

68th Gen. Service Conference Committees

I. Agenda

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2019 General Service Conference.

“Our big book – 80 years, 71 languages.” **Passed 124/7 I voted Yes**

B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2019 General Service Conference

1. Yesterday’s World – Our Legacies Begin

2. Today’s World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service

3. Tomorrow’s World - Courage to be Vigilant **Passed 120/16 I voted Yes**

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2019 General Service Conference

Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings **Passed 119/3 I voted Yes**

E. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference

Additional Consideration - The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference, which included the Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference 2016 report on the Agenda Item Selection Process.

- The committee noted that progress has been made in implementing the plan 2016 report. However, the trustees committee on the general service conference forwarded a request to the general service board to continue to consider enhanced participation of area delegates in the process for selection of agenda items, and no action on this item was reported by the board.

The committee noted the 2016 report suggested that:

Before the January board weekend, the entire conference committee could have a conference call with the corresponding trustees committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees committee. This way, conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees committee, and can share regarding those items. This would allow all conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed agenda items. Their feedback could be brought to the trustees committee meeting as background for the discussion.

The committee noted that this is not happened and requested that the trustees committee chairs implement this conference call portion of the plan starting in January 2019.

- The committee requested that the trustees committee create a process for area delegates review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 conference committee on agenda.

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

A. Review the trustees committee report regarding LinkedIn as a platform for reaching professionals.

The committee recommended that A.A. world services, Inc. Develop a company page on LinkedIn with the following goals in mind:

- To offer another digital resource, in addition to W WW. A.A. O RG, where professionals can find accurate information about A.A.
- to broaden the reach of the about A.A. newsletter for professionals
- to offer a platform where our professional friends may recommend us

- to raise awareness of exhibits staffed by local C. P. C. Committees at national and local professional conferences
- to expand the network of our professional friends and perhaps deep in the pool of Class A Trustee candidates
- by our presence on LinkedIn, to reinforce the continuing relevance and efficacy of A.A. to professionals **Passed 125/9 I voted Yes**

Additional consideration – the committee strongly suggested that those creating the LinkedIn company page consider adding some kind of disclaimer or explanation clarifying that A.A. is not affiliated with any of the organizations who appear in promoted content on the LinkedIn company page.

B. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional.”

The committee recommended that text on page 9 of the pamphlet which currently reads: *sharing experiences pierces the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. In most instances, healthcare professionals find 88 members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.*

Be revised to read:

*Sharing experiences peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. With no membership requirements beyond the desire to stop drinking, members are on an equal footing. What’s important is getting the help that is needed, and in most instances, healthcare professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program. **Passed 132/2 I voted Yes***

C. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask about Alcoholics Anonymous.”

The committee recommended that a new section be added beginning on page 16 of the pamphlet between the sections “why would the clergy be concerned with A.A.?” And “do any of the clergy belong to A.A.?” With text as follows:

What if You Are a Chaplain in the Military?

*Like other members of the clergy, military chaplains are often the “safest” people a problem drinker can approach. Chaplains can help direct alcoholics to available A.A. meetings, either on or near the base. Additionally, if no meetings are available, chaplains may be able to connect interested alcoholics with other A.A. materials, such as books and pamphlets for A.A.s magazines, grapevine and Levine yeah. Online meetings are also available for those members of the military may be deployed, and chaplains can help get them connected electronically through correspondence groups. (A.A.s general service office can provide information on such resources.) **Passed 132/3 I voted Yes***

D. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional . . .”

The committee recommended that text be added to the pamphlet on page 4, first paragraph, to read (additions in **bold**):

*Meetings: at the heart of the program or its meetings, which are conducted autonomously by A.A. groups in cities and towns throughout the world, **even in jails, institutions and on military bases.** **Passed 132/2 I voted Yes***

The committee recommended the text be added to the pamphlet on page 4, last section, to read (additions in **bold**):

*Referrals from judicial, healthcare, **military**, or other professionals
Today numerous A.A. members come to us from judicial, healthcare, **military** or other professionals **Passed 131/1 I voted Yes***

The committee recommended the text be added to the pamphlet and the last full paragraph on page 5, to read (additions in **bold**):

*or you can contact the Gen. service office (G. S. O.) Of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G. S. O.'s A.A. website A.A. Org can aid in finding local resources. **Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings nearby. Passed 132/2 I voted Yes***

Additional considerations:

