

A.A. CONFERENCE CHARTER

New Zealand

1. Purpose:

The New Zealand General Service Conference (Conference) of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) is a guardian of the World Services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of A.A. Conference shall be a service body only: never a government for A.A.

2. Composition:

Conference members shall be composed of Area Delegates, World Service Delegates, Class A and Class B Board members of the New Zealand General Service Board (the Board) and Officers of Conference.

3. Conference Relation to A.A:

Conference will act for A.A. in New Zealand (NZ) in the perpetuation and guidance of its services in NZ. Conference is the voice of the group conscience of A.A. in NZ. It is the vehicle by which the A.A. fellowship in NZ can express its views upon all matters of vital A.A. policy and all hazardous deviations from A.A. tradition at a local and international level.

Conference supports consultation between countries and therefore is represented by its World Service Delegates at the World Service Meeting held every two years, and the Asia Oceania Service Meeting held every year alternate to that.

Only matters seriously affecting A.A. worldwide shall be the subject of joint consideration.

Conference members should be free to vote as their conscience dictates; they should also be free to decide what questions should be taken to the group level, whether for information, discussion or their own direct instruction.

No change in Article 12 of this Charter, or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. Groups worldwide, as described in the resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention, included in the US/Canada A.A. Service Manual.

4. Conference Relation to the Board:

Conference will function as a guide and adviser to the Board and its related services. Conference will be expected to afford a reliable cross-section of A.A. opinion for this purpose.

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of all the voting Conference members.

It will be understood, as a matter of tradition, that a two-thirds vote of the voting Conference members shall be considered binding upon the Board and its related services, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum. No such vote ought to impair the legal rights of the Board and its services to conduct routine business and make ordinary contracts relating thereto.

It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of voting members of Conference may bring about a re-organisation of the Board and its services, if or when such re-organisation is deemed essential. Under such a proceeding, Conference may request resignations, may nominate

new Class A and Class B Board members, and may make all other necessary arrangements regardless of the legal prerogatives of the Board.

Conference Chair, as part of Conference's relationship with the Board, is expected to attend Board meetings as an advisor, representing the Fellowship through Conference.

The Board Administrator may attend Conference to assist the Board.

5. Area Assemblies (Areas): Composition of:

Areas are composed of the elected General Service Representatives of all the A.A. Groups desiring to participate, within a designated geographical area.

In general, each Area holds one assembly. Areas of large A.A. populations and/or whose geography presents communication problems may form additional assemblies, as per their respective Guidelines.

6. Areas: Purpose of:

Areas convene for the election of Area Committee Members (i.e., office bearers) and the election of Delegates to Conference. Conference expects such elections to be by a 2/3 majority vote.

Such Areas are concerned only with the general service affairs of A.A.

7. The Conference Meeting:

Conference will meet at least annually at a place of Conference's choosing. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. Conference may also render advisory opinions at any time in aid of the Board or its related services.

8. The Board: Composition:

The Board is an incorporated body composed of alcoholics and non-alcoholics. It shall consist of at least ten members. Eighty percent alcoholic Board members (Class B), and twenty percent non-alcoholic Board members (Class A) who may recommend their own successors.

Board members all bring varying talents and backgrounds to their service responsibilities.

There is expected to be a balance on the Board between Class B members who are elected primarily to bring A.A. service experience to the Board, and those selected for primarily business or other professional backgrounds.

Nominees for Class A Board members are discussed, the nominee interviewed, and the proposals brought to the Conference AGM. Conference can disapprove any nominees chosen by a nominating session.

Class A Board members serve for a four-year period from their election at the Board AGM, becoming Board members when the incumbent rotates out at the end of the AGM.

They may serve a further three-year period subject to Conference approval followed by Board election.

Class B Board members serve for a four-year period from their election at the Board AGM, becoming Board members when the incumbent rotates out at the end of the AGM.

In special circumstances a Class B member may serve an additional one-year term subject to Conference approval, however the full term served should not exceed five years.

Where considered essential, interim appointments may be made at the Board's discretion.

Where possible, but at the Board's discretion, interim appointments are avoided, and casual vacancies left until the following Conference. The Board has the right to act to keep its numbers at an appropriate level.

Interim appointments are for three years from the date of appointment.

Each of the three Areas may submit nominations for alcoholic and non-alcoholic Board members through their respective Areas, the Board may select nominees or Conference may provide nominees as per Conference Guidelines.

A Board member who resigns or completes a term of office shall not be eligible for reappointment until a period of three years has elapsed from the date of resignation or rotation off.

9. The Board: Jurisdiction:

The Board is the chief service arm of Conference and is essentially custodial in its character. Excepting for decisions upon matters of policy, finance, or A.A. Tradition liable to seriously affect A.A., the Board has entire freedom of action in the routine conduct of the policy and business affairs of A.A. services and may form suitable committees to facilitate business.

10. The Board: Responsibilities:

The Board is primarily responsible for the financial and policy integrity of its subsidiary services, the General Service Office of NZ.

The Charter and Bylaws of the Board, or any amendments thereto, should always be subject to the approval of Conference by a three-quarters vote. Except in a great emergency, neither the Board nor any of its related services shall take any action liable to greatly affect A.A. without first consulting Conference. It is nevertheless understood that the Board shall always reserve the right to decide which of its actions or decisions may require the approval of Conference.

11. The Conference: Its General Procedures:

Conference will hear the financial and policy reports of the Board, Conference Standing Committees, and Board and Conference sub-committees, and the General Service Office.

Conference will discuss with Board members all matters presented as affecting A.A., engage in debate, appoint necessary committees and pass suitable resolutions for the advice or direction of the Board and its related services. These are recorded in Conference minutes as *suggestions* or *Advisory Actions*.

Conference may also discuss and recommend appropriate action respecting serious deviations from A.A. Traditions or harmful misuse of the name "Alcoholics Anonymous".

Conference may draft any needed bylaws and will name its own officers and committees by any method of its own choosing.

Conference will produce minutes of each meeting to be circulated to all Conference members and made available on request to any A.A. member or Group. It is the responsibility of Delegates to report the outcomes of discussions and the decisions of Conference to the Fellowship in their respective Areas. These are included in Conference minutes under *Delegate Action Points*.

12. General Warranties of the Conference:

In all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, wherever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

The New Zealand Service Manual 2017 page 20