



March 2020

The Serenity Times

The monthly newsletter of the Darwin District



Got an idea?

Do you or does your Home Group have an idea to improve AA as a whole? Every year, AA members have the opportunity to submit ideas (general service topics) to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia.

The General Service Conference is a body of elected trustees and delegates which meets annually in November to debate and decide matters which affect AA as a whole, including the topics submitted to it that year.

If you would like to submit a topic, you must submit it on the correct form, which is posted in the members' area of the District's website, by the deadline of 4:00pm on Friday 26 June 2020.

It can increase the likelihood that a topic will be adopted by the Conference if, before the topic is submitted to the GSO, it is first endorsed by a District and/or Area.

If you would like to have a topic endorsed by the District, it should be placed on the agenda of the March quarterly meeting and outlined at that meeting. The Groups will then have time to consider your topic before the June quarterly meeting.

Agenda items

Does your Home Group know how to put an item on the agenda of a meeting of the Darwin District?

When the Secretary calls for agenda items for the next quarterly meeting, simply email the item to the Secretary. The Secretary will include the item on the agenda as an item of Prospective Business.

At the quarterly meeting the DCM will ask, for the benefit of the minutes and those present, that the item be briefly outlined and a motion proposed. The DCM will then call for a vote on the motion "that the meeting entertain the motion". If the meeting votes to entertain the motion, the DCM will direct the Secretary to enter the motion as New Business on the agenda of the *next* quarterly meeting. GSRs will then take the motion back to their Groups for consideration, discussion and voting.

If the meeting votes to entertain the motion and the matter is urgent, the DCM may decide to direct the Secretary to enter the motion on the agenda as an item of New Business for that meeting rather than the next quarterly meeting. If the meeting votes against entertaining the motion, the motion is defeated and the DCM quickly moves onto the next agenda item.

The District's decision-making may seem slow-moving, but its purpose is of great import: to ensure that the AA Groups served by the District are fully informed before decisions are made by the District, unless in the opinion of the DCM the matter is so urgent as to warrant skipping that important step.

The meeting procedure vitalises the District because through it the AA Groups are continually invited to engage with the District. It is also the District's observance of Tradition Two in action, ensuring that God runs the Darwin District through the Group Conscience of the AA Groups.



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Trusted servants

The members of the District Committee are the servants of the AA Groups (Tradition Nine), but with a right of decision to make decisions according to their own judgement and conscience (Concept Three). Their right of decision must however be exercised within the defined authority and responsibility of their roles (*Australian AA Service Manual*, pp 68, 145, 146 and 165).

The AA Groups have defined the authority and responsibilities of the Committee in detail in 'AA Darwin District - Position Description'. These are the matters which the Groups have decided should be handled by the Committee rather than the AA Groups. For example, the Committee has authority and responsibility to discard old and unsaleable AA literature, purchase office supplies and arrange the service, repair and replacement of furniture and equipment. The Groups have given the Committee no other authority, for example the Committee has no authority to recommend, appoint or dismiss Committee members. Trusted servants, the members of the District Committee are trusted by the AA Groups to run the DDO, to make good decisions and to only make decisions that are within their authority to make.

LP

'AA Darwin District - Position Description' is posted in the members' area of the District's website

AA Districts

An AA District is a vehicle by which AA Groups in the same geographical area can meet and work together. The work of an AA District is to carry AA's message, which it does largely through local public information and cooperation with the professional community (PI&CPC) activities.

PI&CPC activities in AA include distributing AA literature to public places such as community centres, shopping centres and police stations, placing Big Books in libraries, placing AA listings in directories, placing articles and ads in newspapers and magazines, placing radio and TV announcements, providing AA literature to health practitioners, holding public AA information forums, and cooperating with industry, law enforcement officials and the courts (PI Workbook, AA Guidelines GL-04, GL-07, GL-08, GL-19, GL-21, GL-25, GL-29 and GL-31).

Great care should be taken when undertaking PI&CPC activities in AA, so it is advisable that members of District committees who are inexperienced in PI&CPC receive service sponsorship from experienced AA members and copies of the PI Workbook and AA Guidelines.

Districts sometimes elect a sub-committee of GSRs and a sub-committee Chair to carry out the District's PI&CPC activities. Such sub-committees meet regularly and report fully and often to the District.

To ensure that there is no duplication of District PI&CPC activities, Districts liaise with the Area and surrounding Districts.

The cost of a District's PI&CPC activities is usually met by the District, though the AA Groups may fund special projects.

Districts are the main purveyors of PI&CPC in AA and are usually highly vital, active and productive service bodies in AA.

LP