

DELEGATE'S QUESTIONNAIRE – 60TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following questionnaire is based on the final agenda of the upcoming General Service Conference, April 17-24, 2010. In the eight numbered sections below, the questionnaire focuses on items from the final agenda that may be of particular interest to AA as a whole, as well as to our area, for group consideration. The final agenda items referred to in the eight sections are cited in brackets next to each committee. Copies of the final agenda are available at area committee and assembly meetings and can be downloaded from the SENY website (www.aaseny.org).

At the SENY Delegate's Day of Sharing (9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Saturday, March 20, P.S. 41, 116 W. 11 St., Manhattan), the background information on these items will be presented and questions answered. It is hoped that the discussion then and in presentations of this questionnaire at county-level meetings will help to get feedback from the groups as to how they feel about these matters. On some issues groups may have no consensus or opinion, and that is fine. The more groups that respond as best they can, the better the delegate can represent the entire area.

At the April 10 Assembly (Immanuel Union Church, 693 Jewitt Ave., Staten Island), GSRs and others will be able to share their groups' conscience on these items. Questionnaires can be returned to the delegate then, or later by mail, fax, or email as indicated at the end of this questionnaire. Please return all questionnaires by April 11.

Finance Committee [Final Conference Agenda items IV-A and IV-B]

1. Last year's Finance Committee review of group responses to the question of self-support found that most groups felt the use of income from literature sales to help pay for group services at GSO is acceptable but should be kept to a minimum. Should there be a specific limit on the amount of expenses paid for by literature profits? If so, what is that limit, and how do we pay for group services if there is a shortfall in group contributions?

Group Comments: _____

2. Should the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" be revised in three areas: 1) to remove the pie charts on p. 12 and replace them with less specific text, 2) To include information about AA Grapevine, including that the magazine is not supported by group contributions, and 3) To include Seventh Tradition stories to show the impact of contributions on AA activity around the world?

Group Comments: _____

AA Grapevine Committee [Final Conference Agenda item V-D]

3. Should *La Viña* be put on an equal footing with the AA Grapevine by being published in color, by being bound in such a way that it can be taken into correctional facilities, and by containing more stories?

Group Comments: _____

Literature Committee [Final Conference Agenda items VI-C, VI-H, VI-I]

4. Should Conference-approved literature focusing on spirituality and including stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in AA be developed? (*There is room for more Group Comments on item 4 on the next page.*)

Group Comments: _____

4. Group Comments (*continued*) _____

5. Should the video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure” be revised?
Group Comments: _____

6. Should a book on the history of “early pioneer women in AA” be developed?
Group Comments: _____

Public Information Committee [Final Conference Agenda item VIII-F]

7. How does your group feel about using actors in full face to portray AA members in AA videos? Should AA develop a specific policy on this, and if so what should that policy be?
Group Comments: _____

Report and Charter Committee [Final Conference Agenda items IX-A-5 and IX-A-6]

8. There are two items regarding *The AA Service Manual* and when it should be revised. 1) Revise the Service Manual every other year, with a supplement of changes produced in the off years, and in the years the Service Manual isn't fully revised, the three AA directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S.) should be published. 2) Revise *The AA Service Manual* only when necessary, perhaps every 3 to 5 years, with interim changes provided as inserts to existing manuals. Currently the Service Manual is revised yearly. Should AA adopt one of these proposals?
Group Comments: _____

One questionnaire per home group or service group, please. Not for comments by individual members.

Group name or service group: _____ Date: _____

GSR's or other trusted servant's name (optional): _____

Group Number (optional): _____ District Number (optional): _____

Thanks for your service!

Return questionnaire to: Delegate, 199 Lincoln Ave., Suite 302, Bronx, NY 10454 or delegate@aaseny.org or 212-280-0003 (fax)

Download the Final Conference Agenda and this Delegate's Questionnaire at: www.aaseny.org

BACKGROUND MATERIAL – 2010 DELEGATE’S QUESTIONNAIRE

Finance Committee Agenda Items

1. This Advisory Action quotes previously adopted General Service Board Policy: *From our Fellowship’s earliest days, the expenses of the General Service Office, and the world services provided by it, have exceeded the amount derived from contributions of AA groups and members. As a result, providing these needed services has necessarily been supported in part by income from the sale of AA literature. It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a prudent reserve fund.* Over the years, the portion of group services expenses paid for by literature profits fluctuates from a little below to a little above 25%.
2. 1) From District 81, Area 67, SE Texas, the letter of request states, “It is the sense of the district that the pie charts shown are very misleading to any group’s uninformed conscience” and requests that they be removed and wording such as the following replace them: *Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine the contribution amounts to the following entities: District; Area; GSO and Intergroup/Central Office, if one services your district.* 2) From the GV Board, this is a request to insert a statement that group contributions don’t fund the GV and to revise a sentence on group expenses to include purchasing the GV. 3) From Area 14, north Florida, and Area 56, SW Ohio, this is a request to include “stories of personal experiences describing how far and wide the hand of the AA dollar extends.”

Grapevine Committee Agenda Item

3. This comes from Area 67, SE Texas. *La Viña* is published in black and white with a full-color cover and runs 48 pages long; the GV has a full color interior and cover and runs 64 pages long. *La Viña* is stapled, and the GV is perfect bound (no staples), allowing it to be brought into correctional facilities. Current plans from the GV office are for *La Viña* to meet the specifications of this proposal by 2011, but for full parity *La Viña* would need to be published monthly. *La Viña* was born in June 1996 as the result of an Advisory Action of the 45th General Service Conference and has published bi-monthly at a loss since then. The magazine’s budgeted loss for 2010 is \$78,964; the loss to go 4-color, 64 pp. is expected to be \$123,000; the expected loss to go 4-color, 64 pp. monthly is \$246,169. GV recommends retaining a 6 issues per year policy until circulation in the new format is established.

Literature Committee Agenda Items

4. This item is the result of a Floor Action at last year’s Conference. Similar requests have been made frequently over the past years. At last year’s Conference, discussion on the matter was intense. There are concerns that moving forward on literature of this sort might dilute the spiritual foundation of AA; others feel that atheist and agnostic members are looked down on and potential members driven away. There were also concerns about the “AA as a religion” rulings from some courts and that literature addressing the topic of spirituality as we practice it is needed.
5. This request is from Area 29, Maryland, that the existing video be revised using updated literature and better anonymity protection and that “the cost is not to exceed \$64,000.” The GSR, DCM, and General Service Board should be included in the new video. The Publication Department’s estimate to revise the video is up to \$40,000.
6. This is a request from Area 36, southern Minnesota. Based on past experience, the estimated writer’s fee for one year’s work on such a project is \$150,000 to \$200,000. The only Conference-approved literature specifically addressing women in AA is the pamphlet “AA for the Woman,” which dates back to 1951. “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic” was discontinued by Conference action in 2006.

Public Information Committee Agenda Item

7. There currently is no policy on the use of actors in full face portraying AA members. Some videos use actors in full face unless the actor is actually portraying an AA member. Some, such as the Hope video, approved at last year’s Conference, use actors in full face in all circumstances. The Fellowship-wide sharing that is part of the background seems to lean against using actors in full face as AA members, but there is not a clear consensus.

Report and Charter Committee Agenda Items

8. 1) The director of the AA Publications Dept. states that there would be minimal savings in publishing the Service Manual every other year, as revisions would still need to be produced in the off years. The savings in producing the directories every other year would be \$32,000 to \$40,000. 2) According to the Publications Dept., in 2007, 2008, and 2009 12,000, 18,000, and 9,200 outdated Manuals were destroyed, respectively, including all three languages.