

## Delegate's Report of the 62nd General Service Conference

Before I begin, I would like to thank the entire panel, all the GSR's DCM's, Section leaders and Committee chairs as the body of the assembly that has allowed me to represent Area 45 as their Delegate to the 62nd General Service Conference. I would also like to give special thanks to our Alternate Delegate Joe McA. For ensuring me that I would attend the conference **by any means necessary**, and to our treasurer Dave MacD. For the beautiful edible arrangement that met me at the hotel shortly after my arrival. And, I must say thank you to our Past Delegate and now our GSR Orientation Chair, Elaine McA. for keeping me company and taking the many pictures that you will see today, her help was tremendous, and I appreciate it very much.

In this report today, I will try to convey the experience of what I saw, what I heard and felt during Conference week, which occurred April 21, until April 28, 2012. I am still amazed at the fact that I was able to attend a gathering composed of alcoholics such as this to address concerns of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

After my arrival at the hotel, in Rye Brook, New York our first meeting was held with the Remote Communities. This is where I first met my conference buddy , Deborah De B. delegate for Area 61 Southeast Texas. She was busy helping and assisting our sister area, Delegate Wayne R. from Area 44 in Northern New Jersey. Wayne was the chairperson, for the Remote Communities Committee.

At this pre-conference workshop, we learn that remote communities deal with language, geography, or culture. It is defined as any community that may have barriers. That is, barriers of language, geography, or culture. Any of these may *not* be visible or apparent to our membership especially those members who are in service. Example, ASL- American Sign Language. A main reason for individuals not reaching remote communities is due to "Small groups equals small contributions". Several points were expressed by the other Delegates, and one, especially important point was "not all trusted servant have the ability to visit far away groups or sections and we may not be reaching all communities". We also need to know where to look, in order to find the barriers of the population within remote

communities. Some of the remedies suggested include traveling assistance, or having someone in that section deliver much-needed 12-step work, someone who spoke the language if the barrier happens to be language, or of the same culture if that happens to be a barrier. It was also noted, that we are required as Delegates to represent Areas. The sole purpose, is to reach the alcoholic who still suffers.

The state of Maine has two assembly/committee meetings per year, and these meetings are acquired through the bidding process. Area 78 has established travel assistance for its' trusted servants. We must respect that some groups do not register or participate in GSO. We ask, but we never wrestle people into service. I make note of this simply because, the distance that we travel in our area ( Area 45) is nowhere as far apart as some other areas. The Delegate from a section in Canada, spoke of how she had to fly to her different sections for the purpose of Assembly meetings. Kathy G. from South Florida went from South Florida to the Bahamans, the Virgin Islands, and Antigua...*Boy What a Trip!!*

It was expressed at this meeting, that there is a large amount of apathy within the Fellowship. This is also another reason why money problems usually result in lower contributions.

Our next meeting to be held for Saturday evening, **The Conference Experience:**

Delegates from Panel 61 highlighted and pointed out that the week will go fast, it was expressed that most of the time, we will alternate between being **confident** and then start feeling **inadequate**, and both go together! It is important to **eat ,rest, and pray!**

Monday and Tuesday, there will be sharing sessions, it is important to note that you should go to the microphone early.

The business side! Responsibility to see that everything is within the **traditions.**

**Self-support and primary purpose!**

Financially, we must be able to put information into the hands of those who are still suffering. We need to check the steps. Try to find ways to accept the younger alcoholic now coming in, anonymity being important with the

older alcoholic, but also keeping the young people active within the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. There is a plan that will be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

### **Sunday, April 22, 2012**

Delegates from the Northeast, held their meeting in the John B. room. Brunch was served. Then items were discussed that pertain to the week ahead.

#### **1 PM-Grand ballroom:**

First addressee, Ward E., where he expressed that we should be treating this week like we would be working with the family. We may disagree but we must respect others opinions.

Then there was a reading from "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age" pg. 224. "We stand on the brink of a momentous decision. It is one of the most solemn hours in which this society will ever live, for we are about to confirm its permanent structure". Some of us are to brag of the virtues of our fellowship, these are not earned virtues they have been forced on us by the cruel lash of John Barleycorn. The practices and the structure of our Fellowship are not because we want them to be that way, the practices are because they have to be that way. Today we stand willing to confirm permanently and gladly to the principles which experience, under the Grace of God, has taught us.

