

# **Delegate's Report from the 57<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference**

## ***Our 12th Step Responsibility — Are We Going to Any Length?***

That was the theme of the 57<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference and is something we need to ask ourselves each and every day. This area had, I thought prepared me for the Conference. You had answered the questions I put forth. Allowed me to do service for and with you over the years prepping me for this experience. I thought, "I am ready, I am prepared." I had packed my bags, brought my background notes, brought our group conscience as I had compiled it. I woke up on April 21, 2007, did my prayers and meditation, had breakfast, dressed and drove into the City to attend the Conference with plans of meeting my Conference buddy around 1 o'clock in the Hospitality Suite. At a little after Noon, on the Henry Hudson Parkway heading south, Fate had other plans for me. I was involved in a motor vehicle accident, no one was injured except my "pride" and my car. We ended up sitting in the left lane of the parkway because my car was unmovable for three hours, causing a horrendous traffic jam, until my car was towed away to the Bronx.

I arrived at the Crown Plaza Times Square Hotel after 3 o'clock, checked into my room and went to the Delegate's Hospitality Suite and seeing no one I knew. As I was about to leave because I felt alone and different (my fault), in came a couple of second year delegates from the North East Region. I immediately felt comfortable, they introduced me to a couple of other people in the room and my hand went out to others who walked in. Again, AA at its best, one alcoholic reaching out to the other. I attended the 1728 meeting, this is an open meeting hosted by the Class "A" trustees and is used to educate them on how we work this Program through the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts (12 x 12 x 12 = 1728). We were doing the 10<sup>th</sup> Step that day and I got to share how used this step that very afternoon. After my accident, I had blamed my son's girlfriend as being the cause because she was late (not practicing restraint of pen and tongue.) I could see how much hurt I had caused with my remark and had to apologize because I knew I was wrong. Saturday evening there was a Delegate's Only Meeting where the second year's welcomed us and there were questions, answers and general sharing.

On Sunday morning, there was a Remote Communities meeting where we listened to presentations than split up into two groups for general sharing. At this sharing session, I learned there is more to remote communities than just distance in far reaches of the Northwest Territories. Remote communities can be even within the inner cities or wherever there are differences of culture, language and geography. It is not necessary to have all three to have a remote community. I also learned from the delegate from Oklahoma about the lack of trust of the Native Americans amongst themselves. They feel that those who are Native American and got sober in AA are not to be trusted. They call them "Apples, because they are red on the outside and white on the inside." Making it very difficult to communicate the joys of sobriety because of differences.

The Conference began at 11:00 am with registration and a quick committee meeting of Policy and Admissions to seat the alternate delegate from Area 81, New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island in place of their delegate, who could not make it to the Conference. We all had lunch by regions with our trustees and then the opening session started at 1:15 pm with a Welcome from Leonard Blumenthal, the chair of the General Service Board. The Roll Call was done the general manager of GSO Greetings from the delegate chairperson from the Com-

monwealth of Kentucky and Keynote address by Allen Ault, Class "A" trustee. They went over the Mechanics of the Conference, there was a review of the Agenda/Manual by the Conference secretary. After which we broke for Joint Trustee and Conference Committee meetings to hear what the trustee's have done since the 56<sup>th</sup> GSC adjourned. That evening there was the Opening Dinner and AA Meeting with five wonderful speakers.

On Monday after attending the Serenity Group meeting at 7:30 am (this is the morning AA meeting, Monday through Friday during the Conference.) That is how I began my day. At 9 o'clock we met with our conference committee assignment, mine is Cooperation with the Professional Community. We did this on both Monday and Tuesday mornings. Some of the other committees because of their very full agendas or because of sensitivity of some items met more than twice as scheduled for the conference week. I know in our committee we had some very lively discussion but not much controversy. There were no recommendations from our committee just some considerations. I came away with a better understanding of CPC work as done in other areas and some very good friends.

At the Monday afternoon session, we heard reports from the General Service Board Chairperson Leonard Blumenthal. He told us of the actions the General Service Board took over the past year on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous. He told us, "the General Service Board is looking forward to hosting AA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in July 2010. The theme for this wonderful event will be "A Vision for You." Also, "We are less than 30 years away from our centennial. Now is the time to start discussing and planning for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and strategies to extend our Twelfth Step responsibility into AA's second century."

The Chairperson of AAWS Inc, gave his report. Here are some of the highlights.

