

## **Delegate's Report for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Service Conference Park City Utah May 16, 2009**

I am an alcoholic and my name is Monte S. Panel 59 Area 69, Utah Delegate. This year's conference theme; "Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action" was demonstrated in 1997 when newly elected delegate Rod B. visited District One the night before he left for his first General Service Conference. I remember that day because of how enthusiastic and grateful Rod was to be at a district meeting right before leaving for the Conference. I was the DCMC and remember thinking, if ever I am allowed to serve as delegate I hope I do just what Rod was doing. On Sunday April 19, 2009 I was allowed to fulfill that wish. Two days before leaving to my first General Service Conference, I attended District 8 GSR meeting. I will explain the significance of that meeting a little later on.

My wife Shelleice and I left for New York City on Wednesday April 22, 2009 at 12:05 A.M on the Delta Airlines red eye flight bound for JFK International Airport. After checking into the Manhattan Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel located in the heart of Times Square we grabbed a quick nap in our 45<sup>th</sup> floor room to rest up for dinner at the famous 21 Club in New York City and the Broadway production of HAIR at the Al Hirschfeld Theater on. We used the New York City information packet sent out by GSO to find half-price theater tickets. Good thing, because at intermission we decided we had seen enough and we took a HAIR CUT. We left.

On Thursday April 23, we strolled through Times Square on our way uptown to shop. We saw Radio Music Hall, NBC studios and other famous New York City landmarks. Shelleice bought me the shirt and a pocket square (hanky) that I am wearing today. That evening we were hosted by our friend Cookie, a New Yorker, where we went to an A.A. meeting with other Pacific Region delegates and met up with Gay and Patti W. past Area 69 delegate's. Gay serves on the hospitality committee, showing guests of Conference Delegates the sights in NYC. He spent a little time in New York during his vagabond days and I am sure the insight he gives a tour is like no other.

On Friday April 24, we took a wild New York Subway ride to A.A. headquarters, The General Service Office, for the Friday morning A.A. meeting and tours of our office. As we stepped off of the elevator we were greeted by the Serenity Prayer displayed in several languages on one of the walls. The office is located on the corner of Riverside Drive and Reinhold Niebuhr Place. Coincidentally Reinhold Niebuhr is often credited as the author of the Serenity Prayer. The Riverside Church was used as A.A.'s bank when John Rockefeller gave A.A. \$5000.00 to help keep A.A. afloat in the early days. The money was disbursed through the Riverside Church and then to A.A.

While at the General Service Office we talked with the new GM Phyllis H. and other members of the staff. We had lunch in the basement cafeteria and then a group of Pacific region Delegates and friends walked back to the hotel via Riverside and Central Park.

Saturday morning April 25, 2009 Madeleine P., Pacific Region Trustee, arranged for a 3 hour boat tour around Manhattan Island. It was a casual ride and chance for Pacific Region delegates and their spouses and guests to spend some time together, take pictures of Manhattan and relax a little before the work of the GSC began. Saturday afternoon a couple of delegates and I made our way across town to the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Workshop A.A. meeting. That evening at 7:00 p.m. Joe B. Delegate chair, opened the delegate's only meeting expressing his love and gratitude and reminding us that no agenda items are discussed during the Delegate's only meeting.

An unofficial part of the Conference it is an opportunity for orientation and an opportunity to put faces on names. We heard presentations on the Committee Process- The Full Conference Process - And Delegate reports from the 58<sup>th</sup> Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m. and several A.A.'s and guests headed up Broadway, past The Late Show marquee for an Italian dinner at Restaurante Del Arte, across the street from Carnegie Hall.

