

CONFERENCE PROPOSALS & DECISIONS 2018

1. I propose that the chairmanship of conference be returned to a member of the board. We should remember the responsibilities of the board which makes them the obvious choice when it comes to ensuring the wellbeing of our fellowship- especially as regards our service affairs and our Traditions. Let's also remember that GSO only serves as the secretarial and administrative arm of the board. Our fellowship should also no longer be concerned with not allowing the board the authority they need to do their job properly. There should be the greatest cooperation between the Delegates and the Board, which does not require the appointment of someone outside of the board to keep the peace.

Decision: This proposal was rejected. Status quo remains.

2. Proposal that all groups at Rehabs be changed to Special purpose meetings as the rehabs send all patients regardless whether alcoholic, addict, overeater gambler whatever to these groups with the belief that an addiction is an addiction and it goes against both Traditions 5 and 6.

Decision: If a group which holds its meetings at a Rehab and consistently does not conduct its meetings in accordance with AA traditions that group should be deemed to be a "Special Purpose Meeting" and as such not be registered as an AA Group. The decision to re-classify a group as a Special Purposes Meeting lays in the hands of the Area Assembly.

3. Propose that Conference establish a service awareness week for each service arm in August before most positions rotate out.

Decision: It was agreed that that conference should adopt and ratify this proposal. However, instead of having a service week, August will be dedicated as a Service Awareness Month. The GSO National Secretaries of each service arm to drive this project from July. The function of the National Secretaries would be to follow up with the relevant service arm of each area to ensure that the literature, posters and guidelines that would be required for their local projects are available and in their stock. These events that are run by each area/district would present an opportunity to conduct a survey as to "Why members do not readily get involved in service?" A questionnaire will be compiled and sent out with the literature. These questionnaires are not compulsory and will be anonymous. The idea behind this is to gather information as to why there is a lack of participation in service and use this information to see what we as a fellowship as a whole can do to encourage service within the fellowship.

4. Propose that the National Committees develop workshop material for each service arm that can be used for the service awareness week.

Decision: See decision on proposal 3.

5. Propose to have three new leaflets printed in SA: Meeting in a Pocket, Growing into Service, Service Sponsorship. Conference approval is requested.

Decision: Meeting a Pocket was approved on condition that all prayers except for the Serenity Prayer be removed. Growing into Service and Service Sponsorship leaflets were unanimously approved.

6. Board recommends to Conference that the SA Big Book project be shelved completely as it is creating animosity in the fellowship.

Decision: The recommendation of the Board was followed and this project was shelved by majority vote.

7. Introduce Workshops Calendar to be in place by year end for following year with 3 standard workshops:

Sponsorship - General + Service / The importance of covering the 36 principles of recovery / Know your Service Manual

Service positions at Group Level - Know your Service Manual

Service Positions at District Level - Know your Service Manual

Areas Workshops (just before AGM Areas meeting when portfolio holders rotate out and new ones rotate in) -

Service positions at Areas level / Areas Treasurer to cover / The financial Reports explained / 7th Tradition

Decision: See decision on proposal 3.

8. Meetings App which includes: Meeting format / Chapter 5 / Promises / Traditions / Calendar of Events

Decision: Conference approved the APP as demonstrated.

- R10-00 will be charged to download the APP and includes everything but the Regmaker subscription.
- The APP will contain "Find a Meeting" with Google maps and search functions (any area/group name/suburb typed in will get you to a meeting)
- Calendar of events
- Frequently Asked Questions (sobriety terms for service positions etc.)
- Shares by SA members (rallies, conventions etc.)
- Regmaker online (R 50-00 as per usual)

9. How can we encourage members into service with the A.A. Fellowship?

Decision: See decision on proposal 3.

10. How does sponsorship help a group? (See Proposals 3, 4, 7 and 9)

Decision: See decision on proposal 3.

11. Will conference please consider restructuring the board to better represent and serve the fellowship as follows: New Board: 5 regional trustees (with a service portfolio each), 1 world service delegate (that also serves as general service trustee), and 2 non-alcoholic trustees. This effectively reduces the current board from 14 members to 8 members. Currently there are 27 delegates at conference which represents the fellowship or the 'people to be governed' It therefore follows that the 'government' (the board) be proportional to the people they serve. The composition of the Board and GSO needs to be in proportion to the fellowship they serve. In the US for example they have 134 members at conference of which 93 are delegates, 25 the board and 16 GSO. If we follow this guideline, for our current 27 delegates we need a Board of 7 and a GSO team of 5.

Decision: This proposal was rejected. Status quo remains.

12. Group contributions are split (70 % to Areas & 30 % to GSO). Propose that the split after Conventions be noted in Guidelines as 70 % to GSO and 30 % to Areas.

Decision: Conference approved this proposal. Convention Guidelines and the Service Manual will be updated.

13. Structure of neighboring countries joining SA to be revisited. Current structure unfavorable. As the Area is responsible for Delegate fees, we need to ensure that an Area knows this and can fund the Delegate before a new country is allocated to the said Area. A new country should not simply join with an Area or Region because it is geographically suited. For future planning we need to take into account that Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland might join the AA SA structure.

Decision: Delegate fees for neighbouring countries joining the SA structure, will be divided between all Areas/Regions in South Africa instead of charging one area for an extra Delegate. This effectively means that South Africa will be sponsoring the neighboring countries until they are able to afford to pay their own way. This proposal and decision will be reviewed annually at Conference to assess the affordability of neighbouring countries.

