1.

**Should we abandon the yearly sending out of Questions for Conference? Only sending out single important questions every few years, as matters arise perhaps.**

**Should we fundamentally re-form how this takes place and more importantly re-focus on what the purpose of this whole process is meant to be for and re-design it with that in mind?**

**Should we now row this whole conference/questions process back into a level where it is useful and functional and restores the balance of AA back to the groups and Tradition 5?**

TOR 12

As the committee concluded that a Yearly Conference is part of the Structure of AA and there are legal requirements for the GSB to hold an AGM.

2.

**Bearing in mind the widespread passing of information on the Internet, and the fickle nature of some of our members/groups, would Conference consider instructing GSO to verify meeting information annually.    The very worst thing we, as a fellowship can do is to have a suffering alcoholic turn up to a meeting that closed months ago!!**

**I appreciate that will not be very popular with you, but a committee may come up with a plan that could be automated, rather like the response you make when intergroup/region personnel changes are made, i.e. you only need to check up on those meeting that don't respond.**

TOR 5

Discussed at Conference 2018 by Committee 6, Q1(c).

3.

**Would conference consider and make recommendations to identify existing child friendly meetings to make them easier to find? For example, by adding a designation in the ‘Where to Find’ such as ‘CF’, and a searchable tag to be included in the online meeting search function.**

TOR 8

Technical question and does not require Conference approval.

4.

**Would conference make available (print) a reprint of the book Alcoholics Anonymous?**

TOR 12

You can order a first print through us through AAWS. We cannot print it as Copyright for All Editions of the Big Book are maintained by AAWS. Through international Copyright treaties AAGB is able to publish Edition 4. Copyright for Editions 1&2 are not available to us as though they were lost in the US only, they are maintained Internationally by AAWS and are intact. i.e. we cannot print. This has been confirmed by AAWS. Most other available AA Conference approved literature is copyrighted.

8.

**When new 12 step scrolls are bought they no longer have underlined in Steps 3 and 11 “God as we understood Him”.**

**There wasn’t a discussion about this at conference it just happened.**

**Who decided to make the change and with what authority?**

**Could other changes be made to our literature without conference approval?**

TOR 12

Scrolls had reverted back to the original version.

11.

**Alcoholics Anonymous should not be offering training to outside organisations dealing with Alcoholism; outside-training is no part of AA structure.**

TOR 8

This matter can be dealt with in house by changing the word ‘training’. Passed to GSB.

12.

**Would the Fellowship share its experience and review the existing differing working practices, and also the guidance given in the Structure and Service Handbooks, for the role of the Trustees (GSB Members) within their respective Regional Assembly.**

TOR 8 & 9

We should remember that each group is autonomous (9) however pass this to GSB who can discuss the role of a Trustee at Regional level (8).

13.

**I would like to raise a concern around safeguarding and the protection of vulnerable adults in AA.**

**There has been an ongoing difficulty with a member stalking women in my area. This has led to one term of imprisonment and now a second trial for the same member. While I understand that AA is not responsible for the actions of its members outside meetings, in my area there have been two incidents of women being threatened at meetings or just outside meetings. Members seem powerless or unwilling to act to stop these incidents occurring.**

**I am aware of where this predatory behaviour can lead as a recent murder in Brighton, while nothing to do with AA was the actions of a stalker who went too far. The case that is in my area that now involves the police and courts is, I believe, affecting AA as a whole. It is also having an impact on local meetings with some walking out, some not going and negative messages being given to new and vulnerable members.**

**Can I please suggest that AA, as a whole, takes action in making very clear to groups the actions that they can take to remove members who are identified as a threat by the group. We must give vulnerable members, especially women protection who in my experience face the highest risk.**

**I would also ask if there is any way a persistent offender, such as the person in my area, could be banned from meetings by an intergroup apart from single sex meetings. It is clear from several experiences that in many groups members are afraid or unwilling to take action to protect vulnerable people. In fact it could be said that AA is creating an environment where predators are free to roam and harm members.**