I mentioned the District 8 GSR meeting 2 days before leaving for the GSC. During the district 8 GSR meeting the discussion centered on the inability of alcoholics to receive detox at local hospitals in the Uinta Basin. A.A.'s are driving intoxicated men and women to Salt Lake City, a 4 to 6 hour round trip, hoping to find a place that will detox them. In some cases, alcoholics are being left at the Volunteers of America doorstep in lieu of medically supervised detox. VOA monitors patients and if their situation becomes life threatening, they call 911 and summon an ambulance. It was during that meeting I made a decision to see what I could find out about getting detox in remote communities. During the remote Communities meeting in New York, I learned that there is a Remote Communities Experience Workbook being put together by A.A.'s in Nebraska. They are soliciting members experience both positive and negative when working with alcoholic's in remote communities. It was mentioned that some alcoholics living in remote communities may only see one sober member of A.A. in their lifetime. I gathered as much information as I could and I asked the Nebraska delegate to consider a chapter on emergency detox for people living in remote communities. She said that she would. In Canada they have nursing stations spaced throughout the back country and that is where people are treated for alcohol overdose. Sober truck drivers and other workers have an impact on carrying the message to villages and other remote communities and they are desperate to find additional resources. Other delegates mentioned that the secret to getting response is repeated contact and invitations through CPC and PI. Become visible! The A.A.'s in District 8 are the reason I found myself in the Remote Communities meeting on Sunday April 26, 2009 at 9a.m. and volunteered to become a member of the Remote Communities committee representing the Pacific Region. We should be hearing more on U.S. and Canadian efforts as they are revealed. I will keep you posted. During the Remote Communities meeting three pamphlets translated into Inuktitut were made available and are here for you to look at today. The Gray/Green pamphlet is -12 Steps Illustrated. The yellow is- A Message to Teenagers. The brown one is- Is A.A. For You? The Serenity Prayer translated into Inuktitut is on the business cards from Canada. The meeting adjourned at 11:00a.m.

On Sunday April 26, 2009 I learned that my Rocket into a new dimension turned out to be an escalator from the lobby of the Crown Plaza to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor meeting hall of the General Service Conference. As the stairs mechanically lifted me towards the Conference Rooms my spirit and emotions rose too. By the time I reached the landing my eyes were filled with tears and my heart with overwhelming gratitude. To be standing on the threshold of what was for me a life changing experience was overpowering. I will never forget that ride.

We gathered our registration packets which contained a General service Conference Manual, our respective Conference Committee Books, Service Manual, Final Report, Advisory Actions Book, Literature Order Forms and an envelope with \$170.00 cash to cover breakfasts and other expenses for the week. It was a 5lb. package that you actually had to wrap your arms around to keep it from dropping. It was like giving A.A. a hug.....

Alcoholics Anonymous at the General Service Conference compared to our District and Area service is sort of like the difference between Little League baseball and Major League baseball. The basic fundamentals and principles are the same. It's just that at the Conference level, as in the major leagues, the pace is much faster, the stakes are much higher and there are a lot more referees and you must stay focused or the ball can be dropped. I was amazed before I was half way through!

1:15 p.m. Sunday April 26, 2009, Leonard B., chair, General Service Board officially opened the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference with a moment of silence.

As many others who have gone before me and have reported back to us the first decision I had to make during the GSC was whether to say here, or present, during the roll call given by Phyllis H., general manager, G.S.O. I wanted to say here in the present, but I just said here.

We were greeted by Joe B. delegate chairperson who said that if he were a dog, his tail would be wagging so hard it would knock everything off of the head table. Moments before opening remarks, my wife Shelleice handed me the colorfully wrapped gift that District 2 had given me weeks before with explicit instructions that said do not open until the GSC. My eyes filled again with tears when I saw the gift that District 2 had sent. It was a sample collection jar. Those that have heard my A.A. story know that I am quite familiar with sample collection jars having gone through infertility testing and treatment process dozens of times. Never before had I seen the spiritual significance of those jars. I was instantly reminded of the family that A.A. had given me. I have 6 children today and 6 grandchildren. Throughout the Conference each time the serenity prayer was said I would touch my chest pocket where a picture of our kids was kept next to my heart as a reminder of my personal reasons for being there. Those moments were unforgettable. Thank you District 2 A.A.'s. The sample jar is here today filled with souvenir pins from delegates across the U.S. and Canada. Go ahead and stick your fingers in the jar and check them out. They are from our A.A. family, brothers and sisters in recovery. Something else I realized about myself during the Conference is that I cry a lot. You can call me puddles number 3. Madeleine is puddles number 1 and Joe B. is puddles number 2 for the same reasons.

