

“Practicing A.A.’s Principals – The Pathway to Unity”
60th ANNUAL GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
April 18 - April 24, 2010

MY INTRODUCTION

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as delegate to the 60th General Service Conference. This conference was all about Unity because of practicing our principals in all our service affairs. We showed and talked about trust all the way through. Because of the spirit of trust and unity we were able to accomplish a lot.

I was especially appreciative of the great attendance we had at our Delegate’s Workshop in Cannon Falls. It really does make a difference to know how all of you feel and which items affect your groups the most. Your committee discussions and comments at the microphone gave me a solid foundation on which to make decisions for the good of A.A. as a whole. I also appreciate those of you who took me aside to share some concerns as well as all the phone calls and e-mails. It shows me that you really care. At the conference we discussed the difference between “informed” and “instructed” delegates, and I am thankful that our area believes in sending an informed delegate.

PREPERATION

Preparation took on a whole new meaning this year as I was elected to Chair the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions. As a Conference Committee Chair you are asked to attend the January General Service Board meeting and all Trustee Committee meetings included in that five day weekend. The real advantage is being present in each Trustees Committee as the final Conference agenda items are discussed and selected. You get to understand the history and background of each item a little better and know what concerns were raised with each item. The second part of preparing as a Conference Committee Chair is communicating with the members of your committee. What thoughts and concerns do they have and should you consider all the additional non-approved background materials you receive from interested members. Maybe not – It wouldn’t be fair to the rest of the delegates at the Conference.

Preparing for the Conference requires a lot of reading to say the least. The mail is unbelievable. I’m sure my postal carrier is impressed. The e-mails seem to never end. This year was a challenge as far as discussion of the agenda items. We were in a real time crunch with the Delegates Workshop being on April 10th. I get the disk with the final agenda items and background material on February 15th. You need to print it or you will go blind staring at your computer as it’s close to 900 pages. This year we had an area event on the same week that I got the disk so we saved a bit on postage. I went through the entire document and pulled out the items that I felt were significant and they become the “Impact Items” we are getting so used to seeing. Time to write up the impact items and run them to Kinko’s for copies. Then comes the task of making copies of the disk for the Area Committee Members and having them ready to hand out by Saturday. I got both of my computers going and made copies for the GSR’s as well. I think it was close to 200 copies in all. Glad that’s over with.

Now that you're all well armed with your impact items and background materials, it's time to talk about these things in the groups. Most years the districts help out by handing out the items to GSR's with some explanation of the items and send them off to the groups. Then they have a district meeting for reports and discussion to further inform the GSR's before they head off to the Delegates Workshop. Not this year. There was enough time for the GSR's to get the information, talk about it in their groups and show up at the Delegates Workshop. My compliments to all involved in this process as we had a very well informed Area at the Regional Service Conference in Dubuque as well as at the Delegates Workshop. You all certainly did your homework. Thank you.

Travel to New York

I think my travel issues started on Friday night as I went to a meeting to listen to my sponsor speak and when I went to my truck to leave – I had no headlights. It's funny how we notice these things when we're sober. I drove home with no headlights and immediately called the shuttle service to take me to the airport at 3:40 am instead of my plan of driving myself. My flight to Detroit was delayed a little over an hour due to having to fix the planes computer at the last minute. I had 20 minutes to transfer planes in Detroit and of course – opposite end of the airport. I made it to New York but as I'm sitting here writing this on Sunday, my luggage is still in Detroit. The General Service Conference is a formal affair and here I am wearing jeans, tennis shoes and a nice T-shirt. The conference members came to my rescue and borrowed me shoes, ties, shirt, sport coats and now I'm headed down the hall to pick up a suit as I have to report to the full Conference in two hours. It's nice to have a family this large. I ended up having to return to the airport in New York to find my bags in a back room. They said I wasn't allowed in there but somehow I managed to leave the airport late that night with my luggage.

Who was my guest?

Delegates to the General Service Conference can have a guest attend with them and they have a separate agenda for them. While we're doing the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, they are out at ball games and sightseeing tours. My first two Conferences my younger brother from Philadelphia joined me for the open dinner on Sunday but since this year we were in Rye, he declined as there is nothing anywhere within walking distance to do. Rye New York is a great place to get business done!

