

2012 General Service Conference Report  
Presented at the Post Conference Assembly  
May 19, 2012

District 1, Bountiful, Utah

Keith Montgomery, Panel 61 Delegate, Area 69 Utah

**“Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age”**

Hello, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as the Panel 61 Delegate from Area 69 Utah. The following is the introduction strongly suggested on the floor and podium during the General Service Conference: Keith Montgomery, Panel 61 Delegate, Area 69 Utah, Cooperation With the Professional Community Delegate Committee Chairperson. We have no royalty or titles; however, we can get rather rigid with our little “t” traditions. Apparently, this is necessary for taping purposes. Hi I’m Keith a floor licking drunk from Moab. The floor licking term is new for me this year, however it is rather descriptive of my past behavior.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference began with the pre-Conference meeting on Saturday afternoon April 21, 2012 in Rye Brook, New York with the Remote Communities. Five wonderful presentations were shared from the podium covering aspects of geography, language, and culture. Scott H., Area 79 BC/Yukon spoke of accessibility issue involving airplanes, ferries and skidoos. He has traveled over 30 hours in a weekend to carry our message of recovery to the still suffering. Apparently, I will need to stop whining about 8 to 10 hours in my pretty white car. Others shared and shared well about language and cultural barriers, however the common theme is one alcoholic sharing with another alcoholic and the message is carried. I have a few copies of all these presentations on the back table, if there is not enough please contact me and I will forward a scanned copy or mail them to all that request them. After the presentations we all divided into small groups and shared in a round-robin format, followed by informative report-backs. Linda McD., Area 17 Hawaii shared on the Aloha communities and made me cry when she closed with her thoughts about the spiritual journey in the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension: she had come to last year’s conference timid, inferior, and completely unqualified to be a delegate and left knowing the profound understanding that we are the delegates from the United States and Canada carrying our message of recovery to A.A. as a whole.

Speaking of moist eyes, thanks for allowing me as the Area Delegate from Area 69 Utah to proclaim “Present” during Roll Call to the “62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting General Service Conference” held April 22-28, 2012 in Hilton Rye Town, Rye Brook, New York. The facility is so large it is collectively called a town, walking from my room to the meetings involved numerous directional inquiries, beverage breaks, an occasional nap and considerable confusion for the first few days.

Similar to last year I found the committee work the first couple of days extremely rewarding. Serving as chair was both humbling and exhilarating at the same time. Adrienne B., GSO staff secretary for CPC was simply the best of the best. We moved forward two Recommendations and three Additional Committee Considerations to the Conference.

Stepping back a moment, I was a small part of a major moment. Monte S. had traveled from Utah to Florida, gathered two Past-Delegates from Utah and assisted in moving them from Florida to Manhattan, New York and then drove a rental car across New York to Rye Brook for the Opening Dinner on Sunday evening. Watching Gay W. and Patti W. listen to Rod B., our Utah raised Pacific Regional Trustee, share as the trustee key speaker brought absolute joy and was one of the best moments of my sober life. The five sober drunks from Utah were so emotional mere words could not convey our feelings of happy, joyous, and free.

The first couple of days were dominated by committee meetings, first year delegate area highlights reports, board reports from G.S.B., A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine, second year delegate presentations and general sharing sessions. These delegate presentations are incredible and included the following topics: 1) Still Our Primary Purpose, Terry S. Area 40 Montana; 2) Social Web Sites, Art M. Area 32 Central Michigan; 3) Young People in A.A., Ken M. Area 6 Northern Coastal California; 4) Importance of Sponsorship Gerrie D. Area 84 Northeast Ontario; 5) Service: Our Third Legacy, Steve P. Area 39 Western Missouri; 6) Spirit of Rotation, Scott H. Area 79 British Columbia/Yukon; 7) Diversity – Let's Keep our Doors Open for Any Who May Suffer from Alcoholism, Susan F. Area 49 Southeast New York; and 8) Archives – Where the Past Meets the Present, Dennis J. Area 1 Alabama/Northwest Florida.

The theme, tone and focus of this year's conference is all about change, which created a slow profound paradigm shift in my understanding about our fellowship. We are at the turning point of a new vision. The words used in the General Service Structure representing this change are difficult for me to explain the spiritual feeling with our fellowship. Strategic planning, corporate restructuring, inventory, digital data, e-publishing, etc. do not convey what is happening just below the surface. Our theme "Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age" is at the center of our challenge. We as a fellowship need to find our path to share one to one in this brave new world and maintain our personal anonymity. Vic P. Western Canada Regional Trustee suggested in his farewell talk, "that we have been stuck for a few decades and now we have a new vision." According to Vic this began a few months ago when all parties shared openly during the General Service Board Inventory, the words are complex; strategic planning and corporate restructuring however it all comes down to honest open communication at all level of service. Over the next three years our fellowship will take our inventory and it is a good beginning to a new vision for A.A. as a whole.

During the Pacific Regional lunch the 2016 PRAASA was awarded to Area 92 Eastern Washington to be held at the Convention Center in Spokane, WA. No treats were provided, however the fellowship was amazing.

At 3:17 pm on April 25, 2012 I began my last deliberations as the Panel 61 Delegate, it lasted 2.5 days or about 21 hours and 15 minutes. A total of 93 delegates began gathering our group consciences on February 15, 2012 with 73 Final Agenda Items. Of these, Final Agenda Items, 37 became committee recommendations of which 32 passed with at least substantial unanimity and 57 became Additional Committee Considerations. Of these Additional Committee Considerations six "took no action" and dies in committee, all of the rest were forwarded to trustee committees for future action or deliberations. The General Service Board Motion on restructuring passed after considerable debate and revisions. The strategic plan for restructuring both corporate boards and the General Service Board has been approved and we have turned a corner on stagnation and our leaders have

the potential to become visionary. The last part of the conference dealt with the dreaded Floor Actions. There were only seven, one was withdrawn as we started, two received death by “decline-to-consider”, three failed after debate, and one passed. If you die your relatives can bequest up to \$5,000.00 in your name, but just once.