On Sunday from 2:45-3:45p.m., we met for the first time in Committee, jointly with the trustees. After introductions our committee heard from the trustees some of the history behind Agenda Item B regarding delegate participation in the agenda item selection process.

At 6:30 p.m. the Opening Dinner and A.A. meeting began. The once in a lifetime experience of being at that dinner with my sponsor's Gay and Patti along with my wife Shelleice, delegates from Alaska and Idaho, in a room filled to capacity with A.A.'s and friends of A.A. whose dedication and contributions to Alcoholics Anonymous are beyond words. During the A.A. meeting, Margaret B., Panel 20 delegate recalled her experience 39 years before at the opening dinner. She shared about how Bill W. sick with lung disease, struggled to catch his breath and offer a few remarks to the guests. He was, she said, unable to do so. Margaret described the GSC experience as being allowed to hold A.A. in our hands, touching it, massaging it, loving it, and then placing it in the hands of those who are next. During Margaret's share the room was so still and quiet you could feel the spirit of those who had come before, it was a moving and wonderful evening. Thank you Area 69 for allowing me to be there.

Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. along with my sponsor I attended the 2009 GSC Serenity Group A.A. meeting. It was a great way to start what turned out to be a long day. The Agenda Committee met from 9:00a.m. until noon. We selected the 60<sup>th</sup> GSC Theme "Practicing A.A.'s Principles-the Pathway to Unity" a modification of a suggestion from Alaska Area 02.

After lunch we heard Area Highlights from 2 regions and presentations. Leonard B., GSB chair, expressed his surprise from the reaction to the process of hiring G.S.O. manager. He said procedures followed past actions, "by the book" start to finish. He told us the purpose of his trip to Vienna was to introduce A.A. to treatment providers and to bring awareness of alcoholism to the World Health Organization. An international strategic plan is being formulated to discuss alcoholism. The Mississippi delegate offered thanks to Leonard and he received a standing ovation.

John K., A.A.W.S. treasurer spoke about the business decision to move the 60<sup>th</sup> GSC out to Rye Town Hilton in Rye New York. It will be only the third time the GSC will be held outside of New York. He said the \$170.00 room rate and other savings equates to \$187,000 less than having GSC at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza. John informed us that book purchases and contributions plunged in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter resulting in \$275,000 loss instead of a \$188,000 projected surplus. The 2009 budget forecasts \$900,000 profit with projected contributions of \$6,500,000.

Cost cutting measures include freezing of salaries, non replacement of staff vacancies, using less expensive mailing services could decrease expensed by \$364,000. Phyllis added that she is hoping the financial situation will improve enough by summer to fill any vacancies on the staff. There was discussion of the Big Book and 12 X 12 being sold by Amazon for use on the Kindle Reader, an electronic device that allows users to read books electronically. The contract can be cancelled anytime and there was concern over implied affiliation, it was said that no more affiliation than using Google, or Firefox, etc.

Madeleine P., Grapevine chair reported that the Grapevine lost \$55,000 due to subscription decline and unexpected expenses in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, including higher postage and employee costs. (2100 new subscriptions for 2007 and 2200 in 2008) She said that it cost Grapevine 4.8 cents per copy to add color and remove the staples. Plans are underway to improve LaVina next year. LaVina does not have enough pages to qualify for staple removal at this time. September 2009 the Grapevine will reflect format updates requested by subscribers after doing a reassessment of the magazines layout.

Terry B., trustee Finance and Budgetary Committee chair reported that market conditions could have an impact on the reserve fund, some it may be needed to fund retirements. 2009 1<sup>st</sup> quarter contributions are down 5%, sales are down 6% and circulation for November and December were down but are headed back up as we enter the month of May. Box 459 is being cut back to a quarterly publication and the GSO is looking at doing more things electronically and less expensively.

At 4:45p.m. on Monday the conference took a 15 minute coffee break. As it would be for the rest of the week, Yee T., GSO staff person would walk through the foyer gleefully ringing a giant and very loud school bell. She was telling all of us that recess was OVER!