GSO welcomed 1,762 visitors during 2006, and several groups of 15-50 members, some traveling great distances to spend the day in their office. The office also welcomed 315 enthusiastic AAs, who visited the office while attending the National Hispanic Convention in Rye, NY. Twenty-two tours were held that day in order to accommodate these members.

**New Groups:** A net total of 986 new AA groups were listed with GSO last year. Each new group's general service representative (GSR) or contact person received AA literature and basic information to encourage the group to link with their local structure and support Twelfth Step services.

A summary of financial results for 2006 reflected net sales of \$11,681,000, approximately \$621,700 (5%) under budget. Gross margin on literature sales was \$8,347,200, approximately \$180,500 (2%) under budget, \$350,000 greater at year end 2005.

Contributions received in 2006 totaled \$6,068,200, exceeding budget by \$548,200 (9%), and \$651,100 (12%) greater than the 2005 total.

Total revenue (gross profit on literature sales, contributions and interest earned on cash flow) was \$12, 952,200. Total revenue was about \$193,800 more than budgeted and \$849,100 greater than 2005. Net profit for the year 2006 came to \$657,900, compared with \$474,981 budgeted, and \$318,300 less than \$976,000 net profit reported for the year 2005.

**Loss of Copyright on *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:** Earlier this year, we learned that copyright protection on the original 1962 version of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* expired on December 31, 1990, because the copyright was not renewed prior to that date. *Twelve Concepts for World Service* was first registered with the US Copyright Office on September 19, 1985, by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc as owner and claimant. *Twelve Concepts for World Service* was written by Bill W. and first published in 1962. Bill W.

copyrighted works he authored, but did not register *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

**Translations completed:** In Armenian *Living Sober*; in Ojibwe *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* audiotapes and *Alcoholics Anonymous* (pocket edition) audiotapes; in Croatian *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, "Information on AA," AA Guidelines on Central/Intergroup Offices, AA Guidelines on Conferences, Conventions and Roundups, "Twelve Traditions Illustrated," "Concepts Checklist" and "Traditions Checklist-AA Grapevine"; in Turkish "Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated," "Information on AA," "If You Are a Professional," and Public Information Workbook; in Sinhala *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition; in Bosnian *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*; "A Newcomer Asks," "Is AA for You," "Information on AA," and "A Brief Guide to AA"; in Kazakh "Information on AA," "44 Questions," "Is AA for You?," "This is AA," "A Newcomer Asks" and "A Brief Guide to AA"; in Farsi "Information on AA," "A Brief Guide to AA" and "This is AA"; in Greek Public Information Workbook; in Indonesian *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition; in Thai *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and "What Happened to Joe?"

**Revision:** The revised "Young People and AA" pamphlet was published, and includes new stories for young people. Two of the stories are written by members from this area.

The report given by the Grapevine Board Chairperson told us that Grapevine, Inc, took a loss of \$48,873 in the year ending December 31, 2006, versus a budgeted profit of \$19,879. This is due to a trend of fewer people subscribing to the magazine. This trend is throughout the publishing world because most people get their information off the Internet. The Grapevine Inc in trying to keep up with the times has added to its Web site.

Some of those Highlights:

- Launch of the AudioGrapevine - the MP3 version of the magazine.
- Redesign of "Heard It at the Grapevine," the e-newsletter that goes out to 19,300 members.
- The switch from biweekly to daily postings of i-Say, where members discuss such topics as Twelfth Step work, sponsorship and on occasion, Regional Forums.
- Development of the GvR section of the Web.

New Publications:

- Pasos 7 - 12, La Vina's third CD.
- Two Audio CDs, remastered from tapes of Grapevine stories on the Traditions.
- *Emotional Sobriety* (which has sold 10,000 copies in its first 6 months.)
- *The Home Group*, revised Spanish-language edition.
- *Best of Bill* audiobook, in English and Spanish.
- *The Language of the Heart*, large print edition.
- *In Our Own Words: Stories of Young AAs in Recovery from the Grapevine*.

The La Vina magazine is also operating at a loss. These two magazines are very valuable Twelve Step tools and we need to support them. The average monthly subscriptions to the Grapevine magazine was 103,878. The pass along rate is 4; each subscriber passes the magazine on to at least four other people. So the Grapevine reaches over half a million people a month. For the La Vina magazine the average bimonthly subscriptions was 10,223 for 2006. This magazine's pass along rate is 9; therefore, bimonthly this magazine reaches over 100,000 Hispanic members. These are great success stories by AA standards but are we fulfilling Our

Twelfth Step Responsibility - Are We Going to Any Length? During the Q & A time a delegate mentioned that subscribing to La Vina without understanding the language and passing on the magazine on is a good way to show your support for it. Giving your home group or sponsee or for an anniversary gift of the Grapevine is also supporting the magazine.

