

REPORT FROM THE DELEGATE ON THE 60TH
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Practicing AA's Principles – the Pathway to Unity

April 18-24, 2010

Hilton Rye Town, Rye Brook, NY

THE FIRST THREE DAYS

Kick Off. The 60th General Service Conference officially opened on Sunday, April 18, 2010, but it really got kicked off the preceding day, with a Remote Communities meeting that afternoon and a delegates meeting that evening, led by our Delegate Chair, Lowell L, a fellow NERD (North-East Regional Delegate). That meeting is a time for the newly arrived Panel 60 delegates to ask questions and get feedback from the Panel 59s who already have one Conference under their belts. Based on the comments made, it was clear that there had been a lot of talk about the travails of last year's Conference, so this year I think we Panel 59s joined with the Panel 60s to work hard at keeping the spirit an upbeat, positive one, suitable to our Conference theme, "Practicing AA's Principles – The Pathway to Unity."

On Sunday morning we had registration and our opening session, with a keynote address from Bill Clark, Class A trustee, who was rotating out at the end of the Conference. We had regional lunches that day, then attended a short afternoon session on the theme "Practicing These Principles in All Our 'Service' Affairs." Later that afternoon the Conference committees met jointly with their respective trustees' committees, and in the evening the opening dinner and AA meeting was held.

Financial Woes. At our joint Finance meeting on Sunday, there was a great deal of discussion of the AA Grapevine's financial problems that, it was pointed out, would disappear if every group that contributes to GSO would also purchase a yearly subscription to the Grapevine. However, that is not currently the case, and in 2009 the Grapevine was obliged to withdraw \$188,000 from the Reserve Fund to cover its expenses, with further withdrawals projected for 2010, perhaps as much as an additional \$246,000 but more likely less. (These figures were also discussed in the Grapevine presentation the following Monday afternoon.) Although over the long haul the Grapevine has put more money into the Reserve Fund than it has withdrawn, these figures are causing concern.

Another matter of financial concern, which was also broached at last year's Conference, is the funding of the pension and medical care liability and the inadequacy of the Reserve Fund, from which withdrawals must be made to fund pensions and medical care. Although currently there are no immediate problems, these matters need further attention to avoid underfunding in the long haul. The situation has eased up somewhat from last year, as the market has improved, but financial challenges remain and the Boards must continue taking steps to meet them.

Conference Committee Meetings Begin. The first Conference committee meetings were held Monday morning, and following lunch we heard Panel 60 delegates report their area service highlights from the Eastern Canada Region and the West Central Region. Ward Ewing, Class A trustee and Chair of the General Service Board, then gave that Board's report, followed by reports from John K, Chair of the AAWS Board, and Dorothy H, Chair of the Grapevine Board. Terry Bedient, Class A trustee, gave a compelling presentation on finances, at which we were told of the Reserve Fund inadequacy. Terry also pointed out that a little over 12% of the budget is now utilized to fund the pension and medical care responsibility.

GSO On-line Contributions Demonstration. A system to make on-line contributions to GSO is expected to be up and running early in June of this year. On Monday afternoon we were given a demonstration of how that system

would work, which utilizes a standard procedure to set up an account and access it. The system will allow contributions to be credited to a group or an individual, with a minimum contribution of \$2 and a maximum for an individual of \$3000. The usual credit cards will be accepted, and e-check transactions will also be available. The per-transaction fee for credit cards will range from 2 to 3% of the transaction, a cost that will be covered by GSO.

Monday's afternoon session drew to a close with Panel 60 area highlights from the Southeast and Northeast Regions, and the evening session began with more highlights from the Panel 60 delegates of the East Central and Western Canada Regions. We were then treated to a fascinating talk by Michelle Mirza, GSO Archives Director, who told us how AA archives began, with Nell Wing fishing papers out of Bill's waste basket. She then played an audio tape of a talk Bill W gave in San Diego in 1948 on the critical need for AA unity, part of our Conference theme this year.

Conference Committees Meet Again. Tuesday morning our committees met again. The Finance Committee on which I served was comprised of five Panel 59 delegates and only three Panel 60s, with Don Meurer, the C.F.O. of GSO, as secretary and Danny F of Northeast Ohio as Chair. Our meetings were intense, but congenial, and we opted to meet a third time later on Tuesday to complete our work. We presented four recommendations to the Conference, three of which became advisory actions and one of which generated a floor action (more on all of that later under Committee Reports).

Tuesday afternoon we heard highlights from the Panel 60 delegates from the Southwest and Pacific Regions, presentations on the topic "Unity Through Inventory," and then broke up into workshop sections on the topic "Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process." The workshop topic may seem dry, but it is really quite important, as the process by which items get on the agenda for the Conference has a major impact on what the Conference can actually do. The gist of the discussion of the workshop session I moderated seemed to be we need to try to open up the process more so that items can find their way to the Conference agenda more easily.

New Trustees Elected. Wednesday morning I was pleased to act as a teller in the election of two new regional trustees. Rod B, of Utah, was elected the Pacific Regional Trustee on the third ballot, and for Eastern Canada Donald C was elected Regional Trustee on the fifth ballot. Until this election Eastern Canada had been without an elected regional trustee for almost four years, being served during that time by appointed interim trustees.

We had our final regional lunch on Wednesday, at which time we selected Area 59 Eastern Pennsylvania to host the 2013 NERAASA at the Lancaster Host Resort, Lancaster, PA, and Area 11 Connecticut to host the 2013 NERF at the Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT, dates TBD. Later that afternoon we heard presentations on the Conference agenda selection process, and in the evening the Conference committees began to bring their reports to the Conference floor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ITEMS ON THE DELEGATE'S QUESTIONNAIRE?