For the next few hours we heard area highlights from panel 59 first year delegates including yours truly. I took the opportunity to enlighten the Conference about little know Utah myths and I encourage the body not to believe everything they hear on the HBO television series Big Love. I reminded them that one does not have to be a bigamist/polygamist to have one spouse too many. Then I gave our area highlights which you can read when the Final Report becomes available. We heard presentation/discussion on Humility and Sacrifice. They too will be in the Final Report. We then had "what's on your mind session" where book price increases and cost savings procedures regarding wages and salaries for GSO staff were discussed. We adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

At 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday April 28, 2009 I awoke with a continuing chest and head cold and a serious case of new delegate confusion and gratitude. It was during that hour I had hit the so called "wall". I spent about an hour writing in my journal, crying in my coffee and praying to the God of my understanding. Talking with friends I learned that other delegates and staff members had been feeling similar emotions. Once again I was not alone. At 8:00 a.m. the Conference Agenda Committee members were back in the break out room working on Presentation/Discussion topic ideas for the 60<sup>th</sup> GSC.

We had started an hour early because we had a lot of work to do and the committee meeting time allotted was not enough. We would need one more extended meeting in order to finalize the Presentation/Discussion topics and chose a Work Shop topic. I did not venture outside of the hotel for over 48 hours. That is saying something when you are seconds away from Times Square and by standing in the hotel doorway all seven of the deadly sins walk by every half hour or so. I even saw a nearly naked cowboy. Without his cowboy boots and hat he would have been just another passer-by in New York.

The theme for the 2010 GSC Conference is “Practicing A.A.’s Principles – the Pathway to Unity”

The Discussion/Presentation topics are

- 1) Practicing These Principles in All Our “Service” Affairs
  - a) What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?
  - b) Love and Tolerance is Our Code
  - c) Setting an Example – Attraction to Service
  
- 2) Unity Through Inventory
  - a) Our Common Welfare Should Come First
  - b) This We Owe to A.A.’s Future
  - c) What Happens After Inventory
  
- 3) General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:
  - a) How it Works
  - b) Collective Participation
  - c) Communication – The Key to an Informed Decision

The Workshop Topic “Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process”

It was a spiritual journey to serve with eight other delegates and two GSO staff on this committee. I learned that unity does not always mean uniformity and that unanimity does not always equal unity. We are at times a fellowship divided by ideals but united in action.

After lunch on Tuesday we resumed Area Highlights, listened to 3 more Presentation/Discussion topics and had another “What’s on Your Mind?” session. At 2:30 we were given Subway passes (Metro Cards) for the trip to GSO to visit with staff, view our archives, and visit our Grapevine office. I was discouraged to see some of the cramped working space some of the support staff is working in. I was impressed by the staff with their knowledgeable answers and willingness to get whatever we needed. I ordered some Daily Reflections to place on the “Books for Signing Table” in the hotel foyer. I went right to the store room to pick them up. Some of us had to hurry back and finish our committee work before the Delegates dinner and Delegates Only Meeting.

Wednesday April 29, 2009 9:00 a.m. I was assigned to the Workshop on “Language of the Heart Keeping it Simple” Claudio M. Trustee at Large from Brazil was one of the GSC observers was at the workshop.

The workshop was a two hour round-robin sharing session where each speaker had a two minute time limit to share on the topic. One of the lessons I came away with "Sometimes the language of the heart is silent."

During the Wednesday Regional luncheon's candidates were selected for the upcoming Trustee at Large U.S. position. The Pacific Region chose Rod B. as their nominee. Because Rod is Panel 47 Delegate from Area 69 Utah I was given the privilege of introducing the Pacific Region Candidate for Trustee at Large U.S. to the 59<sup>th</sup> GSC. I had talked to Rod and asked him if there was anything not on his resume' he would like me to mention. He said whenever the trustee position is talked about he remembers being in jail and wanting to become a trustee. He didn't realize in order to become a jail trustee you had to be in jail a long time. When I relayed this to the conference they laughed out loud. The election went 5 ballots and Rod B. and Don M. from Louisiana went into the hat. Leonard B. drew Don M. from the hat.