On Monday evening, as it has been the custom over the years, the GSO Archivist has done a presentation. Amy Filiatreau did a wonderful job of capturing the theme of this year's Conference. She put the recording in context with the time it was made in 1968.

"It was a turbulent time for this country and Canada. The Vietnam War was raging, powerful war protests were widespread. The Cold War and space race were heating up. Civil rights demonstrations were intensifying and violent race riots were taking place all over the country. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated April 4, 1968 just days before the 18th General Service Conference convened. Robert F. Kennedy would be assassinated that June. It was bad times for everyone involved. The Conference body that year would reaffirm the Anonymity Tradition: Discuss ways of reaching minorities and non-English speakers; Describe local services provided through Intergroups and Central Offices; Approve the distribution of the first membership survey; and approve the first World Service Meeting to take place in 1969."

Before any of this happened, Bill spoke at the opening dinner of the Conference. He spoke of love and tolerance, his view on common welfare and carrying the message, with regard to that newcomer with the double "affliction."

{Recording played} ...The group conscience began to say to us, "The common welfare comes first. We do not have these biases [of power, prestige, or money]. Let us take thought for the general welfare, and after that, let's see where the leadership stands." So we turn up as leaders who have not power in the usual sense, no prestige in the usual sense. We turn up as genuine servants with a discretion from the group conscience to act for them. And that's our state here. The general welfare comes first.

Take another which may at first glance seem a little remote, At about year two, of the Akron group, a poor devil came to Dr. Bob in a grievous state. He could qualify as an alcoholic, all right. And then he said, "Dr. Bob, I've got a real problem to pose you. I don't know if I could join AA, because I'm a sex deviate." Well, that had to go out to the group conscience, you know. Up to then it was supposed that any society could say who was going to join it.

And pretty soon the group conscience began to seethe and boil, and it boiled over. And, "Under no circumstances could we have such a peril, and such a disgrace, among us," said a great many.

And you know, right then our destiny hung on a razor edge over a single case. In other words, would there be rules that could exclude so-called undesirability? And that caused us in that time and for quite a time, respecting this single case, to ponder, what is the more important: the reputation that we shall have? What people shall think? Or is it our character? And who are we, considering our records? Alcoholism is quite as unlovely. Who are we to deny a man his opportunity? Any man, or woman?

And finally the day of resolution came. And a bunch were sitting in Dr. Bob's living room, arguing, "What to do?" Whereupon, dear old Bob looked around and blandly said, "Isn't time, folks, to ask ourselves, what would the Master do in a situation like this? Would He turn this man away?"

And that was the beginning of the AA tradition that any man who has a drinking problem is

a member of AA if he says so, not whether we say so.

Now, I think that the import of this on the common welfare has already been staggering. Because it takes in even more territory than the confines of our Fellowship. It take in the whole world of alcoholics. Their charter to freedom, to join AA, is assured, indeed it was an act in the general welfare, [General Service Office Archives CD GSC 68/1, part 2, first audio clip]

To be able to listen to Bill express himself about true love and tolerance was amazing. This was one of the highlights of the Conference for me.

At the Tuesday night, Delegates Only meeting the names were drawn from the hat for the Conference delegate chairperson and the alternate chairperson. France J of Northeast Quebec will be the chairperson and her alternate will be Ron H of Western Missouri for the 2008 General Service Conference.

On Wednesday afternoon there was an electoral session for the Northeast and Southwest Regional Trustees and Trustee-at-Large/Canada. Where I had the honor to present our Area candidate, TF. Our new Northeast Regional Trustee is JK from Southern New Jersey. The new Southwest Regional Trustee is CB Jr, from Arkansas and the new Trustee-at-large/Canada is J-AL, is from Manitoba, Canada.

Beginning, Wednesday evening conference committees reported their deliberations, recommendations, and considerations to the full conference body of 136 delegates for discussion and voting. We worked long and hard listening to each committee's report, discussing their recommendations before voting to move forward. Our session ended well after 10:00 pm that night, We met again all day Thursday until close to 11:00 pm and it was felt that we were not going to finish on Friday, but the conference concluded business at around 6:30 pm. On Saturday morning there was a farewell brunch with talks given rotating trustees: Allen Ault (Class 'A' trustee), the SW Regional trustee, the Trustee-at-large/Canada), the NE Regional trustee, and the General Service trustee.