**I would ask with the deepest respect that AA region act and act quickly to:**

**a) Make clear to groups their responsibilities and possible actions by issuing clear and unambiguous guidelines to groups with support numbers and advice attached.**

**b) Set up a confidential contact point for vulnerable people who are being exploited that they can contact to see help and guidance from members of AA who have experience of this, this should also include signposting to agencies who can support individuals outside AA.**

**Please act before there is an incident that causes national headlines that could seriously harm a member of AA and damage AA as a whole. We should be a safe place for alcoholics to attend but currently in a growing number of cases we are not. If wanted I am happy to discuss this will the appropriate AA representative.**

TOR 5

This matter was considered as Question 1 by committee 6 at Conference this year. It was discussed at length and will be the subject of a report by the safeguarding subcommittee set up to consider this matter in more depth.

14.

**In order to help the still suffering alcoholic, inside and outside the Rooms, it has been suggested that more could be done in the way of having AA approved literature to hand, for members whom we know to be struggling with the initial impression, even if that impression has been mistakenly arrived at, that a belief in God or a Higher Power, as defined in our literature, is a prerequisite for being a part of A.A.**

**This is particularly difficult for members who do not understand what this means or who describe themselves as agnostics, atheists or freethinkers.**

**Many such struggling alcoholics find it difficult to see the similarities and not the differences and sadly therefore do not stay in the Rooms long enough to appreciate the deeper meaning of the programme and the 12 steps.**

**In accordance with the A.A. pledge we would ask that Conference approve additional examples of recognised Recovery literature in order that the hand of AA might be there for these alcoholics who are reaching out for help.**

**We would suggest the following 4 publications as a starting point for this process.**

**BEYOND BELIEF**

**Agnostic musings for the 12 step life**

**Joe C**

**THE ALTERNATIVE 12 STEPS**

**A secular guide to recovery**

**Martha Cleveland**

**Arlys G**

**STAYING SOBER WITHOUT GOD**

**The practical 12 steps to long term recovery**

**Jeffrey Munn**

**ONE BREATH AT A TIME: BHUDDISM AND THE TWELVE STEPS.**

**Kevin Griffin**

**Our question for Conference is**

**Would AA officially endorse the aforementioned 4 publications as part of A.A. Literature?**

TOR 11

Outside literature cannot be endorsed. If it was, there would be hundreds of equally good if not better publications which would also require our fellowship's endorsement. Such a policy would be in conflict with Traditions 6, 7 and 10.

15.

**Concerning the design of the leaflet "THE GOD WORD"**

**Whilst welcoming Conference's approval of the first leaflet designed to address to the concerns of agnostic, atheist & freethinking members, it is acknowledged that concern was expressed, at the time, regarding the current title, which was originally then modified as THE "GOD" WORD.**

**Experience has since confirmed that members for whom the leaflet was designed have found this title unhelpful and confusing. We therefore call upon Conference to revisit this aspect and would propose a clear and unambiguous title.**

**Our question for Conference is**

**Would A.A. approve that the new title of the leaflet currently known as THE "GOD" WORD be instead:**

**"WELCOME! THE EXPERIENCE OF AGNOSTIC, ATHEIST & FREETHINKING MEMBERS IN A.A." ?**

TOR 10

No evidence was provided to support the assertion that the title is 'unhelpful and confusing'. The same criticism could be equally applied to the suggested alternative title.

17.

**Conference is asked to consider and make recommendation on ways to make better use of Non-Alcoholic Board Trustees to help explain the precise role of AA.**

TOR 10

The committee agreed that the NATs do a very good job on our behalf. We cannot and must not control them or order them to take specific actions in a specific way. We can only support their already excellent work and encourage them to take new initiatives which may be out of their comfort zone, as is already happening at present.

18.

**Conference is asked to consider and make recommendations on ways to attract problem drinkers to AA using images that focus on*thinking*rather than*drinking.***

TOR 5

Was last discussed by Committee 4 at Conference in 2017. We are always grateful for suggestions and/or examples provided by members which will be passed on to the PI and Literature SCs for consideration and possible action.

