

April 2015

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 65th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 65th General Service Conference:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2016 General Service Conference be: “Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts.”
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2016 General Service Conference:
 - a. Connecting With the Newcomer:
 1. All Inclusive – Never Exclusive
 2. Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer – Are We Going to Any Length?
 3. Home Group – Where It Begins
 - b. Connecting With Each Other:
 1. Singleness of Purpose – Staying Pertinent in a Changing World
 2. Informed Group Conscience – The Key to Unity
 3. Be Involved, Be Inspired, Be of Service
 - c. Connecting With A.A. as a Whole:
 1. Participating in All of A.A.
 2. Understanding Self-Support
 3. Reaching Out to the Next Generation of A.A.s
3. The following be the workshop topic for the 2016 General Service Conference: “Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation.”

Archives¹

No recommendations.

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

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Corrections

No recommendations.

Finance

It was recommended that:

4. Phase 1 of the G.S.O. proposed plan (February 5, 2015) to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French be implemented beginning with the 2016, 66th General Service Conference.

At minimum the following items will be included:

- Welcome correspondence to new panel delegates
 - Letter
 - Memo to a Delegate from a Delegate, The Role of the Delegate
- Communications Kit (71 pages total)
- Committee Material:
 - Agenda 1-3 pages per committee
 - Composition, Scope and Procedures for 13 committees (17 pages total)
 - History and Actions of 13 committees (484 pages total)
- Pre-Conference documents
 - Board reports (G.S.B., A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine)
 - Trustee committee reports
- Conference Kit

This initial phase of translations would be coordinated by G.S.O. departments, including staff and Publishing department personnel. Costs currently estimated by G.S.O. for the initial phase would be included in the G.S.O./A.A.W.S. budget at approximately \$80-120,000 for the year. Actual cost may be higher or lower upon receiving competitive bids.

5. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describes the process and costs, including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

6. The revised pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” be approved.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

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

Literature

It was recommended that:

7. The revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Service Agencies,” with the revised title “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” be approved with minor corrections.
8. A comprehensive revision to the retitled pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” be undertaken by the trustees’ Literature Committee, to better reflect the full range of A.A. services, and that a fully revised draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2016 General Service Conference.
9. The revised pamphlet “Your A.A. General Service Office” be approved with minor corrections.
10. The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic” to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. The committee requested that the title of the pamphlet be revised to reflect this broader scope and that a draft revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.
11. The trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues. The committee requested that a wide range of A.A. recovery experience be gathered from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members for inclusion in literature on this topic. The committee requested that a progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.
12. The pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman” be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A., and suggested inclusion of stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds. The committee requested that a draft revised pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

13. The 68th General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2018, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.
14. The policy regarding General Service Conference audio recordings, which reads:

Tapes of Conference presentations not be made available, affirming the 1979 General Service Board recommendation which prohibits making tapes of any Conference session for distribution outside of the A.A. Archives, except for the opening and the closing brunch.

Be revised as follows:

Audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations published in the General Service Conference *Final Report* and audio recordings of the trustees' farewell talks given at the closing brunch be made available in accordance with Archives' Policies. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

15. The video public service announcement, "Doors," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with the following change:
 - Rerecord the dialog voice-overs using professional voice actors in English, Spanish and French, removing any sense that the voices are recorded phone calls, at a cost not to exceed \$24,000.
16. The video public service announcement, "Doors" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.
17. The video public service announcements "A Force of Nature" and "Testimonials" be discontinued.
18. The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2014 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor edits.

19. In light of the potential for continuing to improve the relevance and usefulness of the aa.org website on a timely basis, the A.A.W.S. Board be authorized to produce and post audio/video service material on the aa.org website provided the following conditions are met:

- Audio/video service material produced via this process provides information already available on aa.org;
- Proposed audio/video service material is for posting on aa.org only (audio/video items produced for distribution beyond the aa.org website will continue to require Conference review and approval);
- Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed for content by an appropriate trustees' committee prior to posting - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to forwarding to the A.A.W.S. Board;
- Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed and approved for posting by the A.A.W.S. Board - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to posting.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

20. The following paragraph be edited for stylistic consistency and incorporated into Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

“The Trustees’ Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending to the General Service Board candidates for General Service Trustee, Class A Trustee, and nontrustee director. The candidates approved by the General Service Board are subject to the approval of the General Service Conference. The Trustees Nominating Committee receives advice from and consults with the A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine boards with respect to potential General Service Trustees, nontrustee directors, and Regional Trustees to serve on the respective boards. The Trustees Nominating Committee also recommends a slate of trustees to serve as officers of the General Service Board.”

21. Under NOMINATION PROCEDURE in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the first paragraph that currently reads:

“General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards, and it has been the privilege of those boards to propose the name of a candidate to represent them on the General Service Board.”

