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General Service Conference 2010



**December 2010**

**Quarterly newsletter published by The National Office of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**[www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au)    [national.office@aa.org.au](mailto:national.office@aa.org.au)    (02) 9599 8866**

# **General Service Conference 2010**

## **Advisory Actions**

The group conscience of the Fellowship of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in Australia was expressed in the following Advisory Actions to the General Service Board, based upon the recommendations from the Conference Committees, as indicated in the headings. The background to these Advisory Actions and the submissions from the Groups, individual members or from the General Service Board in the form of Topics which led to them were presented in full detail to all Areas prior to Conference.

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### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES**

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Advisory Action #035/2010

Conference resolved:

That applicants for a Class A Trustee position be interviewed by a minimum of two people from the General Service Board or National Office.

That it be made clear to candidates, exactly what will be expected of them regarding knowledge of AA principles and Structure (Traditions, Concepts and General Service Structure) and that it will be expected they will acquire a reasonable knowledge of these matters within their first year of service. As Class A Trustees are sometimes required to be interviewed by the media, it is important that they have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of our Traditions, so that they are not drawn into comment or controversy.

That it will be explained that, unlike other organisations, the General Service Board is a working Board, and that it implements the decisions of the General Service Conference. The Board cannot function as an efficient team if the work can be distributed amongst all its members.

That the Board determines if the skills possessed by the candidate can be used practically by the Board. While some skills are useful in other organisations, they may be of no benefit whatsoever to Alcoholics Anonymous. If a candidate is considered to be unsuitable, or does not possess skills which cannot be utilised by the Board, the candidate should not be appointed, and a more suitable candidate sought.

That the term of appointment of a Class A Trustee remain at five years, but that if the Board decides that extending this term would be advantageous to the Fellowship, this should be done so on an annual basis with an explanation of why the Board is recommending extension of term provided to the Conference, before ratification by Conference. Extension of term should be up to a maximum of three years.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

Advisory Action #036/2010

Conference resolved that the appointment of Tom G as Eastern Regional Trustee be ratified

No disapproval  
Carried

Advisory Action #037/2010

Conference resolved that the appointment of Dr. Neville O'Connor as Class A Trustee be ratified.

No disapproval  
Carried

Advisory Action #038/2010

Conference resolved to recommend to the General Service Board that Mary P be elected as North Eastern Regional Trustee, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, for a four year period.

Voting: by Third Legacy Procedure  
Carried

Advisory Action #057/2010

Conference resolved to ratify the Board's decision to extend the term of Class A Trustee Harold Bates-Brownsword for a further 12 months period, concluding on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

<b>CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE</b>
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## Advisory Action #039/2010

Conference resolved that the Guideline for Setting Up Local AA Websites be accepted for inclusion into the Service Manual Guidelines, with the following change:

Under the heading 'Web Site Contents' – first paragraph, the words "from GSO New York and/or" to be removed.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions 0

## Advisory Action #040/2010

Conference resolved that a draft of the Guideline for Child Protection in AA be sent to all regions for input and that the revised document be submitted by the Board as a topic to Conference next year.

Voting by a show of hands  
Carried

## Advisory Action #008/2010

Conference resolved that, to reduce confusion, the following changes should be made to the description of the Third Legacy Procedure in the Service Manual:

a) The following sentence should be deleted from the eleventh paragraph:

If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote, a fifth and final ballot will be held with the same candidates standing.

b) The twelfth paragraph should be amended to read:

If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote, the Chairman establishes by formal motion (with seconder) on a majority show of hands, whether to hold a fifth ballot or go straight to the "hat".

c) The thirteenth paragraph should be amended to read:

If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote in the fifth ballot, or if the meeting has decided to drop the fifth ballot, the choice will be made by lot (by the "hat").

