

## COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

### Agenda

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the importance of the A.A. General Service Conference Inventory and the value of the Additional Recommendations/Suggestions, which begin on page 17 in the report, and encourages all Conference members to review the Additional Recommendations/Suggestions for possible actions locally, regionally and at future Conferences.
- The committee thoroughly discussed the trustees' report regarding the Conference Agenda Committee and the agenda selection process and felt that their committee name should remain the same, and that matters such as Conference theme and workshop topics do rise to the level of policy and are not just a matter of routine programming.

### Archives

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed ways of encouraging A.A. groups to write or update their group histories to ensure that historical information is retained by the local areas and districts. The committee offered the following suggestions:
  - Encourage discussion at area assemblies and area committee meetings.
  - Communicate this endeavor at local A.A. archives workshops.
  - Include a notice in *Box 4-5-9* and the Archives e-newsletter, *Markings*.
  - Add the G.S.O. Archives service piece "Researching Group Histories" to General Service Representative (GSR) and District Committee Member (DCM) mailings.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and suggested the following be added at the next printing:
  - A list of Archives resources including G.S.O. Archives' guidelines and other Archives' service pieces to the section "Reference Information and Resources."
  - Updated G.S.O. Archives Deed of Gift form.
  - Information about removing items that are not relevant to an archival collection.

### Cooperation With the Professional Community

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to discontinue the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." and took no action. The committee noted that the information in the pamphlet was outdated and did not accurately or appropriately describe the A.A. program of recovery for C.P.C. use, but agreed that the pamphlet may have value to A.A. members as a marker of historic A.A. moments. In light of this, the

committee suggested the trustees' C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities committee continue to discuss the value of keeping this pamphlet available to the Fellowship.

- The committee discussed the manner in which we exhibit at professional conferences and suggested that the trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities explore ways to integrate technology into C.P.C. exhibits, such as:
  - Adding a digital response or QR code to the back cover of C.P.C. pamphlets.
  - Adding a digital response or QR code to a tabletop display.
  - Developing an audiovisual presentation for continuous screening at professional conferences.
  
- The committee reviewed the contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
  - That the flyer "A.A. at a Glance" be added to the kit.
  - That a section on "Staffing an A.A. Booth," similar to the section in the A.A. Guidelines on Public Information, be added to the A.A. Guidelines on C.P.C.
  - That shared experience on Al-Anon's presence at the A.A. International Convention be added to the A.A. Guidelines on the Relationship between A.A. and Al-Anon.
  - That the following five pamphlets be added as resources to the list of publications on the back cover of the pamphlet "If You are a Professional...": "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional," "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs," "Many Paths to Spirituality," "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and "Understanding Anonymity."
  - The committee reviewed a "Matrix of Individual Comments" from the Subcommittee on Reading and Reviewing C.P.C. Pamphlets, and asked the trustees' C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities Committee to forward the changes suggested in this matrix for pamphlets *not* under the purview of the C.P.C. trustees' and Conference committees to the appropriate trustees' committees.

## **Corrections**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee noted that the 2014 Advisory Action for a new video to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" contained the suggestion to "revise/update service piece that is included with the video." However, such a service piece does not exist.
  
- The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections explore creating additional versions of the video "A New Freedom" in varying lengths to effectively carry the message to different audiences in different settings.
  
- The committee discussed the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.). They reviewed some of the challenges of expanding C.C.S. in Canada, offered insights, and were grateful to note that the trustees' Committee on Corrections continues to explore solutions.
  
- The committee also discussed ways to attract more Spanish-speaking "outside" A.A.

members to correspond with Spanish-speaking inmates in order to fill the current need. The committee offered two suggestions for area delegates:

- Encourage members of Spanish linguistic districts to participate in Corrections Correspondence Service.
- Ask members involved with C.C.S. to write articles for Grapevine and La Viña sharing their experience.
- The committee suggested that two items be added to the form “Corrections Correspondence Service – a Special Kind of A.A. Service” (F-26):
  - A note that a member need not have been incarcerated to be a correspondent.
  - A space where “outside” members can indicate if they are able to correspond in more than one language.
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees’ Committee on Corrections.

## **Finance**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Suggested Delegate Area Contribution to the General Service Conference of \$1,600 and after considerable discussion took no action as the committee did not feel an increase was appropriate at this time.
- The committee reviewed the maximum one-time limit of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and after considerable discussion took no action.
- The committee received and discussed information from the A.A.W.S. Self-Support Subcommittee, and considered the format and use of the flyer “The Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet” (F-203). The committee suggests that the office consider additional ways to convey the financial message using technology. One suggestion was offered to create a PowerPoint presentation of the flyer “The Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet” (F-203) and make it available for download.
- The committee suggests adding the F-203 piece to the Self-Support Packet (F-19) and the Birthday Plan Envelope to the F-19 packet and removing various items such as the eight-page document entitled “Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.” and the “Historical Background of Self-Support” piece with consideration given to the attached flyers and posters.
- The Conference Finance Committee requests that the General Service Board/A.A.W.S. consider measures that would assure that all future International Conventions are self-supporting through registration activities. The G.S.B./A.A.W.S. might consider the feasibility of a separate ongoing Convention Fund, transportation requirements, hotel accommodations, cut-off dates, and other appropriate items.
- The committee suggests the General Service Board consider the spiritual message of self-support in our spending priorities when dealing with items such as World Service

Meeting and related activities.

- In addition to the above actions and suggestions, the committee had a long discussion about better communication of information within the Fellowship concerning financial matters.

