

2011 General Service Conference Report

Keith Montgomery, Panel 61 Delegate Area 69 Utah

My spiritual journey into the 4th dimension started at my regular Sunday morning A.A. meeting at the Triangle House in Moab, Utah. It actually began on September 21, 1991, in the same building with some of the same A.A. members. Oh, what a long way a falling-down drunk from Moab has come! The 2011 General Service Conference started during the Area 69 Post-Conference Assembly when Monte S. announced the theme was “We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let it Begin with Us.” I, along with Utah Area 69, began thinking and talking about the theme. Workshops were held throughout 2010 and many thoughtful presentations were given. I believe we became very informed about 1) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age, 2) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A., 3) Diversity in A.A., and 4) Sponsorship. The 2011 Workshop Topic “How to Increase Participation in A.A. – Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs” was discussed numerous times and, although we are currently using the monetary prudent reserve, we are making progress. It’s all about communication.

General Service got real when I was elected delegate for Area 69 Utah in September 2011. My reading of *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* was incredibly emotional. I came to my first meeting September 21, 1991. I became a member of Alcoholics Anonymous with all my heart and soul working our 12 Steps. General Service work has always been the foundation of my sobriety. However, A.A. as a whole has taken on a whole new meaning since I became a delegate. The weight of our Triangle, including all Three Legacies, was resting on my shoulders (no pressure). All of the past Utah Delegates informed me that it was going to be okay and I couldn’t screw it up even if I tried.

All of the Area Officers and Standing Chairs were part of the Meet, Greet, Learn, and Listen Tour that visited all of the Districts in Area 69 Utah during January and early February — we learned a lot. Our 7th Tradition money may be running low. However, our enthusiasm for carrying our message to the still-suffering is incredible. Mid-February brought the 2011 GSC Final Agenda Items to our attention and we, as an Area, began a whole new round of district visits and workshops. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work in forming an informed group conscience for Area 69 Utah. I was very familiar with all the agenda items and I believe I understand our Area. It all starts with the Home Group Members becoming informed and sharing their collective conscience with their GSR, who shares this with the district and area and, ultimately, *me* — the Delegate. During the Pre-Conference Assembly in early April we became informed, in roundtable discussions, and formed a group conscience during a series of meetings. This informed group conscience was the cornerstone for my understanding of the underlying principles in the Final Agenda Items. In concert with the Area Officers and Standing Chairs, we selected eight important GSC Final Agenda Items this year for the groups to focus on. In retrospect, I believe this was very successful. I will be reporting the results of the Utah Big 8 and a few other items in a little while.

Next along the journey was a quick drive up-state for lunch with my service sponsor Jodi E. (Love and support with P. F, Chang lettuce wraps on the side, thank you very much.) Then off to a pre-planning dinner with three past Utah delegates and a long-time service buddy. One of the past delegates and a long-time service buddy had to cancel due to a major auto accident on the freeway. Mickey and Jim H. transferred all responsibility for getting me ready to Mike and Shirley O. They both stepped up and delivered. After warm conversation during a good Mexican dinner, I was given a beautiful passage from Shirley’s conference:

God, this is another General Service Conference. We know not what it will bring forth, but make us ready for whatever it may be. If we are to stand up, help us stand bravely. If we are to sit still, help us to sit quietly. If we are to lie low, help us to do it patiently, and if we are to do nothing, let us do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give to each of us the Spirit of the God of each one's understanding. Amen

Another present from Shirley was a very special rubber ducky from one of her early sobriety sponsors. This ducky helped keep me right size and entertained me during many stress-relieving baths. We finished the evening at the Greater Kearns Group monthly birthday celebration, where Shirley took a 25-year chip and a 27- and 19-year, along with a 9-month and two 90-day chips. All received chips and well wishes. What a great way to prepare for our general service conference — lots of sharing about what has happened, what it was like, and what it's like today.

Monte S., my tour guide, spiritual advisor, recovery sponsor, and best friend, met me at the airport security check point and we were more or less together for the next 12 days. The four-and-a-half hour trip went really fast with one long conversation about our Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous. Downtown Manhattan's Times Square is Disneyland on steroids and totally overwhelming for a rural boy from southeast Utah. There are more people in one city block than in all of Moab and most of Grand County. Walking into the quiet, tranquil, comforting space of my corner room on the 31st floor of the Crowne Plaza, I looked west onto the exact spot of the "Miracle on the Hudson." My first thought was that me being here is a miracle, too. Not to put too much of a shine on it, but wow! Town drunk to the Big Apple in less than two decades. What a journey, and many in these rooms have witnessed much of it. I always like to think I was like Otis of Mayberry, but my drunken actions were never that kind or gentle. While I am not a miracle, my recovery in A.A. *is* a miracle. Oh! What a blessing.

Wednesday was a play day. Monte and I took the Circle Line tour and demonstrated that Manhattan really is an island. Passing under many famous bridges and viewing our GSO from the Hudson was very thrilling. What a beautiful way of spending three hours in New York. Then, after gathering Gay W., three generations of sponsorship were off to Ground Zero. There are no words to accurately portray the pain and suffering that occurred around the pit that was the Twin Towers. The absolute horror of 9-11 still hangs in the air. Yes, there are new beginnings. A 62-story structure is heading up toward the heavens, along with a few small structures. War is hell and this was a bad one.

Uptown we go off to a Yankee's game. The kids from Utah are playing in the Big Apple. I was truly amazed by the night lights at Yankee Stadium, which are actually brighter and clearer than sunshine. There are no shadows at night, the grass was greener, the white lines of base markings were whiter... (You get the picture, rural boy in the big city.) The home team took the field and beat the visiting Chicago White Socks. Three steak sandwiches with soda cost \$81.00 — treats in the big city are not cheap!

Thursday Monte and I met Gay at our GSO for three and a half hours of pure joy. The GSO staff treated us better than royalty. Our General Service Office is located in a spiritual, tranquil setting at 475 Riverside Drive, in a multi-story structure built by the Rockefellers to house spiritual, altruistic, community-based entities. Its setting, between the beautiful Hudson River and Columbia University, could not be more perfect. Our Grapevine Office is on the 10th floor, and GSO is on the 11th floor. I suggested moving to the 12th floor to be on the same floor as our 12 Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. However, I was informed by Doug R. that that would not be occurring any time soon. We started over in one corner office and gently made our way around the offices of staff and directors, ending with our own Pacific Region member Phyllis H. from Area 72 Western Washington, who is currently serving us as our GSO general manager. I was incredibly moved by numerous conversations with our passionate, loving, trusted servants. These included a conversation with Susan O., in which she described her feelings and

perception of the early A.A. members after listening to the first 10 General Service Conferences. She noted a profound respect for the civility, trust, and dignity of these early delegates, trustees, and GSO personnel. Irene was recently hired as a part-time staff member to explore all aspects of our publications copyright/registration problems. She explained that registration of our Final Conference Report, for example, could expose all full names, because registered materials are available through the Freedom of Information Act. Her understanding of incredibly complex United States and international laws was very impressive. I am very grateful for her dedication and knowledge, and I am confident that our intellectual properties are in good hands.