Then there was a session on Policy and Admission. We were asked to allow the seating of an Alternate delegate, from Canada and two observers from India's General Service Board. The vote was unanimous.

The next order of business was the **Roll Call**. This is where 94 Delegates responded with the words present or here, and 7 class A trustees and 14 class B trustees. The average age of the conference was 57 years, the oldest 75, the youngest 34. The average length of sobriety was 20 years the longest length was 39 years and the shortest length of sobriety was 10 years. The average length of service was 16 years , the longest length of service 28 years and the shortest length of service six years.

Right after roll call, a Delegate put a motion on the floor, with emphasis on the letter from Ward E., (requesting support of the general service for to develop a plan to restructure the current Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., corporate governance structure while retaining the Grapevine independent editorial voice). The motion was to allow General Service board to defer the issues concerning the Grapevine board.

Background information: What was the intent and what were the issues and concepts that concern the trustees? The trustees want to hear from the conference body. There were precedents for this action in 1992 in response to the survey. The trustees presented revised concerns on copyright and trademark issues. The major concern for the board; what is the best way to bring their concerns to the conference (see p.104 service manual)? As a body, we should take no action that will affect A.A. as a whole without conferring to the conference.

Alternative suggestion: On Monday! Letter reading **before floor actions**.

This came from the trustees then it goes back. The committee says, Grapevine issues are outside of the scope (only to review, not change), **the service manual indicates the trustees to view the plan not the conference**. As a compromise GSO board announced motion will be heard mid- way the conference, instead of hearing the motion after all floor action had been addressed..motion defeated.

This being an important issue for the body of the conference, and how contentious this issue could be ...I noticed how the Traditions were at work.

After the first meeting in the Grand Ballroom, the Delegates assembled with their various committees. This would be the first, and only meeting with the seven Trustees of the Corrections Committee. Each member was introduced by our secretary Tracey O., who is a staff member at GSO. The Chairperson of the Trustees' committee, Donald C., delivered the trustees' report on Corrections. Our Committee chairperson Debbie A. Panel 61, Delegate from Puyallup, Washington, reviewed the composition of the committee, the scope and procedures. The scope of this committee, will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot, of their own free will, seek A.A. help. It was also agreed that we would use a majority vote when making decision that required a vote.

Monday and Tuesday morning, the different conference committees, met in their respective conference committee rooms.

The task of my committee was to review the trustees committee report, review the revisions of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell". Consider revisions to the pamphlet a "Message to Corrections Professionals. Consider a possible remake of the 1987 video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell". Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook, and other subjects.

**Monday, April 23, 2012**

### **Corrections**

The first day of committee meetings. The Chairperson Debbie A., introduced the various items that we were to discuss, recommend ,or consider. The committee agreed that the voting process should be a simple majority. There were five committee members on panel 61 and four from panel 62. We would also meet on Tuesday morning as well, for a continuation of the discussion on recommendations from the Trustees. Agenda-trustees report: accept the "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell"-stories were submitted from inmates, and selected 15 stories out of ninety, the Trustees suggested stories that spoke to "How They Got Sober Behind The Wall".

It was recommended that:

1) the revised draft pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell" be approved.  
2) the pamphlet " a message to corrections professionals" be revised with the following changes:

**a)** Replace the first Paragraph under this section "Release and paroles" with the following paragraph:

one point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are incarcerated. The answer is that the A.A. program is far more than staying away from alcohol. A.A. has been called a way of life, and it's success for groups that meet while in custody show that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life both while in custody and after release.

**b)** Change the title of the section currently called "Release and paroles" to "Re-entry and Parole."

c) The current statement regarding "Singleness of Purpose" in the last paragraph, which reads:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency". Non- alcoholics, therefore, are sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend close meetings.

The revision with the wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet " the A.A. group" on page 13, to read as follows:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency". Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as **observers**, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings.