## **Grapevine**

### Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the 2016 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and requested that the Grapevine office provide an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future to the 2017 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2017 or later:
  1. Stories by Atheist and Agnostic A.A. members (working title)  
A collection of stories by A.A. members who are atheist or agnostic, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  2. Steps Four and Five (working title)  
Members tell helpful, hopeful stories about how they did Step Four and/or Step Five and how it changed their lives—from previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
- The committee reviewed the Grapevine Workbook.

## **International Conventions/Regional Forums**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees, and suggested:
  - Providing more information about what happens at a Regional Forum, such as meeting trusted servants and special workers, workshops, opportunities for questions and answers, and fellowship.
  - Including event details of Regional Forums on local area websites with links back to G.S.O.'s website, aa.org.
  - Encouraging members to attract other members through “bring a buddy” and “get on the bus” approaches.
  - Informing members from outside of your Region about upcoming Forums.
- The committee accepted the reporting on the 2015 International Convention and noted that the financial results of the Convention showed a loss of \$210,431.
- The committee noted ongoing efforts by the General Service Board and the General Service Office to review all aspects of the 2015 International Convention in order to plan effectively for the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

- The committee expressed their gratitude to everyone who worked on making the 2015 International Convention a wonderful experience. The committee also noted new and well-received features, such as an Anonymity Booth and the Carry the Message Pavilion, which provided opportunities for members to share about A.A. principles and service.
- Special notice was made that over 700 A.A. members who are deaf participated in the 2015 International Convention.

## **Literature**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to develop a plain language version of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action. While sympathetic to the spirit of the request, the committee agreed that developing a plain-language Big Book was not appropriate at this time.
- The committee accepted the A.A.W.S. report on “pagination” of Conference-approved digital texts and encourages A.A.W.S. to continue to investigate all possible solutions.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman,” and made some suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the development of literature for A.A.s with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft copy or progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services” and offered to the trustees’ Literature Committee additional suggestions to better reflect the full range of A.A. services, with the request that a fully revised draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2017 General Service Conference.
- The committee suggests that the trustees’ Literature Committee explore the need for expanding the availability of “plain-language” recovery literature.

## **Policy/Admissions**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, as well as the General Service Office, explore ways to provide information to local translation committees and encourage a coordinated effort among local committees in translating Conference background into French and Spanish.
- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference regarding Conference observers from other fellowships and took no action. The committee agreed that there are other ways to share A.A.'s Conference experience and since A.A.'s early history, Alcoholics Anonymous has shared its experience with other fellowships upon their request. The committee noted that the General Service Conference is a closed business meeting.
- The committee considered a request that all Conference members be sent the same background material with the exception of digital media and works in progress and took no action. The committee agreed that the current practices are sufficient and in keeping with the Conference Charter.
- The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference consider developing procedures for electronic polling to be used only in matters of grave emergency that may occur between Conferences, and that are in keeping with the Conference Charter.

## **Public Information**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2015 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information explore ways of providing guidance to the Fellowship on carrying the A.A. message to the public online and in social media.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2016 Public Information Comprehensive Media plan.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the public service announcement "Doors."
- The committee discussed a request to reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates." The committee took no action noting that the current policy on the use of full-face videos is adequate.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook and, noting the usefulness of active links to the P.I. Kit contents on aa.org, agreed that the current materials are adequately serving the needs of local P.I. committees.

## **Report and Charter**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition* and the 2016 General Service *Final Conference Report*.
- The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and accepted the updates.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and 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 the updates from the General Service Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions.

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

- The committee considered a request to add a definition of “Service Manual” to the Glossary of Service Terms in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*. The committee requested that the Publishing Department add a definition in *The A.A. Service Manual* to the Glossary of Service Terms.
- The committee considered a request to add existing text from the “Third Legacy Procedure” section to the “Third Legacy Procedure” chart on page S22 in *The A.A. Service Manual* and agreed that the text would be added for consistency.
- The committee discussed the *Final Conference Report* and suggested that the Publishing Department consider using a larger font to make the *Final Report* more accessible.
- The committee reviewed the General Service *Final Conference Report* and suggested that several items of interest be highlighted on the front cover including: “Advisory Actions,” “Area Highlights,” and “Presentation Topics.”

## **Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Accessibilities consider creation of an Accessibility Checklist for inclusion in the Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit that groups could use to inventory their accessibility to all alcoholics.
- The committee noted that the A.A. Guidelines on Carrying the Message to the Deaf Alcoholic are appropriately available in the Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit. The committee asked that the inclusion of these Guidelines in the Treatment Kit be

reviewed.

## **Trustees**

### Committee Considerations:

- 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 the report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating on expanding the pool of candidates to serve the General Service Board and the Corporate Boards. The committee discussed the suggestions provided by the trustees' Committee on Nominating for distribution of postings and notifications of vacancies on the Boards and encouraged using as many outlets as possible to develop a broader list of candidates. The committee agreed that a larger pool would provide a wider range of abilities, skills, background and life experiences. The committee also noted that expanding the number of candidates increases the possibility that the candidates will reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.

The committee also encouraged consultation between the trustees' Committee on Nominating and the General Service Board to identify the skills and background most needed for each opening on the G.S.B.

The committee discussed the possibility of adding direct questions to the candidate's resume form that would identify diverse characteristics of candidates and agreed that this was not necessary. Nevertheless, the committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore the option of adding a space to the current resume form that would allow a candidate the opportunity to provide additional information that may identify diverse characteristics, such as abilities, skills, background, and life experiences that may benefit the General Service Board.

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