Be revised to read (deleting the final phrase):

“General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the

corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards.”

22. Under **NOMINATING** in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following sentence be inserted to begin the description of the trustees’ Nominating Committee:

“Reviews procedures for selection of candidates.”

23. Under **Choosing Nontrustee Directors** in Chapter 10 (The Board’s Operating Corporations) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the second paragraph that currently begins:

“The nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received.”

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

“**Working in concert with the trustees’ Nominating Committee**, the nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received.”

24. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the end of the second paragraph:

“The group information provided on these two forms is stored in G.S.O.’s database, which is accessible to the area registrar.”

25. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the beginning of the third paragraph:

“G.S.O. also uses this database to generate mailing lists for A.A. newsletters. Group information included in G.S.O.’s database may be used by areas and districts for various purposes: the delegate may use it to communicate with groups; some areas use it for their meeting locators or to generate mailing lists.”

26. The following text be added at the end of the section **District Information** in Chapter 3 (The District and the D.C.M.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“The information provided on this form is stored in G.S.O.’s database, which is accessible to the area registrar. G.S.O.’s database also provides the capability for the area registrar to identify district officers and service chairs with local or specific information that then can be used to facilitate communication.”

27. In Chapter 5 (The Area Committee) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, a new section be added after **Financial Support** with the following text:

Area Information

The outgoing delegate provides G.S.O. with contact information for all incoming area officers and committee chairs. This information is stored in G.S.O.’s

database, which is also accessible to the area registrar, and is used to communicate with these officers and committee chairs throughout their rotation.”

28. A new subsection of the section **STIMULATING INTEREST IN GENERAL SERVICE** be added to Chapter 1 (Introduction to General Service) in *The A.A. Service Manual* with the following text:

Reactivating districts: Frequently, there is a need within an Area to attempt to reactivate districts or groups that have become inactive or are unrepresented. Areas encourage participation in general service in many ways, especially by direct contact with groups by district/area officers to provide information about service events and opportunities to carry the message beyond the group level. Sometimes there is district-to-district sponsorship in which an active district shares its experience and suggestions to “jump start” activity among groups within the inactive neighboring district.

29. A new section on “Regional Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* before the “World Service Meeting” section with the following text:

“Regional Forums

Regional Forums, which originated in 1975, are weekend-long sharing and informational sessions which provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. They are also designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, and A.A. Grapevine; and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers throughout the A.A. service structure. G.S.O.’s staff member on the Regional Forums assignment coordinates details for the Forum and works closely with the volunteer host chair who recruits volunteers to assist staff with hospitality, set-up and registration during the Forum. Forums are held on a rotating basis, at the request of each region. There is no registration fee for Regional Forums. The General Service Board covers the expenses of meeting rooms. As all Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing is captured in Forum Final Reports, which are distributed to all attendees, and are available on G.S.O.’s website. Regional Forums carry A.A.’s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship.”

30. A new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* and requested that draft language be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

31. The *Twelve Concepts for World Service* and the Twelve Concepts section of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* include the following pages in the same order as published in the 1990-1991 Edition:

- a. Title page;
- b. Copyright page;
- c. Preface;
- d. The Twelve Concepts (Short Form);
- e. The Twelve Concepts (Long Form);

- f. Contents page with short descriptions of the Twelve Concepts and page numbers;
 - g. Introduction.
32. A limited run of the A.A. Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be printed annually for purchase upon request.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

33. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015, following presentation at the 2015 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
 Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
 John Fromson, M.D.
 Michele Grinberg, J.D.
 Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
 Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
 David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees (See "Note" below)

Richard Boisvert
 Joel Castellaw
 Joe Downey
 William (Bill) Farnsworth
 Yolanda Flores
 Scott Huyghebaert
 Ed Martin
 William Noonan
 Chet Parker
 Richard Purtell
 Andrew Ware
 Bob Wilcox
 Albin Zezula

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

34. The appointment of the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be approved at the Second Quarterly Meeting of the General Service Board in April 2015, following presentation at the 2015 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Chairperson
 First vice-chairperson
 Second vice-chairperson
 Treasurer
 Secretary

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
 Michele Grinberg, J.D.
 William Noonan
 David M. Morris, C.P.A.
 Andrew Ware

35. The March 2015 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015:

Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Donald W. Meurer
Julio Espailat*

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in summer of 2015

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

36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2015, following presentation at the 2015 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Carole Boerner
Richard Boisvert
Beau Bush
Joe Downey
Julio Espailat*

Phyllis Halliday
David Noll
William Noonan
Chet Parker

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in summer of 2015.

37. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2015 following presentation at the 2015 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Linda Bergeron
Ami Brophy
Joel Castellaw
William (Bill) Farnsworth
Ivan Lemelle

Ed Martin
Paz Preciado
Albin Zezula

38. The Bylaws of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as amended to comply with the New York State nonprofit law, be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015.

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