The trustees Corrections Committee developed a draft replacement for the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals" to be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections.

The corrections committee recommended that the video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be remade in order to accurately reflect current day life in correctional facilities, while retaining the original message and intent consistent with A.A. traditions, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000. (This recommendation did not carry).

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

The committee reviewed with the appreciation the work of the trustees Committee on Corrections with regards to the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and will forwarded a list of suggested changes in the Workbook to the Publications Department.

It is with deep gratitude and honor, that I as your Delegate will also serve you as Corrections Chair to the 63rd General Service Conference.

**Monday April 23,2012**

**Committee Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

**Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities**

**A)** Take out “Uncle Sam is not gonna come in and bail us out” implies association. Canadian government does not have a “Uncle Sam” All three translations--\$9,000 for all three (motion failed)

**B)** Recommend pamphlet for Treatment Special Needs & Accessibilities

Create pamphlet for mental illness—not enough support from fellowship to create a new pamphlet for “special needs, individual barrier, would pamphlet be more helpful?

GSO has put out a call for stories, this request falls short.., and the question is, What is desired for a new pamphlet?

Self Diagnoses? What are we trying to solve? What are we trying to do?

The Conference Committee Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the Trustees on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities on April 22, 2012. The committee reviewed the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous, and **recommended** that one line of dialogue "Uncle Sam is not gonna come in and bail us out" be added the next time it is reprinted at the cost of approximately \$9000.

The recommendation failed.

**B)** Discuss the development of a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.

This committee recommended that the pamphlet "A.A. For the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be expanded to include additional stories of alcoholics with mental illness collected from the Fellowship, and that the trustees Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities bring a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities.

This recommendation also failed

Area 45 also introduced a floor action for the development of a pamphlet, for the alcoholic with mental illness. We withdrew because a friendly delegate from Area 79, made a more detailed floor action.

Scott ., Panel 61 Area 79 also made an additional floor action . Stated, that the trustees Committee on Literature development a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness, with a progress report to be provided to the 2013 Conference Committee or Literature with suggestions for content of the pamphlet including breadth and scope of the pamphlet. Because of our third legacy, with two thirds or simple majority this measure did not pass the vote was 76 for 48 against it was a needed of 84 in order to pass.

As we will see a little later on, in the floor actions there was a lengthy discussion about this recommendation, Recommendation did not carry.

### **Additional committee considerations:**

The committee expressed concern about the French translation of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous regarding the exact translation of the direct quote read from the translated big books and for background distraction in the video.

In reviewing the workbook there was a request to remove redundant information it can't follow by minor changes founded the workbook and can't be satisfactory for use by local committees. The committee suggested the following changes for Special Needs/Accessibilities workbook and kit.

1) Suggestion on page 10 of special needs/accessibility workbook under the section "Activities since suggested for committees gather local information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options"

2) The committee is hopeful that a AAWS will format the pamphlet for the alcoholic with special needs, for those who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges as soon as possible as requested in a 2011 Committee Consideration.

### **Safety in AA Our Common Welfare by local sources**

#### **Monday Afternoon April 23,2012 General Sharing and Grapevine Report.**

The opening reading came from "A Member's Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous"p.25 the reading gives a comparison of a cable car ride. It goes on to say "this is what A.A. has been. We hope it would always be the same for others: a ridiculously simple, jerry-built, noisy, planking but sturdy,

fiercely love, and curious kind of vehicle that had me and all its other passengers to turn it around and ourselves around so that all of us go back up the hill we had just come back, back up to where we could once again see the bridge the bridge to normal living".

## **Grapevine**

The conference committee on the A.A. Grapevine met jointly with the A.A. Grapevine's Corporate Board on April 22, 2012, and received reports from the Board Chairman and the Executive Editor Publisher. The committee also met separately two times following the joint meeting and consider the following agenda items.

A) Consider proposal for A.A. Grapevine's audio strategy.

This item was not carried by the conference Delegates.

B) Consider "Sunset" proposal for Grapevine items.

The committee recommended that Grapevine Inc., carry out the Sunset proposal for Grapevine items. The Sunset proposal is a plan to phase out older and slow-moving Grapevine items and archived them digitally or make them available in another format.