Well, it is time for the results of the big nine Final Agenda Item that the Area 69 Utah took group conscience on and we formed an area conscience during the Pre-Conference Assembly. Our area seems to be pretty close to the middle and in general agreement on most of the important issues. Apparently we are not unique, however we are special.

Final Agenda Item	Group Conscience	Conference Action	Comments
C.P.C.: Nonalcoholic Observers	65 yes / 11 no	Passed by Substantial Majority	Singleness of Purpose
Corrections: “Sitting in a Cell” Video	45 yes / 41 no	Failed	Confusion Regarding Intended Audience
Finance: Projections	13 yes / 63 no	Additional Consideration: Input from all three Boards	Awareness of Issue, a More Spiritual Way
Finance: La Viña	71 yes / 10 no	Failed	This is a Service Piece will continue
A. A. Grapevine: G.V. Representatives	58 yes / 45 no	No Action Taken	GSR Duties if no GVR or RLV
Literature: <i>As Bill Sees It</i>	92 yes / 6 no	Passed by Substantial Majority	12 Concepts will be added
Public Information: Facebook Page	23 yes / 65 no	Additional Consideration: Favorably review	Require More Information
Public Information: Tradition 11	29 yes / 46 no	Additional Consideration: Long Form Tradition 11	Gather Area Sharing
G.S.B. Motion: Restructure	94 yes / 1 no	Passed by Substantial Majority	Visionary Strategic Planning

Conference advisory actions in our fellowship are like directives in companies. This is the way the delegates participate in the direction and polices of our fellowship and the way we communicate with the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. Board, A.A. Grapevine Board and GSO staff. The following are the 2012 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference Advisory Actions.

General Service Committee	Results
<b>Agenda</b> 2013 Theme	“The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action”
2013 Presentation/Discussion Topics	a)The Triangle - More Than a Shape b)The G.S.C. Inventory - Why is it Necessary? c)Self-Support - What Does it Mean to the Fellowship? d)Primary Purpose - Carrying the A.A. Message
2013 Inventory Plan	15 Questions within 8 Broad Categories
<b>Cooperation With the Professional Community</b> Revised five pamphlets, two service pieces and the workbook	Add Nonalcoholics ... as observers ...
Revised three pamphlets	Change to detox and rehabilitation

<b>General Service Committee</b>	<b>Results</b>
<b>Corrections</b> Revised pamphlet	Approved "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell"
Revised pamphlet	Changes to "A Message to Correction Professionals" 1) ... sober and contented life ... in custody ... 2) Re-entry and Parole 3) Nonalcoholics ... as observers .. 4) replace section "A.A. in correctional facilities"
<b>Finance</b> Delegate Fee	Increase annual delegate's contribution from \$1200.00 to \$1600.00
<b>Grapevine</b> Audio strategy	Members can call in and record their story on 3 <sup>rd</sup> party recording technology
Publishing strategy	"Sunset" Phase out older or slow-moving Grapevine items
<b>Literature</b> Revised pamphlet	Approved "A.A. and the Armed Services" Note: no subtitle
Revised book	Add 12 Concepts to "As Bill Sees It."
Revised book	Approved changes of outdated language or practices <i>Living Sober</i>
Revise pamphlet	Revised pamphlet or report in 2013 for "Circles of Love and Service"
<b>Policy/Admissions</b> 62 <sup>nd</sup> GSC Observers	Approved two A.A. members from India
62 <sup>nd</sup> GSC Delegate	Approved Roger B. alternate delegate Area 89 Northeast Quebec as delegate
65 <sup>nd</sup> GSC	65 <sup>th</sup> General Service Conference April 19-25, 2015
Electronic Devices	Approved "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the Conference"
<b>Public Information</b> Pamphlet	Approved "2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey"
PSA	Approved "Tengo Esperanza" airs in November
PSA tracking	Central distribution and tracking for "Tengo Esperanza" not to exceed \$40,000.00
Revised pamphlet	Approved "Anonymity Wallet Card"
<b>Report and Charter</b> Revise "The A.A. Service Manual"	First-time changes be noted by vertical margin change bars
Revise "The A.A. Service Manual"	Add text to Glossary "Rotation – the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership"
Revise "The A.A. Service Manual"	Replaced Page S16 with previous bottom section and change "District Committees" with "Districts"
<b>Trustees</b> General Service Board	Approved
A.A.W.S. Board	Approved
A.A. Grapevine Board	Approved

The following is a full description of agenda item discussed at the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference, including vote counts and Additional Considerations, enjoy.

**Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities**  
**Delegate Chairperson: Wayne R. Area 44**  
**6 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The conference Committee on Treatment/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 April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Discuss trustees' progress report on the review of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The committee reviewed the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* and recommended that one line of dialog, "Uncle Sam is not gonna come in and bail us out" be removed the next time it is reprinted at a cost of approximately \$9,000.00.

**Failed by substantial unanimity**

- B. Discuss a suggestion to develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "A. A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs" be expanded to include additional stories of alcoholics with mental illness collected from the Fellowship, and that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities bring a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.