The Pacific Region Delegates were disappointed but when I talked to Rod he was so grateful to even be considered. Rod said that he understood the process well enough to realize what an honor it is to go through the process. Rod encouraged me to locate the Louisiana delegate and send congratulations. I found Bob W. and conveyed Rod's message for Don M. Bob said that had it not been Don M. in the hat he would have been voting for Rod. Bob sent Rod a pin from Louisiana as a memento. This was Rod's second time in the hat at the GSC. On a very sad note, one of the Pacific Region nominee's for trustee at large U.S., Bill M., was killed riding his motorcycle while we were at the conference. Bill was Chair for PRAASA 2009 in Oakland and will be missed throughout A.A.

Joining Don M. on the GSB as trustees are Eleanor N. elected Southeast regional trustee and Pamela R. elected East Central regional trustee. Elections lasted 4 hours.

During the delegates lunch we chose PRASSA 2013 to be held in Boise Idaho March 1-3, 2013 and Regional Forum 2012 Fairbanks Alaska September 14-16<sup>th</sup> or 21st-23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 depending on GSO schedules.

Wednesday Afternoon there were "What's on your mind" session where details of the Kindle reader project with Amazon was discussed and we listened to presentations about the Grapevine. At our workstations during the Grapevine presentations were copies of two newly published G.V. booklets of stories taken from the G.V., Voices of Long Term Sobriety and Beginners' Book Getting and Staying Sober in AA. They are with the display for you to look at and then order from Lauana our area G.V. chair. It was suggested that during A.A. gatherings, wherever possible, a laptop connected to the G.V. website be available to encourage subscriptions. Also very present this year were copies of Lavigne', a magazine similar to G.V. that is published and distributed entirely by French speaking A.A.'s in Canada. They translate articles from G.V. and 30% of French speaking members subscribe. There is a copy for you to check out at the display.

The following information is the mechanics of the GSC as filtered through my experience during deliberations of agenda items. What I present here is not a complete list of everything that happened or was recorded. There are copies of all of the Additional Items for Consideration, in English and Spanish, available for you to look at when you have time. Any questions that are not answered today please use my e-mail, telephone or talk to me this weekend.

## **AGENDA COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Wednesday April 29, 2009 7:30 p.m. we reconvened after dinner to begin deliberations on the Conference Agenda Items. First up was the Agenda Committee.

**Item:** The proposed theme for 60<sup>th</sup> GSC. Motion carried unanimously. Theme approved.

Then things got a little hairy, there was a challenge to conference procedures that went on for quite some time. There was discussion of ballots and election procedures that had me feeling like there may have been two agenda's going on but only part of the Conference was informed about the second one. We were 4 days into the conference, it was late, people were tired and I was coming face to face with my emotions. Happy, sad, time seemed warped, everything was beginning to become compressed and stretched out, like a rubber band. One second pulling in both directions the next snapping back towards the middle. As a result, rather than working on the planned three Agenda Items we barely got through one.

**Item:** Discussion/Presentation Topics and Workshop Topic. Motions carried. Minority opinion vote to reconsider carried. After reconsideration motion carried recommendation approved.

Copies of the Theme Discussion/Presentation and Workshop Topics are available on the table for you take and use in you districts or home groups.

The first day of deliberations on Conference Agenda Items was in the books and at about 10:00 p.m. or so a whole bunch of delegates headed up Broadway towards the Stardust Diner for an ice cream social like no other. The wait staff at the Stardust told us they were a little concerned when a bunch of suits and ties showed up and filled all of their tables. They quickly changed their minds when they saw how rowdy we could become in a New York Second. It was a nice break from the business at hand and the wait staff double as entertainers, singing and dancing to rock and roll. They gave whistle while you work a whole new perspective. Returning to the hotel around midnight we got just enough rest to get ready for Thursday deliberations of the General Service Conference.

A little bit about the Pacific Region Delegates. We are made up of 13 men and two women. The men are still outnumbered! We have 4 delegates named Dave. 2 delegates who share the same first and last name and another delegate who is not only rad, Rad is his name. The Pacific Region is home to the youngest delegate at the conference, Jason C. from Nevada. He is 33 years old, has 16 years sobriety has never had a legal drink and said the first time he ever related to another young person in A.A. was while watching the Young People Video played during this year's conference. Wait till you see it, it will give you the chills....It should be available for our August workshop.