My thanks to the GSRs, DCMs, and DCMCs who helped get my delegate's questionnaire into the hands of the groups so that they could discuss it and return their responses to me. In fact, group responses arrived during the Conference, and I was able to review some of them at the hotel. Thanks to all for your interest and help! In recognition of that, I would like to talk first about those parts of the committee reports that dealt with the items on my questionnaire.

Item #1 (Finance Committee agenda item IV-A): *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?*

The Finance Committee made no recommendations on this item, but as an additional committee consideration

had this to say, which reads in part:

- The committee recognized that the majority of the sharing of the Fellowship was not in favor of a limit. The committee does not recommend that a specific limit should be placed on the use of literature profits to fund services. From all input gathered, the committee found that the Fellowship agrees with the Trustee's policy on self support which was affirmed at the 2009 Conference: “. . . 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. We hope that the day will come when AA groups and members, through their contributions, will be able to fund fully the services provided by the General Service Office. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a prudent reserve fund.”
- The committee believes that more effective communication to the Fellowship as a whole is key to achieving this ideal and the committee has made recommendations to that end.
- The committee discussed additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about Self-Support and forwards the following list of items to the 2011 Conference Finance Committee for further discussion:
 1. Birthday Plan
 2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet
 3. Box 459 or Grapevine Articles
 4. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit
 5. Report Costs of Services to Members
 6. Discuss Effects of Inflation
 7. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web

Item #2 (Finance Committee agenda item IV-B): *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?*

It was recommended that:

- The following be added to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” where appropriate:
 - Q. Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine?
 - A. No. AA Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.
- In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading “How can groups participate?” in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”; the second sentence “(rent, refreshments, AA literature,...)” be changed to read “(for example: rent, refreshments, AA and AA Grapevine literature,...)”
- The trustees' Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.
- The request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix” be recommitted to the trustees' Finance Committee and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Finance.

[Note: This was a Floor Action. The Finance Committee's recommendation was to add a third “pie” with no percentages shown so that the individual groups' could use it to apportion their contributions as they see fit. That recommendation was favored by a vote on the Conference floor of 72 to 50 but not by the 2/3 required to become an advisory action. There were comments from several areas that the current pie charts are being misused to make groups think they must divide up their contributions as shown rather than that the charts are simply there as examples only. It was felt that the “fix” for the problem needed to go further than the Finance Committee's recommendation proposed.]

Item #3 (AA Grapevine Committee agenda item V-D): *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?*

- It was recommended that La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the AA Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:
 - › Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year, beginning in 2011, followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine.
 - › Content and substance be of primary importance.
 - › An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.

[Note: The recommendation carried by a vote of 120 to 5, although there was quite a bit of discussion. Questions were raised regarding length of the review (only 6 issues) and what would happen after the year – would the magazine go back to its prior format? The committee seemed to feel that the 61st Grapevine Conference Committee would make a decision on that. I conveyed the comments from SENY's Hispanic Districts that La Viña has a distribution problem that should be fixed before the format is changed. I had previously given letters from the Spanish District's DCMC and from D. 814 to the Conference Grapevine Committee Chair requesting action on this matter.]

Item #4 (Literature Committee agenda item VI-C): *Should Conference-approved literature focusing on spirituality and including stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in AA be developed?*

- It was recommended that the trustees' Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

[Note: There was extensive discussion before this matter was even brought to a vote. Committee members commented that they were surprised that they all ended up in agreement that the recommendation should be brought forward. The question was called by a vote of 115 to 3 and the recommendation was passed by a vote of 93 to 32. After minority opinions, there was a motion to reconsider, but it failed by a vote of 41 to 81.]

Item #5 (Literature Committee agenda item VI-H): *Should the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised?*

- The committee took no action, noting that there was no widely expressed need for a new video and that the information in the video was still relevant and useful in describing the AA service structure.

Item #6 (Literature Committee agenda item VI-I): *Should a book on the history of "early pioneer women in AA" be developed?*

- The committee took no action. It expressed appreciation for the request but considered that there was not a widely expressed need for a Conference-approved book on the history of early pioneer women in AA.

Item # 7 (Public Information Committee agenda item VIII-F): *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?*

- It was recommended that the trustees' Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying AA members or potential AA members in Conference-approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available AA tapes and videos.

[Note: This recommendation sparked a lengthy discussion. We broke for lunch and afterward the question was called by an overwhelming vote (only 6 voted no) and the recommendation itself was passed by a vote of 111 to 15. There was no

vote to reconsider. As a result of this vote, I proposed a floor action that the Hope video be withdrawn from circulation until a policy was established, but later we voted not to consider that motion.]

Item #8 (Report and Charter Committee agenda item IX-A-5 and IX-A-6): 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?

- The committee took no action on either proposal, noting the importance of publishing *The AA Service Manual* annually and that it be as current and accurate as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: OTHER ADVISORY ACTIONS OF NOTE

Agenda Committee

It was recommended that

- The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: “We are Responsible for AA’s Future – Let it Begin With Us.”

Grapevine Committee

It was recommended

- To the AA Grapevine Corporate Board that, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine:
 - › What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
 - › How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
 - › What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
 - › What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

Responses are to be submitted to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board by 12-31-10 and included as background material for the 2011 Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine.