**Failed by substantial unanimity**

Additional committee Considerations:

- The committee expressed concerns about the French and Spanish translations of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* regarding the exact translation of the direct quote read from the translated "Big Books" and for background distraction in the videos. The committee asked the Publications Department to review these items and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Workbook and Kit and suggested minor editorial changes to the service piece "A. A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request" and removed redundant information in the Kit to be satisfactory for use by local committees.
- The committee reviewed the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook and Kit and suggested that the following changes be made at the next printing:
  - Add a suggestion to page 10 of the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook under the section "Activities Suggested for Special Needs-Accessibilities" for "committees to gather local information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options."
- The committee is hopeful that A.A.W.S will format the pamphlet "A. A. For the Alcoholic with Special Needs" for alcoholics who are deaf, blind, or have learning challenges as soon as fiscally possible as requested in a 2011 Committee Consideration.

The committee elected Jay D., delegate for Area 64, Tennessee, chairperson, and, Pamela V., Delegate for Area 80, Manitoba, alternate chairperson.

**Conference Committee on Finance**  
**Delegate Chairperson: Chris S. Area 11**  
**7 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The Conference Committee on Finance met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Finance & Budgetary committee on April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Consider suggestion of increase the Conference delegate fee.

The committee considered a suggestion to increase the Conference delegate contribution and recommended that the annual delegate's contribution be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600.

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

- B. Review the current \$3,000.00 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and one-time bequests.

The committee reviewed the current \$3,000 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and recommended that the annual limit on contributions be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

**Failed, 49 in favor, 68 opposed**

The committee reviewed the current \$3,000 dollar limit one time bequests and recommended that the limit on one-time bequests be increased from \$3,000 to \$25,000.

**Failed by substantial unanimity**

- C. Consider a review of continuing financial commitment to La Viña per the 2001 General Service conference Advisory Action that "La Viña continue to be published by the A. A. Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to the Fellowship.

The Conference Finance Committee reviewed the background presented and past Conference actions and recommended that La Viña become self-supporting within three years beginning January 1, 2013. If La Viña has not become self-supporting by December 31, 2015, General Service Board funding will cease.

**Failed by substantial unanimity**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that a review of the delegate's fee be a standing item on the Conference Finance Committee agenda.
- The committee reviewed a proposed Self-Support Kit and agreed that the F-19 Self-Support Packet is sufficient service material and suggested adding "Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S." (SMF-176) to the Self-Support Packet.
- The committee reviewed and acknowledged the 21 Self-Support Talking Points presented in the background for use by the Fellowship and offers one additional point to be included: "What is the value of your sobriety?" The committee also suggested that they be added to the Finance Section of the Website.
- The committee suggested the following statements be added to the back of the F-42 Self-Support green card:  
**What is the value of your sobriety?**
  - Less Than 44% of groups contribute to the General Service Board.
  - Costs of Services provided by G.S.O. are \$6.32 per member per year.
  - Sales of A.A. literature counts for 56% of our income.
  - You can easily contribute regularly online at AA.org.
  - Give till it feels good.
- The committee reviewed the information presented concerning financial projections for 2013 and 2014 and trusts that the Corporate Boards and the trustees' Finance Committee will deal with the financial issues in an appropriate manner.

The committee also expressed that increasing the awareness of the need for Fellowship contributions is the more spiritual way to address the funding issue.

The committee elected Jeff S., Area 92, Washington East, Chairperson; and Cynthia F., Area 62, South Carolina, alternate Chairperson.

**Conference Committee on Report and Charter  
Delegate Chairperson Tashi G. Area 10  
9 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

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

- A. Review the *A. A. Service Manual*, 2011-2012 Edition.  
The committee recommended that all changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

- B. Consider suggestion to add a section on the "spirit of rotation."

The committee recommended that the following term and definition be added to *the A.A. Service Manual* in Chapter One: Introduction to General Service in the section titled Glossary of General Service Terms: "Rotation – the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership."

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

- C. Consider suggestion to replace the "STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE" illustration on page S16 with a previous version.

The committee recommended that the current illustration on page S16 be modified in the following manner:

- Replacing the bottom section of the illustration that deals with the General Service Board and its two operating corporations with the corresponding section from a previous version, minus the table-and-chair graphic.
- Changing "District Committees" to "Districts."

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

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*, 2012-2013 Edition, and the 2012 General Service Conference Final Report.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A. Grapevine 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. Grapevine Board for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions.
- 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.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service 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 General Service Board for The A.A. Service Manual.

Note: The committee agreed to ask the General Service Board to reconsider two changes that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.

- The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial updates for The A.A. Service Manual and forwarded them to the Publications Department.
- The committee considered a suggestion for revising text on "Conference Panels", on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term "panels", and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee considered a request to add a section on the "spirit of rotation" and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee reviewed suggested changes to the Conference Charter that were requested from the General Service Board and **took no action**. The committee asked that the General Service Board reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the Conference Charter, and develop text that explicitly addresses the principles of participation, petition and appeal for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.
- The committee briefly discussed the General Service Conference Final Report and noted that there were no requests for changes to the Final Report.

The committee elected Mark E., delegate for Southwest Ohio, Area 56, Chairperson, and Jeryl T., delegate for Mid-Southern California, Area 09, Alternate Chairperson.

**Conference Committee on Agenda  
Delegate Chairperson: Ricardo C. Area 13  
6 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The conference committee on Agenda met separately two times following the Joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on the General Service conference on April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2013 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the theme for the 2013 General Service Conference be: "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory - Our Solution in Action."

**Passed unanimously**

- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2013 General Service conference.