- The committee suggested that the trustees committee on cooperation with the professional community/treatment and accessibilities consult with healthcare professionals to determine if there are issues unique to problem drinkers in the military and military veterans, that would be helpful to cover in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for Healthcare Professionals."
- The committee reviewed the CPC kit and workbook and made the following suggestions:
 - that the updated simple guide letters replace the guide letters currently in the workbook, and that utilizing the guide letters be mentioned in the "suggested CPC committee goals and projects" section of the workbook.
 - That the "suggested CPC committee goals and projects" section of the workbook mentioned contacting military bases and veterans facilities.
 - That when listing professionals whom CPC committee should approach in the workbook, that list should include professionals who come in contact with active members of the military and veterans whenever possible.
 - That the text of the pamphlet "let's be friendly with our friends: "friends on the alcoholism front" which is currently reprinted in full in the CPC workbook be removed from the workbook.
 - That the membership survey in the display of the membership survey be encouraged for use in CPC work.
 - That we continue to look for opportunities to utilize Class A trustees in CPC work.

III. Corrections

A. Consider request to create a pamphlet for inmates who are to be released after long-term incarceration

Additional consideration – the committee discussed the request to create a pamphlet for inmates who will be released after long-term incarceration and took no action. The committee suggested that correction service materials be revised for this purpose. **Discussion included use of pre-release pamphlet, bridging the gap, and felt the kit contain sufficient information**

Additional considerations

- The committee asked the trustees committee on corrections to update the service materials, "A.A. corrections prerelease contact information – for A.A.s on the inside" and "A.A. corrections prerelease contact information – for A.A.s on the outside" with excerpts from existing literature.
- The committee suggested that the trustees committee on corrections create a letter to corrections professionals to raise awareness about prerelease in bridging the gap volunteers.
- The committee noted the benefits of identifying facilities with incarcerated alcoholics to effectively present A.A. to the professionals who work in the settings. This effort could inform the local Fellowship of the need for outside volunteers. The committee suggests the trustees committee on corrections create a checklist for local committees to be included in the corrections kit.

- The committee noted that many correctional facilities have increased their security restrictions for paper materials and suggests the trustees committee on corrections continue to work with the publishing department to ensure access to A.A. materials for incarcerated alcoholics.
- The committee noted the progress made with producing double versions of the video “a new freedom” in Spanish and French and suggested adding this video to the corrections kit upon completion.
- The committee noted the progress made on the corrections correspondence service (CCS) in Canada and looks forward to a progress report on the service at the 2019 general service conference.
- The committee noted the value of peer to peer communications between corrections professionals and looks forward to the creation of letters for use in cooperation with the professional community and corrections committees
- the committee suggested that the links displayed in the video “caring the message behind these walls” be updated.
- The committee suggested the trustees committee on corrections discussed ways to utilize A.A. materials for incarcerated alcoholics at juvenile facilities.

IV. Finance

A. Consider developing a method to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the general service board.

Additional consideration – the committee discussed developing a method to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequest to the general service board and felt that the consumer price index fluctuates by such small proportions that a change would be costly and not conducive to the fellowship and took no action.

B. Review self-support packet

Additional Consideration – the committee reviewed the self-support packet and made the following suggestions to the publishing department:

- The pamphlets “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and “The A.A. Group Treasurer” be consistent in print and revision coding on the back.
- Adding language regarding group level electronic contributions, passing the “virtual” basket”, to the section passing the basket in the service piece “The A.A. Group Treasurer” and also be included in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and the guidelines on finance.
- Update illustrative material in the seven tradition fact sheet (F – 203) to reflect current pamphlet covers and website.
- Update birthday contribution envelopes per member per year statistics.

The committee recommended that the conference approved maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the general service board be increased from \$3000 to \$5000. **Passed**

118/13 I voted Yes

Additional Considerations

- The committee had a discussion on the topic of A.A. Grapevine and suggested the following:
 - That there be a greater online presence.
 - A fact sheet on the topic of Grapevine be included in the self-support packet.
 - That the General Service Board make available issues of Grapevine for distribution purposes through G. S. O. Staff assignments.

- The committee requested that when A.A.W.S. develops an A.A. app that self-support information be easily accessible. The committee also discussed having access to assignment folders containing literature relevant to the services.