[*Note: Some delegates are already gathering this information by means of a questionnaire that also asks some additional questions. I am proposing that we circulate that questionnaire here in SENY and have forwarded it to our area Grapevine Chair for discussion on how to proceed.*]

Literature

It was recommended that

- The revised pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be approved.
[*Note: The delegate from Area 8 San Diego/Imperial commented that some of the “gay friendly” changes that had been made in the pamphlet made him uncomfortable. I agreed with him and suggested that one of the changes be omitted in the final version, a change to the revised pamphlet that was accepted by the committee.*]
- The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “AA and the Armed Services” to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
[*Note: After a very brief discussion, this recommendation passed by a vote of 127 to 0.*]
- The trustees' Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

[Note: The discussion on this recommendation focused on maintaining the original slant of the author. The original motion contained the words “a draft or report” but was amended to omit “draft or,” and the amended recommendation was passed by 112 to 15. The minority opinion centered on “leaving it alone,” but there was no vote to reconsider. The sentiment seemed to be that it was worthwhile to review the booklet but that it was probably likely to remain as is.]

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that

- The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan to bring forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration, along with an estimated cost for conducting the inventory.

[Note: There was some sentiment that since this recommendation was to establish a planning committee (the full text of the recommendation goes into detail about its composition and focus) that it be reworded to drop out “that the General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself” so that it simply read “that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established,” but the proposed amendment to do that failed by a vote of 47 to 74. The recommendation was then approved, 110 yes to 12 no, and a vote to reconsider failed. Before the Conference adjourned, the delegate members of the Planning Committee had already been selected and the first planning meetings were being scheduled.]

- [Note: The Policy/Admissions Committee also recommended that a lengthy procedure for submitting a Concept V minority appeal to the Conference be established, but after a very long discussion that recommendation was defeated by a vote of 12 in favor and 110 opposed. After the minority opinion, there was no motion to reconsider.]

Public Information

It was recommended that

- The 2010 television public service announcement, “My World,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee, be approved.

[Note: After the PSA was viewed, there was some concern about faces being partially identifiable. There was also a lot of discussion about the ending, but an amendment to alter it was defeated. The recommendation then passed 115 to 10.]

- The AA Video for Young People titled “Animation” be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: “For more information, search ‘Young People’ at www.aa.org.”

[Note: The original ending contained an informational frame that recommended searching for “YPAA” on the Internet. This opened up discussion about what the relationship between AA and the various YPAA committees is (which gave rise to a Floor Action that we voted later on not to consider). There was also concern that YPAA could be misused in domain names on the Internet in an effort to take advantage of vulnerable members. As a result, the recommendation was amended to read as it now does by a vote of 104 to 14, and the amended recommendation was approved by a vote of 121 to 5.]

Trustees

It was recommended that

- The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2010:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Corliss Burke
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
John Fromson, M.D.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores

Class B Trustees

Rod B
Kenneth B
Conley B
Donald C
Dorothy H
John K
Roberta L

Jo-Anne L
George M
Don Ma
Don Mi
Eleanor N
Victor P
Pamela R

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
First vice-chairperson	Jo-Anne L
Second vice-chairperson	Dorothy H
Treasurer	Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Secretary	John K

- The January 2010 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2010:

Assistant Treasurer	Donald W. Meurer
Assistant Secretary	Doug R

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

- The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA World Services Corporate Board in April 2010:

Andrea B	William N
Joe D	Victor P
Phyllis H	Doug R
Roberta L	Pam R
George M	

- The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2010:

Ginger B	Dorothy H
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.	Don Mi
Robin B	Eleanor N
Kenneth B	Albin Z
Nancy H	

[Note: There was very little debate on these four recommendations, three of which were passed unanimously. Only one no vote was cast during the voting. Last year, the discussion went on for many hours, and a small but vocal minority voted against all the various slates.]

Floor Actions

It was recommended:

- That the Conference Committee on Report and Charter's Advisory Action which read: "That *Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*" be rescinded and replaced with: "That the Publications Department work cooperatively with the Conference Committee on Report and Charter on the Final Report of the General Service Conference to ensure that all Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations are consistent in format, grammatically correct, and accurately reflect the actions of the General Service Conference."

[Note: Reaching a vote on this Floor Action was a fascinating process that required Phyllis H, who was chairing at the time, to request that the rules of order be suspended, which they were. She then asked that the makers of three separate floor actions try to work out an agreeable compromise that could be brought before the body. Eventually this was done, creating a new floor action that was then discussed and, eventually, passed by a vote of 127 to 3. The other three floor actions were then withdrawn. During the discussion, it was evident that this matter was something of a residual tug of war between the Publications Department as overseen by the AAWS Board and the Report and Charter Conference

Committee. It was Friday evening and we were running quite a bit overtime, but the discussion eventually wound down and the vote was taken without the discussion becoming heated.]

- That the revised 60th Conference draft pamphlet, “The AA Member – Medications and Other Drugs,” be returned to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

[Note: This Floor Action grew out of the failure to pass the Literature Committee’s recommendation to approve the pamphlet. In that earlier discussion, Thursday evening, there were many expressions of support and resistance to the pamphlet. Eventually we voted to end discussion and the recommendation was passed by a vote of 99 to 22. But after the minority opinions a vote to reconsider passed and discussion resumed. On revote, the recommendation couldn’t garner even a majority vote and failed, 54 in favor to 68 opposed. This was similar to what happened at the 59th Conference, and also as happened then a Floor Action was presented to return the pamphlet to the trustees’ committee for further work. There seemed to be a predominant feeling that the current batch of stories are too broad, touching on matters of recreational drugs as well as prescription drugs, and didn’t seem to have a proper focus. Nevertheless, there was also widespread feeling that the pamphlet is needed, though not with the content of the current draft version.]