The committee recommended the following presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference:

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a) The Triangle - More Than a Shape
- b) The G.S.C. Inventory - Why is it Necessary?
- c) Self-Support - What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?
- d) Primary Purpose - Carrying the A.A. Message

**Passed unanimously**

- C. Determine the inventory questions listed in the "INVENTORY PLAN," which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C. that will be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 General Service Conferences.

The committee recommended that the following inventory questions listed in the "INVENTORY PLAN," which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C., be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 General service Conferences:

**2013**

- A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall
  - 1. Reflecting on Concept One, how does the Conference ensure that it is the conscience of A.A. as a whole?
  - 2. How well is the use of floor actions serving us?
  - 3. Reflecting on Concept Ten, how well is the authority of the conference defined?
  - 4. How well does the Conference fulfill the General Warranties of Concept Twelve?
- B. Composition of Conference
  - 1. Should delegate areas be more consistently based on actual membership numbers?
- C. Committee System
  - 1. Could the committee process be improved to more effectively introduce change in the Fellowship, and if so, how?
- D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness
  - 1. What improvements could be considered to make sure the agenda selection process is more effective?
  - 2. How well do all Conference members communicate to the Fellowship about why we have a Conference and how the committee system works? How could we improve in this communication?
- E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)
  - 1. How well do the delegates balance their preparation for the conference, especially in keeping with Concept Three and Article Three of the Conference Charter?
- F. Conference Week Schedule
  - 1. How can we improve the way time is allotted during the Conference for reports, presentation/discussion/workshop topics, and thorough discussion of agenda items?
  - 2. How are leadership and participation affected by late night work sessions?
- G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)
  - 1. Is the current makeup of the board (numbers and proportions) still the most effective? If not, what changes should we consider?
  - 2. How could we improve the methods used to solicit trustees and directors to get the most appropriate people interested in the positions?
  - 3. What more could be done to ensure the General Service board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship?
- H. Leadership
  - 1. Reflecting on Concept Nine, are the qualities of leadership, as identified in the leadership essay in the Service Manual, still the qualities that we should try to encourage in Conference members? If so, how successful are we in encouraging those qualities? If not, what changes should we consider?

**2014**

- A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall
  - 1. Reflecting on Concept Four, how effective are we in treating all Conference members as equals (no one regarded as second class)?
  - 2. Reflecting on Concept Five, how well does the Conference facilitate the hearing and resolution of minority appeals/reports? How could it be improved?
  - 3. Does the structure encourage each individual in the Fellowship to feel and act as a member of a "society of alcoholics in action?" If not, how could we improve?
  - 4. Does the yearlong conference process effectively encourage all Conference members to lead (or serve) in the spirit of our upside-down service structure? If not, how can we encourage all Conference members to do so?
- B. Composition of Conference
  - 1. Should regional divisions be based on membership numbers, the number of areas contained in each region or some other criteria? Please explain.



- C. Committee System
  1. What is the right balance of participation among committee members (delegates, staff) and how can we best achieve that balance?
- D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness
  1. How well is the message of the Conference theme being carried out throughout the year?
  2. What other suggestions do we have for how to improve the effectiveness of the yearlong process?
- E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)
  1. How can we improve the manner in which Conference background material is developed and distributed?
- F. Conference Week Schedule
  1. At the conference, what is the difference between being a leader and being a reporter? Can a person be both at the same time?
- G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)
  1. Reflecting on Concept Eleven, does the General Service Board Exercise serious care in having the best possible assistance in carrying out their duties? How can this process be improved?
  2. Does the current role of the board most effectively address the needs of the Fellowship? If not, how should their role be changed?
  3. Is the selection/election process for the trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would you change it?
- H. Leadership
  1. How can we improve the methods of selecting effective leaders and nurturing leadership qualities in our trusted servants?
  2. What more could be done to ensure broad diversity of representation in our A.A. leaders?

## **2015**

- A. Effectiveness of the Conference /Conference Process Overall
  1. Reflecting on concept Two, how can we better serve as the actual voice and be an effective conscience for our whole society?
  2. Reflecting on Concept Three, how can we effectively balance the freedoms and responsibilities that come with the right of decision?
  3. How might any one of the Concepts be revised in essence or wording to more effectively and relevantly guide our leaders?
- B. Composition of Conference
  1. Is the size and structure (proportions of delegate/trustee/staff) of the Conference the most effective for conducting the work of the Fellowship? If not, how could it be made more effective?
- C. Committee System
  1. Committee system (Structure, Composition, Effectiveness, etc.): Does the Conference committee system function in accordance with our principles? If not, what changes should we consider regarding: a) structure b) composition c) effectiveness?
- D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness
  1. How can we better communicate that the Conference process is more than one spring week in New York?
  2. How do the delegates and regional trustees support the yearlong process effectiveness?
- E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)
  1. What more could be done to prepare delegates for the Conference?
- F. Conference Week Schedule
  1. What Conference activities give participants the most opportunities to be leaders?
  2. Does the time allotted and the manner in which information is communicated from the trustees and board members allow delegates to adequately understand and/or question their reports? How could this be improved?
- G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)
  1. Reflecting on concept Six, how can the Conference ensure that the authority we delegate to the General Service board is commensurate with the responsibility we have entrusted to them?
  2. Reflecting on Concept Eight: (a) How well is the General Service board exercising custodial oversight and how effectively are they serving as the principle planners and administrators of policy and finance? (b) What are the boundaries between oversight vs. delegation? When is each practiced?
  3. Should the Fellowship have more direct influence in the selection of Class A trustees, corporate directors, and General Service Trustees? If yes, how might that be accomplished?
- H. Leadership
  1. How well is the Third Legacy Procedure serving us? How could it be improved?