The conference voted unanimously to accept this proposal.

### **The final recommendation:**

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Boards development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. corporate and governance structures. The plan may among other things, addressed a separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

(There was much discussion about this wording and phasing. This was the final agreed verbiage of the seated delegates)

**Tuesday April 24, 2012**

On Tuesday morning, it was the second meeting of the Conference Committee, on Corrections, to complete the discussion of the previous day. Make recommendations, and prepare to deliver our report. Tuesday afternoon, panel 62 delegates delivered Area Service Highlights.

Prior to the beginning of the afternoon session we had a reading from Dr. Bob's nightmare, Alcoholics Anonymous, p 180-181. It reads, "I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly . I do it for four reasons:

- 1) Sense of duty
- 2) It is a pleasure
- 3) Because in doing, I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
- 4) Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip.

Tuesday afternoon your Delegate gave her Area Highlights, very, very nervous, I was afraid that I would run out of time. When you come to the microphone, after you introduce yourself, you have two minutes..two minutes only. This was an exciting experience. Too face 92 other delegates, total of 21 class A and class B trustees plus GSO staff members, lets you know what you are made of, and really lets a person know where she stands. Prior to this day, I had often questioned myself if I had the ability or guts to be associated with such distinguished and knowledgeable people, Alcoholics and non-alcoholics.

### **Wednesday April 25, 2012**

Wednesday morning after breakfast , the Delegates were assigned to different conference rooms with the same topic. The discussion centered on **Safety in AA Our Common Welfare**

#### **What do we do about?**

- Questions: 1) Conduct that disrupts the meeting
- 2) Illegal Activity

3) Inappropriate behavior towards new members ( e.g. 13 Stepping)

4) Emergencies ( injury/accidents/fire/etc)

1) How can we make our home group a welcoming and accessible place? Most committee members agreed that as a group member we all should welcome the newcomer. The men should greet men, women should greet women .

Shake hands, introduce ourselves...There is life after drinking. Become a greeter; participate in making the package for newcomers.

Keep the meeting room clean and accessible for the handicapped.

Alcoholics should take care of alcoholics!! Nothing will replace the face to face contact...

Understand that there maybe court referred individuals.

2) Illegal activity- no group should be accepting of illegal activity. Alcoholics should take care of alcoholics!! In all things common sense should prevail, and we should not worry about breaking someone's anonymity . If one person is not safe at a meeting then no one is safe at a meeting.

3) How can sponsorship aide in keeping our meetings safe?

Explain what happens in A.A. meetings, Get a sponsor!

Point out inappropriate behavior.

There is such a thing as A.A. etiquette.

Young people need safety measures.

4) In keeping with the traditions; how does my group handle different situations, i.e. emergency, illegal activity, physical disruptions?

Respect privacy-group members should gather to tell the person of inappropriate behavior.

We must take care of each other...what we should look out for...what we should be aware of....

The focus of the group! **Traditions!** #1 Unity If they are creating dis-unity they are affecting the group.

They can be asked to leave the group...Not A.A.

Chairman should help monitor unacceptable behavior.

Concept 12...We take no punitive action!

Change: Essential to A.A.'s growth

Elections: 1) Western Canada Regional Trustee---Marty W.

2) West Central Regional Trustee---Andrew W.

On Wednesday, afternoon the final meeting of the Northeast Regional Delegates was held where we voted for NERD, 2014 and NERAASA 2015. The bidders were Area 28 Maine, who previously hosted NERD in 1989, and Area 43 New Hampshire, who previously hosted NERD in 2003. The results, Area 28 Maine will host NERD March 7 to 9th ,2014 in Freeport, Maine.

NERAASA, bidders were Northern New Jersey Area 44, and Western Pennsylvania Area 60. The results Area 44 Northern New Jersey will host NERAASA, February 20-22, 2015 in Somerset New Jersey.

Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire, Area 48 will host NERF , May 29th to 31st, 2015 in Albany New York.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

The conference committee on finance met separately two times following the joint meeting with the trustee Finance and Budgetary committee on April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustee committee and considered the following agenda items:

A. Consider suggestions to increase the conference delegate fee.

The committee considered a suggestion to increase the conference delegate fee and recommended that the annual delegates be increased from \$1200-\$1600. This motion passed.

There were other recommendations, to increase individual dollar amount of individual annual contribution, be increased from \$3000 to 5000. Also it was recommended the one time bequeath increase from the current \$3000 to 25,000 ,and the last recommendation was to allow La Vina to become self-supporting, these recommendations failed.

**Thursday April 26, 2012**

### **Report and Charter**

The Conference Committee on Report Charter met three times and considered the following agenda items:

**A)** The committee recommended that all changes to the AA service manual be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

**B)**On the spirit of rotation: The committee recommended that the following term and definition be added to: The A.A. Service Manual in chapter 1: Introduction to General Service in the section title Glossary of General Service Terms:

"Rotation-the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A. A. through changing the leadership."

**C)** Consider suggestion to replace the "STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE" illustration on page S16 with a previous version.

The committee recommends that the current description on page S16 be modified in the following manner:

Replacing the bottom section of the illustration that deals with the General Service Board and it's too operating corporations with the corresponding section from a previous version, minus the table and chair graphic.  
Changing "district committees" to "districts"

Items A, B, and C were all approved by the Conference.

#### Additional committee considerations:

- The committee accepted the report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of the *AA Service Manual 2012-2013 Edition*, and the 2012 General Service Conference Final Report.
- 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 AAWS 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 AAWS Board for the *AA Service Manual* and suggested some revision.
- 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 dates from the General Service Board for the *A.A. Service Manual*.

Other considerations, of the committee can be located in the final report of the 62nd General Service Conference.

#### **Agenda Committee**

Conference committee on agenda met separately two times following the joint meeting with the trustees committee on the General Service Conference on April 22, 2012. The committee accepts the report of the trustees committee, and considered the following agenda items.

**A)** Review suggestions for the theme of the 2013 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the theme of the 2013 General Service Conference be: "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory-Our Solution in Action".

**B)**Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2013 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference.

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a) The Triangle-More Than A Shape
- b) The GSC Inventory-Why is it Necessary?
- c) Self Support-What Does It Mean to the Fellowship?
- d) Primary Purpose-Carrying the A.A. message

**C)** Determine the inventory questions listed in the "INVENTORY PLAN", which were approved by the 2011 General Service Conference that will be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the following inventory questions listed in the inventory plan which were approved by the 2011 General Service Conference be discussed each year for 2013,2014,and 2015 General Service Conference:

All three recommendations carried.

Final Report, Inventory Plan in Final Report, in Final Conference Report-Details worked out by the Trustees

Corrections: Question of verbiage from Trustees Committee ?

Call the Question

Helping the professionals clearly understand what we DO!

Conference body wanted to take each item separately not all at once.

**Friday April 27, 2012**

**Policy & Admissions**

The conference committee on Policy/Admission met four times and considered the following agenda items.

A) Approve requests for two members from the General Service Board of India to attend the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.

The committee recommended that Satander B. (Lucky) and Daler M. from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.

B) Approve admission to the 2012 General Service Conference of Roger B. alternate delegate, area 89, Northeast Québec Canada, in place of Estelle F., 61 delegate from area 89.

The committee recommended that Roger B. alternate delegate, Area 89 Northeast, Québec Canada, be seated as a conference member at the 62nd General Service Conference because Estelle F. , Panel 61 delegate for area 89 was unable to attend.

C) Review dates for the 2015 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the 65th General Service Conference be held April 19 to the 25th 2015, since these dates do not conflict with significant holidays or hotel availability.

D) Review policy and guidelines regarding the use of personal electronic devices at the General Service Conference.

The committee record that the electronic devices at the general service conference preapproved in keeping with the "guidelines for electronic device users at the conference" as presented to the 2012 general service conference, superseding the 2004 advised of your action regarding the use of personal computers at the conference.

These items carried.