COMMITTEE REPORTS: ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS OF NOTE

Conference Committee on Grapevine

- The committee discussed at length and agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that the AA Grapevine produce in the year 2011 or later:
 - › Step by Step (working title): A collection of AA Grapevine stories on the Steps.
 - › The Sponsorship Book (working title): A collection of stories on sponsorship.
 - › Staying Sober Through Adversity (working title): A collection about handling the rough patches in sobriety.

Conference Literature Committee

- The committee considered a request to define the editorial responsibility of GSO’s Publications Department and took no action. The committee expressed appreciation for the request, noting the concern for Conference-approved literature and for the Conference process, and agreed that current practices followed by GSO’s Publications Department are appropriate.

[Note: This matter seemed to be more residual of the ill will between the Conference and the Publications Department that was evident last year.]

Conference Committee on Public Information

- The committee agreed to forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on the Agenda a request to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of “Anonymity in a Digital Age.”
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee develop draft text on the topic of anonymity in a digital age for the Conference-approved pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” for review by the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee suggested that delegates utilize a variety of means, such as workshops, newsletters, panels, delegate reports, area websites, etc., to stimulate AA members’ discussion on how to maintain anonymity on online media, such as social networking sites.

[Note: This request has been shared with the officers and standing committee chairs of SENY, and we will hopefully be implementing it in some way soon.]
- The committee enthusiastically encourages continuation of the AA Videos for Young People project. They suggested that the AA Videos for Young People project submission form be listed periodically in the *AA Grapevine*, *La Viña*, and *La Vigne*.

[Note: There is a need for Spanish-language videos, and in response to a question on this matter the committee responded that some response to that need is expected soon.]

Conference Committee on Trustees

- At present, in two regions (Southeast and East Central) the elections of regional and at-large trustees occur in the same year. Since no area can submit the same person as candidate for regional and at-large trustee in the same year, the committee feels that AA members in the two regions do not have the same opportunity for participation in our service structure as they do in the other six regions. In six of the regions the same person has the opportunity to stand for both Regional and at-large trustee every four years. In the other two regions the same person has only the opportunity to stand for one of these two trustee positions every four years. Therefore, the committee requests that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore benefits and liabilities of allowing the same person to be submitted as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large at the same Conference.
- The committee discussed unplanned regional trustee vacancies that are left unfilled. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore the impact on the Boards (General Service Board, AA World Services Board and the AA Grapevine Board) if a change in regional trustee rotation were to occur, and to bring a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.
- The committee discussed unplanned Class A and General Service trustee vacancies that are left unfilled. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore the impact on the Boards (General Service Board, AA World Services Board and the AA Grapevine Board) when such vacancies occur and bring a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.

SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

Though the 60th General Service Conference did continue beyond the scheduled afternoon closing into the evening on Friday and though we did have seventeen floor actions to consider, the difference in spirit and tone from last year was palpable. For one thing, we worked cooperatively with the Chair to expedite all seventeen floor actions, and for another, we had time this year for the rotating Panel 59 delegates to say their farewells. That has been missing from the last two Conferences, and their words were heartfelt and real.

Also, Saturday morning's farewell brunch was a far cry from the bitter ending of last year's Conference. Two rotating trustees, Bill Clark (Class A) and Madeleine P (Pacific Regional), spoke with passion and humor about their experiences in service. And following the brunch an excursion to Stepping Stones took place on a sunny, warm day that was perfect for seeing where our co-founder and his wife spent their last years. Walking through the rooms of their home and seeing the pains they had taken to maximize their living space and make it an appealing environment, I realized how human they were, how human we all are. And yet, I thought, somehow a divine or spiritual thread or whatever you want to call it can be at work in our lives, and imperfect as we are, imperfect as our institutions may be, if we keep moving on, we'll get through to a better place.

I've experienced two General Service Conferences now. Both were wonderful experiences but of very different qualities. It was reassuring to see how well this general service structure Bill left for us can function under totally different conditions. Last year amidst the openness to a vocal minority, I at times feared for the unity of AA; this year amidst the openness of us all to our love for AA, I rejoiced in it.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

*Richard S
Panel 59, Area 49 (South-East New York) Delegate*

NOTE: These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 60TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 60th General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Floor Action

It was recommended that:

1. The request for development of procedures for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference, be recommitted to the General Service Board, taking into account considerations expressed during the 2010 General Service Conference, and forward a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.
2. The revised 60th Conference draft pamphlet, “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs,” be returned to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
3. The request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix” be recommitted to the trustees’ Finance Committee and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Finance.
4. The Conference Committee on Report and Charter's Advisory Action which read:

“That *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.”