## **REPORT AND CHARTER COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS**

Thursday April 30, 2009 9:00 a.m. Committee reports and agenda item discussion resumed with Report and Charter

**Item:** Language Revisions Clarifying Terms of Non-trustee Directors. Motion carried unanimously recommendation was approved.

**Item:** Adding GSR Preamble to Service Manual Motion failed. **Item:** Recording Service Manual Changes. Item was tabled and eventually motion carried and recommendations were approved after 14 hours of deliberations in committee, with directions of how changes are to be recorded.

**Item:** Changing the Current Conference Language Reference to Glossary of Terms. Motion carried recommendation was adopted.

**Item:** Appointed Committee Member Length of Term. Motion Carried, recommendation approved.

**Item:** Trustee/Trustee at Large Nominations tabled and proposed floor action revising language was accepted/adopted.

**Item:** Adding Area Names Next to Area Numbers in Service Manual. Motion carried recommendation was adopted.

**Item:** Annual Conference Charter Review. Motion failed. Motion to reconsider carried. After reconsideration motion failed. Note: Report and Charter is already charged with reviewing the entire Service Manual of which Conference Charter is part of.

**Item:** Annual Review of Twelve Concepts. Motion carried, recommendation was adopted.

### **CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS**

April 30, 2009 10:55am

All of the following items were adopted and are taken directly from the 2009 Advisory Actions on Corrections. Joe B. coined the phrase: "Corrections, where the law and spirituality mix."

The trustees' Committee on Corrections undertake a revision of the pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," which will take into consideration;

\*More stories of recovery from alcoholism through the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, drawn from *Sharing From Behind the Walls, Box 4-5-9* or other available sources.

\*Less use of 'directive' language (such as that used in the section on H.A.L.T.).

\*Including photographs that reflect current times.

And that a draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections.

\*The photo on page 18 of the pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," which shows an inmate smoking a hand-rolled cigarette, be replaced with a photo of the current edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in future reprints, as well as in any revision.

Note: I did talk to a staff person about the practice of sending Big Books to inmates who request them and was told yes the office does do that. The expense is covered by their budget but if the requests become overwhelming other measures to pay for them may need to be considered.

### **LITERATURE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS**

April 30, 2009 1:50pm

**Item:** Revision to Medication and Other Drugs. Motion failed. A floor action was proposed to remand this item to the 2010 GSC and was accepted/adopted.

**Item:** Revised Pamphlet Native American. Motion failed. Motion to reconsider failed. After minority opinion motion to reconsider carried. After reconsideration the motion for the pamphlet carried and recommendation was approved.

**Item:** Revised Pamphlet Questions and Answers on Sponsorship. Motion carried recommendation approved.



**Item:** Special Needs Pamphlet. Motion carried, recommendation approved. Item: Revised Pamphlet A Newcomer Asks. Motion failed. Motion to reconsider carried. After reconsideration motion to adopt this recommendation carried recommendation was approved. At this point 5:20p.m a motion to extend deliberations until 11:00pm carried and was adopted.

**Item:** Revised Pamphlet 44 Questions to Frequently Asked Questions About AA. Motion carried recommendation approved.

**Item:** GSR Video. Motion failed. Note; It would cost \$64,000.00 to produce and there is a downloadable version of GSR information at CT-AA.org.

**Item:** Pamphlet Focusing on Spirituality. Motion failed. Motion to reconsider carried. After reconsideration motion to adopt failed. Floor action to remand back to 2010 GSC carried. Note; 4 Trustees all spoke in favor of this item. The request for this information is recurring; the question seems to be how to address it.

**Item:** Remote Communities Book of Stories. The committee felt there was no wide spread need and took no action.

**Item:** Second Volume Daily Reflections. Committee considered request but took no action.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS**

April 30, 2009 10:25pm

**Item:** Updated Pamphlet A Message to Teenagers. Motion carried recommendation was adopted. Note: motion to resume deliberations at 8:00a.m. instead of 9:00a.m. on May 1, was adopted.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS**

May 1, 2009 8:00a.m.