Additional committee considerations:

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and took no action. They agreed that the policy approved

by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the "right of appeal" as described in concept V--the procedure allows for a "well heard minority" to be a "chief protection against an uninformed, or misinformed, hasty or angry majority", and it makes the "best possible use of the minority feeling and opinion".

- The committee requested that the trustees of the General Service Conference review role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting International observers admission to the General Service Conference, taking into account the concerns expressed by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, and provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee. The conference committee agreed that their recommendation for approval of observers seems redundant, and this is approval could appear to be a rubber stamp of the trustees action and caution against concept VII.

(NO RUBBER STAMPING)

- Committee requested that trustees committee on the General Service Conference review the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference" on an ongoing basis and forward any updates to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their review.

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

The Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) met separately to times following the joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities on April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees committee, and considered the following agenda items:

A) Consider adding the phrase "non-alcoholics may attend as observers" to the "singleness of purpose" statement in C.P.C. literature.

The committee recommended that the current statement regarding "singleness of purpose" in C.P.C. literature which reads:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Non-alcoholics are, therefore,

sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings but only those with a drinking problem may attend close meetings."

Being revised to read as follows:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency". Non-alcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. **Non-alcoholics** may attend open AA meetings **as observers** but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings."

### **This recommendation carried**

#### **Public Information**

The conference committee on Public Information met separately five times following the Joint Meeting with the trustee's Public Information Committee on April 22, 2012. The committee appreciates the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the trustees committee work, accepted their report, and considered the following agenda items.

A) Review the final draft of the "Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey" pamphlet.

Committee expressed appreciation for the fresh, bold design and recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Members Survey minor editorial changes.

B) Consider approving the proposed Hispanic P S A., "Tengo Esperanza".

The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza," developed by the trustees Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits.

C) consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., "Tengo Esperanza" at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, as an addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza", be centrally

distributed and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of the local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2013 conference public information committee for their review.

D) consider updated text for Anonymity Wallet Card.

The committee recommend that the revised "Anonymity Wallet Card" be approved.

All four recommendations carried.

Additional committee considerations:

- The committee reviewed the report of the comprehensive media plan subcommittee from the trustees Public information committee, and expresses support for the continued development of the media plan.
- Following lengthy and thoughtful discussion related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven, the committee concluded that the spirit and principal of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately in the long form of Tradition Eleven. Recognizing that suggested changes to Tradition Eleven have come to the conference several times, the committee requested the trustees Public Information Committee gather Area sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the short form of tradition 11 in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Public information.
- The committee considered favorably the suggestion from the trustees Public Information Committee that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. Before proceeding, however the committee requested that the General Service Board explore all aspects of this social media page and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide the 2013 conference committee on Public information and implementation plan that addresses the implication of such a page, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance
- The committee reviewed the 2011 report from the trustees committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. website and noted with appreciation

the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the Website.

- The committee review with appreciation the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the "My World" public service accounts.
- The committee review all the current A.A. TV public service announcements and agree with the report of the trustee Public Information Committee that found them all the 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 was needed at this time.
- The committee considered the proposed alternative packaging for the Public Information kit and suggested that the Publications Department's continue to explore options for alternative packaging that is durable, allow for organization and containment of the kits materials.

**Literature:**

1) Consider the draft of the revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet. The committee recommended approval.

2) Consider a request to add the short form of the 12 Concepts for World Services to the book "**A Bill Sees It**"

3) Discuss a suggestion for revision of the pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service"

4) Consider the final draft of the revised *Living Sober* booklet.

Area 45's mini-conference voted unanimously voted to recommend that

a) text from the dust jacket of the 3rd edition of B/B, be added to the dust jacket of the 4th edition.

b) add the 12 concepts in short form to "**As Bill Sees It**".

5) Discuss the General Service Conference's support of the General Service Boards development of a plan to restructure the current AA Grapevine, Inc. corporate and governance structure, while retaining the Grapevine's

independent editorial voice. The plan may among other things, address the separate corporate existence of AA Grapevine, Inc., as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, have better reach, and connect the Grapevine to agenda item.

At the beginning of the conference some Delegates, wanted to discuss this issue immediately after roll call. After much discussion, it was agreed that the discussion would take place following the Floor Actions.