V. Grapevine

- A. Review social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook and Google for Nonprofits.
Additional consideration – the committee reviewed the 2018 Grapevine social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook, and Google for Nonprofits and suggested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue to explore a social media strategy in their forthcoming strategic plan, taking into account issues regarding anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion.
- B. Review audio strategic status update.
Additional consideration – the committee reviewed the audio strategic report and thanked A.A. Grapevine, Inc. for including it in their forthcoming strategic plan.
- C. Review report on 2004 conference advisory action on outside sales.
Review report on 2004 conference advisory action on outside sales that states: “to allow the widest distribution of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliation with any outside enterprise, a) subscriptions to the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazine be issued only by the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., or by A.A. trusted servants directly; and b) the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers. [Note: this recommendation is to clarify the 1993 advisory action stating that ‘the Grapevine corporate board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non—A.A.) outlets.’]”
1. The committee recommended that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Allow sales of Grapevine and Levine you books, single issue magazines (as available), and other products to non-A.A. entities, such as (but not limited to) hospitals, treatment centers and bookstores. [Note: as a current practice, A.A. Grapevine, Inc. does not seek outside sales for magazine subscriptions.] **Passed 120/14 I voted Yes**
 2. The committee recommended that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Continue to seek opportunities to expand bulk sales. [Note: A.A. Grapevine, Inc. currently offers volume discounts and will respond to request, rather than solicit sales from outside entities.] **Passed 122/9 I vote Yes**
 3. The committee recommended that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. provide notification to A.A. World Services list of non—A.A. entities to let them know that they can now purchase A.A. Grapevine and La Viña books, single issue magazines (as available) and other products. **Passed 128/7 I voted Yes**
- D. Reconsider the 2010 conference advisory action regarding La Vina
The committee recommended that La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color. **In full color is new. Passed 128/7 I voted Yes**
- E. Review revised text of the pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print.”
The committee recommended that the revise pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” be approved and title changed to “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media.” **Passed 104/28 I voted Yes**
- F. Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2019 and later.
Additional consideration – The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine corporate board the suggestion that in the year 2019 or later Grapevine produce the following items:
1. Our Twelve Steps II (working title) stories of experience by members about our Twelve Steps (our last step book was in 2011).

2. All about Grapevine Reps (working title) helpful and inspiring stories by A.A. members doing service with Grapevine and La Viña.
3. Prayer and meditation (working title) a collection of stories by A.A. members about the many ways they practice Step 11
4. A.A. and Families (working title) stories by A.A. members that illustrate the many ways alcoholism and A.A. has touched our families.
5. Hispanic members doing service in A.A. (working title) a collection of stories published in La Viña magazine by members getting sober and active, doing service and caring the A.A. message.

G. Review Grapevine Workbook

Additional consideration – the committee reviewed the Grapevine workbook and suggested it undergo a comprehensive review and revision, and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. bring back a progress report to the 2019 conference committee on A.A. Grapevine.

Additional Considerations

- The committee discussed ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Vina and suggested that all current and past delegates consider it a part of their responsibility to inform the Fellowship about Grapevine and La Vina as tools of sobriety, either through their own efforts or by recruiting others through email and area websites.

VI. Literature

A. Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

1. Request to add an appendix reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.

Failed 57/79 I voted No

2. Request to Add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement.

Additional consideration: The committee took no action, the committee noted that they A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement are adequately noted in other A.A. literature.

3. Request to add an endnote to Bill W's story acknowledging cofounder, Bob S.

Additional consideration: the committee took no action; the committee noted that acknowledgment of Bob S. ("Dr. Bob") as cofounder is currently mentioned in two separate places in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

B. Consider request that A.A. (US/Canada) publish "The God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain).

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "The God Word" (currently published by the great General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes. **Passed 122/13 I voted No**

C. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members.

Additional consideration: the committee took no action; the committee agreed the recommendation that A.A.W.S. adopt/adapt the pamphlet "The God Word" responded to the need expressed by atheist and agnostic members of A.A.

D. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.

The committee recommended that the Trustees' Literature Committee develop a pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together, and including personal stories of members experiences with the Three Legacies; and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Passed 89/44 exactly 2/3 I voted Yes**

E. Review report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety and A.A. literature.

Additional consideration: the committee requested that the Trustees' Literature Committee develop text regarding safety and A.A. to be included in Living Sober and the pamphlet

“Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” and bring back the draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

F. Review revised draft pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman.”

The committee recommended that the revise pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.,” be approved. **Passed 122/8 I voted Yes**

G. Review revised draft pamphlet “A.A. in the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.”

The committee recommended that the revise pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,” be approved. **First vote failed 109/25; motion to reconsider past; second vote passed 120/12. I voted Yes for both votes**

H. Review draft pamphlet “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues.”

The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their Sponsors.” be approved. **Passed 125/9 I voted Yes**

I. Review revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services.”

The committee recommended that the revise pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services” be approved. **Passed 125/2 I voted Yes**

J. Review progress report and draft revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

Additional consideration: the committee review draft text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” and offered additional suggestions for the Trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or revised draft pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

K. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Too Young?”