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered the request from the trustees' committee on the General Service conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling to the 2013 conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C.
- The committee also noted that for the General Service Conferences in 2013, 2014, and 2015, there will be no solicitation for Workshop topics since the conference Plan specifies that the time allotted for conference Workshops during Conference week will be replaced with Inventory Group meetings to discuss Inventory questions.
- The committee reviewed the General Service conference Evaluation Form and suggested the Pre-Conference section of the Evaluation be separated from the Sunday section of the form.

The committee elected Lynda R. delegate for Area 26, Kentucky, chairperson, and Dave M. delegate for Area 03, Arizona, alternate chairperson.

**Conference Committee on Corrections  
Delegate Chairperson: Debbie A. Area 72  
6 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The conference committee on Corrections met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustee's committee on Corrections on April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee with appreciation, and considered the following Agenda items:

A. Review draft revision of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

The committee recommended that the revised draft pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be approved.

**Passed unanimously**

B. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals."

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" be revised with the following changes:

1. Replace the first paragraph under the section "Release and paroles" with the following paragraph from page six of the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities":

One point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are incarcerated. The answer is that the A.A. program is far more than staying away from alcohol. A.A. has been called a way of life, and its success in groups that meet while in custody shows that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life, both in custody and after release.

2. Change the title of the section currently called "Release and paroles" to "Re-entry and Parole."

3. The current statement regarding "Singleness of Purpose" in the last paragraph, which reads:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.

Be revised with wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" on page 13, to read as follows (changes in bold):

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. **Nonalcoholics** may attend open A.A. meetings **as observers**, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings.

**Question called. vote: 60 in favor, 67 opposed. Minority opinion expressed and motion to reconsider passed. Motion to amend, striking part 3, failed. Friendly amendments accepted, question called, passed by substantial unanimity.**

C. The committee recommended that the section "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" in *A Message to Corrections Professionals* be deleted, and asked that a draft replacement section be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections.

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

D. Consider a possible remake of the 1987 video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

The committee recommended that the video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," be remade in order to accurately reflect current-day life in correctional facilities, while retaining the original message and intent consistent with A.A. Traditions, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.

**Failed by substantial unanimity**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the work of the trustees Committee on Corrections with regards to the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and forwarded a list of suggested changes in the Workbook to the Publications Department.

The committee elected Janet S., delegate for Southern New Jersey, Area 45, chairperson, and Brian M., delegate for Idaho, Area 18, alternate chairperson.

**Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine**  
**Delegate Chairperson: Jennifer D. Area 51**  
**7.5 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The conference committee on the A.A. Grapevine met jointly with the A.A. Grapevine corporate board on April 22, 2012, 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 the following Agenda items:

A. Consider proposal for A.A. Grapevine's Audio Strategy.

The committee recommended AA Grapevine, Inc. move forward with an audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on 3<sup>rd</sup> party recording technology.

- The stories will be subject to the same editorial process as print stories.
- The Audio endeavor will, at a minimum, break even financially.
- 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 2013 Conference committee on the Grapevine as background.

**Question called. 88 in favor, 24 opposed (substantial unanimity). Minority opinion expressed and motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed by substantial unanimity**

B. Consider "Sunset" proposal for Grapevine items.

The committee recommended that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., carry out the "Sunset" proposal for Grapevine items. The "Sunset" proposal is a plan to phase out older or slow-moving Grapevine items and archive them digitally or make them available in another format.

**Passed unanimously**

Additional Committee Considerations

- The committee agreed with the proposal to update, proofread, and digitize the Grapevine Workbook. The revised workbook will be available on the Grapevine website for downloading. The workbook will no longer be printed.  
Note: The cost of this project is estimated to be \$5,000.
- Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2013 or later.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2013 or later:
  - *Attitude of Gratitude* (working title) - A collection of stories on the topic of gratitude previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  - *Voices of Long Term Sobriety II* (working title) - A collection of stories by members with 30+ years of sobriety previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  - *Women's Stories in AA* (working title) - Stories from women members on every topic including a special section from AA's women pioneers previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  - *GLBT in AA - We are all the same or Sober & Out* (working title) - A collection of stories from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender AA community previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  - *Relationships in Sobriety* (working title) - A collection of stories on the topic of relationships previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

- *Having Fun in Sobriety* (working title) - Now that you're sober you've discover that you haven't the foggiest notion on how to have fun. What now? Stories from members having fun in sobriety from stories previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  - *Daily Grapevine* - 365 inspirational passages as originally published in GV's thought of the day in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  - *Mid Sobriety Crisis* (working title) - Not a beginner anymore and not an old-timer? This collection of stories comes from members in the middle years (10-29) who are working the program and trudging the road to happy destiny previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  - *The Best of La Viña II* - Collection of Spanish language original stories (not translations) previously published in La Viña magazine.
  - *AA Inside the Walls* (working title) - A collection of stories from those behind bars and/or from those carrying the message to these institutions previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
- The committee considered incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position "Grapevine Representative" in the service responsibilities and duties of the "General Service Representative" and **took no action**.
  - The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board incorporate into all appropriate literature the 1962 Advisory Action that: "retiring delegates become Grapevine Representatives (GvRs) in their areas, with the objective of a GvR in each group."
  - The committee requested that groups that do not have a GvR or RLV consider incorporating these duties into the duties of the GSR.
  - The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board look into the feasibility of producing one book in ASL format.
  - The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background, on the cost of reformatting Grapevine magazine from its current design to black/white interior, non-glossy, minimal photos and increase the font size.

The committee elected Bob C., delegate for Maryland, Area 29, chairperson, and Tom M., delegate for San Diego/Imperial, Area 08, alternate chair.

**Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions  
Delegate Chairperson: Cecilia R. Area 14  
9 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

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 Board of India to attend the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference as observers.

The committee recommended that Satander Bhalla and Daler Mathadu from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service conference as observers.

**Passed unanimously**

- B. Approve admission to the 2012 General Service conference of Roger Bedard alternate delegate, area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, in place of Estelle Falardeau, Panel 61 delegate for Area 89.

The committee recommended that Roger Bedard alternate delegate, Area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, be seated as a Conference member at the 62nd General Service Conference because Estelle Falardeau, Panel 61 delegate for Area 89 is unable to attend.

**Passed unanimously**

- C. Review dates for the 2015 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the 65th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2015 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

**Passed unanimously**

- D. Review policy and guidelines regarding the use of personal electronic devices at the General Service Conference. The committee recommended that the use of electronic devices at the General Service Conference be approved in keeping with the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the Conference" as presented to the 2012 General Service Conference, superseding the 2004 Advisory Action regarding the use of personal computers at the Conference.

**Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference**

The use of electronic devices will be allowed during the General Service Conference. Electronic devices for use at the General Service Conference will be limited to battery-powered laptops, notebooks, smartphones or similar devices. No external equipment, such as monitors or modems, may be connected.

Electronic devices are not to be used during the Conference for communication about Conference business. This limitation applies to communication with Conference members or others inside or outside the Conference session and committee rooms.

Users will ensure that:

1. Electronic devices are not distractions for others and do not interfere with Conference presentations or other functions.
2. All sound systems are turned off, or completely muted, including low power warning indicators and electronic key clicks.
3. Cell phones are silenced during committee meetings and General Sessions.
4. Electronic devices are not used for audio, video, or photographic recording. One audio recording is made of the General Sessions for archival purposes only.

**User Responsibilities:** Users are responsible for ensuring adequate battery strength prior to the start of sessions. No technical assistance will be provided by the organizers of the General Service Conference or Conference technical assistants.

Users not complying with these guidelines will promptly comply with any requests to cease using an electronic device, if requested by the Conference chair, vice chairperson, or Conference coordinator.

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and **took no action**. They agreed that the policy approved by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the "Right of Appeal" as described in Concept V - the procedure allows for a "well-heard minority" to be a "chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority," and it makes the "best possible use of minority feeling and opinion."
- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference review the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting international observers admission to the General Service Conference, taking into account the concerns expressed by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, and provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee. The Conference committee agreed that their recommendation for approval of observers seems redundant, and this approval could appear to be a "rubber stamp" of the trustees' action, as cautioned against in Concept VII.
- The committee requested that trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference review the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference" on an ongoing basis and forward any updates to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their review.

The committee elected Alan S., delegate for Area 46, New Mexico, chairperson, and Brian O., delegate from Area 31, Western Massachusetts, alternate chair.

### **Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference**

The use of electronic devices will be allowed during the General Service Conference. Electronic devices for use at the General Service Conference will be limited to Battery-powered laptops, notebooks, smartphones, or similar devices. No external equipment, such as monitors or modems, may be connected.

Electronic devices are not to be used during the Conference for communication about Conference business. This limitation applies to communication with conference members or others inside or outside the Conference session and committee rooms.

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3. Cell phones are silenced during committee meetings and General Sessions.
4. Electronic devices are not used for audio, video, or photographic recording. One audio recording is made of the General Sessions for archival purposes only.

**User Responsibilities:** Users are responsible for ensuring adequate battery strength prior to the start of sessions. No technical assistance will be provided by the organizers of the General Service Conference or Conference technical assistants.

Users not complying with these guidelines will promptly comply with any requests to cease using an electronic device, if requested by the Conference chair, vice chairperson, or Conference coordinator.

**Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community**  
**Delegate Chairperson: Keith M. Area 69**  
**4 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

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/Special Needs-Accessibilities on April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Consider adding the phrase "nonalcoholics may attend as observers" to the "Singleness of Purpose" statement in C.P.C literature.

The committee recommended that the current statement regarding "Singleness of Purpose" in C.P.C. literature which reads:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency" Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings"

be revised to read as follows:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. **Nonalcoholics** may attend open A.A. meetings **as observers**, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed AA. meetings."

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

- B. Review Contents of Cooperation with the Professional community Kit and Workbook.

In the process of reviewing the C.P.C. Workbook and Kit, the committee noted that the text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer was revised by a 2010 Conference Advisory Action and a revision of the C.P.C. service piece "Information on A.A." to include the text from "A.A. at a Glance" was initiated by an Additional committee consideration from the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information. In an effort to provide consistent information in C.P.C. literature the committee recommended that the text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section in the C.P.C. pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community", "If You Are A Professional" and "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous" be replaced with the text in the section "What A.A. Does Not Do" in the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer and the entire section read as follows:

**What A.A. Does Not Do**

A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover, solicit members, engage in or sponsor research, keep attendance records or case histories, join "councils" or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them), follow up or try to control its members, make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses, provide detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services or host/sponsor retreats, engage in education about alcohol, provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services; provide domestic or vocational counseling, accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources; provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

**Passed by substantial unanimity**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the report on replacing the current "A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community" DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material and reviewed the draft product of the replacement DVD.

The committee accepted the report with appreciation and felt that a new compilation DVD was not needed for some of the following reasons:

- The list of suggested existing materials seemed limited and was already available on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site.
- When communicating with professionals, it is often most helpful to have material that is specific to a particular profession.