Through past misunderstandings we have lost the rights to our first and second editions of the Big Book and the Twelve Concepts. The back story on the First Edition is that very knowledgeable GSO staff were informed by lawyers that copyrights of the second edition would cover both editions and it may have. However, it would have taken a long court battle to prove it and it's hard to be spiritually anonymous in a court of law. Jim M., from the correction desk, shared that GSO responses are not usually personal, but rather the collective wisdom of 75 years of our fellowships experience. The afternoon ended with me sitting on Bill's couch holding the Lasker Award with white lab gloves surrounded by my sponsor and grand sponsor. If you service our fellowship, great gifts will come. However, if the photo of that gets on to a Facebook page or goes viral, Michelle, the GSO archivist, will walk to Utah and throttle me, or at least that is what she promised. What a gift! Holding in my humble hands what was presented to Bill in 1951 in the San Francisco Opera House. From Bill's hands on my hands, circle of love. I was overwhelmed with thoughts for the still-suffering alcoholics in the dark.

The evening dinner included five past or current Pacific Region Delegates, one of which began as a trustee and then became the General Manager at GSO. Greg M. is a beautiful, knowledgeable man. He was in town on business about an organization started by Marty Mann. No resting on his laurels for the trusted servant of our fellowship. The knowledge of this man is only surpassed by the warmth of his personality. He spent the night planting seeds for CPC contacts in my brain, such as, "What if you attended the University School on Alcoholism and made yourself available as a source of information about A.A. for all who might have questions?" His suggestion was to, "...wander the halls talking A.A. one-to-one," which is the best way to carry the A.A. message.

The famous Friday 1728 (12 by 12 by 12) meeting at GSO was chaired by Adrian B. with our own Gay W. sharing the lead. Both Monte and I shared our experience, strength, and hope. The passion and gratitude in that room would have filled the box cars of Gay's hobo days. The gifts of sobriety are awesome, if we work for them.

The conference began Saturday afternoon with the Remote Communities pre-Conference Meeting, which was very moving for me since I started in, and still live in, a remote geographic community. There were numerous presentations, which gave all of us a much greater appreciation of what a Remote Community is. These varied from a group of Laos tribesman near San Francisco to a community of Inuit along the Arctic Circle. We all divided into small groups and shared in a round-robin format, followed by informative report-backs. This workshop gave me numerous new ideas about carrying our message of recovery to the Navajo, Ute, and other Native American populations, as well as to the polygamous Mormon groups in southwestern Utah.

Sunday morning all the Delegates received binders during registration and I gave A.A. a big hug. Roll call began with a warm welcome from Ward Ewing, a classy Class A Trust and Chair of the General Service Board. Ward's southern charm won me over a few years ago at the Pacific Regional Forum in L.A., and he is still a beautiful, caring man with an incredible, loving attitude. When Phyllis H.

called the roll, my smart mouth showed up when I declared, "Here in the present!" A simple, "Here" or "Present" would have sufficed. Phyllis commented that we all needed to be here in the present.

After roll call, we heard from Ward Ewing, George M., and Ken B., who reported on the state of three corporations. In general, things are good, 7th Traditions moneys are still down, but are, however, rising. We are is very dependent on book sales to support G.S.O. The A.A. Grapevine is still in the red. However, it seems to have turned the corner and may become self-supporting soon. I have included copies of these reports.

- General Service Board Report, Ward Ewing, D.D.
 - Chair of the General Service Board
- Directors' Report: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.
 - George M., chair, A.A.W.S.
- Corporate Board Report: A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
 - Ken B, Chairperson

On a personal note, the Sunday night opening dinner was very special for me, since there were four past Utah Delegates at my table. The depth of Utah General Service history made for very interesting conversation. The second half of the conference week was spent in the General Session with the delegates, trustees, directors, and GSO staff making policy decisions, which will direct A.A. as a whole in the future. My heart soars with joy knowing the depth of passion and commitment of so many talented people in A.A. General Service.

Monday afternoon George M., Chair of the A.A.W.S board, gave a detailed progress report on the E-Book Project. We are moving into the Digital Age. I have reported on E-Publishing numerous times over the last few months. This project involves A.A.W.S. distributing conference-approved books, specifically the Big Book, Twelve Steps, and Twelve Traditions, through a new vehicle — the World Wide Web. Beginning late summer, we will be able to go to the A.A. website and download these books on to Apple or Android devices. They will probably launch the Apple product first. My understanding is that, to download these books, you go to iTunes and get a free app purchase product through either A.A.W.S. or Apple, and read the book. If you choose to buy it through Apple they give a 30% discount. However, if you buy it from A.A.W.S., A.A. gets all of the proceeds. For Android products, A.A. gets also all the proceeds. A very important factor in all of this is the fact that A.A.W.S. controls all publishing, distribution, and digital rights. After many questions and follow up answers, I believe this is a very cool idea and its time has come. Both the General Service Board and A.A.W.S. directors and staff are keenly aware of the Amazon Kindle Debacle, and they want no part in repeating past mistakes. There were some delegates concerned that this project did not go before the fellowship as an agenda item. Phyllis commented that it is primarily a format issue, and is similar to producing a large-print version of the Big Book. A recent survey by the General Service Board on the E-Book Project showed 4,000 responses, with 80% in favor and 50% wanting the Big Book first.

During Conference week, all of the first-year delegates gave Area Highlights. These were very interesting. Area 69 Utah is about average in geographic size, although we have less than the average number of members, groups, and districts. Also, second-year delegates gave numerous reports on the 2011 GSC Presentation topics. I will provide copies of any or all these presentations upon request. They include the following:

- Diversity in A.A.: The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
 - Richard B., Northwest Quebec Area 90, Panel 60 Delegate
- Diversity in A.A.: The Hand of A.A. – Inclusive Never Exclusive
 - Virginia R., Southern Indiana Area 23, Panel 60 Delegate
- Diversity in A.A.: Tradition Five – Our Primary Purpose
 - Allen W., Wyoming Area 76, Panel 60 Delegate
- An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.: Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix
 - Mike R. Kansas Area 60, Panel 60 Delegate
- An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.: Humility – Accepting the Group Conscience
 - Frank Z., Delaware Area 12, Panel 60 Delegate
- An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.: An Informed Group Conscience – Using the Three Legacies
 - Angela H., Idaho Area 18, Panel 60 Delegate
- Sponsorship: Importance of a Home Group
 - Tom K., Mississippi Area 37, Panel 60 Delegate
- Sponsorship: Leading by Example – Attraction Not Promotion
 - Mel L., Western Michigan Area 34, Panel 60 Delegate
- Sponsorship: Recovery, Unity, Service
 - Cate W., Manitoba Area 80, Panel 60 Delegate
- Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age: Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
 - Joel C., San Diego/Imperial California Area 8, Panel 60 Delegate
- Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age: Carrying A.A.’s Message Online
 - Alicia R., Southwest Ohio Area 56, Panel 60 Delegate
- Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age: Grapevine – “A.A.’s Meeting in Print” and More...
 - Elaine McA., Southern New Jersey Area 45, Panel 60 Delegate

The first three days of the 2011 GSC were filled from morning to late evening with presentations and committee meetings. I believe the last 18 years of my participation in General Service in Area 69 was preparation for the six and a half hours spent in the Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community meetings. What an absolutely joyful experience. There were eight passionate delegates and a beautiful, talented GSO staff person creating Committee Considerations. As an example of the work we completed, I will present the Final Agenda Item II.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

- A. Discuss the concept of a compilation DVD of Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) literature.
 - a. Was reviewed by the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities and Conley B. noted,

“Forwarded to the 2011 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community the concept of a C.P.C. literature compilation CD/DVD with background, noting that this information is readily available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website and the item would be redundant.”