20.

**There seems to be more and more unfilled service positions at the level of intergroup and region. Could conference recommend ways to assist us in maintaining our legacy of Service.**

TOR 3 & 10

Agree with the substance of this question. Contrary to your assertion, the level of unfilled posts today is lower than 20 years ago. However, the logic of your question is similar to another related one which was accepted.

22.

**Would conference discuss the benefits of creating the post of Intergroup “Online PI Officer”**

TOR 9

Autonomy of the group, intergroup and regions. This matter has been referred to the PI SC.

23.

**Could conference share the experience and ideas of Intergroups & Regions who have successfully spent money on PI work.**

TOR 7

There is an existing platform for sharing this information by the regular publication of the Public Information Newsletter. This Newsletter draws together the experience received through the service structure from Intergroup and Region PI Officers from their regular reports, as suggested in Chapter 1 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain. There is further regular exchange of information on these topics through the Public Information Sub Committee, which meets in York four times a year, and the annual Region PI Officers meeting.

24.

**Would conference discuss the merits of introducing the position of conference coordinator at group level.**

TOR 9

This is a matter for decision by individual groups. Our existing literature suggests that Groups should familiarise themselves with the guidance set out our Service and Structure Handbooks and might also consider issuing “job descriptions” for their individual officers, which might include Conference matters, if that is the conscience of their group.

26.

**Will conference discuss and make recommendations on how the helpline can revert to being manned 24hrs a day.**

TOR 10

Committee does not accept that the premise set out in the first paragraph of the background to the question is correct.

28.

**Would conference explore the difference in public perception between AAGB and the US. Is there anything we can learn?**

TOR 8

Committee has referred the point made in your Question to the AAGB General Service Board for consideration, because both the Board and the AAGB General Service Office are in frequent contact with their counterparts in the US to share experience and the implementation of ideas.

29.

**Bill W’s essay on Leadership has been removed from Concept 9 in the AAGB Service manual. Can Conference please discuss promoting (reverting?)it back to its rightful place.**

TOR 7

Committee noted that the essay can now be found at p.12 of the AA Structure Handbook (5th Edition: 2019). The essays on the Conceptsstart at p.22 of the Structure Handbook, and that on Concept IX concludes with a reference back to the essay on Leadership at p.12.

30.

**Would Conference consider whether the current allocation of Regional delegates provide fair representation across mainland UK?**

TOR 9 & 11

The Committee considered that the current position on allocation of delegates and representation accords with our Conference Charter, taking note of the section “The General Service Conference” commencing at p 100 of The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain (5th Ed. 2019) and “The Conference Charter – Great Britain” at p.105, and as further explained by Bill W in his essay on Concept XII and the Warranties at p.61.

**31.**

**Despite a clearly established need for Alcoholics Anonymous to maintain a strong presence in the field of alcoholism, there is still some reluctance throughout the Fellowship to come forward and do Public Information work. Would Conference consider and provide a clear statement on the difference between attraction and promotion while still maintaining the anonymity referred to in Tradition 12?**

TOR 7

The answerto the question has been clearly explained in the publication Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Tradition 11 and Tradition 12.

32.

**Would Conference consider separating the combined probation and prison liaison meetings to individual meetings for just prison liaison offers and probation liaison officers?**
TOR 12

The committee established that this is already being undertaken by the GSB of AAGB.

33.

**Would Conference make recommendations on how we can work with the HMPPS (Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service) to help members with spent convictions who wish to do Prison Service?**

TOR 3

Consolidated this question with another question of a similar nature.

34.

**Would Conference make recommendations how better use can be made of the Saturday evening ‘open session’?**

TOR 12

It was felt that this would be a matter for the Chair and Delegates themselves at Conference. It also considered that the “open session” provides an important opportunity for the Fellowship to hold the GSB of AAGB to account in respect of its stewardship of all our Traditions and its obligations under the Charity Commission regulations.