- In the contemporary, ever-changing digital age, the DVD format might not be appropriate for the distribution of information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. Board has oversight of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site Redesign Committee and requested that A.A.W.S. consider dedicating a portion of the Web Site to making A.A. resources easily accessible to targeted professional populations and C.P.C. Committees.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With The Professional Community Committee Kit and Workbook and made several suggestions:
  - The sentence on page 15, which reads: "Open: Guests are welcome; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting" be changed to read "Open: Guests are welcome as observers; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting."
  - The revised text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section in the C.P.C. pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community", "If You Are a Professional" and "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous" replace the current text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section on page 29 of the C.P.C. Workbook.

The committee elected Pam J., delegate for Area 68, Southwest Texas, chairperson, and Kenny K., delegate for Area 34, Western Michigan, alternate chairperson.

**Conference Committee on Public Information  
 Delegate Chairperson: Cyndi F. Area 62  
 13 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The Conference Committee on Public Information met separately five times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Public Information Committee on April 22, 2012. The committee appreciated the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the trustees' committee work, accepted their report, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Review the final draft of the "Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey" pamphlet.

The committee expressed appreciation for the fresh, bold design and recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey with minor editorial changes.

**Passed unanimously**

- B. Consider approving the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A, "Tengo Esperanza."

The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits.

**Passed unanimously**

- C. Consider centralized distribution, tracking, and evaluation of the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., "Tengo Esperanza," at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, as an addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2013 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

**Passed unanimously**

- D. Consider updated text for Anonymity Wallet Card.

The Committee recommended that the revised "Anonymity Wallet Card" be approved. **Passed unanimously**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the report of the Comprehensive Media Plan Subcommittee from the trustees' Public Information Committee, and expressed their support for the continued development of the media plan.

- Following lengthy and thoughtful discussion related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven, the committee concluded that the spirit and principle of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately in the Long Form of Tradition Eleven. Recognizing that suggested changes to Tradition Eleven have come to the Conference several times, the committee requested the trustees' Public Information Committee gather Area sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee considered favorably the suggestion from the trustees' Public Information Committee that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. Before proceeding, however, the committee requested that the General Service Board explore all aspects of this social media page and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information an implementation plan that addresses the implications of such a page, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance.
- The committee reviewed the 2011 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and noted with appreciation the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the Web site.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the "My World" public service announcement.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. TV public service announcements and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that found them all to be relevant and useful.
- The committee assessed the need for a new A.A. TV public service announcement and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that none was needed at this time.
- The committee considered the proposed alternative packaging for the Public Information Kit and suggested that the Publications Department continue to explore options for alternative packaging that is durable, allows for organization and containment of the kit materials.

The committee elected Eden L., delegate for Area 02, Alaska, chairperson, and Chris D., delegate for Area 63, South Dakota, alternate chair.

**Conference Committee on Literature**  
**Delegate Chairperson: Laura V. Area 38**  
**6 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The Conference committee on Literature met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Literature on April 22, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Consider the draft of the revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" be approved.

**Passed by substantial unanimity (2 opposed)**

- B. Consider a request to add the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service to *As Bill Sees It*.

The committee recommended that the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be added to the book *As Bill Sees It*.

**Passed by substantial unanimity (4 opposed)**

- C. Consider the final draft of the revised *Living Sober* booklet.

The committee recommended that the final revision of the *Living Sober* booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved.

**Motion to table failed, called question passed. 94 in favor, 31 against. Minority opinion shared. Motion to reconsider. 70 in favor, 59 opposed, discussion reopened. Motion to table 72 in favor 55 opposed. Motion tabled until next day.**



**Motion to amend to return last sentence in the first paragraph to the original version failed. Passed by substantial unanimity with minor edits**

D. Discuss a suggestion for revision of the pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service."

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be revised, and requested that the trustees' Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

**Passed by substantial unanimity (2 opposed)**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the 'Big Book,' *Alcoholics Anonymous*, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the 'Big Book' and **took no action**.
- The committee considered a request to add the "A.A. Preamble" to the front inside pages of the 'Big Book,' *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and **took no action**.

The committee elected Walter S. delegate for Alberta/N.W. Territories, Area 78, chairperson, and Lela M., delegate for California Northern Interior, Area 07, alternate chair.

**Conference Committee on Archives  
Delegate Chairperson: Maureen F. Area 24  
3 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The Conference Committee on Archives met separately on April 26, 2012 following the Joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives on April 25, 2012. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and made no recommendations.

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the request for changes to the Composition, Scope, and Procedure of the Conference Archives Committee and took no action. It was the sense of the committee that the requested changes were not necessary.
- The committee reviewed the changes to the Archives Workbook and suggested on minor editorial change in the "Shared Experiences" section.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop a new section in the Archives Workbook on digitizing archival collections intended to provide guidance to local archivists and archives committees responsible for maintaining Area or District archival collections.

The committee elected Brian M., delegate for Area 18, Idaho, chairperson, and Gary B., delegate for Area 23, Southern Indiana, alternate chairperson.

**Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums  
Delegate Chairperson: Don F. Area 82  
2 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

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 discussed and reviewed the 2025 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and shared some experiences that have helped increase member participation in recent Regional Forums in their regions. These included:
  - Delegate and Area officers' participation helped increase interest in Regional Forums.
  - Online Regional Forum registration/information on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) is convenient and easily accessible.