An early start.

As a member of the Policy and Admissions Committee, we start the Conference early. We have our first meeting at 8:30 am on Sunday morning but I moved it up to 8:00 am as they added in the 1728 meeting at 8:30 am. Our business is to approve or deny an Alternate Delegate from Michigan as their Delegate just stepped down from the responsibility. I spent some time with her Saturday night and shared my experiences as being here for the first time as an alternate. Also, we approved the two visitors from the General Service Board of Venezuela South America as observers. On Saturday one of them asked me to connect his laptop to the internet and as I turned it on, it was all in Spanish. Thank God for symbols. Angel doesn't speak English so he wasn't a

great help either. Imagine sitting in on the General Service Conference and not being able to express any thoughts or opinions. That's what an observer has to go through.

Remote Communities

On Saturday afternoon I attended an optional workshop on remote communities from 4:00 to 6:00 and found this to be informative and interesting. This pre-Conference meeting was started in 1992. The theme this year was "Practicing A.A.'s Principals – The Pathway to Unity – Into Remote Communities".

Presentations were done on various topics. Culture was done by Billy C. – Area 82, Language by Monte S. – Area 69, Geography by Elizabeth M. – Area 17 and More on Remote Communities by Marty W. – Area 79. We had time for general discussion following the presentations.

Geographically in Area 36, we have it made. Our challenges are that of language and culture. We've done well in the area of language with the deaf/hard of hearing community and I have to mention that two of the Delegates present needed special equipment because of their hearing problems. We have a Spanish speaking District as quite a number of the other Areas do as well. Some of the area's have as many as four languages spoken. As we start approaching the Asian communities, culture may be the challenge. I was the only one who mentioned this opportunity to carry our message but others expressed cultural difficulties and distrust with communities in their Areas.

1728 Meeting

The 1728 meeting is a meeting started by our "Class A" non-alcoholic Trustees' as a way to better understand our program of recovery, our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. This year the topic was Tradition Two and our very own Regional Trustee, Ken, presented on the topic. This meeting is normally held on Saturday afternoon and isn't well attended as people are still arriving for the week. This year it was held on Sunday morning and it was a full house.

OPENING SESSION

Ward Ewing, our non-alcoholic Chair of the General Service Board, opened the Conference with a warm welcome and his quote "Oops – I forgot to bring God into this process". Ward is an Episcopalian Minister and president of a large seminary in New York. I was the second one to the dais to report that Policy and Admissions recommended that we allow the alternate delegate from Detroit and the two Trustees' from Venezuela into the 2010 General Service Conference. Phyllis H., our General Manager did the role call and the mechanics of the conference. When we do role call we typically stand and say "Present" and Phyllis has a slip of the tongue and said "President" when it was her turn. We reminded her of it all through the week.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND/OR ACTIVITIES

Presentations/Discussions and Workshops

Second-year delegates, trustees and GSO staff presented on the following topics:

Practicing these Principals in all our “Service” Affairs:

- What is the Difference between General Service and Service in General? – Jason C. Nevada.
- Love and Tolerance is Our Code – Ruben G. Chicago
- Setting an Example – Attraction to Service – Betsy G. S.E. Texas

Unity through Inventory:

- Our Common Welfare Should Come First – Irma Von B. Saskatchewan
- This we Owe to A.A.’s Future – Stu E. Southern Wisconsin
- What Happens After Inventory? – Kathy O. West Virginia

The A.A. Grapevine:

- Grapevine is Always – Frank Z. Delaware
- Grapevine is Now – Amber E. Grapevine Managing Editor

Spiritual Program in Action:

- Maximum Service – John Z. N.W. Ohio
- Persistence – The Key to Progress – Ralph T. New Mexico.
- Living the Traditions – Ginette W. S.W. Quebec

Workshop: Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:

1. What are the “tried and true” procedures for placing an item on the agenda in the most effective way?
 2. How might the current General Service Conference Agenda selection process be improved?
 3. Please share experiences in the relation to the General Service Conference Agenda selection process on attempts to continuously balance the right relation between ultimate authority and delegated responsibility.
- A.A. Groups
 - Areas
 - General Service Conference
 - General Service Board
 - Intergroup’s/Central Offices

