

Committee No. 2

Question 1 Background

Recommendation Conference 2006, Committee 2, Question 1

In the spirit of Love and Service how can the Fellowship forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA with particular reference to Concepts Three, Four and Five.

The Committee acknowledges that we need to forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA. This is evidenced by general apathy about service, too little knowledge of personal responsibility, lack of participation and involvement at all levels of service. The committee believes the core reason for this lies in the poor quality of communication and its lack of simplicity.

This Committee recommends:

1. That every level of service seeks to improve its communication with greater transparency, openness and better awareness with specific reference to Concepts 3, 4, 5.
2. That the Conference Steering Committee allocates time to Committee 2 at Conference 2007 to review progress in improving working practices throughout the service structure.

There were minority views recorded that the committee had failed to 1) adequately answer the question and 2) propose more specific recommendations.

(The recommendation was carried 11 votes for, with 1 against, and 5 abstentions.)

Question 3 Background

Recommendation Conference 2001, Committee 3, Question 1

Conference 1999 recommended a review of the structure and composition of Conference. Would Conference review and make recommendations on the following:

Structure of Conference

- Eg**
- Is the number of Committees appropriate?**
 - Is the use of Committees appropriate?**
 - Is the composition of Committees appropriate?**

This Committee was unanimous in its belief that the structure of Conference requires significant change.

This Committee recommends that the number of committees is appropriate and should remain at 6. There was a minority view which was expressed and appreciated that the number of committees should be reduced to four.

We feel that **EACH** committee should be responsible for the following:

- (a) to safeguard our primary purpose by harnessing past and present experience.
- (b) to act as the conscience of the Fellowship.
- (c) to discuss initiatives and make recommendations.
- (d) to address problems and opportunities as they arise.
- (e) to act as a forum for the sharing of experience.
- (f) to review and assess the implementation of relevant Conference recommendations.

With the retention of six committees we feel that the composition of committees is appropriate.

The remit of the Committees could be:

- 2 dealing with external matters.
- 2 dealing with internal matters.
- 1 dealing with finance.
- 1 dealing with special issues.

We further recommend that the Conference Committee should be renamed The Conference Steering Committee and will be chaired by the Conference Chairman. This Committee will now need to adjust its Terms of Reference to facilitate the new way of working for Conference Committees.

Not only will it select Conference questions, it will also recommend initiatives and invite topics from the Fellowship for discussion.

The Conference Steering Committee will set the itinerary for all of Conference.

This view was unanimous.

CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

- Structure**
- a) The annually elected Conference Chair, acting as Chair
 - b) All the annually elected Committee Chairs
 - c) Two Board Members for guidance, support & continuity
 - d) General Secretary (non voting)
 - e) Conference co-ordinator (non-voting)

The Conference Steering Committee (CSC) will continue to rely on the General Service Board, the General Service Office, the General Secretary and Conference Co-ordinator for logistical support, advice and assistance with the development of the Conference itinerary. This ensures continuity and is necessary for the success of the Conference Steering Committee's remit.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (selection criteria for Conference questions):

The committee agree that their work principally comprises of two important elements. The first is the selection of suitable Conference questions and initiatives to be made available to the Fellowship through the General Secretary, together with a copy of the full Terms of Reference. The second is to ensure that Conference fulfils the purpose devised by our Co-Founders, to be a part of the Check & Balance system ensuring that AA continues in accordance with the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

At their first meeting the CSC will elect an alternate chair for Conference. If deemed necessary the CSC should present a report on its activities to Conference.

Questions for Conference

All questions received by August 31st will be reviewed fully by the Committee. In assessing their suitability for Conference, the Committee will be guided by the criteria set out in the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, - "a major subject or subjects of topical importance affecting the Fellowship in the widest possible way...", together with criteria established through Conference recommendations.

From these criteria questions fall into seven categories.

1. Questions accepted as suitable for Conference
2. Questions accepted as suitable, subject to minor drafting or textual amendments suggested by the Committee and, where practicable, agreed by the questioner.
3. Questions accepted as suitable through consolidation of questions of a similar nature, ensuring the spirit of the original question is maintained.
4. Questions acceptable through referral by previous Conference recommendation.
5. Questions not accepted because they have been discussed at Conference within the previous three years.
6. Questions not accepted due to the lack of sufficient background material pertinent to the question.
7. Questions not accepted for reasons other than the above.

Any questions generated during these discussions and considered as suitable for Conference, if not already submitted, may be submitted by those Committee members.

The Committee will do its utmost to obtain relevant background information to prospective questions, when-ever possible, to ensure the spirit of the question is understood.

The Committee will, before not accepting any question under the 'three year rule' that had a Conference recommendation for Board action, establish to its satisfaction through its Board members that action was taken, or is planned.

The Committee will submit comprehensive reasons for not accepting any Conference question to the questioner.

All Conference questions will be acknowledged by receipt by the General Service Office.

Workshop

If Conference does not recommend a workshop theme then the Conference Steering Committee is responsible for deciding upon an appropriate alternative.

The Terms of Reference are reviewed annually and circulated each year.