### **The Conference Advisory Actions and other Considerations:**

#### **Agenda:**

1. The theme for the 2008 General Service Conference be: "Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support."
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2008 General Service Conference:
  - a) Communication and Participation:
    1. Sharing the Message of Service
    2. Our Key to Keeping AA Strong
    3. Leadership in AA: Building Communication
  - b) Unity:
    1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First
    2. Principles Before Personalities
    3. Diversity: Reaching Out to All Alcoholics

c) Self-Support:

1. Self-Supporting Through Members' Voluntary Contributions Only
2. Contempt Prior to Investigation
- 3 Responsibility to Communicate and Participate

3. The following be the workshop topic for the 2008 General Service Conference: "Love and Tolerance, Now More Than Ever."

### **Archives**<sup>1</sup>

It was recommended that:

4. Any future proposed project involving widespread distribution of archival recordings be submitted to the Conference Archives Committee so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production.

### **Cooperation With the Professional Community**

No recommendations.

### **Correctional Facilities**

It was recommended that:

5. The draft informational media presentation featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing AA to training academies and in-service training programs for correctional personnel be approved with a suggested change to be reviewed and approved by the trustees' Committee on Corrections.

### **Finance**

It was recommended that:

6. The annual limit contributed to the General Service Board from individual AA members be increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and that bequests from AA members should be subject to the same limit and continue to be on a one-time basis and not in perpetuity.
7. The following text: "GSR travel expenses to attend service functions" be added to the sentence "Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, A. A. literature, local meeting lists)" on page 7, paragraph 3, first sentence of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (F-3) as these expenses are suggested in *The AA Service Manual*.

### **Grapevine**

It was recommended that:

8. The Grapevine and La Viña include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of

alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer.

## **Literature**

It was recommended that:

9. The following text from *The AA Service Manual* be added to “The AA Group” and the “GSR” pamphlets:

“Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support for their general service representatives to attend service functions.”

10. The title of the pamphlet “Can AA Help Me Too?” subtitled “Black/African Americans Share Their Stories” be changed to “AA for the Black and African American Alcoholic.”
11. The pamphlet, “The AA Member—Medications and Other Drugs” be revised to include current experience of AA members and that a revised draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Literature.
12. The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be produced, keeping in mind the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on contents, story selection, and process, as follows:

### **I. Contents**

- A. *The Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book to be similar in page count to the English Fourth Edition Big Book*
- B. *The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,” and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.’s writings and does not require Conference-approval.*

#### C. Personal Stories:

- *Retain selected stories from current Spanish-language Second Edition.*
- *Select stories from AA’s La Viña magazine.*
- *Select new stories from Spanish-speaking membership.*
- *Stories to be designated to three main sections similar to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.*

### **II. Story Solicitation**

- A. *Within the United States and Canada and internationally to Spanish-speaking countries.*

### **III. Story Selection Process**

A. *To be under the direction of the trustees' Literature subcommittee on the Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book.*

B. *Story selection subcommittee:*

- *All bilingual – Spanish and English:*
- *Spanish editors.*
- *Spanish-speaking staff members.*
- *Chair to appoint some subcommittee members from the Fellowship.*

C. *Basic Selection Criteria:*

- I. *To use the same criteria as the English Fourth Edition Big Book based on Bill W.'s recommendations.*
- II. *Each story must, as Bill W. recommended, reach out to the newcomer who is still looking for the AA solution.*
- III. *Each story must be a standard AA story that tells what it was like, what happened, and what it is like today.*

and, that the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book include:

- I. *Updated translations of Bill's Own Story, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, the stories "Alcoholics Anonymous #3" and "Women Suffer Too."*
- II. *The existing twelve original stories from the Second Edition Spanish-language Big Book.*
- III. *Up to 32 new selected Spanish-language stories.*
- IV. *Translations of the Forewords to the English Edition and the Foreword to the existing edition.*
- V. *A new Foreword to be developed by the Publications Department explaining the process and development of the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book.*

The committee acknowledged that the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.'s writings and recognized that translations of Bill W.'s writings do not require Conference-approval.

### **Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

14. The 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference be held April 18-24, 2010, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

### **Public Information**

It was recommended that:

15. The 2007 AA Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2004 AA Membership Survey.
16. The public service announcement "A Force of Nature," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.
17. The television public service announcement "A Force of Nature" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
19. The trustees' Committee on Public Information develop their suggestion for a video project that would include video/digital submissions from the Fellowship, with selected submissions to be compiled and used in carrying the AA message to young people. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information:
  - 1 Develop clear guidelines for the request and submission of videos (or digital files) at their July 2007 meeting and that the guidelines be consistent with AA Traditions and appropriate safety/legal concerns.
  - 2 Create a timetable at their July 2007 meeting for the request of video/digital submissions from the Fellowship.
  - 3 Develop a draft from video/digital submissions or progress report to be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information for review.