Area Highlights

Each first year delegate had the opportunity to give a two-minute presentation on area service highlights. I enjoyed hearing other areas' concerns and ideas. Here are some interesting facts:

- In Hawaii the cost of airfare is a discussion often heard at assemblies.
- In New Jersey the Area Committees work through the Intergroup office.
- In some parts of Canada they have four languages spoken.
- The Cayman Islands were just added as a District to South Florida.
- "Fostering unity within the Area far outweighs the cost of travel." – Delegate from Hawaii.
- In one area, districts place bids for holding assemblies.
- The Southern Wisconsin Area has an A.A. at the V.A. Mini-Conference.
- Northern California has 8 Area Officers and between them, they hit all the district meetings each month.
- Our fellowship needs positive – not negative – examples to follow.

2010 General Service Conference "Impact Items"

Note: Over the past two years while giving reports after the Conference I was asked many times about the Impact Items that were discussed in our Area prior to the Conference so here is a brief summary of what happened with those items.

IV. Finance

B. "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"

1. Consider request to replace the "pie charts" on page 12 with text such as:

Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine the contribution amounts to the following entities: District; Area; G.S.O. and Intergroup/Central Office, if one services your district.

The Finance Committee brought a re-draft and recommendation forward and it was too complicated. It was defeated and sent back to the Trustees' Finance Committee for their input and to be returned to the 2011 Conference Committee on Finance.

2. Discuss request to include information about A.A. Grapevine.

Make the changes below to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix"

A) Add the following question:

Q: Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine Inc?

A: No. A.A. Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals, and contributions made to GSO do not cover the A.A. Grapevine's operating expenses. The Grapevine's income comes solely from the sale of subscriptions and other publications. Groups support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Vina magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth-Step work.

A much shorter version came out of committee. "No. A.A. Grapevine Inc., is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Vina magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth-Step work."

VI. Literature

C. Consider developing Conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

This is going to happen. We should see a request for stories sometime in the near future.

H. Consider request that the video, "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised and updated.

The Conference Literature Committee took no action on this. They didn't feel it was outdated.

I. Consider request to develop a book on the history of "early pioneer women in A.A."

The Conference Committee didn't feel there was an expressed fellowship-wide need.

VIII. Public Information

F. Consider development of a policy on the practice of showing full faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media.

This didn't happen but caused much discussion. It went back to the Trustees' Committee on P.I. for more information and sharing from the fellowship.

G. Consider submitting a request to the trustees' Committee on Agenda to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of "Anonymity in a Digital Age."

This will happen. We don't know when yet as next years theme is determined by the Conference Committee on Agenda and it's been set.

VIII. Report and Charter

A. *The A.A. Service Manual, 2010 - 2011 Edition:*

- 4. Consider request to (a) publish and distribute *The A.A. Service Manual* every other year and in years not produced, distribute a supplement of changes, and (b) publish the A.A. directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published.**

It will be published every year.

B. *General Service Conference Final Report*

- 1. Consider placing *Additional Committee Considerations, Recommendations That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* and *Floor Actions That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* following the Advisory Actions.**

No action was taken on this item.

X Treatment Facilities

- C. Consider a suggestion to change "Treatment Facilities" to "Treatment" in the Conference Committee name and in related A.A. literature where appropriate.**

The Conference Committee took no action on this item.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 60TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 60th General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Floor Action

It was recommended that:

- 1. The request for development of procedures for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference, be recommitted to the General Service Board, taking into account considerations expressed during the 2010 General Service Conference, and forward a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.**

2. The revised 60th Conference draft pamphlet, “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs,” be returned to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
3. The request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix” be recommitted to the trustees’ Finance Committee and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Finance.
4. The Conference Committee on Report and Charter’s Advisory Action which read:

“That *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.”

Be rescinded and replaced with:

“That the Publications Department work cooperatively with the Conference Committee on Report and Charter on the Final Report of the General Service Conference to ensure that all Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations are consistent in format, grammatically correct, and accurately reflect the actions of the General Service Conference.”