**Item:** Poster for Young People. Motion carried, recommendation was approved.

**Item:** Need for New Television PSA. Motion failed. Motion to reconsider carried and after reconsideration motion carried and recommendation was approved.

**Item:** Revised PSA CD's. Motion carried, recommendation was approved.

**Item:** Young People Video Project. Motion carried by unanimous vote! COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION APPROVED!! 11:05 a.m.

**Item:** Discontinued AA Rap With Us & Young People and AA. Motion carried recommendation was approved.

**Item:** 2010 Membership Survey. Motion carried, recommendation was approved.

Additional Considerations: Continuation of Young Peoples Video Project with reminder to announce this project at Spanish speaking FORO's.

**COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS** May 1, 2009 11:15a.m.

**Item:** CPC Video for Professionals. Motion carried recommendation approved. After a minority opinion a motion to reconsider failed. Motion carried recommendation approved.

Additional Considerations: Use of LaVigne' in CPC work? It along with other items are considered service material and do not require conference approval or disapproval. 12:10pm lunch break.

**TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS** May 1, 2009 1:20p.m.

**Item:** Revised Hope Video. Motion failed (We abandoned Hope) Motion to Reconsider carried. Discussion concerned using actors instead of A.A.'s and showing full face. After reconsideration motion carried recommendation was approved. (We restored Hope) Note: the song, Happy Birthday to You, is copyrighted and will be edited out of Hope Video.

**Item:** Expand Scope and Revise Name of Treatment Facilities to Treatment Facilities/Special Needs. Motion carried and recommendation was approved. 3:45p.m.

Additional Considerations: How do we gather additional outpatient treatment center committee experiences? Answer-To Be Determined by our Trustees.

**POLICY AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS** May 1, 2009 4:00p.m.

**Item:** Seating of Alternate Delegate and Conference Observers from South America. Motion carried and recommendations were approved.

**Item:** General Service Conference Dates April 22-28, 2012. Motion carried, recommendations approved.

**Item:** Develop Procedure for Concept V Appeal. Motion carried, recommendation approved. See Advisory Actions for additional information. Minority opinion was heard and motion to reconsider failed.

**Item:** GSC Inventory. Motion carried, recommendation was approved. Note: 2011 time frame for implementation.

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no recommendations for the GSC to consider.

**TRUSTEES COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS** May 1, 2009 5:25p.m.

**Item:** It was recommended that:

37. The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in May 2009:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. B., FACHE  
Frances L. B., Ph.D.

Class B Trustees

Kenneth P. B.  
Conley F. B. Jr.

Corliss B.  
 William D. C., M.D.  
 Ward B. E., D.D.  
 The Honorable Rogelio R. F.  
 Jeanne S. W.

Dorothy L. H.  
 John J. K., Jr.  
 Jo-Anne L.  
 George G. M.  
 Don M.  
 Don M.  
 Eleanor W. N.  
 Madeleine J. P.  
 Victor P. / Pamela R.

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee and one Class B general service trustee.

On April 27, 2009 the General Service Board approved a motion that the trustees' Nominating Committee, in consultation with the A.A.W.S. Board, consider actions to fill the vacant general service trustee position and report their conclusions to the General Service Board at its summer 2009 meeting. At that time the General Service Board may choose to appoint a Class B general service trustee.

#### Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
First vice-chairperson	Madeleine J. P.
Second vice-chairperson	William D. C., M.D.
Treasurer	Terrance M. B., FACHE
Secretary	Conley F. B., Jr.

38. The February 2009 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 2009:

Assistant Treasurer	Donald W. M.
Assistant Secretary	Adrienne B.*

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

\*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, Summer 2009

39. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2009:

Andrea G. B.	Jo-Anne L.
Adrienne B.*	George G. M.
Phyllis A. H.	William N.
John J. K., Jr.	Victor P.
Roberta L.	

\*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, Summer 2009

Note: The Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board will operate with the Class B trustee-at-large/Canada serving as a director, replacing a Class B general service trustee director.

40. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2009:

Ginger R. B.	Nancy H.
Robin B.	Dorothy L. H.
Kenneth B.	Don M.
Conley F. B., Jr.	Albin Z.

Note: The Grapevine Corporate Board will operate short one Class A trustee director.