14. Update SA version of Concepts

Decision: The Board of Trustees will complete this project and if approved by them, present to Conference 2019 for approval.

15. Anonymity and social media is becoming an issue, with many Millennials (Generation Y) taking photos and images at Rallies and other events. Guidelines for social media use within the Fellowship should be developed and added to the Service Manual.

Decision: Social Media guidelines already exist and will be added to the Service Manual.

16. Rallies need to focus on the Primary Purpose – which is to inform the public of AA. Guidelines should be developed and added to the Service Manual.

Decision: Rally Guidelines will be updated by the Trustee: CPC/PI and National Secretary: CPC/PI.

17. The Service Manual should be updated to reflect specific roles for each service arms portfolio.

Decision: This proposal was approved. Furthermore, the entire Service Manual will be thoroughly checked and updated/edited where necessary. The Trustee: ASA will work on this project in conjunction with the National Secretary: Archives.

18. AA SA introducing officially recognized and properly run on-line meetings for the AA-loner to attend.

Decision: This proposal was approved. Messages to gauge interest will be placed on the website Forum, WhatsApp and Alco Solo. If there is interest, the Loners themselves should take the initiative and GSO can then perhaps investigate a technology platform. A group registration form is available from GSO.

19. Use archive material and photos to create interesting YouTube clips to make younger people aware of AA.

Decision: This proposal was rejected as many clips already exist.

20. Based on Traditions 11 & 12 which state: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. How can we honour these traditions in the new communication age where Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram & other Social Media platforms are part of us daily communication with the world at large?

Decision: Members of the Finance and IT Committee will investigate the possibility of private, secure social media platforms. Social Media guidelines will be updated.

21. As we are continually asked to remind our groups that the Fellowship requires funds, one of the younger members pointed out that the younger generation hardly ever carries cash, and don't like drawing money either. She (and another) would like to give more money but because of the above reason do not. I would like for Conference to discuss the possibility of including a QR code within the IGN (or another format to be discussed) that will allow those wishing to do so to make an electronic donation each week.

Decision: Proposal approved. A QR code will be available soon. This will enable members to contribute to GSO via their phones. Areas who have bank accounts can also implement this system. It was further decided that the pledge project will continue for a year as it has been successful. GSO are closer to restoring prudent reserves because of the pledges coming in. The Trustee: Finance & IT will send a letter to Areas, thanking members for their pledges and requesting an extension for another year. This project will be reviewed at Conference 2019.

22. Across the cell phone networks, when a call is missed the service provider sends an SMS to the owner of the number informing of the missed call. Along with this notification there appears an advert for various services with contact details. Can we have permission do the same?

Decision: This proposal was rejected.

23. Regmaker App: it appears the Regmaker is not always available in the month it is printed, at times a month or two after print. Suggested solution: It may be more efficient, cost and time saving to provide this publication on-line as with AA in SA for example (I have since heard that this is already in progress – a digital version of the RM?)

Decision: Regmaker will be available electronically on the new APP.

24. Introduce an Afrikaans version of the Service Manual

Decision: The area that submitted this proposal should do the translation. The area will be responsible for any costs involved to have linguists edit the manual. The final copy must be submitted to Conference for approval.

25. Awareness of singleness of purpose – propose that the reading of the blue card be mandatory before introducing a speaker or discussion topic at meetings. (in other words – add to meeting format)

Decision: This proposal was rejected. It is suggested by Conference that groups read the blue card at meetings, but Conference cannot prescribe to groups.

26. Lack of Afrikaans versions of AA pamphlets specifically in the country areas. Could these not be translated and made available in print friendly format on our web site?

Decision: The area that submitted this proposal should do the translation. The area will be responsible for any costs involved to have linguists edit the leaflets. The final copy(s) must be submitted to GSO who will then submit the draft to AAWS and request licensing and approval. AAWS will have the final decision as to whether the leaflets can be placed on the website at no charge.

27. Propose that the “Daily Reflections” be translated into Afrikaans. First draft of the translation has been completed.

Decision: The area that submitted this proposal should do the translation. The area will be responsible for any costs involved to have linguists edit the book. The final copy must be submitted to GSO who will then submit the draft to AAWS and request licensing and approval. AAWS will have the final decision as to whether the book can be placed on the website at no charge.

PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS RAISED AT CONFERENCE 2018

28. The Trustee for CPC/PI took on the project to co-operate/communicate with **Government Departments** to assist all Service arms to gain access to various entities and in doing so help carry the message to the officials within the Government that will get in contact with the still suffering alcoholic. The Trustee agreed to set up a plan of action and also the guidelines regarding the way to interact with the Government officials. A Budget of R250.00 will be requested per person. The budget will be used to obtain proper business card to be given to the Government officials. The timeline for getting the project going is 6 months (monitored monthly).

Decision: This project and budget was approved.

29. The Delegates of the CPC/PI Committee took on the project to make contact with the **Doctor's Guilds** within their area and ask to make a presentation during their meeting. This will ensure that a number of medical professionals be targeted at once. A budget of R1500-00 has been requested. This will be used to obtain some related pamphlets. Samples of the pamphlets will be given to each Medical Guild for their members to see what literature they may buy from AA.

Decision: This project and budget was approved.

30. The National Secretary: CPC/PI took on the project to investigate and compile **literature packs for PI presentations**. All free literature from AAWS will be investigated and if new free literature can be brought into SA this will be included in the packs. The aim is to send at least 5 packs to each area – as a start - to get every area going with their own PI projects. This will be monitored monthly to check if Areas need more. No budget is requested for this project.

Decision: This project was approved.