[See Advisory Action #33]

Agenda

It was recommended that:

5. The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: “We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let it Begin With Us.”
6. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2011 General Service Conference:
 - a) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:
 1. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
 2. Carrying A.A.’s Message Online
 3. Grapevine – “A.A.’s Meeting in Print” and More . . .
 - b) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:
 1. Self-Support – Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
 2. Humility – Accepting the Group Conscience
 3. An Informed Group Conscience – Using the Three Legacies
 - c) Diversity in A.A.:
 1. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
 2. The Hand of A.A. – Inclusive Never Exclusive
 3. Tradition Five – Our Primary Purpose
 - d) Sponsorship:
 1. Importance of a Home Group
 2. Leading by Example – Attraction Not Promotion
 3. Recovery, Unity, Service
7. The following be the workshop topic for the 2011 General Service Conference: “How to Increase Participation in A.A. – Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs.”

Archives¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Corrections

It was recommended that:

8. The pamphlet "Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities" be revised so that the sentence "Obey the rules of the facility you are visiting" is replaced with the following text:

"Deciding to participate in Corrections Twelfth Step work is an important individual decision. A.A. members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities, and fully understand and be willing to comply with all rules/regulations prior to commencing such work."

9. The pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" be revised so that the last sentence on page 4 under the heading "Policy Meetings" that previously read:

"Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which A.A. visitors may attend these meetings."

Will now read:

"Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which visiting A.A. members may attend these meetings, including any required volunteer orientation and forms that must be completed."

10. The pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" be revised so that the following two sentences are added to the end of the first paragraph under "Inmate Groups":

"Since regulations *can and do vary*, A.A. members will need to be specifically informed about the rules/regulations of each facility they will enter. To that end, good communication between corrections administrators and local A.A. committees is essential."

Finance

It was recommended that:

11. The following be added to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” where appropriate:

Q. Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine?

A. No. A.A. Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.

12. In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading “How can groups participate?” in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”; the second sentence “(*rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,...*)” be changed to read “(***for example: rent, refreshments, A.A. and A.A. Grapevine literature,...***)”
13. The trustees’ Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

14. La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:
 - Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year, beginning in 2011, followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
 - Content and substance be of primary importance.
 - An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.

It was recommended:

15. To the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board that, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:
 - What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
 - How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
 - What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
 - What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

Note: Responses are to be submitted to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board by 12/31/2010 and included as background material for the 2011 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Literature

It was recommended that:

16. The revised pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be approved.
17. The trustees’ Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
18. The paragraph regarding closed meetings on page 22 of the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.,” which reads:

“A closed meeting is limited to members of the local A.A. group or visiting members from other groups. The purpose of the closed meetings is to give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics.”

Be replaced with:

“A closed meeting is for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking. Closed meetings give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics.”

19. The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services” to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
20. The trustees’ Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

21. Donna G., alternate delegate, Area 33, Southeast Michigan, be seated as a Conference member at the 60th General Service Conference because Derek D., the Panel 59 delegate for Area 33, resigned.
22. Angel C. and Carlos H. from the General Service Board of Venezuela be admitted to the 60th General Service Conference as observers.

23. The 63rd General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 2013 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.

24. The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan to bring forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration, along with an estimated cost for conducting the inventory.

Composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee

The composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee (CIPC) will have a proportional representation similar to the General Service Conference including delegates, trustees, a non trustee director, a G.S.O. staff member and a Grapevine staff member.

Selection of eligible delegates shall include those not elected as chair of a Conference committee who are willing and able to serve. The Conference Inventory Planning Committee will consist of 17 individuals with representation as follows:

11 Panel 60 Delegates

Alternate Conference delegate chair

Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Agenda

One delegate from each region for a total of 8 to be chosen by lot by the chair of the General Service Board, the G.S.O. Conference coordinator and the Conference delegate chair.

Trustees, Directors and Staff

One Class B regional trustee

One Class B general service trustee who will serve as chair of the committee

One Class A trustee

One Non-trustee director

One G.S.O. staff person

One Grapevine staff person

The trustees, non trustee director and G.S.O./Grapevine staff will be appointed by the chair of the General Service Board.

A G.S.O. staff member, appointed by the G.S.O. general manager, will serve as the non voting secretary to the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and coordinate committee meeting schedules and correspondence.