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

## Advisory Action #009/2010

Conference resolved that numbers be used instead of bullet points for the 15 paragraphs in the Service Manual's description of the Third Legacy Procedure.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

## Advisory Action #010/2010

Conference resolved that the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee formulate a description of the role of a Trustee Emeritus for inclusion in the Service Manual.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0

## Advisory Action #011/2010

Conference resolved that Advisory Action #029/2009:

*Conference resolved that when proposed expenditure from the International Sponsorship Fund exceeds \$5000.00, approval should be sought from the Conference International Committee on behalf of Conference*

be included under the heading 'The International Sponsorship Fund' in Section 8 of the Service Manual.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #014/2010

Conference resolved that the Third Legacy Procedure Flow Chart used in the U.S. Service Manual should be included in the Australian Service Manual

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #021/2010

Conference resolved that maps clearly outlining the boundaries of established Areas should be included in future revisions and printing of the AA Service Manual.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 3; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #025/2010

Conference resolved to approve the submitted Guideline on "Presenting AA Television Community Service Announcements to Australian Television Stations" for inclusion in the Australian AA Service Manual Guidelines.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #031/2010

Conference resolved that the wording contained in Advisory Action #065/2009 regarding applications for Regional Trustee positions " *Your application should be confined to the two-page template provided*" be included in the General Service Board section of the Service Manual.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #032/2010

Conference resolved that Advisory Action #029/2009

*'Conference resolved that when proposed expenditure from the International Sponsorship Fund exceeds \$5000.00, approval should be sought from the Conference International Committee on behalf of Conference'* be included in the International Activities section of the Service Manual.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

<b>CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE</b>
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## Advisory Action #001/2010

Conference resolved that each year an electronic version of the conference report, omitting personal information, be made available through the AA Service website. All personal information would be removed such as member's surnames so as not to break anyone's anonymity for the electronic copy available to the members and the public should they choose to create a profile on our service site.

Note: copies sent directly to delegates would remain unchanged and keep all the information that they presently have.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action 018/2010

Conference resolved to reject the proposal regarding dissemination of unapproved literature bearing the AA name through local group meetings, as the meaning of the topic was not clear. However, Conference further resolved that the General Service Board be requested to publish an article explaining copyright and the licensing agreement with AAWS, including examples of copyright infringements and referring to the Service Manual. This article to be distributed to all Delegates and published in AA Around Australia and on the Service Website.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #022/2010

Conference resolved that a Delegate who does not complete his/her term is not eligible to nominate for a Delegate position at a later date. This is in line with the recommendation re Trustee resignations. It is recommended that a statement clarifying this be included in the Service Manual.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #023/2010

Conference resolved that the Conference Charter be amended to read that 'Area Delegates terms are a maximum of three years' and that the words 'The former practice of two year rotating panels is no longer feasible' be deleted.

For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

## Advisory Action #030/2010

Conference resolved that an investigative team be set up at Conference to provide a recommendation, within six months, on whether to engage a Geographic Information System (GIS) contractor to prepare a digital cadastral layer of all the Regional and Area boundaries across Australia. A mail poll of all Conference members authorising the General Service Board to implement the recommendation to be conducted.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #033/2010

Conference resolved that the topic requesting a policy on the use of commercial names used as common language in AA publications, e.g. Skype, Google, Aspro, Valium, Microsoft be referred back to the General Service Board. The Board is to produce a policy in time for submission as a Conference topic next year.

Voting by a show of hands  
Carried

## Advisory Action #041/2010

Conference resolved that, if an Area declares itself 'in recess' and is not functioning, the elected Area Delegate should not be permitted to attend Conference. If the Area re-forms, the Delegate may complete his/her term if this is the wish of the Area, It is recommended that a statement to this effect be included in the Service Manual.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**CONFERENCE TREATMENT & CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

## Advisory Action #042/2010

Conference resolved to agree with the view of the National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum 2010 that, contrary to Advisory Action 056/2009: (That the Board approach Government Agencies to facilitate service work) this should be a local initiative rather than a General Service Board responsibility.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 3; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

## Advisory Action #012/2010

Conference resolved that the sum of \$2000 be donated to the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat to assist with the running costs of the Secretariat.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

**CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

## Advisory Action #043/2010

Conference resolved to accept the audited Financial Reports 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

## Advisory Action #044/2010

Conference resolved that the Prudent Reserve as at the end of the financial year, together with an explanation of the formula used to calculate the Prudent Reserve, be included in the Conference Finance Committee section of the Conference folder.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

## Advisory Action #027/2010

Conference resolved that the General Service Board should produce a draft guideline regarding the use of members' contributions towards the cost of importing AA speakers, being mindful that groups are autonomous and noting that Guideline 14 already contains some relevant information. Guideline to be submitted as a topic for Conference 2011.

