courts</i>	<i>Labour Unions</i>
<i>Magistrates</i>	
<i>Lawyers</i>	
<i>Hospitals, Nurses</i>	
<i>Corporate/ HR</i>	

FINANCE AND IT

1. A need for the ongoing refinement of social media guidelines is important. Conference to consider and advise on the following:

Criteria for establishing WhatsApp groups

Rules of engagement on WhatsApp groups

Can WhatsApp groups be registered as meetings on our website?

What can be done to curb abuse of A.A. channels by members who do not conform to our tradition of anonymity and the principle of singleness of purpose?

- *The existing AASA Social Media Guidelines together with the AA International Internet Guidelines were more than adequate and covered WhatsApp. A link to the latter document:*
- *http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-18_internet.pdf. Both Social Media and the Internet are fast moving targets that change daily. Both documents are routinely kept up to date and it was felt that the mater need not be brought to conference every year. The committee would recommend against registering WhatsApp groups as registered meetings or placing links on the AASA home page.*

2. What can be done to increase contributions from groups and other revenue streams?

- *The literature stands proposed by CPC & PI should be actively marketed by all and not only the CPC & PI Area office bearers. This wonderful innovation also brings with it repeat income every time the stand is stocked. Finance committee members are asked to actively encourage this initiative in their Areas of among their friends in the Fellowship.*

- *We need think outside of the box in terms of promoting literature sales. Hospitals, Social Workers, SANCA, Psychiatric professionals, Churches, books shops online retailers are all potential outlets which we are not being exploited.*
- *We suggest we need to incentivise people who know “the solution” to sell our products, by paying a small commission, (for example 5%). We are not suggesting paid 12th stepping, but increasing the sales of the Big Book, and 12 by 12 in four languages to those that need it, their families and those in the caring professions.*
- *Other Actions*
- *The Committee brought to attention the definition of a Rally page 154 – 2.1 in the Service Manual as being event primarily aimed at “...the general public, Medical Institutions, Social Welfare Departments, Corporates, Law Enforcement Agencies, etc.” this is exactly the market we should be selling our literature and prominent sales points need to be set up and manned by knowledgeable members.*

LITERATURE AND PUBLICATIONS

1. Print selected leaflets locally and in all official languages. This would encourage more alcoholics to join the Fellowship by making A.A. more acceptable to the majority of people in this country.
 - *This project was rejected.*
2. Should the project on the SA version of the Big Book be continued and if yes, what will be the story selection criteria?
 - *It was decided to continue with research on this project. The National Committee will gather opinion from the Fellowship on whether members want this book to be published. Feedback to be given at Conference 2018.*
 - *The National Committee will investigate how this book will be sold online, the costs thereof, practicality, systems needed etc. and report back at Conference 2018.*
3. Request that a budget be set aside for Big Books to be distributed within Correctional Facilities.
 - *This proposal was rejected. Areas need to raise funds to supply Big Books to facilities in their region.*

TREATMENT AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

1. Compile guidelines for the holding of A.A. meetings in Halfway Houses.
 - *No guidelines necessary. The nearest AA group should assist where necessary.*
2. Proposal on outreach project to expand the footprint in treatment and correctional facilities.
 - *The National Committee will continue with the work from the 2016 Conference project.*
3. How can we promote TF/CF as a group function?
 - *The National Committee will continue with the work from the 2016 Conference project and are getting groups involved by contacting the Area Assemblies.*

PROJECTS AND DECISIONS FROM PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AT CONFERENCE

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, STRUCTURES AND ADMIN COMMITTEE:

- The committee will focus on converting cassette tapes with AA shares to digital format and to scan documents in order to build digital archives. Work will be done at GSO with the help of local volunteers.

NATIONAL CPC/PI COMMITTEE:

- Extend workshops to other disciplines eg. Insurance, HR and Labour Industries.
- SAAMS Symposium held on 19 August at Stellenbosch University Tygerberg Campus. Western Cape Area can apply to have a speaker and stall at www.saams.co.za
- International Social Work Conference held 8 – 11 October in Gauteng. Class A Trustee to co-present with an AA member.
- Chairperson of the committee will compile a database of conferences. Areas that have databases of attendees at workshops are asked to forward this to GSO.
- Area Assemblies to contact social workers who attended workshops in the last 2 years, to assist in reaching out to outlying areas.

NATIONAL FINANCE AND IT COMMITTEE:

- Research on digitalisation of the Regmaker and other literature will continue. Great progress has been made so far, but technical issues such as payment gateways will be investigated.
- Much research has been done and quotes obtained to make changes to the National Helpline system. The objective is to get newcomers to speak to someone when they make their first call instead of having to make 3 different calls after hearing a message on an answering machine. This is an ongoing project and changes will be effected as soon as possible.
- The Fellowship is asked to look at ways to contribute more to Areas and GSO. Some suggestions are: ask one or two group members to pay venue rent; ask members to donate coffee/tea etc. for meetings; quarterly raffles; signing up for the new Gratitude Pledge system (to be introduced via e-mail and pledge cards soon); Delegates to visit groups and educate members on how contributions are used and sensitively suggest that more affluent members consider including a bequest in their wills; Delegates to visit non-contributing groups and find out why they are not helping the Fellowship; Group conscience meetings to be held to find ways to get more newcomers to stay.
- Literature stand with leaflets for CPC/PI purposes to be actively marketed by all members of the Fellowship. Promotion of literature sales is important – we need to sell literature to outside entities eg. HR departments of companies, rehabs, hospitals etc.
- Suggest paying a small commission (eg. 5 %) to people who know “the solution” to sell our literature. We are not suggesting paid 12th stepping, but increasing sales to professionals.
- As per the Service Manual, rallies are primarily aimed at “the general public, medical institutions, social welfare departments, corporates, law enforcement agencies etc.” Prominent literature sales points need to be set up at rallies and manned by knowledgeable members.

NATIONAL LITERATURE AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:

- Committee to investigate what other countries have done to market their version of the Regmaker so that subscriptions and sales can be increased.
- Identify groups in need of literature. Coordinator to identify literature/slow moving stock that can be distributed to those groups.

NATIONAL TF & CF COMMITTEE:

- Communicate with correctional supervising officers in all districts with a view to create meetings for offenders who have been granted correctional supervision. We will assist in conducting AA meetings at these facilities and encourage attendees to attend AA meetings in their areas.
- Explore prisons with libraries to minimise costs on free literature.
- Speak to prosecutors and magistrates about the advantages of having offenders attend AA meetings.
- Address clinic nurses in rural areas regarding outpatients and what AA can do for them.
- Members who share at private rehabs are asked to speak to staff and encourage literature sales to these institutions.