Be rescinded and replaced with:

“That the Publications Department work cooperatively with the Conference Committee on Report and Charter on the Final Report of the General Service Conference to ensure that all Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations are consistent in format, grammatically correct, and accurately reflect the actions of the General Service Conference.” [See Advisory Action #33]

Agenda

It was recommended that:

5. The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: “We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let it Begin With Us.”
6. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2011 General Service Conference:
 - a) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:
 1. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
 2. Carrying A.A.’s Message Online
 3. Grapevine – “A.A.’s Meeting in Print” and More . . .
 - b) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:
 1. Self-Support – Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
 2. Humility – Accepting the Group Conscience
 3. An Informed Group Conscience – Using the Three Legacies
 - c) Diversity in A.A.:
 1. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
 2. The Hand of A.A. – Inclusive Never Exclusive
 3. Tradition Five – Our Primary Purpose

- d) Sponsorship:
1. Importance of a Home Group
 2. Leading by Example – Attraction Not Promotion
 3. Recovery, Unity, Service

7. The following be the workshop topic for the 2011 General Service Conference: “How to Increase Participation in A.A. – Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs.”

Archives¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Corrections

It was recommended that:

8. The pamphlet “Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities” be revised so that the sentence “Obey the rules of the facility you are visiting” is replaced with the following text:

“Deciding to participate in Corrections Twelfth Step work is an important individual decision. A.A. members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities, and fully understand and be willing to comply with all rules/regulations prior to commencing such work.”

9. The pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” be revised so that the last sentence on page 4 under the heading “Policy Meetings” that previously read:

“Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which A.A. visitors may attend these meetings.”

Will now read:

“Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which visiting A.A. members may attend these meetings, including any required volunteer orientation and forms that must be completed.”

10. The pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be revised so that the following two sentences are added to the end of the first paragraph under “Inmate Groups”:

“Since regulations *can and do vary*, A.A. members will need to be specifically informed about the rules/regulations of each facility they will enter. To that end, good communication between corrections administrators and local A.A. committees is essential.”

Finance

It was recommended that:

11. The following be added to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” where appropriate:

Q. Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine?

A. No. A.A. Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.

12. In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading “How can groups participate?” in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”; the second sentence “(*rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,...*)” be changed to read “(*for example: rent, refreshments, A.A. and A.A. Grapevine literature,...*)”
13. The trustees’ Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

14. La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:
 - Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year, beginning in 2011, followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
 - Content and substance be of primary importance.
 - An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.

It was recommended:

15. To the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board that, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:
 - What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
 - How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
 - What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
 - What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

Note: Responses are to be submitted to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board by 12/31/2010 and included as background material for the 2011 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Literature

It was recommended that:

16. The revised pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be approved.
17. The trustees’ Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
18. The paragraph regarding closed meetings on page 22 of the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.,” which reads:

“A closed meeting is limited to members of the local A.A. group or visiting members from other groups. The purpose of the closed meetings is to give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics.”

Be replaced with:

“A closed meeting is for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking. Closed meetings give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics.”

19. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services” to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
20. The trustees' Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

21. Donna G, alternate delegate, Area 33, Southeast Michigan, be seated as a Conference member at the 60th General Service Conference because Derek D, the Panel 59 delegate for Area 33, resigned.
22. Angel C and Carlos H from the General Service Board of Venezuela be admitted to the 60th General Service Conference as observers.
23. The 63rd General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 2013 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.
24. The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan to bring forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration, along with an estimated cost for conducting the inventory.

Composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee

The composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee (CIPC) will have a proportional representation similar to the General Service Conference including delegates, trustees, a non trustee director, a G.S.O. staff member and a Grapevine staff member.

Selection of eligible delegates shall include those not elected as chair of a Conference committee who are willing and able to serve. The Conference Inventory Planning Committee will consist of 17 individuals with representation as follows:

11 Panel 60 Delegates

Alternate Conference delegate chair

Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Agenda

One delegate from each region for a total of 8 to be chosen by lot by the chair of the General Service Board, the G.S.O. Conference coordinator and the Conference delegate chair.

Trustees, Directors and Staff

One Class B regional trustee

One Class B general service trustee who will serve as chair of the committee

One Class A trustee

One Non-trustee director

One G.S.O. staff person
One Grapevine staff person

The trustees, non trustee director and G.S.O./Grapevine staff will be appointed by the chair of the General Service Board.

A G.S.O. staff member, appointed by the G.S.O. general manager, will serve as the non voting secretary to the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and coordinate committee meeting schedules and correspondence.

As a resource for the development of an inventory plan, the Conference Inventory Planning Committee will use the background, recommendations, questions and summary of suggestions contained in the report of the February 2, 2009 trustees' subcommittee on "Discussion of the Proposal for a General Service Conference Inventory" and the January 6, 2010 report of the trustees' subcommittee on "Developing a Plan for the General Service Conference to Conduct an Inventory of Itself," along with any additional, related background material the committee may deem appropriate.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

25. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.
26. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
27. The following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," under Facts About Anonymity on page 10, to read as follows:

"A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still-living A.A. members should be respected in obituaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice."

28. The A.A. Video for Young People titled "Animation" be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: "For more information, search 'Young People' at www.aa.org."
29. The term "drying out" be replaced with "detox" and "rehabilitation" replace "sanitarium" in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer so that the phrase reads "...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services..." and the entire section reads as follows:

"What A.A. Does Not Do

"A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover...solicit members...engage in or sponsor research...keep attendance records or case histories...join "councils" or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them)...follow up or try to control its members...make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses...provide detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment... offer religious services or host/sponsor retreats... engage in education about alcohol...provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services...provide domestic or vocational counseling...accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources...provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc."

