

**April 2017**

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

## **CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 67th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 67th General Service Conference:

### **Floor Actions**

It was recommended that:

1. In the spirit of unity and inclusiveness, the General Service Office strive to provide Conference background materials in English by February 15 and Spanish and French by the first week in March, beginning with the 68th General Service Conference.
2. The pamphlet "Too Young?" be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.
3. A.A. Grapevine create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on the A.A. Grapevine YouTube pages. The A.A. Grapevine Board will track its effectiveness through website metrics.

### **Agenda**

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2018 General Service Conference be: "A.A. – A Solution for All Generations."
5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2018 General Service Conference:
  - a. Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion
  - b. Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?
  - c. A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions
  - d. Attraction Not Promotion: A.A.'s Relation to the World
  - e. Group Conscience: The Guiding Force
6. The following be the workshop topic for the 2018 General Service Conference: "Getting the A.A. Message Out..."

## Archives<sup>1</sup>

It was recommended that:

7. A draft or a progress report of *Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* (working title) be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Archives for review.

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

## Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. The pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” be retired.
9. A footnote with the following text be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” at the bottom of page one:

This pamphlet is derived from an article written by A.A. co-founder Bill W. in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.

10. The title of the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” be changed to “Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?”
11. The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional,” develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.
12. The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous,” develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.
13. The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.

## **Corrections**

None.

## **Finance**

It was recommended that:

14. The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800.
15. Review of the suggested Area contribution for delegates' expenses to the Conference be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.
16. Review of the Conference-approved level for bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.
17. Review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.
18. The following text be added to the pamphlet: "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix": "Question: Can an individual or group make a recurring online contribution? Answer: Yes, online at aa.org."

## **Grapevine**

None.

## **International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>**

None.

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

## **Literature**

It was recommended that:

19. The following two bullet points in the section "What procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?" in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be removed:
  - A *file* of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one.

- *Review of newcomers* list by steering committee (or Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee) – with follow-up activity where it seems needed.
20. The revised plan for the annual review of recovery literature be implemented, with the first report to be delivered to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.
  21. The following text about young people’s conferences be added to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” in the section “Where do I find A.A.?”:

Young people’s conferences are held in the United States and Canada and around the world. For information, consult your local A.A. area, intergroup office, or search online for YPAA.

22. Question 10 in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” in the section “A.A. Group Inventory” that currently reads, “Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?” be revised to read:

Are we doing all we can to provide a safe, attractive and accessible meeting place?

23. The pamphlet “The A.A. Group” be revised to add the following text from “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” to the section “Principles Before Personalities”:

### **Safety and A.A.: Suggestions to Consider**

“Safety is an important issue within A.A. – one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.

*“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward. (Tradition One, Long Form)”*

“A.A. groups are spiritual entities made up of alcoholics who gather for the sole purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Yet, we are not immune to the difficulties that affect the rest of humanity.

“Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist. Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose – to carry the

A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety.”

For more information see “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” (SMF-209) [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

24. The trustees’ Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.

### **Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

25. The 2018 General Service Conference move ahead with electronic voting to be used for all Conference voting, with the exception of elections for regional trustees and trustees-at-large, which are conducted by ballot.
26. The trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference develop a plan for the equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.
27. Starting with the 67th General Service Conference, an anonymity-protected, digital *Final Conference Report* be published in addition to the current print version.
28. The 70th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2020 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.
29. Starting at the 2018 General Service Conference, the proposed dates of future General Service Conferences be considered as an Additional Committee Consideration rather than requiring an Advisory Action.
30. General Service Office management submit a report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

### **Public Information**

It was recommended that:

31. A new video public service announcement be developed for a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

32. The pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” be rewritten to include material from G.S.O. literature covering Tradition Eleven and to expand the discussion of humility in Tradition Twelve as it relates to anonymity and that a progress report or draft language be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.
33. A.A. World Services, Inc. create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on A.A.W.S. YouTube pages. The committee requested that a report including information from website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.

### **Report and Charter**

It was recommended that:

34. The following text be added to Chapter Four of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

#### Area Websites

Many A.A. entities now use websites as a way to communicate meeting and service information within the Fellowship. An A.A. website can serve as a public information tool, providing information about A.A. to the public as well. As with newsletters, it has been found prudent for a committee (rather than one or two individuals) to be responsible for the format, planning, and content of the website.

As anonymity is the “spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,” we practice anonymity on A.A. websites at all times. An A.A. website is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film. Some areas have included password protected sections of the website, which can limit access to members only, and where full names may be used. Not all A.A. websites contain the same information. For instance, in places where an active intergroup or central office provides meeting information, general service websites may not need to duplicate this effort, and may link to them instead.

A.A. websites may feature brief excerpts from A.A. literature using the same guidelines as newsletters. If a site wishes to include items that are currently available on the G.S.O. or Grapevine websites, they may link to the appropriate pages of those sites. Area websites may copy a thumbnail of a pamphlet, book or video from these sites and use it on the site as a link to the material on the G.S.O. or A.A. Grapevine site. Because public service announcements are intended to be widely shared, they may be posted directly on local A.A. sites. For more information, see the “FAQ on A.A. Websites” and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet.

35. The bylaws of A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. be included in *The A.A. Service Manual* as appendices.
36. A new section on the General Service Board's "Mission-Vision-Action Statement" be added to Chapter 9 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.
37. The G.S.O. Department reports which are shared at Conference be included in the *Final Conference Report*.
38. Brief bios for nontrustee directors, similar to those for trustees, be included in the *Final Conference Report*.

### **Treatment and Accessibilities**

It was recommended that:

39. The pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be approved with suggested editorial changes and be retitled "Accessibility for All Alcoholics."

### **Trustees**

It was recommended that:

40. The Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as revised, be approved at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 2017.