After floor actions, discussions and friendly amendments it was agreed upon: The General Service Conference supports the General Service Boards development of a plan to restructure the current AA World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine Inc. corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan may be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

From the Conference Literature committee it was recommended that;

- 1) The revised pamphlet *AA and the Armed Services* be approved.
- 2) The short form of the 12 concepts for world service be added to the book *As Bill Sees It*.
- 3) The final revision of the *Living Sober Booklet* with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved with minor editorial changes.
- 4) The pamphlet "*Circles of love & Service*" be revised, and requested that the trustees' Committee on Literature prepared a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 conference committee on literature.

All four items carried.

Trust the committee process. Must always consider what the is best for AA as a whole.

Concepts one and two, give complete authority, that is the authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. Concept to continues to point out the active maintenance mobile world service is made by the conference.

Concept six states the responsibility. Concepts six against state the responsibility for the maintenance of our world service and traditionally has the final decision.

There will be large issues of policy and finance. Direction is given by the groups.

(General Service board)(Grapevine board)

Committee System

Consider items before it a number of issues

And 59-delegates meet two times in each conference week, committee reaches a conclusion and presented to the conference

Two Changes Change the word movement to fellowship, movement wide to fellowship wide.

Edit language in service manual Spirit of Rotation, Conference Charter not on Agenda.

### **Archives:**

The conference archives that met separately on April 26, 2012 following the joint meeting trustees committee.

Committee considerations:

The committee reviewed the request changes to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Archives Committee and took no action. It was the sense of the committee that the requested changes were not necessary.

The committee reviewed the changes to the Archives Workbook and suggestive one minor editorial change in the "Shared Experience" section.

The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee developed a new section in the Archives Workbook on digitizing archival collections intended to provide guidance to local archivists and archives committee responsible for maintaining area or district archival collections.

There were no questions from the Delegates

### **Trustees Committee**

On this committee there were seven class a trustees, and fourteen class B trustees.

The committee recommended that the appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service board in April 2012:

Chairperson Ward B E., D.D.

First Vice-Chairperson Pam R.

Second Vice-Chairperson Michele G., J.D.

Treasurer Terrance M. B., FACHE

Secretary El N.

Prior to agreeing on the wording in the letter we had six floor actions , to be taken care of before the conference would be adjourned.

### **Floor Action #1**

I request the development of a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.

Submitted by area 45 delegate panel 62

(delegate withdrew, due to detailed floor action of number five)

### **Floor Action #2,**

I move that the limit on one time bequeaths for AA numbers to the general service board be increase from \$3000 to 5000. Did not carry.

Submitted by Lela M. Areas 7 Panel 62

### **Floor Action #3**

Is to change the question: (1) what more could be done to ensure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship concerning financial condition? Based on the 2011 financial report

given, we didn't know where we stood as far as projections. 2013 section G question #3. (Conference declined to hear, no debate!)

Submitted by

Deborah D. Area 67, Panel 61

**Floor Action #4**

GSC recommends the general service port form a subcommittee comprised of all stakeholders to develop a plan to address publication, distribution and finances of living near with the objective of self-support by 12/31/2015. (Declined to hear, for 78 against the five, does not carry)

**Floor action #5**

The trustee committee on literature develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness, with a progress report to be provided to the 2013 conference committee on literature with suggestions for content of the pamphlet, including breadth and scope of the pamphlet.

Submitted by

Scott H. area 79 Panel 61

(required two thirds 76 for, 48 against , does not carry) needed 84.

**Floor Action #6**

The pamphlet "AA THE ARMED SERVICES " include the subtitle "non-left behind". (Required two thirds 73 for, 45 against, does not carry) needed 84.

Submitted by

Rod B.

Pacific Regional Trustee

**Final Order of business: (This could be counted as floor action #7)**

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Boards development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Service Inc. and AA Grapevine Inc. corporate and governance structure. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as its

use of governance and operations. The plan will be found to increase unity, the better reach and connect the General Service office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be cemented to the 63rd Gen. service conference for prior to implementation.

Approval April 27, 2012