Note: Estimated development cost is \$28,000

20. The list of early signs of alcoholism derived from AA Conference-approved literature forwarded by the trustees' Committee on Public Information replace the current list of early signs in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-AA Meetings."
21. A section on posthumous anonymity be developed by the Publications Department for inclusion in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and a draft be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.
22. The words "Young, old. Rich, poor. Black, white." under the section titled ALCOHOLISM be deleted from the pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers."

### **Report and Charter**

It was recommended that:

23. The second paragraph on p. S29 of *The AA Service Manual*, which reads, "In the majority of areas, a district includes six to 20 groups. In metropolitan districts, the number is generally 15 to 20 groups, while in rural or suburban districts the number can be as small as five," be replaced with the following:

"The number of groups per district varies widely, from as few as five in a rural district to 90 or more in a metropolitan district. Population density and the

geographic size of the district, which will affect the ability of the D.C.M. to communicate with the groups, would be key factors determining the number of groups a district will have.”

24. The following sentence be inserted on p. S72 of the *The AA Service Manual* at the beginning of the second paragraph under the heading “Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights”:

“In 1993, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., announced that official use of all of the several circle/triangle trademarks and service marks was being discontinued.”

25. The Publications Department insert into *The AA Service Manual*, where appropriate, the inverted triangle graphic that currently appears annually in the General Service Conference manual.
26. A paragraph titled “District Information,” which includes an illustration of the District Information Change Form (F-43), be developed for inclusion in Chapter Three in *The AA Service Manual* and brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review.
27. The last sentence in the second paragraph of “The Conference Structure – An Overview” (p. S15) in *The AA Service Manual*, which reads: “Today, general service includes all kinds of activities within the Conference structure, carried on by districts, area committees, delegates, trustees, the General Service Office and the Grapevine,” be changed to read as follows:

“Today, general service includes all kinds of activities within the Conference structure, carried on by groups, districts, area committees, delegates, trustees, the General Service Office and the Grapevine.”

### **Treatment Facilities**

It was recommended that:

28. The video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be revised, retaining only the script, and that sample footage or a progress report be brought to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities.

Note: The cost would be approximately \$50,000.

### **Trustees**

It was recommended that:

32. In accordance with the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., the General Service Board consider all eligible Class A (nonalcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees when selecting the chairperson of the General Service Board.

Note: The Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., may be

found in *The AA Service Manual*.

33. The amendment to the April 2006 Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as forwarded from the General Service Board, be approved. The new language would be:

“In the case of a Class B trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be limited to that number of one-year terms which would result in the term of service of the successor member trustee ending at the same time as the term of the replaced member trustee would have ended, if no vacancy had occurred and the replaced member trustee had served four successive one-year terms.”

Note: The language in the Bylaws, approved in April 2006, which will now be replaced, was:

“In the case of a Class B trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be four years from the date of the meeting at which he or she is elected.”

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### **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS**

Advisory Action 40 of the 1990 General Service Conference states: “Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section of the *Final Report*.” All items, listed by committee, are as follows:

#### **Conference Agenda Committee**

- a) The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form. In response to a request for sharing from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference on the question of participation by service category, the committee agreed that the question remain on the Evaluation Questionnaire. While the responses from the question may not affect the planning of future Conferences, it was felt that the publication of the responses in the Evaluation Summary provides an opportunity for Conference members to check their own participation, and may open communication with others on how they viewed this topic.

#### **Conference Committee on Archives<sup>1</sup>**

- a) The committee accepted the “Sound and Video Access Policies” and expressed gratitude for the hard work in developing this General Service Board policy clarifying procedures and limitations for accessing the archival recordings of the General Service Office Archives.
- b) The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and accepted the revisions.

- c) The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee consider developing new format(s) for the Archives Workbook. Suggestions included a 3-ring binder and/or a CD format, from which pages and forms could easily be updated, copied, downloaded, and/or printed.
- d) The committee suggested that the trustees' Archives Committee consider developing language for the Archives Workbook and/or a service piece that would help foster awareness of copyright issues in local, district, and area archives projects.
- e) The committee forwarded to the 2008 Policy/Admissions Committee a request to consider that the Conference Archives Committee be established as a permanent Conference committee.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

## Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

- a) The committee reviewed the "Progress Report on Video Segments Directed to Professionals" from the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities, and viewed a preliminary clip of the CPC video directed to medical professionals. The committee offered several suggestions to the Publications Director and video production vendor regarding script pacing, content, content security, and the general direction of the video.