After lengthy deliberation about this information being readily available and why it was redundant, the committee created the following consideration:

- The committee agreed that the concept of combining the A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community DVD with a compilation of C.P.C. literature would be very useful in C.P.C. service work. The committee requested the trustees' C.P.C./Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore replacing the current A.A. C.P.C. DVD with a new DVD compilation that includes the following existing material:
 - Table of contents
 - Introduction letter that includes references to aa.org and the resources available for professionals on the website
 - If You are a Professional
 - Information on Alcoholics Anonymous
 - A.A. Membership Survey
 - Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community
 - About A.A. – Newsletter for Professional (3-4 selected issues)
 - Is A.A. for Me?
 - A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community videos

The committee requested that the trustees bring back a report and draft product to the 2012 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community.

During a special lunch for all the Pacific Region Delegates and our own Pacific Region Trustee, we selected the host for the next Pacific Regional Forum 2014 and the PRAASA 2015. As a review, the "Additional" Pacific Regional Forum will be held August 19-21, 2011 in the Warner Center Marriott, Woodland Hills, California; and the 2012 Pacific Regional Forum will be held September 14-16, 2012 in the Westmark Hotel Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska. Area 18 Idaho was selected as the host for the 2014 Pacific Regional Forum. The 2012 PRAASA will be hosted by Area 72 Western Washington in Bellevue, Washington; 2013 PRAASA will be hosted by Area 18 Idaho, 2014 PRAASA will be hosted by Area 8 San Diego/Imperial, California. I presented our bid for 2015 PRAASA and we were successful. Our 2015 PRAASA Bid Proposal was prepared a small but excellent committee consisting of Monte S, our chair, Jodi E. Sheryl T. and myself.

2015 PRAASA BID PROPOSAL

Davis Conference Center — 1651 North 700 West, Layton, Utah

Located about 20 miles north of Salt Lake City, the facility is very accessible by car with free onsite parking or an airport transfer for about \$45.00 round trip, which will be arranged by the committee.

This facility was simply built for PRAASA! With a very large main meeting room, which can easily seat 1500 to 2200 people, it also has well over 24 breakout rooms of various sizes.

The rental fee for the facility is only \$13,450, and the cost of food and beverages is \$29,082.00, which consists of:

- 525 Banquet dinners at \$35 = \$18,375
- 250 Lunches at \$24 = \$6,000
- 500 Snacks/Coffee at \$10 = \$5,000
- Total = \$29,375.00

Projected facility expenses are \$28,450-\$32,000, which can be paid with a low (\$22-\$24) Registration Fee. The projected attendance, based on fancy math and a simple review of the past 15 PRAASA's, will

be about 1,350 people, which would produce \$29,700-\$32,400 in revenue. Thus, the expenses are covered.

There are about 390 rooms available within a quarter mile of the facility. Sleeping rooms start at a rate of \$99 with an average cost of \$118.00 per night. There are at least 75 more rooms within a mile. Most rooms include free breakfast and all have free parking.

Please give to the A.A. members of Area 69 what was so freely given to me — an opportunity to participate in PRAASA. It will change your life.

Wednesday afternoon began with the election of the Northeast Region trustee, Gary L.; Southwest Region, Clayton V.; and Trustee-at-Large/Canada-Barb K. The multi-ballot Third Legacy voting was spiritual, as always, and excellent trusted servants were selected.

At 3:30 p.m., the General Session began hearing Committee Reports and a loving discussion began. I have included in my written reports all of the Committee Recommendations, Committee Considerations, and Additional Committee Considerations, with the votes and discussion noted. Voting only occurs on recommendations. However, there can be, and were, numerous questions about the Committee Considerations and Additional Committee Considerations. This review is about 25 pages and is much too long for this presentation. I have included the short version and there is a separate handout containing this information. As you remember, Area 69 Utah gathered group consciences on eight Final Agenda Items, here are the results of these items:

IV. **Finance**

- A. Review update from trustees' Finance Committee in gathering personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about self-support.

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Approved: 2/3

Conference Committee on Finance Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed, with appreciation, the Seventh Tradition stories received to date and encourage the collection process to continue. The committee suggested that the trustees or office can use any stories received to date if the occasion arises.

- B. Consider a request "that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook, a draft of which is to be made available for the 2012 General Service Conference, to assist group, intergroup/central offices, and district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition."

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Approved: _____ Not Approved: _____ Other:

50/50

Conference Committee on Finance Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee discussed a request that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook and felt a workbook was not necessary at this time as there is a wealth of information currently available.

V. **Grapevine**

- A. Consider that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books, and products.

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Not Approved: 2/3

2011 General Service Conference **approved** the following Recommendation from the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:

After a thoughtful and lengthy discussion, the Committee recommended that, in the spirit of being self-supporting, while also protecting our Traditions of attraction, anonymity, and non-affiliation, A.A. Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books, and products. The committee requests that the Board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. The Committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2012 Grapevine Conference Committee.

- B. Consider permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses, with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund.

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Approved: _____ Not Approved: _____ Other: 50/50

Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee considered permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses, with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund and agreed to **take no action**. The committee noted that the current financial structure is appropriate.

VI. **Literature**

- G. Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.”

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Not Approved: 2/3

Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee considered the request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous” and, after thoughtful discussion, agreed to **take no action**. The committee noted that the trustees’ Literature Committee’s report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality clarifies that the pamphlet under development will reflect a wide range of the spiritual experiences of A.A. members.

VII. **Policy/Admissions**

- E. Consider the comprehensive plan and estimated cost from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee for the General Service Conference to conduct a thorough inventory of itself.

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Not Approved: 2/3

2011 General Service Conference **approved** the following Recommendation from the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

The committee recommended that the General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan formulated by the Conference Inventory Planning Committee.

- I. Review report from the General Service Board regarding Concept V Appeal to the General Service Conference.

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Approved: 2/3

2011 General Service Conference **approved** the following Recommendation from the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

The committee recommended that the following procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference be established:...(not included).

VIII. **Public Information**

- C. Consider approval of the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates."

Area 69 Utah Pre-Conference Assembly: Approved: _____ Not Approved: _____ Other: 50/50

2011 General Service Conference **approved** the following Recommendation from the Conference Committee on Public Information:

The committee recommended that the following "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates" be approved:

Videos produced and distributed by the General Service Board or its affiliated corporations, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., that include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor's full face, unless:

- a. The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with the A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not, in fact or in appearance, place personalities before principles, and
- b. The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such video.

61st General Service Conference Committee Report Sequence

Cooperation With the Professional Community	Deb D.	
1. Finance		Joy F.
2. Agenda Spencer R.		
3. Grapevine		Jamie S.
4. Corrections		Ino F.
5. Literature		Patty L.
6. Treatment Facilities Special Needs-Accessibilities	David T.	
7. International Conventions/ Regional Forums	Darryl D.	
8. Trustees		Anne M.
9. Public Information		Mel L.
10. Archives		Linda C.
11. Policy/Admissions		Coop C.
12. Report & Charter		Char

Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

8 Delegates Chaired by Deb D. and Mary C. GSO Staff secretary

6 Hours 45 Minutes Committee Meeting

General Session Deliberations 8 Minutes

The Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community(C.P.C.) met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities on May 1, 2011. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee with appreciation and noted the value of the joint meeting.

