

## **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 considered the request from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling for the 2013 Conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C.
- The committee also noted that for the General Service Conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015, there will be no solicitation for Workshop topics since the Conference Plan specifies that the time allotted for Conference Workshops during Conference week will be replaced with Inventory Group meetings to discuss Inventory questions.
- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and suggested that the Pre-Conference section of the Evaluation be separated from the Sunday section of the form.

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

- The committee reviewed the request for 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 suggested one minor editorial change in the "Shared Experiences" section.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop a new section in the Archives Workbook on digitizing archival collections intended to provide guidance to local archivists and archives committees responsible for maintaining Area or District archival collections.

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

### **Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community Conference**

- The committee discussed the report on replacing the current "A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community" DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material and reviewed the draft product of the replacement DVD.

The committee accepted the report with appreciation and felt that a new compilation DVD was not needed for some of the following reasons:

- a. The list of suggested existing materials seemed limited and was already available on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site.
  - b. When communicating with professionals, it is often most helpful to have material that is specific to a particular profession.
  - c. In the contemporary, ever-changing digital age, the DVD format might not be appropriate for the distribution of information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. Board has oversight of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site Redesign Committee and requested that A.A.W.S. consider dedicating a portion of the Web Site to making A.A. resources easily accessible to targeted professional populations and C.P.C. Committees.
  - The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With The Professional Community Committee Kit and Workbook and made several suggestions:
    - a. The sentence on page 15, which reads: "Open: Guests are welcome; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting" be changed to read "Open: Guests are welcome as observers; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting."
    - b. The revised text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section in the C.P.C. pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community", "If You Are A Professional" and "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous" replace the current text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section on page 29 of the C.P.C. Workbook.

### **Committee on Corrections**

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

### **Conference Committee on Finance**

- The committee suggested that a review of the delegate's fee be a standing item on the Conference Finance Committee agenda.
- The committee reviewed a proposed Self-Support Kit and agreed that the F-19 Self-Support Packet is sufficient service material and suggested adding "Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S." (SMF-176) to the Self-Support Packet.
- The committee reviewed and acknowledged the 21 Self-Support Talking Points presented in the background for use by the Fellowship and offers one additional point to be included: "What is the value of your sobriety?" The committee also suggested that they be added to the Finance Section of the Website.

- The committee suggested the following statements be added to the back of the F-42 Self-Support green card:

**What is the value of your sobriety?**

- Less Than 44% of groups contribute to the General Service Board.
  - Costs of Services provided by G.S.O. are \$6.32 per member per year.
  - Sales of A.A. literature counts for 56% of our income.
  - You can easily contribute regularly online at AA.org.
  - Give till it feels good.
- The committee reviewed the information presented concerning financial projections for 2013 and 2014 and trusts that the Corporate Boards and the trustees' Finance Committee will deal with the financial issues in an appropriate manner.

The committee also expressed that increasing the awareness of the need for Fellowship contributions is the more spiritual way to address the funding issue.

**Conference Committee on Grapevine**

- The committee agreed with the proposal to update, proofread, and digitize the Grapevine Workbook. The revised workbook will be available on the Grapevine website for downloading. The workbook will no longer be printed. Note: The cost of this project is estimated to be \$5,000.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2013 or later:
  1. Attitude of Gratitude (working title)  
A collection of stories on the topic of gratitude previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  2. Voices of Long Term Sobriety II (working title)  
A collection of stories by members with 30+ years of sobriety previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  3. Women's Stories in AA (working title)  
Stories from women members on every topic including a special section from AA's women pioneers previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  4. GLBT in AA — We are all the same or Sober & Out (working title)  
A collection of stories from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender AA community previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  5. Relationships in Sobriety (working title)  
A collection of stories on the topic of relationships previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  6. Having Fun in Sobriety (working title)

Now that you're sober you've discover that you haven't the foggiest notion on how to have fun. What now? Stories from members having fun in sobriety from stories previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

7. Daily Grapevine  
365 inspirational passages as originally published in GV's thought of the day in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
8. Mid Sobriety Crisis (working title)  
Not a beginner anymore and not an old-timer? This collection of stories comes from members in the middle years (10-29) who are working the program and trudging the road to happy destiny previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
9. The Best of La Viña II  
Collection of Spanish language original stories (not translations) previously published in La Viña magazine.
10. AA Inside the Walls (working title)  
A collection of stories from those behind bars and/or from those carrying the message to these institutions previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

- The committee considered incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position "Grapevine Representative" in the service responsibilities and duties of the "General Service Representative" and took no action.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board incorporate into all appropriate literature the 1962 Advisory Action that: "retiring delegates become Grapevine Representatives (GvRs) in their areas, with the objective of a GvR in each group."
- The committee requested that groups that do not have a GvR or RLV consider incorporating these duties into the duties of the GSR.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board look into the feasibility of producing one book in ASL format.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background, on the cost of reformatting Grapevine magazine from its current design to black/white interior, non-glossy, minimal photos and increase the font size.