Additional consideration: the committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft revise pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

L. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

The committee reviewed a progress report from the Trustees’ Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.” the committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft revise pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

M. Consider request for revision to *Living Sober*.

The committee recommended that the following text (originally included in the 1998 edition of *Living Sober*) be added to *Living Sober* following the section titled note to medical professionals:

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depression that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some, it is meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have describe situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.’s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a laypersons advice, the sufferers find

that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that “A.A. is against pills.”

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become re-addicted to any drug, it’s equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems. **Passed 110/25 I voted Yes**

N. Consider request for the development of a new book combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with Twelve Concepts for World Service.

The committee recommended that the Trustees ‘Literature Committee develop a new book, combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with Twelve Concepts for World Service, and bring back a progress report or draft manuscript to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **First vote failed 62/72; motion to reconsider past; second vote failed 63/71 I voted Yes both votes**

O. Consider request to update the video “You’re A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”

The committee recommended that the Trustees ‘Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive update to the video “You’re A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure,” to reflect a contemporary presentation of the General Service and the A.A. Grapevine offices as well as a current portrayal of the General Service Structure; and bring back a progress report or draft updated video to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Passed 129/6 I voted Yes**

P. Consider request to change the subtitle of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.”

The committee recommended the title of the pamphlet “G. S. R. General Service Representative: May be the Most Important Job in A.A.” be changed to “G. S. R. General Service Representative: Your Groups Linked to A.A. as a Whole.” **Past 120/11 I voted Yes**

Q. Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

The committee recommended that the Trustees Literature Committee develop a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics by gathering sharing from Spanish-speaking women in A.A., and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Passed 124/8 I voted Yes**

R. Consider request to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

The committee recommended that the Trustees Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to include a section on anonymity, and bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Passed 127/5 I voted Yes**

S. Review matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

The committee accepted the 2017 matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

Additional consideration:

The committee requested that G.S.O. Publishing Department add A.A. Grapevine literature to the list of A.A. Publications noted on the back of page of A.A. literature, as additional resources, when appropriate. For example, the A.A. Grapevine publication *Voices of Women in A.A.* could be added to the list of publications in the pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: Women and A.A.” and A.A. Grapevine publication *Sober and Out* could be listed in the pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.” and *In Our Own Words* could be included as a resource in the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.”

VII. Policy/Admissions

A. Approve request for one observer from A.A. in India to attend the 2018 General Service Conference.

Valley Kalaiyappa, General Secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India, be admitted to the 68th general service conference as an observer. **Passed unanimously**

B. Review dates for the 2021 General Service Conference.

The committee accepted the dates April 25 through May 1, 2021 for the 71st general service conference since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

C. Review report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference.

The committee reviewed the report from G.S.O.'s General Manager on site selection of the General Service Conference. The committee looks forward to a progress report for review by the 2019 conference committee on Policy/Admissions.

D. Review draft process for polling the General Service Conference between annual Conference meetings.

The "Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings" be approved.

E. Review progress report on options for equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees.

The committee reviewed the Trustees General Service Conference Committee's Report on Equitable Distribution of the Workload of Conference Committees. The committee encourages the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference to continue reviewing options in order to create a workable plan for equitable distribution of the workload of conference committees by combining and/or creating committees. The committee looks forward to a planner progress report on this important process for review by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

F. Consider request to develop a policy for the use of Conference Dashboard.

The committee discussed the request to develop a policy on the use of the Conference Dashboard and suggested that the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference develop an information sheet that reflects shared experience and guidance on usage of the Conference Dashboard.

G. Discuss the following question from the Trustee's International Committee: "Does the US/Canada have a role/responsibility in assisting the development of A.A. structures around the world through sponsoring other countries via direct invitations to observe our General Service Conference?"

The committee discussed the question forwarded from the Trustee's International Committee: "Does the US/Canada [service structure] have a role/responsibility in assisting the development of A.A. structures around the world through sponsoring other countries *via direct invitations* to observe our General Service Conference?" While wishing to remain open to request from other countries boards/G.S.O.'s the committee agreed that the US/Canada service structure does not have a role/responsibility in assisting other countries via direct invitations to observe our General Service Conference rather than at their own request.

Two consultants, Andrea Pellegrino and Chris DeSantis, from the firm impact collaborative, be admitted to the 68 General Service Conference on Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27, 2018 as observers.

[Note: this was a special request from the chair of the General Service Board for approval of two representatives from the firm contracted to conduct a communications audit initiated by the General Service Board.] **Passed unanimously**

VIII. Public Information

A. Review 2017 annual report from the Trustees Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.

Additional consideration: the committee reviewed and accepted the 2017 annual report from the Trustees Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.