Committee Considerations:

- The committee agreed that the concept of combining the A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community DVD with a compilation of C.P.C. literature would be very useful in C.P.C. service work. The committee requested the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore replacing the current A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community DVD with a new DVD compilation that includes the following existing material:
 - Table of contents
 - Introduction letter that includes references to aa.org and the resources available for professionals on the web site
 - If You are a Professional
 - Information on Alcoholics Anonymous
 - A.A. Membership Survey
 - Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community
 - About A.A. – Newsletter for Professional (3-4 selected issues)
 - Is A.A. for Me?
 - A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community videos

The committee requested that the trustees' bring back a report and draft product to the 2012 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community.

- The committee discussed a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne and took no action.
- The committee reviewed a draft service piece regarding use of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in C.P.C. endeavors and suggested including the piece in the C.P.C Kit with minor edits suggested by the committee.
- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
 - That a list of goals and project suggestions for C.P.C. committees be added to the C.P.C. workbook.
 - The committee reviewed the Fellowship sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals. The committee requested that a summary of shared experience from C.P.C. committees and professionals for one-on-one C.P.C. contact with professionals be included in the C.P.C. Workbook.
- The committee suggested adding two bullets on page 20 of the C.P.C. Workbook regarding suggested elements in C.P.C. letters:
 - Invitation to accompany professionals or students to open A.A. meetings
 - Invitation to present on what A.A. is and is not.
- The committee elected Keith M., delegate for Utah, Area 69, Chairperson, and Maureen F., delegate for Iowa, Area 24, Alternate-Chairperson.

During General Session there were no votes since there were no recommendations, only considerations. However, there were a few questions.

Conference Committee on Finance

8 Delegates Chaired by Joy F. and Don M. GSO Staff secretary
7 Hours 33 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 1 Hour and 3 Minutes

The Conference Committee on Finance met separately two times following the Joint meeting with the trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee on May 1, 2011. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda item:

A. The committee reviewed alternate ways to revise the pamphlet F-3 "Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix." The Committee recommended the following changes to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.":

- "AND" be replaced with "OR" between the pie charts that start on page 12 and an additional "OR" added after the second pie chart.
- Insert an additional blank pie chart and distribution text as follows to the beginning of the pie chart examples:



District _____ %
 Area _____ %
 G.S.O. _____ %
 Intergroup/Central _____ %
 Other _____ %
 Other _____ %

- Other minor editorial changes.

During General Session, the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed, and a Friendly Amend was offered and excepted to add that "Contributions can be made online at the G.S.O. website." Two Amends were offered, seconded and failed. The question was called, motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the Seventh Tradition stories received to date and encourage the collection process continue. The committee suggests that the trustees or office can use any stories received to date if the occasion arises.
- The committee discussed a request that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook and felt a workbook was not necessary at this time as there is a wealth of information currently available.
- The committee discussed a request that the trustees' Finance Committee convert the Self-Support packet F-19 to a comprehensive Self-Support Kit. The committee requested that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a draft Self-Support Kit to be brought back to the 2012 Conference Finance Committee for review. The kit would include but not be limited to:

- M-21 *I Am Responsible* wallet card
- M-23 Conference Report (current year)
- MG-15 A.A. Guidelines on Finance
- P-16 The A.A. Group Pamphlet
- P-43 Twelve Traditions Illustrated
- P-44 A.A.'s Legacy of Service Traditions
Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine
- F-42 Self-Support Green Card
- FR-2 A.A. Group Contribution Envelope
- FR-5 A.A. Birthday Contribution Envelope &
Birthday Plan Cover letter
- FV-19 Self-Support Packet with updated
flyers
- SMF-176 Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.

- The Conference Finance Committee requests that the trustees' Finance Committee prepare a simple document of Self-Support/financial talking points to be used by the Fellowship, made available on the web site, in the GSR and DCM packets, and in the Self-Support Kit.

During General Session there were no votes on these Committee Considerations, However there were numerous questions.

The committee elected Chris S., Area 11, Connecticut, Chairperson; and Ken M, Area 06, Northern Coastal California, alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on Agenda

8 Delegates Chaired by Spencer R. and Adrienne B. GSO Staff secretary
7 Hours 45 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 35 Minutes

The Conference Committee on Agenda met separately three times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference on May 1, 2011. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2012 General Service Conference.

The committee unanimously recommended that the theme for the 2012 General Service Conference be: "Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age"

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The question was called, Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

- B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2012 General Service Conference:

- 1) Carrying the A.A. Message:
 - a) Still Our Primary Purpose
 - b) Social Web Sites
 - c) Young People in A.A.
 - d) Importance of Sponsorship

- 2) Change – Essential to A.A.'s Growth:
 - a) Service: Our Third Legacy
 - b) Spirit of Rotation
 - c) Diversity – Let's Keep Our Doors Open for Any Who May Suffer from Alcoholism
 - d) Archives – Where the Past Meets the Present

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read, and a Friendly Amend was offered and accepted changing, 2. c. "Let's Keep Our Doors Open for Anyone who may suffer from Alcoholism." The question was called, motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Moved to reconsider. Motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed.

- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that the following be the workshop topic for the 2012 General Service Conference: "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare"

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The question was called, motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed a request from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics planned for the 2012 General Service Conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics to two for the 2012 General Service Conference.
- The committee considered a request that the trustee's Committee on the Conference meet annually with the Conference Committee on Agenda to address matters concerning the Conference agenda. Following a lengthy discussion, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Conference

meet/confer with the Conference Committee on Agenda prior to the winter quarterly Board meeting to address matters concerning the Conference week agenda.

During General Session there were no votes on these Committee Considerations. However, there were a numerous questions.

The committee elected Ricardo C., delegate for Washington, D.C., Area 13 chairperson, and Neil F., delegate for North Dakota, Area 52 alternate chairperson.

Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine

9 Delegates Chaired by Jamie S. and Amber E. Grapevine Staff secretary
6 Hours 33 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 2 Hours 35 Minutes

The Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine met jointly with the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board on May 1, 2011, and received reports from the Board Chairperson and the Executive Editor Publisher. The Committee also met separately two times following the Joint Meeting and considered following Agenda items:

- A. Consider that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies such as but not limited to smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books, and products.

After thoughtful and lengthy discussion, the Committee recommended that, in the spirit of being self-supporting while also protecting our Traditions of attraction, anonymity, and non-affiliation, A.A. Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products. The committee requests that the Board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. The Committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2012 Grapevine Conference Committee.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. An amendment was offered to strike, "In addition, the products created for use of these channels and support and distribution technologies must be self-supporting within one year of the launch of the technology." Also to add the work status to the last sentence. The Question was called, motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Moved to reconsider. Motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed.

- B. Review request for a discussion on how best to support the Grapevine magazine.

The Committee reviewed a request for discussion on how to best support the Grapevine magazine and recommended that the A.A. Grapevine Board, in consultation with the A.A. World Services Board and under the guidance of the General Service Board chairman, continue to investigate what efficiencies and objectives can be accomplished by combining services and sharing resources, including reviewing Concept 11, while still maintaining editorial and corporate independence.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed, The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

- C. Review and discuss the results of the surveys conducted per the 2010 Conference Advisory Action.