30. The trustees' Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

- 31. The General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees emeriti to *The A.A. Service Manual*.
 - 32. The Publications Department publish the Area Service Highlights in their entirety in the *Final Report*.
 - 33. *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- NOTE: Rescinded by Floor Action #4**

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

- 34. The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2010:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
 Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
 Corliss Burke
 Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
 John Fromson, M.D.
 Michele Grinberg, J.D.
 The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores

Class B Trustees

Rod B
 Kenneth B
 Conley B
 Donald C
 Dorothy H
 John K
 Roberta L
 Jo-Anne L
 George M
 Don Ma
 Don Mi
 Eleanor N
 Victor P
 Pamela R

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
First vice-chairperson	Jo-Anne L
Second vice-chairperson	Dorothy H
Treasurer	Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Secretary	John K

- 35. The January 2010 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2010:

Assistant Treasurer	Donald W. Meurer
Assistant Secretary	Doug R

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

- 36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2010:

Andrea B	William N
Joe D	Victor P

Phyllis H
Roberta L
George M

Doug R
Pam R

37. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2010:

Ginger B
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Robin B
Kenneth B
Nancy H

Dorothy H
Don M
Eleanor N
Albin Z

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

- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form with appreciation and made the following suggestions:
 - Continue the daily color coding of the Evaluation Form.
 - Add the date to each page
 - Bold Presentation Topics and Report Headings

Conference Committee on Archives

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and accepted the revisions, including a minor change to the Photocopying Policy and new language to the section "What to Collect?," intended to provide more detailed information on the development of collection procedures for local use.
- The committee requested that the section "Role of the Archives Committee" in the Archives Workbook be revised to include:
 - Suggested archives committees activities, to encourage interest in, and understanding of, the role and benefit of archives committees at the local level, for example: archives workshops, traveling exhibits, presentations and seeking out historical material from longtime A.A. members.
 - Information for archives committees on how to implement, establish and support local archives.
- The committee accepted the report from the trustees' Archives Committee on the Feasibility of Developing a Self-guided Tour of G.S.O.'s Archives. The report included information from the archivist on the new Digital Archives Exhibit, which will be launched on the Archives portal of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
 - The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities gather sharing from the Fellowship on the need to develop a sample format for one-on-one C.P.C. contact with professionals for inclusion in the C.P.C. Workbook.
 - The first bullet on page 14 in the C.P.C. Workbook, be revised to read: "Consider showing videos such as the C.P.C. video 'A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community', 'Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous', 'A.A. Videos for Young People,' at this point, or other videos appropriate for the audience."
 - The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a service piece with Class A trustees' shared experiences emphasizing the value found in the continued use of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.
 - The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a sample letter which reinforces the value to professionals of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne as well as providing information on how the recipient may subscribe to the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.
- The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider creating a process by which professionals attending national C.P.C. exhibits can request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.

- The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider adding to the "About A.A." postal card a question to allow professionals to request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.
- The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities discuss developing a method by which appropriate C.P.C. pamphlets and other materials may be consolidated on cost effective digital media such as CD and DVD in order to be distributed to professionals.

Conference Committee on Corrections

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." The committee expressed its sincere thanks for the work already done on this revision, and encouraged the trustees' committee to consider the following criteria when updating photos, as per the 2009 Advisory Action:
 - photos reflecting the principle of attraction
 - photos that convey the varieties of age, ethnicity, gender, culture and beliefs that our Fellowship so richly enjoys.
 - visual aspects other than photos (i.e., graphics, illustrations, etc.)
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents and requested that the staff member continue to gather sharing on local solutions A.A. members may use to resolve perceived differences between facility rules/regulations and what A.A. is and is not.
- The committee reviewed changes to the Corrections Workbook and Corrections Guidelines forwarded by the trustees' Committee on Corrections and requested that applicable changes reflect updated language in Conference-approved literature.
- The committee discussed discrepancies in the contents of the French language Corrections Workbook and suggested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections undertake an inventory of the contents of the Corrections Workbook in all three languages, and take appropriate steps to ensure consistency of content in these publications.

The committee also suggested that "missing" sections be translated as soon as possible and be made available as addendums until current inventory is depleted.

- The committee discussed at length the importance of having the Composition, Scope and Procedure for a particular Conference committee available in French or Spanish for any Conference committee member whose native language is not English.

Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee reviewed and discussed input from the Fellowship concerning the 2009 Conference Advisory Action that the Trustees' Finance Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following: (1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit? (2) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions? The committee recognized that the majority of the sharing of the Fellowship was not in favor of a limit. The committee does not recommend that a specific limit should be placed on the use of literature profits to fund services. From all input gathered, the committee found that the Fellowship agrees with the Trustee's policy on self support which was affirmed at the 2009 Conference:

Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous

The A.A. spiritual principle of self-support enables us to pursue our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic with a shared sense of responsibility for

our lifesaving work and without interference or financial dependence on outsiders. 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. We hope that the day will come when AA groups and members, through their contributions, will be able to fund fully the services provided by the General Service Office. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a prudent reserve fund.

- The committee believes that more effective communication to the Fellowship as a whole is key to achieving this ideal and the committee has made recommendations to that end.
- The committee discussed additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about Self-Support and forwards the following list of items to the 2011 Conference Finance Committee for further discussion:
 1. Birthday Plan
 2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet
 3. Box 459 or Grapevine Articles
 4. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit
 5. Report Costs of Services to Members
 6. Discuss Effects of Inflation
 7. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web Site

Conference Committee on Grapevine

- The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board's History of Advisory Actions Report pertaining to the relationship between the A.A. Grapevine Board, A.A. Grapevine office and the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine with appreciation and encourages this ongoing partnership and the continuation of the quarterly Conference Committee calls with the Board and office, along with all of the Board's recommendations in the Report, especially the Board's recommendation for an annual report to the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook and suggested that electronic updates be made to outdated material, while still preserving a digital version of the historic document, and these updates should be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
- The committee discussed at length and agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2011 or later:
 - Step by Step (working title): A collection of AA Grapevine stories on the Steps.
 - The Sponsorship Book (working title): A collection of stories on sponsorship.
 - Staying Sober Through Adversity (working title): A collection about handling the rough patches in sobriety.