B. Review 2018 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.

Additional consideration: the committee reviewed and accepted the 2018 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan and noted the importance of the Trustees continued exploration of social media and social network platforms to carry the A.A. message to the public.

C. Public Service Announcements (PSA's):

1. Consider approving the proposed video PSA "Changes."

The committee recommended that the video PSA "Changes" be approved with the following revision: that the line "That's where A.A. came to my rescue" be replaced with "A.A. offered a solution." **Past 124/7 I voted Yes**

2. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed video PSA "Changes," at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 in addition to the work of local Public Information Committee's.

The committee recommended that in addition to the work of local committees, the video PSA, "Changes" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2019 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

3. Review the 2017 Report on the Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.

Additional consideration: the committee reviewed and accepted the 2017 report from the Trustees Public Information Committee regarding the usefulness and relevance of video public service announcements.

D. Consider approving a Young People's Video submission.

The committee recommended that the Young People's Video submission be approved. **Passed 115/19 I voted Yes**

E. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" which expand content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve and adds information related to safety and A.A.

The Committee recommended that the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," with expanded content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve be approved. **Passed 122/6 I voted Yes**

The Committee recommended that the Trustees Committee on Public Information develop language reflecting that A.A.'s anonymity traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and that calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. A progress report or draft language is requested to be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information. **Passed 125/9 I voted Yes**

F. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" with update language, contact information and information on the prevalence and severity of alcoholism and add information related to safety and A.A.

The Committee recommended that the updated pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved. **Passed 124/10 I voted Yes**

G. Review a progress report on the A.A.W.S. Google for Nonprofit YouTube channel.

The Committee recommended that a progress report including website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information. **Passed 121/9 I voted Yes**

H. Review the 2018 Trustees Public Information Committee report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the A.A. message.

Additional consideration: the committee reviewed the 2017 Trustees Public Information Committee report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the A.A. message and requested that the Trustees Committee on Public Information continue to develop information on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants including information on the cost of implementing a six month trial and the cost of a full year's implementation and that a progress report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.

I. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

The committee reviewed the contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook, and suggested that the information in the P.I. Workbook in the section approaching local broadcast facilities be updated to reflect changes in G.S.O. delivers public service announcements.

IX. Report and Charter

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2018 – 2020 edition:

1. Review list of editorial updates.

The committee recommended that text be added to the section "Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights" reflecting the A.A.W.S. copyright statement on "The Blue People" graphic.

Passed 128/4 I voted Yes

2. Consider request for changes to chapters 2, 3, and 5.

Additional consideration: the committee considered a request for changes to chapters 2, 3, and 5 in the A.A. Service Manual and took no action. The committee suggested that if an extensive rewrite of the chapters is undertaken, the Publishing Department review these chapters for possible future editions of the manual.

3. Consider adding "Panel" to the *Glossary of Service Terms*.

The committee recommended that the following text be added to the *Glossary of Service Terms*:

A Panel is a numerical designation that refers to a group of delegates elected to begin serving at the General Service Conference in a particular year. Each panel is numbered for the Conference at which the Area's delegate will first serve. The two-year cycle frequently applies to area committee officers and committee members, as well. **Passed**

122/6 I voted Yes

4. Consider adding graphics on page S75, above the section *A.A. World Services, Inc.*, that visually display the positions on each of the three corporate boards.

The committee recommended that text boxes that visually display the member positions on each of the three corporate boards be added to Chapter Ten in the section on *A.A. World Services, Inc.* **Passed 127/3 I voted Yes**

The committee reviewed revisions from the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recommended that in the section, "AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD," a footnote be added to the portion of the resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter in the Current Conference Charter with the following text: *Bill uses the term "registered." A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for the purpose of accurate communications. **Passed**

124/6 I voted Yes

5. Consider adding text regarding standing committees from "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.

Additional consideration: the committee considered a request to add text to the A.A. Service Manual regarding standing committees from "The A.A. Group" pamphlet and took no

action. The committee suggested that the Publishing Department consider adding more language regarding local service committees in possible future Service Manual rewrites.

6. Consider removing the following statement from the section *Area Newsletters or Bulletins*: “Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other A.A. material.”

Additional consideration: The committee considered a request to remove the statement from the section “Area Newsletters” in the A.A. Service Manual, “Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other A.A. material” and took no action. The committee noted that the statement as it stands is informative to those with questions concerning the circle and triangle.