Voting: For: 16; Against: 14; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

## Advisory Action #045/2010

Conference resolved to accept the pamphlet 'Telling other members to stop taking prescribed medications is dangerous'.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #003/2010

Conference resolved that a DVD presentation of the 12 Steps be produced, suitable for use by people of any race, but specifically for Aboriginal Australians.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #005/2010

Conference resolved that the next edition of the Australian Big Book includes an index at the back. The originator of the topic be asked to produce the index for review at next years conference.

Voting: For: 17; Against: 13; Abstentions: 10  
Carried

## Advisory Action #026/2010

Conference resolved to accept the concept of a local brochure. A suggested title was 'Alcoholism: Local AA may be able to help'.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

<b>CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE</b>
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## Advisory Action #020/2010

Conference resolved the National Website Management Group review the security of email addresses and other personal information on the National Web Site and pass on any technical information to Areas to benefit their own websites.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #046/2010

Conference resolved, (after noting the concern of the National Website Management Group that details of AA meetings that no longer operate are not passed on for deletion of their listing at the website) to strongly encourage Area Delegates to pass back to the Areas the importance of maintaining accurate and regularly issued local meetings lists, to ensure that notification of closed meetings or changes of venue are immediately reported through the website's meetings changes function.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #047/2010

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area A Eastern Region to host the National PI&CPC Forum at Coffs Harbour in 2011.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

<b>CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE</b>
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## Advisory Action # 048/2010

Conference resolved that the criteria and application form for admission to Conference as an observer be accepted.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## Advisory Action #034/2010

Conference resolved that a committee be formed, consisting of representatives of Delegates, Trustees, Class A Trustees and National Office Staff, to develop a plan for the General Service Conference to conduct an inventory of itself. Information on formats of Conference inventories used in other countries to be considered when preparing the plan. It is suggested that this plan be implemented at the 2011 General Service Conference.

The committee was formed at Conference and consists of:

Barbara M, Delegate, Area C, Southern Region  
Linda E, Delegate, Area B, Western Region  
Mitch P, Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region  
Grant T, Delegate, Area A, Central Region  
Margaret M, Delegate, Area A, Northern Region  
John N, Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region  
Tom G, Eastern Regional Trustee  
Laurie W, Western Regional Trustee  
Neville O'Connor, Class A Trustee  
Valerie M, National Office Manager

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0 Abstentions: 0      Carried

Advisory Action #048/2010

Conference resolved that the theme for the 2011 General Service Conference is 'Principles Before Personalities'.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #049/2010

Conference resolved that the 2011 General Service Conference be held from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at the Novotel, Brighton Le Sands, NSW.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #050/2010

Conference resolved that the Conference Agenda Committee meets by teleconference on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to formulate agendas and on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011 to allocate topics to Conference.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #051/2010

Conference resolved that the deadline for receipt of topics for the 2011 General Service Conference be Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #052/2010

Conference resolved to accept the submitted revised Conference Topic form .

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #053/2010

Conference resolved to authorise the Conference Agenda Committee to amend the Conference Topic Form when necessary.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

**NATIONAL TREATMENT & CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FORUM BIDS**

Advisory Action #054/2010

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area B Central Region to host the 2012 National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

**REGIONAL FORUM BIDS**

Advisory Action 059/2010

Conference resolved to accept bids by the following Areas to host Regional Forums in 2011:

- Area A, Central Region
- Area C, North Eastern Region
- Area D, Eastern Region

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

**NATIONAL CONVENTION BIDS**

Advisory Action #055/2010

Conference resolved to accept confirmation of the tentative bid by Area B, North Eastern Region to host the 2013 National Convention.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #056/2014

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Area B, Central region to host the 2014 National Convention.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

**FLOOR ACTIONS**

Advisory Action #058/2010

Conference resolved, after considering all information provided, that the General Service Board should instruct Matthew Rouse, Lawyer, to proceed to take out an injunction in the Federal Court against the Central Service Committee of AA Victoria to oblige them to comply with earlier requests by the General Service Board's solicitor, i.e. to cease using trademarks owned by the General Service Board, to cease selling exclusively licensed copyrighted literature and to cease publishing defamatory material about the General Service Board.

