

May 2014

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 64TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 64TH General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference be: “Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future”
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2015 General Service Conference:

“Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action”

- a. Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion
 - b. Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group
 - c. Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology
 - d. Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead
3. The Conference Evaluation Form be available in English, French and Spanish beginning in 2015.
 4. The description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, “Conference Committees,” in the 2013-2014 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, which currently reads:

AGENDA (*trustees’ committee: General Service Conference*): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes and presentation/discussion topics.

Be revised to read:

AGENDA (*trustees’ committee: General Service Conference*): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes, presentation/discussion topics **and Conference Evaluation Questionnaire**.

Archives¹

It was recommended that:

5. The video *Markings on the Journey* be approved.

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

Cooperation With the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

6. The statement in the section *Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities to A.A.* on page 4 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from court programs and treatment facilities. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.

A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern.

Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a court asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.

- *Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court together with a self-addressed court envelope. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance.*
- *Other groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.*

Be revised to read:

Referrals From Judicial, Health Care, or Other Professionals

*Today numerous A.A. members come to us from **judicial, health care, or other professionals**. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.*

A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern.

*Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a **referral source** asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.*

- **Groups** cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.
 - Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have **an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance.**
7. The statement in the section *How to Make Referrals to A.A.* on page 5 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is listed in most telephone directories. (Some professionals call A.A. while the person is in the office, thus giving the individual an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)

Or, you can contact the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. Write:

*P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org*

Be revised to read:

***Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at www.aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for 'Alcoholics Anonymous' or 'A.A.'* (Some professionals ask the person they are referring to call the local A.A. number while still in the office, thus offering an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)**

Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G.S.O.'s A.A. website www.aa.org can aid in finding local resources.

*P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org*

8. On page 6 in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" the following text be deleted:

"I can't stand the smoking."

There are nonsmoking meetings available. Check the local meeting book for them or contact the local A.A. central office which is listed in your telephone directory.

Corrections

It was recommended that:

9. The section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals," which currently reads:

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" of social agencies; follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide drying-out or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services; 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.

Be revised to read (additional text in **bold**):

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" of 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.

10. A new video be developed to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.

Finance

It was recommended that:

11. Because all Conference members are considered equal, all members should have equal access to Conference material and that a plan be created by the General Service Office to translate Conference Material (background material, Conference Manual etc.) into French and Spanish for use during the Conference, with a report being presented to the 2015 General Service Conference. This plan may include coordinating the use of the volunteer network throughout the Fellowship, hiring

professional translators or any other facilities that the office deems necessary. The report should include costs and any other considerations deemed necessary to allow timely translations to occur.

Grapevine

No recommendations.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

It was recommended that:

12. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2015 International Convention.
13. An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

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

Literature

It was recommended that:

14. The revised pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service” be approved.
15. The pamphlet on spirituality with the title “Many Paths to Spirituality” be approved.
16. A correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices on page XI in the Preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which currently reads:

“The second edition added the appendices, the Twelve Traditions, and the directions for getting in touch with A.A.”

Be replaced with:

“The second printing of the first edition added the appendix ‘Spiritual Experience’; in the second edition, the appendices on A.A. Tradition, the ‘medical view’ and ‘religious view’ of A.A., the Lasker Award and information on how to contact A.A. were added, and the appendix on the Alcoholic Foundation was discontinued.”

17. The Conference recommended that the following recommendation be returned to the A.A.W.S. Board for review and brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on Literature with full background:

The committee recommended that “The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature” be further clarified regarding “...needed editorial changes” as noted below by asterisk and bolded text:

“Unless otherwise specified in the Advisory Action of the Conference approving a new or amended piece of literature, A.A. World Services, Inc. will have the full authority, without need of further Conference action to (a) select the format or formats in which the approved literature will be produced, (b) make, from time to time, needed editorial changes*; provided, however, that no editorial change will be made to the Big Book’s Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ the first 164 pages (Chapters 1-11), ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ or the Appendices without prior Conference approval of such change, and (c) translate the approved literature into any language, and in connection therewith to modify or replace illustrations, photos, and other visual art in a manner reasonably designed to conform them to the culture of the expected readership.”

Editorial changes to be limited to factual, statistical, capitalization, punctuation and spelling; that any other changes made to the substance of the Conference-approved literature shall be through the Conference process.”

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

18. Jennie H., alternate delegate, Area 85, Northwest Ontario, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Ken B., Panel 63 delegate for Area 85 is unable to attend.
19. Jim S., delegate, Area 1, Alabama/Northwest Florida, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Craig M., Panel 63 delegate for Area 1 is unable to attend.
20. Joyce S., alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Mel C., Panel 63 delegate for Area 83 is unable to attend.
21. The 67th General Service Conference be held April 23-29, 2017, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.
22. During a two-year trial period the General Service Conference include one day of electronic voting on all nonelection votes, on the Thursday of the 2015 General Service Conference and on the Friday of the 2016 General Service Conference, and that the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference provide a report from data gathered from the 2015 and 2016 General Service Conferences, evaluating electronic voting to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

23. The 2014 A.A. Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:

Item 3a be changed from “Married” to “Married or Life partner.”

Item 11e be changed from “Counseling agency” to “Counselor or mental health professional.”

Item 11f be changed from “Court order” to “Judicial system.”

Item 11g be changed from “Health professional” to “Medical professional.”

Item 13a be changed to “Before coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) **related to your drinking?** (If yes, answer question 13b)” [additional text in bold]

Item 14a be changed to “After coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) **related to your drinking?** (If yes, answer question 14b)” [additional text in bold]

Item 15 be changed from “Did a health professional ever refer you to A.A.?” to “Did a counselor, medical or mental health professional ever refer you to A.A.?”

24. The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.
25. The video public service announcements “Living in Chaos” and “We Know What It’s Like” be discontinued.
26. A new public service announcement be produced in 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

27. The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“**Advisory Action** – Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of a recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole.”

28. The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“Additional Committee Consideration – An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or made by the Conference as a whole.”

29. The section called “Secretary and Registrar” on page S45 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be split into two separate sections called “Secretary” (existing duties and qualifications to remain the same) and “Registrar” to include the following text (additions in **bold**):

Registrar

DUTIES: In **many** areas, *registrars* now develop and maintain records of all groups in the area, including group name, meeting location, time, and G.S.R. or group contact. Registrars may also be responsible for names, addresses, **e-mail addresses** and phone numbers of the G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, district and area officers and area committee members. They may provide mailing labels for area publications such as a monthly newsletter or a mailing of minutes. **Area registrars also assist the G.S.O. Records Department to keep their records up-to-date.**

QUALIFICATIONS: Registrars should be familiar with the area and district structure. For this job, an organized approach is important as there are many details that need to be recorded. Ideally, it would be very helpful if the area registrar possessed some practical, working computer knowledge, and were comfortable relaying information via e-mail to G.S.O. and within the local area.”

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

30. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014:

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee.

31. The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014:

32. The February 2014 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 May 2014:

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

33. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2014:

34. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2014:

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