35.

**Would Conference consider discussion of the addition of reading from the leaflet ‘Traditions Checklist’ to reading the Traditions from the ’12 x 12’ in our Tradition meetings?**

TOR 9

Discussion of this question at Conference would not uphold the autonomy of Groups, Intergroups and Regions through the conscience of those they serve.

36.

**Would Conference consider allowing conference delegates to serve more than one term at Conference after they have served their last Conference after 5 years?**

TOR 12

The issue in this question is answered in The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2019 at p.102 sections 1.5.a and 1.5.b. The provisions on rotation are clear, but p.101 section 1.3.b. also emphasises the desirability that the region ensure that one of the officers of region is given the opportunity to attend, if possible. Whilst a region may find itself unable to provide a delegate to sit on each conference committee it does have, through any of its conference delegates, the opportunity for its voice to be heard at the final session of Conference, when the Committee reports are discussed and voted upon.

37.

**'Would the Fellowship consider the need for new and appropriate service positions to be created and allowed to stand in their own right within each group, intergroup and region. With the positions in Intergroup and or Region, would it also be accepted that if such positions are created they therefore need to be afforded an appropriate email within the aamail.org set up?'**

TOR 8 & 9

The committee has referred the point about appropriate email within the aamail.org set up to the Electronics Communications Sub-Committee under terms of reference No8 but has not accepted the question under terms of reference No 9 as Conference upholds the autonomy of Groups, Intergroups and Regions.

38.

**Could AA GB conference advise on recommendations for cashless contributions at group level by group members (i.e. Tradition 7) and what is AA GB policy on gift aid?**

TOR 5

The issue of electronic contributions had already been discussed at Conference 2018 at which the recommendation of Committee No 2 was passed unanimously, therefore binding the GSB of AAGB to take any necessary action required.

The committee understood gift aid to be a personal tax allowance of AA members as individuals; AAGB as such, can have no opinion or policy. The charitable status of the GSB of AAGB and its supporters is explained at pp.116, 117 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2019.

39.

**Does the General Service Board of AA in the UK; consider that the Fellowship is doing enough, in terms of Diversity?**

TOR 3

A very similar question to this one was submitted and put on the agenda.

40.

**Would the Fellowship discuss how Groups, Intergroups and Regions cover themselves with Insurance for both themselves and the premises they use. Would they also consider the level of cover and make suggestions as to whether a national negotiated Insurance policy would be beneficial to the Fellowship?**

TOR 12

It would be not be practical to undertake as administration of an overall policy would prove impossible to maintain.

41.

**Would the Fellowship discuss and make recommendations on the practice of adding more than three signatories to the mandates of bank accounts opened in the name of Groups, Intergroups or Regions?**

TOR 5

Taken to conference in 2018, Committee 6 Q2

43.

**What more can be done to raise awareness within the Fellowship of the spiritual significance of the principle of substantial unanimity contained in Concept Twelve, and to encourage its practice at all levels of the service structure?**
TOR 5

Taken to conference in 2019, Committee 4 Q2

44.

**Would Conference share their experience and make recommendations on:**

1. **How a central marketing function could be created, voluntary or professional, to support & assist Intergroup and Region Liaison officers.**
2. **Access to a co-ordinated resource for the sharing of artwork, posters and images, and electronic / digital posters**
3. **Procurement of media, advertising space etc, to achieve benefits to purchasing costs of scale, expertise, and 20% vat if purchased via a central GSO system**

TOR 9

This would not support group autonomy.

45.

**Would Conference ask the General Service Board to clarify the role of the Sub Committees, with clear terms of reference, roles & responsibilities,**

1. **by service discipline**
2. **and in liaison with each other for a co ordinated approach, in particular to external communications in raising awareness of AA throughout GB.**

**and make recommendations on how best the Sub Committees could support the work of Intergroup’s and Regions, and better raise awareness of AA.**

TOR 8

Referred to the General Service Board for consideration.