7. Consider developing a plan for a revised editorial review process.

The committee recommended that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board review the A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter biennially, only in printing years. **Passed 126/6 I voted Yes**

The committee recommended that the following publication of the 2018 – 2020 edition of the A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual with a preliminary draft a progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. **Passed 115/15 I voted Yes**

B. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and International).

The committee discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes at this time. The committee also reviewed a memo from the General Service Office General Manager informing the committee that the A.A. Directories, Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S. would not be printed in 2018 due to the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning system.

C. General Service Conference *Final Report*.

1. Consider request that the Conference Committee additional considerations be published in their entirety both in the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity – protected digital version.

The committee recommended that any Committee Considerations be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and in the anonymity – protected digital version. **Passed 124/5 I voted Yes**

Additional considerations:

In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the 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 Grapevine Board.

The committee considered a request to update the “Third Legacy Procedure” chart on page S22 in the A.A. Service Manual and suggested that the chart would be updated to correct inconsistencies. The committee reviewed a Publishing report with suggestions on how changes to the A.A. Service Manual could be made available to the Fellowship in non-printing years and took no action. The committee noted that substantive changes to the A.A. Service Manual can be found In The *Final Conference Report*; in The Report and Charter Conference Committee’s History and Highlights of Actions.

The committee except 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, 2018 – 2020 Edition* and the 2018 General Service Conference Final Report.

X. Treatment and Accessibilities

A. Review the Trustees Committee report on Cooperation with Armed Services Exploration Strategies.

Additional committee consideration: the committee reviewed the report "Cooperation with Armed Services Exploration Strategies" from the Trustees Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities and suggested the following:

- Review existing literature and service material with a military focus to expand on the topic of the accessibilities.
- Consider including in existing A.A. literature shared experience from members on active duty as well as veterans.
- Consider creating A.A. guidelines with a focus on carrying the message to those in the Armed Services.
- Consider whether creating a PSA as a method of carrying the message to those in the Armed Services would be effective.
- Consider the need for a national veteran's workshop.

B. Review proposed revisions to the pamphlet "Accessibilities for All Alcoholics."

The committee recommended that the title of the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" be changed to "Access to A.A.: Member Share on Overcoming Barriers." **Past 117/16 I voted Yes**
The committee recommended that the proposed changes by the Trustees Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities to the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" be approved with additional revisions. **Passed 125/5 I voted Yes**

C. Discuss ways that remote communities concerns might be addressed by the Conference.

The committee recommended that the Scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities, be expanded as follows (additions in bold):

The purpose of a Treatment and Accessibilities Committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the treatment setting to the A.A. **fellowship. In addition, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups serving those who experience barriers to accessing the A.A. message and participating in A.A.s three legacies-recovery, unity, and service. Finally, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups striving to ensure that A.A. members who live in underserved or remote communities-communities difficult to reach because of geography, language or culture-have access to the A.A. message.**

The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in non-correctional in-patient and out-patient treatment settings, as well as to **A.A.s who experience access barriers**, and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements. **Passed 124/11 I voted Yes**

D. Review summary of the Fellowship sharing on the need for additional material to support carrying the A.A. message to Deaf and Hard of Hearing A.A. members.

The committee reviewed the summary of sharing from A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing from the trustees committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities and suggested the following:

- Continue exploring ways to meet the needs of A.A. members who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Request shared experience from A.A. members who are deaf and hard of hearing regarding the types of technology used for participation in A.A.

- Review the A.A. website to determine if it is accessible to A.A. members who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Request shared experience from groups about the ways they are lowering access barriers in carrying the message to A.A. members who are deaf and hard of hearing and include sharing in existing literature and service material.
- Suggest the A.A. Grapevine develop a book that includes shared experience from A.A. members who are deaf and hard of hearing and or overcoming access barriers.

E. Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook

F. Review contents of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook

Additional considerations:

The committee suggested that the Trustees Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities focus on carrying the message to veterans in VA facilities, active service members stationed in local military facilities in the US and Canada, and active military personnel who are deployed outside the US and Canada.

The committee suggested that the Trustees Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities consider producing a Remote Communities Kit and Workbook.

The committee suggested that the Trustees Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities review literature in service material to determine if experience related to carrying the message for underserved and remote communities is included.

The committee suggested that a service piece be developed to help new committee chairs in getting started in Treatment and Accessibility service.

