

**2012 General Service Conference Committees**  
**Final Agenda Items which need Group Conscience from Groups**

**II. Cooperation With the Professional Community**

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

Group conscience needed for the agenda item.

Notes: This is a word change with lots of meaning. The CPC/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibility trustees committee reviewed a proposal to add the phrase “Non-alcoholics may attend as observers” to the Singleness of Purpose” statement in CPC literature. The committee noted that the language could be updated and asked the staff secretary to prepare a draft statement for review at their January 29, 2012 meeting.

The current “Singleness of Purpose” statement in CPC literature reads:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholic’s 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.”

The proposed revised statement is as follows:

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

The revision includes phrasing consistent with the description of the difference between “open” and “closed” meetings on page 13 in the pamphlet “The AA Group.”

The Publications Department recommends that the statement remain concise due to space constraints in the various pamphlets under consideration.

If this passes it would be changed in six CPC pamphlets at the next printing. Below is a list of CPC pamphlets and service materials that contain the “singleness of purpose” statement.

“Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community” (P-31)

“Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” (P-54)

“A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional” (P-23)

“How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals” (P-29)

“If You Are a Professional, A.A. Wants to Work With You” (P-46)

“Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” (P-25)

And Service Piece

“Information on Alcoholics Anonymous” (F-2)

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Workbook – Page (M-1)

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**III. Corrections**

C. Consider a possible remake of the 1987 video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”  
Group conscience needed for the agenda item.

Notes: No changes since 1987. This video is very out-dated. Distribution is only about 150 to 250 per year for the last 10 years. Cost \$60,000 to 75,000. During the recent January Board Weeks I observed that the trustees were not sure who views this video- correction professionals or inmates?

**IV. Finance**

E. Review information concerning General Service Office/A.A.Grapevine Financial Projections for the years 2013 and 2014.  
Group conscience needed for this agenda item.

Notes: Projections GSO: 2011 – 819,100 2012 – 147,900 2013 (265,000) 2014 (721,000)  
That over \$1,000,000 is less than 3 years from now in the red  
Projections AAGV: 2011 – 23,800 2012 – 34,100 2013 (178,200) 2014 (320,000)  
Projections La Vina: 2011 – (69,700) 2012 – (105,700) 2013 (109,000) 2014 (112,100)

F. 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 Services Board as a service to the Fellowship.”  
Group conscience needed for this agenda item.

Notes: 1995 Conference Advisory Action bi-monthly Spanish edition five (5) from the General Service Board.  
2001 continue GSB support  
2010 spiritual parity and continue GSB support.

**V. A.A. Grapevine**

D. Consider incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position “Grapevine Representative” into the Service responsibilities and duties of the “General Service Representative.”  
Group conscience needed for this agenda item.

Notes: From Don M., trustee at large US’s letter Rationale To exclaim that our AAGV is undergoing challenging and difficult times is to understate the obvious and well known. Why the challenges arose and persist is often a topic upon which passionate and concerned A.A. trusted servants disagree. What seems certain is the radical, prompt intervention and proactive measures are now needed to salvage the AAGV as a communication vehicle for our Fellowship. AAGV subscriptions are declining, despite monumental, indeed historic, efforts on the part of our Areas and other AA entities ... The conditions and forecast for the magazine publishing industry as a whole are bleak, and these cannot be ignored.

Numbers Grapevine Representatives	855
La Vina Representatives	109
General Service Representatives	10,635

This proposal is a matter on boots on the ground, it is better to 11559, than 964.

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**VI. Literature**

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

Group conscience needed for this agenda item.

**Notes:**

Agenda Item from Cindy F. Panel 61 Delegate Area 71 Virginia letter dated 1/8/2012 Bill cites the Concepts 13 times in *As Bill Sees It*.

Also note the short form of the Concepts were included in the recently completed pamphlet on "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs."

**VIII. Public Information**

- D. Consider a suggestion that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public; this presence would serve as an informational resource only, with no interpersonal communication capabilities.

Group conscience needed for the agenda item.

**Notes:** The subcommittee recommended and foreword that AA establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about AA to the public as soon as possible; this presence would serve as an informational resource only, with no interpersonal communication capabilities.

"Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination" *As Bill Sees It*, page 225 Grapevine 1960.

- E. Discuss requests related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven.

Group conscience needed for the agenda item.

**Notes:** Agenda Item from anonymous member from Savannah, Georgia

New wording "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity in the public media.

Current Conference Charter requires "...Only matters seriously affecting AA's worldwide needs shall be the subject of joint consideration..." and " But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of AA or in the Twelve Steps of AA may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarter of the AA groups..." Presently the World-wide totals are 107,976 groups with 2,057,672 members.

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**The following is a motion from the General Service Board that will be presented 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 Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structure, while retaining the Grapevine's independent editorial voice. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect 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.

Group conscience needed for the agenda item.

Notes: Agenda Item from Ward B Ewing, Chair General Service Board. Letter dated 2-12-12 2011 Advisory Action "That the AAGV Board, in consultation with AAWS Board and under the guidance of GSB chairman, *continue to investigate what efficiencies and objectives can be accomplished by combining services and sharing resources ....*"

It is hoped that all of us emphasize that this not affect the existence of the Grapevine, the magazine will continue to be provided to the Fellowship. Also, we must never forget the hard work, sacrifices and contributions of the Grapevine staff and Board. Bill W. in his commentary on Concept 9 states, "Unforeseen flaws in the present structure will doubtless show up later on. New service needs and problems will arise that may make structural changes necessary. Such alterations should certainly be effected and these contingencies squarely met."

For members who may not be familiar with the issues involved, here is a brief overview of some of the challenges and concerns of the AAGV, Inc. that the GSB has been discussing:

- The universal migration in the publishing industry from print to electronic magazine publications,
- the GSB's fiduciary responsibility to the Fellowship in further authorizations to the AAGV's use of the Reserve Fund to meet operational needs (Draw downs from the Reserve Fund since 1995 total \$1,447,299. In 2010 the draw down was \$588,000),
- the AAGV's projections for 2013 and 2014 estimate further draw downs totaling \$489,169 unless policies and operations can be changed,
- the increasing focus on AAGV's overall welfare has led to a growing sense of disunity in the Fellowship that has proven to be a distraction in fulfilling our primary purpose.

This motion originates from the General Service Board and, as in past similar situations, will not be sent through a Conference committee. Rather, Ward, the GSB Chair, will present the motion during the GSB report early in the Conference week. The motion will be addressed after the Conference Committee Reports and before the Floor Actions.