Voting: For; 25; Against: 3; Abstentions: 2  
Carried

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## **Areas C and D, Southern Region carry the message at The Melbourne General Practitioners Convention and Exhibition**

On the Tuesday after our return from the National Conference the Victorian Conference Delegates received a message from National Office that we had been offered a booth at the Melbourne General Practitioners Convention and Exhibition (GPCE). The message indicated that there were would be several thousand GPs and nurses attending this event over a three day weekend – 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November.

This was a wonderful opportunity to bring information about AA directly to a large body of medical practitioners. The challenge that faced us was that the event was to commence on the Friday of the same week. We would need to organise a roster of volunteers, obtain an adequate supply of relevant AA literature, and organise furniture and posters for the booth – all required within a target of less than three days.

National Office acted very promptly by sending a large box of literature to Melbourne by express post. We purchased a package of furniture which was delivered directly to the booth. We got our posters and banners printed up with urgent courier deliveries to members home addresses. The booth was fully set up by the Thursday night.

The highlight of organising for this event was the great response from members volunteering to work at the event. A total of fifteen volunteers from Areas C and D in Southern Region took part in manning the booth throughout full three days. All of them volunteered at very short notice.

We did not keep detailed statistics but we estimated that we had 120+ conversations GPs about AA's role. Several hundred others picked up AA literature, which was freely available from our counter, but did not seek to enter into a conversation. Twenty GPs left their contact details for further follow ups such as delivery of additional AA information to their surgeries.

From my own perspective this was one of the most challenging, enjoyable and productive events I have been involved with since joining AA. The response of volunteer help from other AA members in our Region was just outstanding.

Yours in service,

Barry H  
Delegate, Area D  
Southern Region

# ***Position Vacant***

## **SKILLED ALL-ROUNDER REQUIRED FOR BUSY POSITION AT THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF AA AUSTRALIA**

**This position will be available from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January and office hours are from 8.30am – 4.30pm**

**A three months trial period will apply to this position**

National Office is very busy (often hectic) with many deadlines to work to throughout the year.

The successful applicant will need to be self –motivated, flexible, energetic, organised and able to remain calm and focused during frequent hectic periods. A sense of humour and cheerful disposition is a definite advantage.

A minimum of two years sobriety is recommended. It is also an advantage to have your own transport.

The successful applicant also needs to have a good knowledge of the Traditions and Concepts and the General Service Structure. Information on the General Service Structure can be found in our Service Manual.

Duties are varied and include:

- Packing/despaching literature orders and maintaining accurate stores records.
- Financial accounting tasks (bank reconciliations, recording etc). Experience with MYOB is a definite advantage.
- Operating electronic recording equipment.
- Preparing quarterly newsletter.
- Responding to queries from individuals, groups, Districts and Areas, as well as the general public and professionals.
- General office duties.
- Attending all Board meetings (February, July and November) – making audio recordings and transcribing to CD. The February Board meeting is held in a place other than Sydney. (Dates in 2011 are 26-27 February and 16-17 July)
- Attend all General Service Conferences – take accurate committee Minutes, prepare reports. (2011 Conference will be held 3-7 November)
- Attend all National Conventions, currently held every Easter.(21-24 April 2011)
- Also be available to attend other AA functions as required.

Commencing salary \$45,000 with annual review.

Interviews will commence weeks commencing Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

**Please ring Tony on (02) 9599 8866 to arrange an appointment for interview. 48 Firth Street, Arncliffe,  
NSW 2205**

**NOTE: THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010. RE-OPENING  
TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011.**