XI. Trustees

A. review resumes of candidates for:

1. Eastern Canada regional trustee
2. Pacific regional trustee

The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, candidates for Eastern Canada regional trustee and Pacific regional trustee. **Both candidates were elected by Delegates from the specific Areas and members of the Conference Trustees and Trustees' Nominating Committees**

B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

The committee recommended the following slate of trustees of the General Service Board for election at the annual meetings of the members of the General Service Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees	Class B Trustees	
Leslie S. Backus, B.A.	Thomas A	Scott H
Hon. Christine Carpenter	Cathy B	Jan L
Michele Grinberg, J.D.	Carole B	David N
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lernelle	Beau B	Newton P
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C	Mark E	Richard P
Nancy McCarthy	Yolanda F	Ginger R B
David M Morris, C.P.A.	Katheryn F	Cate W

This statement was read by a Delegate asking to not approve the Slate of Trustees:

It is with great regret and with a heavy heart that I have to speak in opposition to approval of the proposed slate of the General Service Board. Due to the Committee on Trustees not forwarding a recommendation for Censure or Reorganization and after hearing the report given by our General Service Board chair on Monday about the importance of owning "property", I am deeply concerned about how broken our process must be that any Trustee would seriously consider, and that the Conference Committee would not denounce strongly, spending over \$400,000, as well as initiating a lawsuit, to obtain a relic of any kind. For that matter, the contents of the Manuscript, which are the only thing that should be important to our history, are no longer unique and are easily obtainable for around \$35. Despite the indication of fiduciary responsibility being a motivator, it is my belief that this lawsuit was nothing more than a pursuit of sentimental value or some misguided belief that we need the actual paper and ink to preserve our message today. Regardless of the reason, this artifact has no value in helping alcoholics get sober. I urge this Conference to disapprove the General Service Board slate as a strong indication to our current and future Trustees that A.A. has no business owning property of substantial value that is not for the specific purpose of carrying the message and that the dollars in the basket and the profits from literature sales are both to be used for that purpose, and that purpose alone.

Past 121/12 I voted No

The committee recommended the following slate of officers of the General Service Board for election at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson	Michele Grinberg, J.D.
First Vice-Chairperson	Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Second Vice-Chairperson	Carole B
Treasurer	David M. Morris, CPA
Secretary	Thomas A
Assistant Treasurer	Bob S
Assistant Secretary	Eva S*

* Will be replaced at G.S.O. rotation in 2018 **Passed 127/9 I voted Yes**

C. Review slate of directors of A.A.W.S., Inc.

The committee reviewed and recommended the following slate of Directors for election at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Tom A	David N	Deborah A
Eva S*	Cathy B	Greg T
Beau B	Carolyn W	Homer M

* Will be replaced at G.S.O. rotation in 2018 **Passed 125/5 I voted Yes**

D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

The committee recommended the following slate of directors for election at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Carole B
Nancy M
Mark E

Tommi H
Josh E
Cate W

Ami B
Ginger R B
Ino F

Passed 128/4 I voted Yes

E. Review proposal to censure the General Service Board.

Additional consideration: the committee thoughtfully reviewed a proposal to censure the General Service Board and after seeking extensive additional input from the general manager of the General Service Office, the chair of the General Service Board, and additional General Service Board trustees, agreed to take no action. The committee recognized that the litigation regarding the Printer's Copy Manuscript and Alcoholics Anonymous has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue. The committee believes that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also recognizes that the General Service Board and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board have many legal responsibilities and must sometimes make use of the right of decision, but in the spirit of A.A. unity, the committee asked the General Service Board, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. That:

- All major decisions made by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc., The General Service Office or A.A. Grapevine management be promptly and fully reported to the General Service Board, as appropriate.
- If the General Service Board, the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services or A.A. Grapevine Boards need to initiate a legal proceeding as a plaintiff, that whenever possible, they will consult the members of the General Service Conference before starting such a proceeding, being ever mindful of A.A. unity and A.A.'s financial prudence. However, the committee understands that sometimes this might not be possible.

The committee recognizes that the General Service Board, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc., And A.A. Grapevine, Inc. could be brought into litigation by other parties and in no way wants to limit their actions required to protect these corporations.

F. Review proposal to reorganize the A.A. World Services and General Service Boards.

The committee reviewed a proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S. and General Service Boards and took no action. The committee noted that although a reorganization was not considered necessary at this time, the committee requested that the Trustees Committee on Nominating develop procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or A.A. Grapevine Boards and that a report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees, including all possible options.

G. Review report on the regional geographic service structure.

The committee expressed their appreciation for the report on the regional geographic service structure from the Trustees Committee on Nominating and the suggestion that the General Service Board discuss a possible survey of past and current regional trustees regarding their workload and ability to fulfill all their responsibilities. The committee expressed their hope that every option will be considered to allow as many A.A. members as possible the opportunity to serve on the General Service Board.