After extensive review and discussion of the results of the surveys conducted per the 2010 Conference Advisory Action, the Committee recommended that, in order to encourage unity and to support A.A. Grapevine, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine Board establish an ad hoc committee to review and determine actionable items from the A.A. Grapevine Fellowship Sharing Report and that the ad hoc committee have a proportional representation similar to the General Service Conference and be chaired by the Chair of the General Service Board.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed, and the vote was taken. Motion failed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion failed.

- D. Review revisions to "The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" pamphlet.

The Committee recommended that the editorial revisions made by the A.A. Grapevine staff to "The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" pamphlet be approved with minor suggestions.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds

continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund and agreed to take no action. The committee noted that the current financial structure is appropriate.

- The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook with appreciation.
- The committee discussed at length and agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2012 or later:
 - Working the Program (working title)
 - A collection of AA Grapevine stories on recovery from alcoholism
 - Happy, Joyous, and Free (working title)
 - A collection of AA Grapevine stories reflecting experience, strength, hope and humor
 - Young and New to AA (working title)
 - A collection about getting sober young from those who have done it
- In order to adhere to our spiritual principle of self-support, the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine suggest that the A.A. Grapevine Board only propose balanced operating budgets to the General Service Board.
- A singles issue of Grapevine, La Viña and/or La Vigne magazine be included, with an introductory letter that offers AAGrapevine.org information, in the GSR packet for all new GSRs. Format and costs are to be determined jointly A.A. Grapevine and AAWS.
- Encourage each home group to purchase annual subscriptions.
- The A.A. Grapevine Board look at distribution techniques of journals similar to the Grapevine, including La Vigne, as well as other General Service structure journals.

During General Session there were no votes on these Committee Considerations. However, there were numerous questions.

The committee elected Jennifer D., delegated for Area 51, Chairperson, and Jim S., delegate for Area 73, Alternate Chairperson

Conference Committee on Corrections
8 Delegates Chaired by Ino F. and Jim M. GSO Staff secretary
6 Hours Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 7 Minutes

The Conference Committee on Corrections met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities," including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.

The committee recommended the following changes to the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities":

That the text in the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" in the section on "Meetings" which reads,
"Since the Twelve Steps are the basis of our recovery in A.A., many groups hold Step meeting. The leader might share a bit of his or her story and talk briefly about a particular Step and then throw the meeting open for discussion. Each type of meeting serves a different purpose; all are needed."

Be replaced with:

"Many groups also hold Step meetings, Tradition Meetings, or Big Book studies.
Each type of meeting serves a different purpose; all are needed."

And that the heading and text of the section "Step meetings," which reads,

"Step meetings

In addition to a leader sharing his or her experience with a Step, some groups might read from *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, followed by a discussion. Many groups find listening to cassette tapes on the Steps helpful. (Tapes are available from the General Service Office.)"

Be replaced with:

"Step meetings, Tradition meetings and Big Book studies

Since the Twelve Steps are the basis of our recovery in A.A., many groups hold Step meetings. Some groups read passages from the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* or the Big Book, followed by a discussion.

Groups may also read and discuss the Twelve Traditions, the best answers we have found to the questions "How can A.A. best function?" and "How can A.A. best stay whole and so survive?"

Since the Big Book contains not only directions for how many of our members practice the Twelve Steps, but also a brief history of our Fellowship's beginnings and personal stories to help newcomers identify with other alcoholics, many A.A. groups devote meeting time to the study of this basic text.

Audio recordings of the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* are available from the General Service Office. The pamphlets "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" and "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" may also be helpful.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read, and the vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." The committee particularly agreed with the suggestions already forwarded to the Publications Department to include content in the draft revision that would appeal to the young incarcerated alcoholic. The committee looks forward to seeing a full draft of the revised pamphlet at the 2012 General Service Conference, and encourages the Publications Department to consider a more standard pamphlet-sized format, if feasible, while still preserving the elements of the existing easy-to-read format.
- The committee discussed the possible need for a comprehensive survey of A.A. program activities in Correctional Facilities similar to the one conducted in 1990, and requested the trustees' Committee on Corrections explore the need for such a survey and report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Corrections.
- The committee reviewed the Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees Committee on Corrections regarding content. The committee requested that a process be established for updating the Workbook at each printing which will ensure accurate references to items such as page numbers, A.A. publications, current terminology and statistical information. The committee also suggested that new Corrections chairs be informed that new A.A. material may be available that is not yet reflected in the current catalogue.

During General Session there were no votes on these Committee Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Debbie A., delegate for Western Washington, Area 72, Chairperson, and Dennis J., delegate for Alabama/N.W. Florida, Area 01 alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on Literature

8 Delegates Chaired by Patty L. and Julio E. GSO Staff secretary
6 Hours 51 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 2 Hours 9 Minutes

The Conference Committee on Literature met separately three times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Literature on May 1, 2011. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

A. Review the revised draft pamphlet "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs"

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs" be approved.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

B. Review progress report from the trustees' Literature Committee on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The committee reviewed the progress report from the trustees' Literature Committee and recommended that the trustees' Literature Committee continue to develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee expressed support for the trustees' efforts to develop a pamphlet which reflects the wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members and asked that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A motion for an amendment to strike the word "successfully" was made and seconded. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed. A second motion was made for an amendment to replace atheist and agnostic with a wider range of spiritual experiences. Failed. The question was called, motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Moved to reconsider. Motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed.

C. Consider suggestion to replace the text under "When you're a G.S.R." in the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative."

The committee recommended that the following text under "When you're a G.S.R.," in the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative" which currently reads:

"You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. Back in 1953, when the "group contact" was suggested as a new type of trusted servant, the job was seen simply as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information..."

Be replaced with:

"You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. In 1950, a new type of trusted servant, "group representative," was suggested to help in the selection of delegates to the newly-formed General Service Conference. By 1953, the job of "group representative" was also seen as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information...."

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read, and the vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

D. Consider a request to include the A.A. Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book.

The committee recommended that the A.A. Preamble be added to the front inside pages of the Big Book and asked that the trustees' Literature Committee provide a report that includes sample placement options, and any other considerations, to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A motion was made and seconded for an amendment to strike the word "front." The vote was taken. Amendment failed with substantial unanimity. The vote was taken on the Recommendation and failed with substantial unanimity. Motion failed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report from the trustees' Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services." The committee expressed appreciation for the work done by the trustees and provided several suggestions for the development of the pamphlet. The committee asked that a draft pamphlet or report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.
- The committee reviewed the draft revisions to the *Living Sober* booklet forwarded by the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee expressed appreciation for the revisions suggested, and requested that the trustees' Literature Committee continue to review the booklet *Living Sober*, focusing on outdated language and/or practices, and provide a new revision to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.
- The committee considered a request to develop an item similar to the Self-support card or "green card" to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool and took no action. The committee noted that when an item to promote the use of A.A. literature as a Twelfth Step tool is needed, the language and format of this tool is generally best decided by each A.A. service committee or entity, based on their needs and experience.
- The committee considered the request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that "the trustees' Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous," and after thoughtful discussion agreed to take no action. The committee noted that the trustees' Literature Committee's report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality clarifies that the pamphlet under development will reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members.
- The committee considered a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office and agreed to take no action at this time. The committee noted that Conference-approved materials describing the General Service Office are currently available.