46.

**I have recently become TLO for Intergroup and ran a successful workshop using the hints and suggestions for 12th Steppers. I was involved in the development of the current document which in my view needs to be reviewed by the Literature Committee in order that it reflects current practice i.e. newcomers arriving in a meeting having had no previous contact from AA other than on the internet as well as best practice.**

**I would therefore request that Conference agree that the Literature Committee should add this document to their list of approved publications which need updating.**

TOR 8

Referred to the Literature Sub-Committee for consideration.

48.

**Does Conference have a concern that an increasing number of AA service roles are fulfilled by members of CER based outside Britain and would conference consider if it is still appropriate for the Continental European Region (English speaking Europe) to be a part of the UK service structure?**

TOR 9, 10 & 11

This would not support group autonomy, it is considered that the information within the question is inaccurate and it is contrary to Traditions.

49.

**Do we alter the preamble from “we are a fellowship  of men and women” to “we are a fellowship of men women and children” or should we just accept the fact that our fellowship of voluntary laypersons and founded on the principle of Anonymity was not designed with safeguarding children in mind and any person under age ought to be gently guided to their local government sponsored professional agency.**

TOR 5

This matter was considered as Question 1 by Committee 6 at Conference this year. It was discussed at length and will be the subject of a report by the safeguarding subcommittee set up to consider this matter in more depth.

50.

**Would the Fellowship consider and give guidance about the importance of anonymity, in both its practical and spiritual aspects, with regards to the process of the submission and selection of potential Conference Questions?**

**Would the Fellowship also consider and give guidance about the anonymity issues related to the schedule of release of the selected questions to the Fellowship at large?**

TOR 10

It has not been possible to validate the information contained within the question.

53.

Would Conference consider opening a discussion on whether or not the method of electing conference delegates could be improved.

In particular it may be worth considering reverting to something like the situation before Regions were created i.e. individual delegates be elected by Intergoups rather than a bloc of six by Regions.

It would be quite feasible to keep to the same number of delegates if most intergoups were allocated one delegate and the remaining (approx. 22 I think) paired into neighbouring intergoups to share a delegate.

The advantages would seem to include:

1. The delegates would be much more likely to be well known to large numbers of individuals and groups.
2. The delegates would inevitably have a much better grasp of the views, attitudes, experience and problems of their ‘constituency’.
3. It would ease the travelling problems of delegates and help to bring much closer involvement of groups in Conference discussion – a perennial and growing problem – and it is the Groups who are at the top of our service structure
4. It would be much easier for delegates to discharge their responsibility to act and vote according the dictates of their own conscience if they are not part of a Regional ‘block’ of delegates with the inevitable pressure to conform to the majority.

TOR 12

This is already covered within AA literature and also felt that this would weaken links between Intergroups and Region and, that as in some IGs it is difficult to fill existing service positions without creating new ones, which leads to the possibility that if an IG fails to select a delegate for whatever reason than there will be a shortage of delegates.

54.

**Would the Fellowship discuss if Conference actually needs to be held every year?**

TOR 12

There are legal requirements of GSB to hold an AGM and therefore conference is required.

55.

**I would like to submit a statement for the 2020 Conference as to the effectiveness of the type of prayer currently published by AA in Great Britain and recited at the end or otherwise of listed AA meetings.**

**The prayer is generally displayed on a table top card and then the Chairman at the end of the session invites members to join in the prayer in unison.**

**As this type of wording (above) is obviously a very personal prayer, I, and others of like mind, are asking for the AA adopted prayer as written in the book AA Comes of Age, Page 196, and page 125 of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, also it is found in the book As Bill See It, page 20, to be published.**

**The present table top card does not express the unity principal and because of the Me and I in the present publication, we do not receive from our ultimate authority (Tradition 2) the power as groups to be effectual as to our primary purpose.**

**Our request is in full accordance with our Traditions.**

TOR 9

Would not support group autonomy.