XII. Archives

A. Review draft proposed publication, *Our Great Responsibility: Selections of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970.*

The committee recommended that the proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: a Selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes. Past 126/7 (selling price to be \$10)

B. Consider request from the A.A. Grapevine Board to post the 2017 General Service Conference presentation, "A.A. Grapevine and La Vina" on A.A. Grapevine's YouTube channel.

Additional consideration: the committee discussed a request from the A.A. Grapevine Board to post the 2017 General Service Conference presentation, "A.A. Grapevine and La Vina" on A.A. Grapevine's YouTube channel and took no action for the following reasons:

- The request is not in accord with the current 2015 Conference Advisory Action, which states, "Audio recordings of General Service Conference final reports 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."
- The presentation mentioned names of A.A. members.
- The committee recognizes that the A.A. Grapevine Board might consider presenting the material at an A.A. event, such as a Regional Forum and post the recording of this on the A.A. Grapevine board's YouTube channel.
- The committee noted that the audience of the General Service Conference presentations are conference members only and that the focus is not the general public.

C. Consider developing a policy for distribution of audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations.

Additional consideration: the committee considered a request to develop a policy on distribution of audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations and took no action for similar reasons cited in a preceding committee consideration.

D. Review Archives Workbook

The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and made the following suggestions:

In the sections, "What to Collect?", "Financing the Archives" and "Ownership of Material," add text in the appropriate sections that distinguishes archivists from historians and collectors. In addition, add text clarifying that archivists do not appraise items for monetary value and that archives generally do not purchase items. The committee suggested that this new text also be added to the "A.A. Archives" service piece.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

A. Discuss selection of cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2030.

The committee recommended that the following two cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the international convention in 2030: Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri. Past 125/7

B. Discuss inviting up to 21 non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2020 International Convention at A.A.s expense.

The committee recommended that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2020 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. **Passed 131/3 I voted Yes**

C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in regional forums and attract first-time attendees.

The committee discussed ways of encouraging interest in regional and local forms and attracting first-time attendees and suggested:

- Compiling notes from the first timer sharing at a forum for later distribution to encourage members to attend a future form.

- Reaching out at the local level to young people and A.A. committees, continuing with one to one communication and spreading the word as far as possible.
- Exploring sending forum informational text blast to members receiving La Vina text messages.
- Highlighting that forums have no registration fee which might appeal to newer members to explore service at this level.

Additional considerations:

The committee requested that the Trustees Committee on International Convention/Regional Forums review the Guidelines for Site Selection for the 2035 A.A. International Convention and explore expanding the window of dates in which the 2035 International Convention could be held. The committee noted that including form attendee questionnaire summaries provided helpful information for discussions and suggested that they continue to be a part of the background for the Conference Committee on International Convention/Regional Forums.

Floor Actions:

1. It was recommended that: the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” be revised to be more inclusive, to apply to both Treatment and Corrections or possibly any alcoholic leaving any institution into the real world. **Conference declined to consider 96/39 I voted to decline**

2. It was recommended that: the text on page 18 of the pamphlet “members of the clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” that currently reads: please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous. Be revised to read: Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Additionally, online meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there is no meeting nearby. **Passed 129/3 I voted Yes**

3. It was recommended that: the general service board be censured. **Conference declined to consider 96/27 I voted against declining**

4. It was recommended that: area service highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed conference final report and the anonymity-protected digital version. **Passed 109/24 I voted Yes**

5. It was recommended that: the 68th General Service Conference lovingly advises the A.A.W.S. Board, Grapevine Board and General Service Board to refrain from the practice of litigation for the purpose of acquiring property not previously under the direct control of A.A. **Conference declined to consider 103/27 I voted to decline**

6. It was recommended that: The General Service Conference affirm the delegated authority of the General Service Board and operating corporations to protect the intellectual property of Alcoholics Anonymous. **Conference voted to decline to consider the failed 56/76, I voted to decline. Vote on motion passed 89/37, I voted No. Vote to reconsider past 76/50, I voted to reconsider. Vote on motion failed 11/117, I voted No.** Prevailing thought against the motion was that the General Service Board and operating corporations already have the authority to protect our intellectual property and this motion is thus unnecessary.

7. It was recommended that: the informational piece being created by the Trustees Committee on the Conference pertaining to the Conference Dashboard include excerpts on how a group conscience is obtained to reflect the integrity and collective conscience of the listed A.A. groups, including listed online groups. **Conference declined to consider 94/34, I voted to decline**

8. It was recommended that: all future reorganization and censure motions go directly to the conference committee on trustees, not to be reviewed by a trustees committee. **Motion withdrawn.**