During General Session there were no votes on these Committee Considerations. However, there were numerous questions.

The committee elected Laura V., delegate for Eastern Missouri, Area 38, Chairperson, and Byron F., delegate for Nevada, Area 42, Alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

9 Delegates Chaired by David T. and Gayle R. GSO Staff secretary

6 Hours Committee Meeting

General Session Deliberations 45 Minutes

The Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities on May 1, 2011. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following agenda items:

A. Review draft recovery pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs.

The committee recommended that the recovery pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be approved.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read, and the vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

B. Discuss report from the trustees' Committee regarding changing "Treatment Facilities" Committee to "Treatment" Committee in committee titles and in A.A. literature.

The committee recommended that the name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and that these changes be reflected in the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed, and the vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

The committee recommended that the title of the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Facilities" be changed to "A.A. in Treatment Settings" and that the term "treatment facilities" be replaced with a more appropriate reference such as "Treatment Committees" or "treatment settings" wherever it appears in the pamphlet.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed, and the vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that when the pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs is created, formats for alcoholics who are deaf, blind, or have learning challenges be produced as soon as fiscally possible.
- The committee requested that the term "treatment facilities" be replaced with a more appropriate reference such as "Treatment Committee," "Treatment Committee Kit," "A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Committees," etc. wherever it appears in service material.
- The committee considered removing one line of dialog from the video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" and took no action. The committee requested instead that the trustees' Committee review the entire script of the video, taking into consideration concerns expressed by the Conference Committee, and return a progress report to the Committee at the 2012 Conference.
- The Committee reviewed the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook and:
 - Expressed appreciation for the slimmer, less fragile, DVD case to be used for the videos in the Kits in place of the current DVD casings at no additional cost.
 - Suggested that the section on "Carrying the Message Into Noncorrectional Youth Facilities" in the Workbook be reviewed by the trustees' Committee for appropriate emphasis on the safety of the A.A. members and the youths involved.
 - Reviewed the two suggested Bridging the Gap forms, one for A.A. members requesting a temporary contact to help them connect to A.A. on the outside, and one for A.A. members willing to serve as temporary contacts, and accepted them with minor editorial changes.
- The Committee reviewed the Special Needs Kit and Workbook and:
 - Hoped that there will continue to be A.A. Grapevine issues that include stories from A.A. members with special needs.

- Expressed appreciation for the recent re-pricing of the American Sign Language (ASL) DVDs of the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and hoped that special needs formats will continue to be priced in accordance with their corresponding standard formats wherever fiscally possible.

During General Session there were no votes on these Committee Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Wayne R., delegate, Northern New Jersey, Area 44, Chairperson, and Jim C., delegate, Northeast Texas, Area 65, alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

8 Delegates Chaired by Darryl D.. and Eva S. GSO Staff secretary

2 Hours Committee Meeting

General Session Deliberations 3 Minutes

The Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums met jointly with the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and made no recommendations.

Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted the reporting on the 2010 International Convention and noted that the financial results of the Convention showed a profit of \$844,545.
- The committee expressed appreciation to the 2010 International Convention Coordinator, Rick Walker, for coordinating a successful event celebrating A.A.'s 75th anniversary in San Antonio, Texas. Gratitude was also expressed to the volunteers of the local Host Committee.
- The committee discussed the importance of Regional Forums and how Forums foster unity, enhance communication and provide a unique opportunity for local A.A.s to meet Board Members, G.S.O. and Grapevine staff and trusted servants from the region. The committee noted that in 2010, over 1,500 first time Forums attendees were welcomed at Forums.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Forums and how areas communicate about upcoming Forums. The committee noted that flyers for upcoming Forums are being sent electronically from G.S.O. to delegates and D.C.M.'s, and the information is accessible through G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. In addition to announcements in local A.A. newsletters, bulletins, at assemblies and meetings, and local distribution of Forum Flyers, some local A.A. Web sites include the Forum Flyer and hyperlink to Forum information and registration on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

During General Session there were no votes since there were no Recommendations, Only Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Don F., delegate for Area 82, Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador, Chairperson, and Hugh H., delegate for Area 59, Eastern Pennsylvania, alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on Trustees

9 Delegates Chaired by Anne M. and Mary D. GSO Staff secretary
10 Hours 25 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 2 Hours 34 Minutes

The Conference Committee on Trustees met separately three times following the Joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on Nominating on May 1, 2011. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' Committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

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

The committee recommended that the following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2011:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Corliss Burke
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores
John Fromson, M.D.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.

Class B Trustees

Rod B.
Kenneth B.
Donald C.
Nancy H.
Barbara K.
Roberta L.
Gary L.
George M.
Don M.
Don M.
Eleanor N.
Victor P.
Pamela R.
Clayton V.

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson
First Vice-Chairperson
Second Vice-Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary

Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
Victor P.
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Kenneth P. B.

The committee recommended that the January 2011 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 2011.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read. The vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer Donald M.
Assistant Secretary Doug R.

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

B. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2011:

Andrea B. George M.
Rod B. William N.
Joe D. Pamela R.
Phyllis H. Rick W.*
Roberta L.

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, Summer 2011

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read. The vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2011:

Ami B.	Eleanor N.
Donald C.	Albin Z.
Michele G.	[vacancy]
Nancy H.	[vacancy]
Don M.	

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A motion for an amendment was offered and seconded to add two more names to the slate. The vote was taken on the Amendment. Motion failed. Minority was heard. Motion failed. The question was called. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Moved to reconsider. Motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed. Note the A.A. Grapevine saved \$50,000.00 by not filling these positions. This seems to be a message from the General Service Board for the Grapevine to stop spending more than they budget for.

The committee noted with grave concern the lack of communication between the General Service Board and the Grapevine Board regarding the size and composition of the Grapevine Board and recommended that the General Service Board take action to improve communication and cooperation among all its Boards and bring a report to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustees.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The chair polled the body to determine if an amendment or Floor Action was the best procedure. It was determine a Floor Action would be best. The question was called on the Recommendation. Vote was taken. Motion failed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion Failed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee examine the impact of the Conference disapproving a recommended slate and bring a report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustees.

During General Session there were no votes on these additional Committee Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Randy H., delegate for Louisiana, Area 27, Chairperson, and Sunny H., delegate for Arkansas, Area 04, Alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on Public Information
9 Delegates Chaired by Mel L. and Mary L. GSO Staff secretary
9 Hours 55 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 1 Hours 27 Minutes.

The Conference Committee on Public Information met separately three times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Public Information Committee on May 1, 2011. The Committee appreciated the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the trustees' committee work, accepted their report, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Consider that the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey.

The Committee recommended that the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read. The vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Consider approval of the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates" be approved:

The committee recommended that the following "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates" be approved:

Videos produced and distributed by the General Service Board or its affiliated corporations, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., that include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor's full face, unless:

- a. The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with the A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not in fact or in appearance place personalities before principles, and
- b. The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such video.

For purposes of this Policy, a "video" is any item of visual media in which a live actor appears, regardless of the medium in which the video is presented (DVD, film, electronic file, etc.).

For purposes of this Policy, a "potential A.A. member" is a character in a video who is portrayed as seeking help from A. A., or who is portrayed as the recipient of Twelfth Step work in any form.

Existing videos using actors to portray A.A. members or potential A.A. members may continue to be produced and distributed until retired from service.