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

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2025 International Convention Site- Selection Procedures.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and shared some experiences that have helped increase member participation in recent Regional Forums in their regions. These included:

- Delegate and Area officers' participation helped increase interest in Regional Forums.
- Online Regional Forum registration/information on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) is convenient and easily accessible.
- One Area started workshops on Regional Forums at local service events to provide information and create enthusiasm.
- One host committee extended committee membership to other Areas in the region and to members from different cities throughout their own Areas.
- One committee member suggested including an article in the Grapevine with the Regional Forum schedule or from a member about their Regional Forum experience.
- It helps to let members know you don't have to be in General Service to attend and enjoy a Regional Forum.
- One Area took ownership of their Regional Forum hospitality committee to create enthusiasm and generate greater participation.
- Talk and continue to talk about Regional Forums and explain what Regional Forums are all about.
- When there are travel challenges look for creative/alternative ways to travel.
- Suggest combining a trip to a Regional Forum with your vacation plans.

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

### **Conference Literature Committee**

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the 'Big Book,' *Alcoholics Anonymous*, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and took no action.
- The committee considered a request to add the "A.A. Preamble" to the front inside pages of the 'Big Book,' *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action.

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

- 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, misinformed, hasty or angry majority," and it makes the "best possible use of minority feeling and opinion."
- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference review the 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 approval could appear to be a “rubber stamp” of the trustees’ action, as cautioned against in Concept VII.

- The 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.

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

- The committee reviewed the report of the Comprehensive Media Plan Subcommittee from the trustees’ Public Information Committee, and expressed their 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 principle 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 Eleven 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 an implementation plan that addresses the implications of such a page, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance.
- The committee reviewed the 2011 Annual Report from the trustees’ Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site and noted with appreciation the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the Web site.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the “My World” public service announcement.
- 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.

- The committee considered the proposed alternative packaging for the Public Information Kit and suggested that the Publications Department continue to explore options for alternative packaging that is durable, allows for organization and containment of the kit materials.

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

- The committee accepted 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* 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 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*.

Note: The committee agreed to ask the General Service Board to reconsider two changes that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.

- The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial updates for *The A.A. Service Manual* and forwarded them to the Publications Department.
- The committee considered a suggestion for revising text on “Conference Panels”, on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term “panels”, and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee considered a request to add a section on the “spirit of rotation” and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee reviewed suggested changes to the Conference Charter that were requested from the General Service Board and took no action. The committee asked that the General Service Board reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the Conference Charter, and develop text that explicitly addresses the principles of participation, petition and appeal for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

- The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.
- The committee briefly discussed the General Service Conference *Final Report* and noted that there were no requests for changes to the *Final Report*.

### **Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

- The committee expressed concerns about the French and Spanish translations 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 videos. The committee asked the Publications Department to review these items and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Workbook and Kit and suggested minor editorial changes to the service piece “A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request” and removed redundant information in the Kit. Following these minor changes the committee found the Workbook and Kit to be satisfactory for use by local committees.
- The committee reviewed the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook and Kit and suggested that the following changes be made at the next printing:
  - Add a suggestion to page 10 of the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook under the section “Activities suggested for Special Needs-Accessibilities” for “committees to gather local information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options.”
- The committee is hopeful that A.A.W.S. will format the pamphlet “A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs” for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges as soon as fiscally possible as requested in a 2011 Committee Consideration.

### **Conference Committee on Trustees**

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B Trustee candidates for the West Central and Western Canada Regions.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the report from the trustees’ Committee on Nominating on the Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate noting that, as requested, the report solely addressed the admission of slates; the committee recognizes that the General Service Conference has additional authority related to the General Service Board not commented upon in the report.
- The committee strongly suggested that the practice of including the operating corporation board slates (A.A.W.S. and Grapevine) on the General Service Conference agenda be continued.

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