- One Area started workshops on Regional Forums at local service events to provide information and create enthusiasm.
- One host committee extended committee membership to other Areas in the region and to members from different cities throughout their own Areas.
- One committee member suggested including an article in the Grapevine with the Regional Forum schedule or from a member about their Regional Forum experience.
- It helps to let members know you don't have to be in General Service to attend and enjoy a Regional Forum.
- One Area took ownership of their Regional Forum hospitality committee to create enthusiasm and generate greater participation.
- Talk and continue to talk about Regional Forums and explain what Regional Forums are all about.
- When there are travel challenges look for creative/alternative ways to travel.
- Suggest combining a trip to a Regional Forum with your vacation plans.

The committee elected Mike H., delegate for Area 25, Kansas, chairperson, and Marty L., delegate for Area 74, N. Wisconsin/Upper Penn. Michigan, alternate chair.

**Conference Committee on Trustees**  
**Delegate Chairperson: Randy H. Area 27**  
**6 Hours of Committee Deliberation**

The conference committee on Trustees met separately twice following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' committee on Nominating on April 22, 2012. 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.
1. 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 April 2012:

Class A Trustees

Terrance B., FACHE  
 Frances B., Ph.D.  
 Corliss B., B.Ed.  
 Ward E., D.D.  
 The Honorable Rogelio F.  
 John F., M.D.  
 Michele G., J.D.

Class B Trustees

Rod B.  
 Donald C.  
 Nancy H.  
 Barbara K.  
 Roberta L.  
 J. Gary L.  
 George M.  
 Don M.  
 Don M.  
 Eleanor N.  
 Pamela R.  
 Clayton V.  
 Andrew W.\*  
 Marty W.\*

\*Note: Elected during the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

**Passed by substantial unanimity (1 opposed)**

2. The committee recommended that the appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson: Ward E., D.D.  
 First Vice-Chairperson: Pam R.  
 Second Vice-Chairperson: Michele G., J.D.  
 Treasurer: Terrance B., FACHE  
 Secretary: Eleanor N.

**Passed unanimously**

3. The committee recommended that the January 2012 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

Assistant Treasurer: Donald M.

Assistant Secretary: Rick W.

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

**Passed unanimously**

4. 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 April 2012:

Andrea B.	J. Gary L.
Rod B.	George M.
Joe D.	William N.
Phyllis H.	Rick W.
Roberta L.	

**Passed unanimously**

5. 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 April 2012:

Ami B.	Clayton V.
Donald C.	Albin Z.
Michele G., J.D.	[vacancy]
Nancy H.	[vacancy]
Don M.	

NOTE: The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Bylaws state that its board shall be comprised of "no less than seven (7) and no more than ten (10) directors."

**Motion to amend to remove 2 "[vacancy]" seconded. Failed by substantial unanimity, no minority opinion expressed. Main motion: Passed by substantial unanimity (4 opposed)**

Additional committee considerations:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B Trustee candidates for the West Central and Western Canada Regions.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating on the Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate noting that, as requested, the report solely addressed the admission of slates; the committee recognizes that the General Service Conference has additional authority related to the General Service Board not commented upon in the report.
- The committee strongly suggested that the practice of including the operating corporation board slates (A.A.W.S. and Grapevine) on the General Service Conference agenda be continued.

The committee elected Tom H., delegate for Georgia, Area 16, chairperson, and Jim K., delegate for Northern Minnesota, Area 35, alternate chairperson.

**General Service Board Motion to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference:**

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the Current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issue of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service conference for approval prior to implementation.

**Motion to amend failed. Calling the question failed. Motion to amend passed by substantial unanimity. Amended motion (above) passed by substantial unanimity**

Approved 4/27/12

## Floor Actions

### **Floor Action #1:**

I request to develop a pamphlet for the Alcoholic with Mental Illness.

Submitted by: Janet S., Panel 62, Area 45

**Withdrawn**

### **Floor Action #2:**

I move that the limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Submitted by: Lela M., Panel 62, Area 07

**Motion to decline to consider failed (47 in favor, 71 opposed). Passed by substantial unanimity (84 in favor, 42 opposed).**

### **Floor Action #3:**

Is to change the question: (1) what more could be done to ensure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship concerning financial condition? Based on 2011 Financial reports given we didn't know where we stood, as far as projections. 2013 Section G Question #3

Submitted by: Deborah D., Panel 61, Area 67

**Motion to decline to consider passed by substantial unanimity**

### **Floor Action #4:**

GSC recommends that the General Service Board form a subcommittee comprised of all stakeholders to develop a plan to address publication, distribution and finances of La Viña with the objective of self-support by 12/31/15.

Submitted by: Rod B., Pacific Regional Trustee

**Motion to decline to consider failed (78 in favor, 45 opposed - less than 2/3). Floor Action discussed. Question called. Failed by substantial unanimity**

### **Floor Action #5:**

That the appropriate trustees Committee develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness, with a progress report to be provided to the appropriate 2013 Conference Committee with suggestions for content of the pamphlet, including breadth and scope of the pamphlet.

Submitted by: Scott H., Panel 61, Area 79

**Motion to decline to consider failed. Question called. Vote on the motion: 81 in favor, 39 opposed, carried. Minority opinion expressed. Motion to reconsider. 71 in favor, 55 opposed, debate reopened. Question called. Failed, 76 in favor 48 opposed.**

### **Floor Action #6:**

That the pamphlet "A.A. and The Armed Services" include the subtitle "none left behind."

Submitted by: Rod B., Pacific Regional Trustee

**Motion to decline to consider failed (73 in favor, 45 opposed). Discussion opened. Failed by substantial unanimity.**

### **Floor Action #7:**

This body form an A.A.W.S. Committee to allow this motion to be heard by a committee before coming to the floor for approval.

Submitted by: Tom T., Panel 61, Area 47

**Motion to decline to consider passed by substantial unanimity**