**GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2021**

Conference is the Fellowship’s annual Group Conscience meeting. Your views and those of your group are represented at Conference by six delegates elected by South East Region.

Conference serves the interests of the groups. AA’s Board Trustees have to act on the decisions which Conference makes.

Each year Conference discusses questions submitted by members of our Fellowship.

The questions do not come from the General Service Office or the Board - they come from individual members and groups.

**Decisions made by Conference recently include:**

* encouraging more young members to be involved in the Fellowship
* raising awareness of the need for internet safety on the social media
* exchanging group strategies for dealing with any safeguarding issues which arise

**Your views are now being sought on a broad range of topics which will be discussed at this year’s Conference, including:**

* How can we assist online groups to become part of the AA structure?
* How can groups respond to the need for social distancing when meeting face to face?
* How can we ensure that the Fellowship remains self-supporting when so many meetings are online?
* What service roles can be identified for those in early sobriety at online meetings?
* How can we best preserve the archive material which reflects the history of our groups?
* What support do we offer to alcoholics with special needs or disabilities?
* What guidance should be given to those considering whether to open a new meeting?
* How can sponsors be assisted in their responsibility of encouraging newer members into service positions?
* How can the Fellowship reach out to problem drinkers in the black, Asian and ethnic minority communities?
* What are we doing to take the message to those with alcohol problems in the growing homeless community?

Most of these questions had been considered by the Fellowship and were due to be discussed at the 2020 Conference, which had to be rolled over to 2021 because of the pandemic. Three questions have been added, in part to deal with the situation which has developed over the course of the year.It is suggested that meetings should focus on the new questions, but feel free to present views on the old questions.

The questions to be discussed at this year’s Conference are set out in AA Service News Winter 2020-21, which has been mailed to GSRs and others whose email addresses are held by GSO. AA Service News is also available on the AA website, which you can access here:

https://aagb.silverink.ie/download/1/Library/Documents/AA%20Service%20News/185%20WINTER%202020.pdf

(If you cannot use the link, you can go to the AA website, then click on Members/Document Library/AA Service News/Winter 2020-2021)

**What are we looking for from you?**

We want your views - through your Intergroups, and as individuals and groups.

You may not have views on all the questions. One view on one question could make an impact.

Try to find time to discuss these topics with your fellow group members. Perhaps you could meet before or after your regular meeting to discuss them. How about three sessions of 20 minutes between now and mid-March?

**What happens next?**

Discuss the questions and record the views expressed, ideally through your Intergroup’s Pre-Conference meeting.

If you cannot make your Intergroup meeting, you can send your response to email address confdel.se@aamail.org

Please make sure that you carefully number your responses with the Committee Number and Question Number.

All submissions will be forwarded automatically to all six delegates and three alternates.

Please submit your responses by 19th March so that your delegates can discuss the points at the South East Region meeting on 28th March.

*If you wish to have your views on other AA matters discussed at Conference 2022, submit your own question for consideration by 31 August 2021.*