The video segments directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields will be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community.

- a) The committee reviewed the CPC Kit and Workbook and suggested two minor changes to the CPC Workbook, which will be forwarded to the Publications Department.
- b) The committee recognized that local CPC committees could benefit from easier access to the CPC Workbook, and suggested that placement of the CPC Workbook on GSO's AA Web site be considered by AA World Services, Inc.
- c) The committee agreed that sending letters introducing AA and supplying AA literature to professionals are valuable CPC service projects. The committee stressed the importance of one-on-one contact with professionals, noting that personal contact with professionals is essential to effective CPC service.
- d) The committee recognized the value of utilizing professionals who are friends of AA at local AA events with the goal of stimulating interest in CPC service. This approach can generate enthusiasm in the Fellowship for CPC service, and enthusiasm is a critical component of effective outreach to professionals.

## Conference Committee on Corrections

- a) The committee reviewed the Corrections Workbook and suggested one change and one correction to the service piece "AA Corrections Prerelease Contact Information" (F-162), which will be forwarded to the Publications Department.
- b) The committee discussed various ways to stimulate corrections Twelfth Step work; these included:
  - a) Utilizing the video *Carrying The Message Behind The Walls* more effectively.
  - b) Creating Power Point presentations about AA corrections service including photos and discussion topics.
  - c) Hosting AA round-ups inside correctional facilities similar to those previously shared about in *Box 4-5-9*.
  - d) Mentioning in GSO's welcome letter to Corrections chairs that GSO staff collects sharing on local corrections workshops and events.
  - e) Sending sharing on local corrections workshops and events to GSO
  - f) Discussing ideas in areas and districts regarding ways to collect money to purchase literature for local correctional facilities.
  - g) Including local corrections events on area Web sites.

- h) Introducing someone to corrections service by bringing them to corrections events and/or AA meetings on the inside.
- i) Listing Corrections chairs with GSO so they receive useful corrections-related material and communications.
- j) Sharing about corrections service experience with excitement and enthusiasm.
- k) Encouraging ex-inmate AA members to participate in corrections service.
- l) Creating calendar of corrections events around U.S. and Canada.

### **Conference Committee on Finance**

- a) The committee suggests that the phrase “GSR travel expenses to attend service functions” be added to AA service material where appropriate when describing expenses in need of support.
- a) The committee discussed a request to “Develop a communication plan for the purpose of increasing the level of group participation and self-support within the Conference structure” and after considerable discussion took no action.
- b) The committee discussed a request to eliminate volume discounts on literature orders and agreed with the AAW.S. practice of allowing volume discounts on literature orders.
- a) The committee discussed a request to incorporate shipping costs into literature pricing, and agreed that the AAW.S. practice of shipping charges is appropriate.

### **Conference Committee on Grapevine**

- a) The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that the AA Grapevine produce in the year 2008 or later:
  - I. a collection of Grapevine stories by people with 40 or more years of sobriety, and;
  - II. a book of classic cartoons and jokes from the AA Grapevine.
- b) The committee reviewed the contents of the AA Grapevine Workbook and suggested that the sample presentation in Appendix IV be updated.
- c) The committee encouraged the Grapevine to explore less expensive formats for production of the workbook.
- d) The committee again urged the AA Grapevine Board to produce a Spanish translation of the AA Grapevine workbook as soon as financially possible.

### **Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>**

- a) The committee discussed the site-selection procedures for the 2020 International Convention. The committee noted that selecting an International Convention site twelve years out prevents us from having to compete for sites and yet allows us to have enough information about the site city to make a good decision.
- ↖ The committee discussed the concept and details of Local Forums as approved by the General Service Board. It was noted that the new Local Forums format specifies that

some expense, such as site rental, will be the responsibility of the Local Forum organizing committee. The diversity of the purpose of Local Forums was emphasized. In addition to large gatherings, there can be smaller gatherings to present Forum and local service information to selected AA communities and to respond to specific needs of these communities.

There were questions about Local Forums attendance by a General Service Board trustee and a member from either the General Service or the Grapevine Office. Starting July 2008 there will be an annual inventory of the new Forum schedule by the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums to review Forum experience with the new Forum schedule and to respond to any questions about implementation of the Forum schedule.