41. In light of the extensive confidential information in the trustees' election resumes, resumes of all election candidates would no longer be made available to all Conference members immediately prior to the Conference trustees' election session. Distribution of trustee resumes at the Conference would be limited to only voting delegates and members of the Conference Committee on Trustees and the trustees' Committee on Nominating. The resumes of the elected trustees would be distributed to all Conference members immediately after the election session.

Note: The purpose of this suggested limited distribution of Conference trustee election resumes is to emphasize the General Service Board's and the Conference's commitment to protecting the confidentiality of trustee candidates' resume information. The GSB slate, as presented, was voted on and approved.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS**

May 1, 2009 9:30 p.m.

**Item:** Continue Gathering Information from the Fellowship on Funding GSO with Contributions Only. Motion failed. Motion to reconsider carried. After reconsideration motion carried, recommendation was approved. Note; The information gathered by Utah and other areas somehow was not part of the background material. Not sure how it was handled as I remember Julie sending it in.

**Item:** Discussion on ways to communicate with the fellowship about self-support.

Item: Need for Seventh Tradition Poster. Committee took no action on this item.

#### **GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS** May 1, 2009 11:15 p.m.

No recommendations were made for consideration. Note; The Grapevine Committee met several times deliberating agenda items, Gray Pages and Magazine Distribution and made no recommendations. The Information on medical, legal, and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer will remain in the Grapevine magazine.

#### **International Conventions Committee Agenda Items**

May 1, 2009 11:35 p.m.

**Item:** Anonymity Protected Photograph of 2010 International Convention. Motion carried and recommendation was approved.

**Item:** Encrypted Anonymity Protected Internet Broadcast of Flag Ceremony 2010 International Convention Opening. Motion carried, recommendation approved.

**FLOOR ACTIONS** May 2, 2009 12:25 a.m.

- #1 Inventory of Conference Charter  
Motion to not consider, carried. Motion failed.
- #2 Refer Medications and Other Drug Pamphlet back to Trustees Literature Committee  
Motion carried, floor action adopted.
- #3 Special Needs Literature  
Motion to not consider, carried. Motion failed.
- #4 Remand Need for Pamphlet for Atheists/Non Believers back to GSC and Allow Fellowship to Submit Additional Material to Conference Literature Committee. Motion carried, floor action adopted.
- #5 Rescind Literature and Big Book Price Increase.  
Motion failed.
- #6 Not to Allow Full Face Photography in GSC Produced Videos.  
Motion failed.
- #7 Cancel Contract for Kindle Reader  
Motion failed.
- #8 Voice over on Hope Video Changing word Bylaws to Guidelines.  
Motion Failed May 2, 2009 2:07 a.m.

After the final committee reports had been given, the resulting Advisory Actions recorded and the final presentation delivered, the Conference was officially closed with the Serenity Prayer in three languages, led by Sylvain L., NW Quebec in French; Antonio R., Puerto Rico in Spanish; and Helon H., Mississippi in English. The Conference did not close on Friday afternoon as mentioned in the Early Bird Edition of Box 459, but at 2:15 a.m. on Saturday May 2, 2009.

Our Primary Purpose is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who still suffer. This year's Conference has helped us do that by recommending some new tools, sharpening some old ones, discontinuing some others and sending some forward for another look. The Conference process continues year round one-day at-a-time just like Bill W. had hoped it would. If we made some mistakes or the action taken turns out to be not quite right, the beauty of the Conference is that no Conference is binding on any other. We can always fix any mistakes and correct any errors at next year's Conference. After experiencing the General Service Conference I know that God's will for A.A.'s future include "Practicing A.A.'s Principles - The Pathway to Unity". General Service in Alcoholics Anonymous has allowed me to meet and work with the finest human beings I have ever had the honor to associate with.

I know that in the room today is someone wondering if it is OK or not to someday want to be our Area Delegate. I encourage you to carry that hope into all of your AA service activities and someday it may happen to you. It did me. I thank each of you for your service to AA and for my life.

Yours in the Fellowship of Love and Gratitude,

Monte S.

**In order to preserve anonymity and confidentiality, all last names of individuals have been removed.**