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

- The committee heard reports on the upcoming International Convention:
 - Over 37,000 people have registered for the Convention so far. About half of those have pre-purchased the souvenir edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* and the Special Issue of the Grapevine magazine.
 - Preparations are in place for the anonymity-protected broadcast of the Friday night Flag Ceremony. Invitations have already been sent to many of the flag bearers who were selected at random from registered A.A. members from each country.
 - For the second time, registration for an International Convention was made available online. While paper communications continue in order to make sure everyone has access to International Convention information, a large percentage of our attendees registered and made housing reservations online.

- Notices are being included in Convention materials and meeting formats to emphasize A.A.'s anonymity Traditions to attendees.
- Efforts are being made to insure that attendees are prepared for the Convention experience, and understand the challenges of weather and of getting around very large facilities.
- The committee reviewed the report from trustees' Committee on the site-selection procedure for International Conventions, and expressed gratitude for the trustees' committees' willingness to continue to review and improve the process.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Forums and attract first-time attendees and suggested the following:
 - Create local flyers to carry the message about future Forums in the region.
 - Utilize electronic communication from the areas to the Fellowship.
 - Share about the Forum Orientation for first-time Forum attendees.
 - Encourage members to bring others, such as sponsees, along to Forums.
 - Coordinate fun "road trips" to Forums – "Fill the car; bring them all!"
 - Share the Forum experience with others and with enthusiasm.
 - Attraction, attraction, attraction!

Conference Literature Committee

- The committee considered a request to define the editorial responsibility of G.S.O.'s Publications Department and took no action. The committee expressed appreciation for the request, noting the concern for Conference-approved literature and for the Conference process, and agreed that current practices followed by G.S.O.'s Publications Department are appropriate.
- The committee considered a request that the video, "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised and updated and took no action. The committee noted that there was no widely expressed need for a new video and that the information in the video was still relevant and useful in describing the A.A. service structure.
- The committee considered a request to develop a book on the history of "early pioneer women in A.A." and took no action. The committee expressed appreciation for the request but considered that there was not a widely expressed need for a Conference-approved book on the history of early pioneer women in A.A.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

No Additional Committee Considerations

Conference Committee on Public Information

- The committee agreed to forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on the Agenda a request to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of "Anonymity in a Digital Age."

2009 Annual Web site Report

- The committee reviewed the 2009 Annual Report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, noted that the Web site seemed to be very well managed, and appreciated that numerous steps previously required to get an item placed on the Web site have been stream-lined.

Public Service Announcements

- The committee suggested that particular consideration be given to developing a more effective distribution of Spanish and French language public service announcements to Spanish and French language stations, including exploring possible assignment of telecaster numbers to older public service announcements in Canada.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. TV public service announcements and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that found them all to be relevant and useful.

- The committee assessed the need for a new A.A. TV public service announcement and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that none was needed at this time. However, the committee recognized the need to have a public service announcement tracked and distributed on a yearly basis.

The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider developing a plan to redistribute and track an older A.A. T.V. public service announcement in the years when a new public service announcement is not being distributed.

Literature

- The committee suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee replace the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the service piece "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" with the revised "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of "A.A. at a Glance."

Anonymity

- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee develop draft text on the topic of anonymity in a digital age for the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" for review by the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee develop an answer to the question "What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?" for inclusion in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" as a new second question and answer in the section "Some questions and answers about anonymity/ personal anonymity" on page 7. The draft text will be brought back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee suggested that delegates utilize a variety of means, such as workshops, newsletters, panels, delegate reports, area websites, etc., to stimulate A.A. members' discussion on how to maintain anonymity on online media, such as social networking sites.
- The committee discussed the "A.A. Guideline on the Internet" and suggested that it be more prominently placed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

A.A. Videos for Young People Project

- The committee expressed gratitude for the obvious time and commitment on the part of the trustees' Public Information Committee to the A.A. Videos for Young People Project and agreed with the trustees' suggestions that:
 - Use and distribution of videos from the A.A. Videos for Young People Project, including those already approved by the Conference, will be at the discretion of the trustees' Public Information Committee.
 - The trustees' Public Information Committee may group similar items, stream individual or multiple items on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, create DVD compilations, and produce video loops for use at CPC events.
 - All video submissions that are not used in their entirety, with permission, will be kept on file at GSO and may be edited for inclusion in future young people's video projects.
- The committee enthusiastically encourages continuation of the A.A. Videos for Young People Project. They suggested that the A.A. Videos for Young People Project submission form be listed periodically in the A.A. *Grapevine*, *La Viña*, and *La Vigne*.

Public Information Kit

The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook and suggested that an issue of the A.A. *Grapevine*, *La Viña*, or *La Vigne* be added to the contents of the kit.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- The committee reviewed a report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual* 2010-2011 Edition, and suggested two changes to the process.

- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A. Grapevine Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the General Service Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publications Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and added additional updates.
- The committee agreed to add the sentence, “The Report and Charter Committee has reviewed and accepted these changes.” to the note on the bottom of the page in *The A.A. Service Manual* that lists annual changes to the Manual (currently on page S123, 2009-2010 Edition).
- The committee considered a request to (a) publish and distribute *The A.A. Service Manual* every other year and in years not produced, distribute a supplement of changes, and (b) publish the A.A. directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published and took no action. The committee noted the importance of publishing *The A.A. Service Manual* annually and that it be as current and accurate as possible.
- The committee considered a request that *The A.A. Service Manual* “be reprinted only as necessary and consider publishing every three to five years with changes being sent as inserts to existing manuals,” and took no action.
- The committee considered a request to gather sharing from the Fellowship concerning the general nature of *The A.A. Service Manual* and took no action. The committee agreed that there was no widely expressed need for this sharing.
- The committee agreed to add the text “(see Chapter Eleven)” in the paragraph under the heading *Tools Available from G.S.O.* in Chapter One in *The A.A. Service Manual* so that the sentence reads: “They are designed to show groups the kind of help that is offered to groups everywhere by G.S.O., and thus get more people interested in service activity (see Chapter Eleven).”
- The committee considered a request to place *Additional Committee Considerations, Recommendations That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* and *Floor Actions That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* following the Advisory Actions in the Conference *Final Report*, and took no action. The committee agreed that the current placement in the *Final Report* continues to work well.

Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

- The committee reviewed and accepted the progress report from the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities regarding the proposed Special Needs recovery pamphlet and requested that:
 - In the first paragraph, second sentence under the proposed introduction “Do You Have a Drinking Problem?” other language be considered that is more special needs focused.
 - In all aspects of pamphlet development, the use of language that is inclusive of a wide variety of special needs be continued.
- The committee considered a suggestion to change the name of “Treatment Facilities” Committee to “Treatment” Committee and took no action. The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities forward to the 2011 Conference

Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities background which would include details regarding the impact of such a name change on, among other things: titles of relevant A.A. literature; contents of relevant A.A. literature; and the focus of A.A. service committee work.

- The committee considered two locally created Bridging the Gap forms (one for treatment clients and one for A.A. members willing to serve as temporary contacts) and requested that the trustees develop and include sample forms in the Treatment Facilities Workbook, taking into consideration exemplars from other local committees.
- Upon review of the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook, the committee suggested that the following changes/additions be made where fiscally feasible:
 - The DVD *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be added in a hole-punched vinyl sleeve instead of in the current jewel box casing.
 - The Young People's videos be included in the Kit as a suggested tool for use with young people in treatment.
 - That suggestions for use of the two DVDs and the A.A. Grapevine be included in the Kit.
 - That changes be made in the Treatment Facilities Workbook to reflect that the A.A. message is carried to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, including outpatient settings.
- Upon review of the Special Needs Kit and Workbook, the committee suggested that:
 - The Kit be incorporated in a three-ring binder instead of the current pocket folder to achieve parity with other service Kits.
 - Shared experience with carrying the A.A. message to those with less visible challenges such as illiteracy, autism, etc., be gathered and added to the Special Needs Workbook when feasible.

Conference Committee on Trustees

- The committee agreed to forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Report and Charter a request to clarify language and resolve inconsistencies in the *A.A. Service Manual* regarding nominating a regional trustee and a trustee-at-large candidate in the same year. They reviewed Conference Advisory Actions regarding this matter and suggested the following language which reflects the policy decisions in those actions.

On page S65 of the *2009-2010 Edition of the A.A. Service Manual* in the Regional Trustee Elections Procedures replace:

“2. Two Conference Actions should be kept in mind. In 1977, the Conference recommended that a delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference. And in 1983, it was recommended that 'no area shall submit and individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.'”

With:

“2. Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference.”

On page S67 of the *2009-2010 Edition of the A.A. Service Manual* in the Trustees-at-Large Election Procedure replace:

“In the areas, the same procedure used in selecting a regional trustee candidate is followed. No area should submit the same name for regional and at-large trustee in the same year.”

With:

“Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference.”

NOTE: When these changes are made to *the A.A. Service Manual* the committee would ask that the trustees' Committee on Nominating consider using similar language in Procedure No. 11 "Procedure For Electing Regional Trustee Candidates in the U.S. and Canada" and No. 12 "Procedures For Electing A Candidate For Trustee-At-Large-U.S. or Canada."

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Pacific and Eastern Canada regional trustee.
- The committee reviewed their Composition, Scope and Procedure and updated the reference to "Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities" found in their Scope to "Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities."
- At present, in two regions (Southeast and East Central) the elections of regional and at-large trustees occur in the same year. Since no area can submit the same person as candidate for regional and at-large trustee in the same year, the committee feels that A.A. members in the two regions do not have the same opportunity for participation in our service structure as they do in the other six regions. In six of the regions the same person has the opportunity to stand for both Regional and at-large trustee every four years. In the other two regions the same person has only the opportunity to stand for one of these two trustee positions every four years. Therefore, the committee requests that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore benefits and liabilities of allowing the same person to be submitted as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large at the same Conference.
- The committee discussed unplanned regional trustee vacancies that are left unfilled. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore the impact on the Boards (General Service Board, A.A. World Services Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board) if a change in regional trustee rotation were to occur, and to bring a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.
- The committee discussed unplanned Class A and General Service trustee vacancies that are left unfilled. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore the impact on the Boards (General Service Board, A.A. World Services Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board) when such vacancies occur and bring a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.

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