The videos "Markings on the Journey," and "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions," each of which is currently distributed only to A.A. groups, as well as "Bill's Own Story," which also has restricted distribution, may continue to be produced and distributed.

A copy of this policy shall be given to all entities participating in the production of a video prior to commencement of production. The background documentation for the policy will always be distributed with the policy.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Moved to reconsider. Motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed.

C. Consider production of new television P.S.A. announcements.

The Committee recommended that a culturally sensitive Spanish-language Public Service Announcement be developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, independent of any English language P.S.A. (production cost not to exceed \$40,000) to better ensure the hand of A.A. is there whenever anyone anywhere reaches out.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

D. Consider revisions to "Understanding Anonymity" which include text on the topic of anonymity in the digital age and answers to the question "What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?"

The Committee recommended that the revised "Understanding Anonymity" pamphlet be approved.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

E. Consider revisions to "The A.A. Fact File."

The Committee recommended that the revised "The A.A. Fact File" be approved.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

F. Consider a revision to "A.A. At a Glance."

The Committee recommended that the section titled "How You Can Find A.A. in Your Town" in "A.A. At a Glance" be changed to "How To Find A.A.," and that that section which reads:

"Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory. In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can."

be amended to read:

"Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory or local newspapers, or "How to Find A.A. Meetings" on the home page of our website www.aa.org. In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can."

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to add, after directory, "or local newspapers." The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Motion passed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2010 Annual Report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- The committee expressed support for the trustee's Public Information Committee development of a comprehensive media plan.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. T.V. public service announcements and agreed with the trustees' Public Information Committee's report that found them all to be relevant and useful.
- The committee suggested that "The A.A. Fact File" be revised and updated every three years.
- The committee suggested that the trustee's Public Information Committee explore alternative packaging of the Public Information Kit and report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Public Information including cost information.

During General Session there were no votes on these Additional Committee Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Cindy F., Virginia, Area 71, Chairperson and Kevin N., Eastern Massachusetts, Area 30, alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on Archives

8 Delegates Chaired by Linda C. and Michelle Mirza GSO Archivist secretary
2 Hours 30 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 10 Minutes.

The Conference Committee on Archives met jointly with the trustees' Committee on Archives. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and made no recommendations.

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and accepted the revisions, including a minor change to the Research Application Form and a new section "Tools and Suggested Activities For Archives Committee", which will provide sharing and suggestions for Archives committees.
- The committee requested that the G.S.O. Archivist solicit new material and stories for the "Shared Experiences" section of the Archives Workbook, by contacting Area Archivists and Area Archives Committee Chairs via a memorandum, with a copy to Area Delegates, so that this section can be updated in a future printing of the Workbook. The committee also requested that the "Shared Experiences" section be updated every five years.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop an informational piece on basic archival preservation procedures intended to provide guidance to local archivists responsible for maintaining the physical and intellectual integrity of the collection.

During General Session there were no votes on these Committee Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Maureen F., delegate for Iowa, Area 24 chairperson; and, Bob O'R., delegate for Saskatchewan, Area 91, alternate chairperson.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

9 Delegates Chaired by Coop C. and Rick W. GSO Staff secretary
11 Hours 10 Minutes Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 1 Hour 6 Minutes.

The Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions met four times and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Peru to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

The committee recommended that Oscar Calle Briolo and Jesus Cesar Perez Sosa from the General Service Structure of Peru be admitted the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

- B. Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Great Britain to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

The committee recommended that Sheila Davis and Martin Black from the General Service Structure of Great Britain be admitted the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

- C. Approve admission to the 2011 General Service Conference of Mike Donnelly, alternate delegate, Area 50, Western New York, in place of John Czermerys, the Panel 60 delegate for Area 50.

The committee recommended that Mike Donnelly, alternate delegate, Area 50, Western New York, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because John Czermerys, the Panel 60 delegate for Area 50 resigned.

- D. Approve admission to the 2011 General Service Conference of Mel Caterine, alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario International, in place of Robb Watson, the Panel 61 delegate for Area 83.

The committee recommended that Mel Caterine, alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario International, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because Robb Watson, the panel 61 delegate for Area 83 is unable to attend.

- E. Consider the comprehensive plan and estimated cost from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee for the General Service Conference to conduct a thorough inventory of itself.

The committee recommended that the General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan formulated by the Conference Inventory Planning Committee.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- F. Review dates for the 2014 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the 64th General Service Conference be held April 27 – May 3, 2014 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- G. Consider suggestions that the Conference Committee on Archives meet outside of the time allotted for their joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives.

The committee recommended that the Conference Committee on Archives meet separately at the General Service Conference following a joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

H. Review report from the General Service Board regarding Concept V Appeals to the General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the following procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference be established:

1. The minority, expressing a feeling or opinion in light of the right of appeal to the General Service Conference, has been very rare. It is hoped that an individual entitled under Concept V to appeal would exhaust every avenue offered within the General Service Conference structure prior to making an appeal to the General Service Conference.
2. Those entitled to appeal to the General Service Conference are members who, on the inverted triangle of the A.A. service structure, fall *below* the General Service Conference level – members of staffs, committees, corporate boards or trustees, as referenced, in the first paragraph of Concept V of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
3. The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the General Service Conference Delegate Chair and to the General Service Office Conference Coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference.
4. All Conference members will be given notice through the General Service Office of the minority's decision to file an appeal.
5. Appeals under Concept V, including any minority report and background, must be submitted in writing 30 days prior to the General Service Conference in order for these materials to be distributed to Conference members. The G.S.O. Conference Coordinator will be responsible for seeing that this material is made available to all Conference members within 10 business days after its receipt.
6. The minority's appeal will be presented before the start of deliberation on Committee Reports:
 - The minority will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their appeal.
 - The majority will then be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their position
7. The discretion to debate a minority's appeal rests with the Conference body.
 - The chair will ask if there is a motion to decline to consider the minority's appeal. A motion to consider to debate a minority's appeal:
 - Must be made without comment.
 - Needs a second.
 - Is not debatable.
 - Requires a *two thirds majority*.
8. If the Conference decides to debate the appeal, it then takes the form of a motion which does not require a second. If passed by substantial unanimity, it becomes an advisory action.
9. Whether or not an appeal is debated, a summary of the minority's report and the disposition of the appeal will be published in the Final Conference Report.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A motion for an amendment was offered to replace "should" with "must" in #5. The question was called for the amendment. Amendment motion passed with substantial unanimity. A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to replace "debate" with "consider" in #7. The question was called. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Moved to reconsider. Motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee noted that Donald Sheets, the former Panel 61 delegate for Area 22, Northern Indiana, resigned. In February, 201 Ron Foor was elected as the new Panel 61 delegate for Area 22. Therefore, no recommendation from the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions was required in order to seat him as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference.
- The committee had lengthy discussion on a request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda items, and took no action. Acknowledging the challenge of communicating about agenda items within a short time frame, the committee noted that many delegates are taking advantage of current technology in order to facilitate timely distribution of background within their areas.
- The committee discussed a request that a formal relationship be developed between the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and the trustees' Conference Committee to address matters of policy relating to the General Service Conference and took no action.

During General Session there were no votes on these Additional Committee Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Cecilia R., delegate, North Florida, Area 14, Chairperson, and Marcus F., delegate, Southern California, Area 5, alternate Chairperson.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter
8 Delegates Chaired by Char and Eva S. GSO Staff secretary
9 Hours Committee Meeting
General Session Deliberations 2 Hour 36 Minutes.