- The committee discussed the following ways to encourage interest in Forums:
  - Emphasize the importance of AA members talking to AA members about Forums.
  - Use translators to communicate Forum information.
  - Emphasize that it is more effective if local delegates, districts, groups and AA members take responsibility for providing information about Forums rather than relying on the General Service Office's mailing of registration forms.
  - Encourage use of GSO's AA Web Site to find Forum registration forms, Forum information and hotel information.
  - Encourage AA members to use GSO's AA Web site as a source for Forum Final Reports to find out what happened at past Forums and what Forums are like.
  - Be an example of an enthusiastic Forum attendee.
  - Emphasize interesting things you can learn at a Forum such as "Where does AA's money go?"; "Do you want to get to know your literature?"
  - Include Forum registration forms with catalogs in literature orders sent to central offices and intergroups.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

### **Conference Literature Committee**

- a) The committee reviewed the trustees' Literature Committee progress report on revisions to the "AA for the Native North American" pamphlet and expressed appreciation that the story submission deadline was extended until June 30, 2007 to provide a greater opportunity for Native North American AA members to share their stories. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft of the revised pamphlet at the 2008 General Service Conference.
- b) The committee discussed at length requests to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet and took no action. As the structure and function of intergroup/central offices vary greatly throughout the United States and Canada, it was the consensus of the committee that, where a need may exist for an intergroup/central office pamphlet, it can be addressed locally.

The committee also felt that sufficient information is available about intergroup/central offices in existing AA Conference-approved literature and service material, including "The

AA Group” pamphlet, *The AA Service Manual*, and AA Guidelines on Central and Intergroup Offices.

- a) The committee considered a request to produce a pamphlet to replace the discontinued “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic” and took no action.

### **Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions**

- a) The committee accepted the final report from the General Service Board Ad Hoc Regional Composition and Structure Inventory Committee and expressed appreciation regarding the complexity of the issues that were discussed at length by the Board’s Ad Hoc Committee.

The committee requested that the General Service Board provide a summary of the board’s discussions on the inventory questions for board consideration that were listed in the final report, which pertain to regional composition and structure and, if completed, forward the summary to the 2008 Conference Committee on Policy Admissions.

### **Conference Committee on Public Information**

- a) The committee reviewed the 2006 Annual Report from the trustees’ Committee on Public Information regarding GSO’s AA Web site and noted the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the GSO AA Web site.
- b) The committee reviewed information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the Public Service Announcement “Testimonials.”
- c) The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook and suggested that the language in the Workbook be revised to reflect current Conference Advisory Actions and experience regarding how to handle anonymity breaks by AA members at the public level.

### **Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

- e) The committee reviewed a list of duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.) and requested that a ‘service piece’ be developed for inclusion in the D.C.M. Kit.
- f) The committee considered a recommendation from the General Service Board that the following text be added to Chapter Nine in *The AA Service Manual* where appropriate:

“The intent of forming regions was to create a vehicle by which regional trustees could be added to the General Service Board and a way to provide a cross section of people who would serve AA as a whole – not in a representative capacity. To allow for a balanced rotation, elections of regional trustees are staggered in order that there may be a relatively even flow of new trustees coming onto the board. It was not until 1962 that the formal naming of regions occurred and a redistribution; and, soon afterwards the formation of new regions.”

and took no action.

- a) The committee considered a recommendation from the General Service Board that the sentence, “Regional trustees bring to the board’s discussions a regional point of view and experience that is invaluable,” in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board, p. S62 in *The AA Service Manual*, 2006-2007 Edition, be replaced so that the section reads:

“While no trustee can be said to “represent” a geographical section – all trustees represent only the Fellowship as a whole – regional trustees bring to the board’s discussions a diversity of AA experience that is invaluable.”

and took no action.