The Conference Committee on Report and Charter met three times and considered the following Agenda items:

A. Review draft of description on trustees emeriti.

The committee recommended that the following text be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board after the section titled "General Service Trustees" on page S69:

"Trustees Emeriti

The General Service Board has designated rotating board chairpersons as trustees emeriti. Trustees emeriti are invited to attend quarterly board meetings of the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference. They are a resource of corporate memory and are often asked to share their experience with past board decisions, how previous General Service Boards conducted business, and the processes they used to reach a group conscience. Trustees emeriti do not vote on any matter before the General Service Board or the Conference."

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

B. Review revised text forwarded from the 2010 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding the nominating procedure listed as #2 on page S67.

The committee recommended that the following text on page S67 in *The A.A. Service Manual* under "NOMINATION PROCEDURE" in the section on Regional Trustees:

"2. Two Conference Actions should be kept in mind. In 1977, the Conference recommended that a delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference. And in 1985 was recommended that 'no area shall submit an individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year."

Be replaced with:

"2. Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference."

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A Friendly Amendment was offered and accepted to replace "NOMINATING" with "NOMINATION." The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

The committee recommended that the following text on page S68 in *The A.A. Service Manual* under "NOMINATION PROCEDURE" in the section on Trustees-at-large:

"In the areas, the same procedure used in selecting a regional trustee candidate is followed. No area should submit the same name for regional and at-large trustee in the same year."

Be replaced with:

"Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference."

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A Friendly Amendment was offered and accepted to replace "NOMINATING" with "NOMINATION." The vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Consider suggestion to revise the text on "inactive service workers" on page S37 in Chapter Four to reflect that the appropriate local entity is responsible for addressing inactive G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s and add similar text to Chapters One and Three.

The committee recommended that the section titled "Inactive Service Workers" in Chapter Four on page S37 in *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised to read:

"Inactive Service Workers

How does the area deal with area officers and committee chairs who have been absent from two or more assemblies? While the area assembly needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position."

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The question was called. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

The committee recommended that the following sections be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* as follows:

Add to Chapter Two, page S28, before section titled "Group Information":

"Inactive General Service Representative

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each group regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the group needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position."

Add to Chapter Three, page S33, before section titled "The Alternate D.C.M.":

"Inactive District Committee Member

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each district regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the district needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position."

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

- D. Consider request to review and update the section "What Goes On at the Conference" on page S55.

The committee recommended that the following text in the section titled "What Goes On at the Conference" on page S55 in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

"What Goes On at the Conference

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting, and business sessions from Monday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations. A closing breakfast on Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their

farewells. Every other year, a visit to the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

Be replaced with:

“What Goes On at the Conference

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features roll call, keynote address, an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting. Business sessions from Sunday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops, and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to the discussion and voting on committee recommendations.

Although outside of the Conference, a delegates-only meeting is often held prior to the opening day of the Conference. On Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, a closing breakfast provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. In alternating years, a visit to G.S.O./Grapevine office or the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. A Friendly amendment was offered and accepted to replace “Every other year,” with “In alternating years” and “and” with “or.” The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

- E. Consider request to recommend adding “the right of Petition and Appeal” to the Conference Charter as found in *the A.A. Service Manual*.

The committee recommended that the General Service Board develop text to add to Article 3 in the current Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual* which includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal, for consideration by the 2012 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

- F. Consider request to “address and remedy the inconsistencies between the Current [Conference] Charter and the Original [Conference] Charter” as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The committee discussed with appreciation the request to “address and remedy the inconsistencies” between the Current Conference Charter and the Original Conference Charter-1955 as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*. The committee recommended acceptance of the un-footnoted editorial changes and update that exist in the Current Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The Conference Committee on Report and Chapter withdrew the motion.

The committee also recommended that the following 1988 Advisory Action be reaffirmed:

“The Conference Charter appear in its original 1955 form in future editions of *The A.A. Service Manual*, with General Service Conference Advisory Action amendments and editorial changes indicated by footnotes, followed by the current version of the Charter.”

During General Session the Committee Recommendation was read and discussed. The Conference Committee on Report and Chapter withdrew the motion.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual* 2011-2012 Edition, and the 2011 General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions. The committee suggested that the A.A.W.S. Board consider adding examples to clarify what “other entities” refers to on page S74 in the last paragraph under FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
- The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publications Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- The committee considered the request to change the phrase “new kid on the block” with “a first year Delegate” on page S52 under Personal Experience in section “Preparing for the Conference” in *The A.A. Service Manual* and took no action. The committee agreed that this quote from a past delegate should not be altered and it adequately expresses the sentiment.
- The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.

During General Session there were no votes on these Additional Committee Considerations. However, there were a few questions.

The committee elected Tashi G., delegate for Colorado, Area 10, Chairperson and Scott H. delegate for British Columbia/Yukon, Area 79, Alternate Chairperson.

Floor Actions

There were only five Floor Actions presented during the 2012 General Service Conference, which is probably a record low for many years.

Floor Action #1:

To allow the committee secretary to have a laptop, projector, and a screen in committee meetings. This would allow for real-time editing of documents/manuscripts that are agenda items. This would afford committee members to view changes as they make them to ensure the document is truly an accurate representation of their work and enable a faster turn-around time in making the documents available to Conference members prior to presentation on the conference floor.

Submitted by:

Melanie L., Panel 60 Delegate, Area 34

Motion to decline to consider failed. Motion was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion failed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion failed.

Floor Action #2:

Reinstate the full slate of nine directors as constituted by the Grapevine Nominating Committee.

Submitted by:

Ken B., Trustee

Point of order was raised that this motion is out of order since it failed as a reconsideration. The Chair was called out of order, and a vote was taken to support the Chair, which passed.

Floor Action #3:

That the 61st General Service Conference express its appreciation and gratitude for the French-language magazine "La Vigne La Vigne," the value it has for French-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the respect "La Vigne" has shown for the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Submitted by:

Scott H., Panel 61 Delegate, Area 79

During General Session, Floor Action #3 was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion passed.

Floor Action #4:

That the trustees' Committee on Conference not meet/confer with the Conference Committee on Agenda prior to the winter Quarterly Board Meeting until such time as an Advisory Action has been approved by the General Service Conference recommending that such a meeting/conference occur.

Submitted by:

Scott H., Panel 61 Delegate, Area 79

The Floor Action was withdrawn.

Floor Action #5:

The "Current Conference Charter," (United States and Canada) as presented in Appendix C to *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, 2010-2011 Edition, is hereby accepted as the current Conference Charter, and all changes to the original Charter contained therein are hereby ratified and confirmed. Footnotes to the Conference Charter as printed in *The Service Manual* are not part of the Conference Charter itself, and are included in *The Service Manual* for information purposes only.

Submitted by:

George M., Trustee

Motion to decline to consider failed. Motion was read and discussed. The vote was taken. Motion failed with substantial unanimity. Minority was heard. Motion failed.

A few quotable quotes I heard during these long days of deliberation:

“Can I get a sample of the sample of the sample”

“We must use the word “should” followed by the next speaker with “We should use the word “must.”

“Mike could you step closer to the Mike”

“Is it morning or evening”