- g) The committee considered a suggestion to include the committee scope from each Conference Committee Composition Scope and Procedure document in the Standing Committee section in the Chapter on Conference Committees and took no action.
- h) The committee considered and accepted a suggestion that the first sentence in the last paragraph of the preface to the *Twelve Concepts of World Service*, which reads: “A ‘short form’ of the Concepts was prepared by the 1974 General Service Conference for inclusion in *The AA Service Manual*,” be corrected to read as follows:  
“A ‘short form’ of the Concepts was recommended by the 1974 General Service Conference for inclusion in *The AA Service Manual*.”
- i) The committee considered a suggestion that the section on “Past Delegates,” in *The AA Service Manual*, be moved from pp. S43-44 and inserted, as amended, in Chapter Six, p. S47, after the discussion on “The Alternate” and took no action.
- j) The committee considered a suggestion that the terms L.C.M. (Local Committee Member) and D.C.M.C. (District Committee Member Chairperson) be added to the glossary on pp. S18-19, and took no action. The committee requested that the Publications Department place a reference to D.C.M.C. in the Index.
- k) The committee considered a request to have AAW.S. discontinue publishing regional directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.) and took no action.
- l) The committee considered a suggestion that the second to the last full sentence under Qualifications (S29) in *The AA Service Manual* be amended to read: “A D.C.M. should have enough sobriety, generally four or five years” and took no action.
- m) The committee considered a suggestion to add to the AA Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.) a separate subsection within the section “INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE MEETINGS” for listing “Online Intergroups” that request to be listed, and that online Intergroups thus listed provide an e-mail and/or Web site address to be included in the directories and took no action.
- n) The committee reviewed the *Final Conference Report* and suggested that the publications department consider increasing the font size for future publications. The committee also wished to convey its thanks and appreciation for the artist’s continued excellence in providing high quality illustrations to be included in the *Final Conference Report*.

## **Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities**

- a) The committee suggested that the DVD *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be inserted in the complimentary Treatment Facilities Kit sent to each new Treatment Facilities area committee chair.
- a) The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities gather sharing from the Fellowship on how to stimulate interest in Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work. This sharing is to include information such as:
  - a) Service material that has been locally produced.
  - b) Reports on events that have been held.
  - c) Examples of how sponsorship has proven to be an effective tool.

The committee is particularly interested in having samples of existing local service information available as background material to assist the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities' discussion on the possible development of Conference-approved literature and/or Service Material to stimulate AA members' interest in Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work.

- b) The committee forwarded to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board a suggestion that it consider producing a special section in the AA Grapevine and La Viña once a year on Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work.
- c) The committee discussed the need for more input from the Fellowship in the area of carrying out our Twelfth Step responsibility regarding Treatment Facilities service. Based on a lack of agenda items, the committee discussed the possibility of merging with another Conference committee, and concluded that the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities is still viable.

## **Conference Committee on Trustees**

- a) The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Northeast and Southwest regional trustees and for trustee-at-large/Canada.
- b) The committee reviewed with approval the resume of Terrance M. Bedient to serve as a consultant on the trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee commencing with the July 2007 committee meeting.
- c) The committee accepted the "Appeal to the General Service Conference" dated April 11, 2007 concerning the decision made in the January 2007 executive session of the General Service Board not to begin a search for a new General Manager of the General Service Office.

In keeping with the importance of the principle of assuring us that the minority opinion will be heard, as outlined in Concept V, the Conference Committee on Trustees requests that this "Appeal to the General Service Conference" be given a full hearing at the next scheduled executive session of the General Service Board.

In addition, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating review Procedure 19 of their Composition, Scope and Procedures—"Guidelines for Hiring the General Manager, GSO"—and clarify the language which refers to the length of service for that position. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating forward a final report to the 2008 Conference Committee on Trustees.

## RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION

### Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- a) The committee recommended that the first sentence of the first paragraph in the “The Area Assembly” section of Chapter Four in *The AA Service Manual* which reads: “Any meeting of area GSRs, and the area committee (see Chapter Five) is an assembly,” be changed to read as follows:  
“Any meeting of area GSRs, **D.C.M.s** and the area committee (see Chapter Five) is an assembly,”

### Conference Committee on Trustees

- b) The committee recommended that the existing sentence pertaining to regional trustees in the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be amended to read.  
“Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the year, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to provide the Board their views and opinions regarding policy matters based on Fellowship-wide experience.**”

Note: As it exists in *The AA Service Manual, 2006-2007 Edition*, p. S110, that sentence reads:

“Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the years, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to advise the Board with respect to regional views and opinions regarding policy matters.**”

## FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

- a) The background material on the “Appeal to the General Service Conference” dated April 11, 2007 and reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees, be provided to all members of the 57<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. **(Conference voted not to consider)**
- b) That the hospital scene appearing in the corrections video, previously approved, be deleted. **(Not Approved)**
- c) That the information media presentation introducing AA to training academies and in-service training for corrections personnel be edited to include at least one mention and display of our magazines, *The AA Grapevine* and *La Viña*, together with French and Spanish AA books and pamphlets. **(Not Approved)**
- d) That a pamphlet on intergroup/central offices be developed and that a draft copy or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Literature. **(Conference voted not to consider)**

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