As a resource for the development of an inventory plan, the Conference Inventory Planning Committee will use the background, recommendations, questions and summary of suggestions contained in the report of the February 2, 2009 trustees' subcommittee on "Discussion of the Proposal for a General Service Conference Inventory" and the January 6, 2010 report of the trustees' subcommittee on "Developing a Plan for the General Service Conference to Conduct an Inventory of Itself," along with any additional, related background material the committee may deem appropriate.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

25. The 2010 television public service announcement, “My World,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee, be approved.
26. The 2010 television public service announcement, “My World,” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
27. The following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity,” under Facts About Anonymity on page 10, to read as follows:

“A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still-living A.A. members should be respected in obituaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice.”

28. The A.A. Video for Young People titled “Animation” be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: “For more information, search ‘Young People’ at www.aa.org.”
29. The term “drying out” be replaced with “detox” and “rehabilitation” replace “sanitarium” in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer so that the phrase reads “...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services...” and the entire section reads 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.”

30. The trustees’ Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

31. The General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees emeriti to *The A.A. Service Manual*.
32. The Publications Department publish the Area Service Highlights in their entirety in the *Final Report*.
33. *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.

NOTE: Rescinded by Floor Action #4

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

34. 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 April 2010:

Class A Trustees

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

Class B Trustees

Rod B.
Kenneth B.
Conley B. Jr.
Donald C.
Dorothy H.
John K.
Roberta L.
Jo-Anne L.
George M.
Don M.
Don M.
Eleanor N.
Victor P.
Pamela R.

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson
First vice-chairperson
Second vice-chairperson

Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
Jo-Anne L.
Dorothy H.

Treasurer
Secretary

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
John K.

35. The January 2010 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 2010:

Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Donald W. Meurer
Doug R.

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

36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2010:

Andrea B.
Joe D.
Phyllis A. H.
Roberta L.
George M.

William N.
Victor P.
Doug R.
Pam R.

37. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2010:

Ginger R.
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Robin B.
Kenneth B.
Nancy H.

Dorothy H.
Don M.
Eleanor N.
Albin Z.

###

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

April 2010

Advisory Action 40 of the 1990 General Service Conference states: “Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section of the Final Report.” All items, listed by committee, are as follows:

Conference Agenda Committee

- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and made no changes.

Conference Committee on Archives

- The Conference Committee on Archives wishes to emphasize the importance of G.S.O.’s A.A. Archives as precious to all members of our Fellowship and wishes to express concern over staffing levels at G.S.O.’s A.A. Archives.
- The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and expressed satisfaction with the contents.
- The committee discussed the following ideas to make A.A.’s archives and history more readily available to the Fellowship:
 - The committee requested that the trustees’ Archives Committee create a report to be forwarded to the 2010 Conference Archives Committee on the feasibility of developing a format (e.g., PowerPoint® presentation) for a self-guided tour of G.S.O.’s A.A. Archives to convey the experience of visiting G.S.O. and the Archives, for those who have not yet visited the General Service Office in New York.

- The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee consider a suggestion to add a daily historical reference to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site to create interest and enthusiasm for A.A.'s history and archival collection.
- The committee received a report from the Senior Archivist on archival activities since the last Conference in response to suggestions from the 2008 Conference Committee on various ideas for creatively making A.A.'s archives and history readily available to the Fellowship.

Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community

- The committee suggested that the voiceover of the text regarding anonymity and singleness of purpose in the C.P.C. video segments directed to professionals in the legal/criminal justice and medical fields currently streamed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site be consistent with the C.P.C. video segment directed to professionals in the employment/human relations field.
- The committee suggested that the C.P.C. video segments directed to professionals in the legal/criminal justice, medical and employment/human relations fields be added in DVD format to the C.P.C. Kit and made available for purchase.
- The committee reviewed the current C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and suggested that appropriate references to the "A.A. Grapevine" in the C.P.C. Workbook be updated to include La Viña and La Vigne.
- The committee discussed specific possible uses of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in C.P.C. endeavors and suggested that the following helpful ideas for C.P.C. committee members be added to the C.P.C. Workbook:
 - A.A. groups, individuals or committees participate in "Adopt a Professional" efforts and take a single issue to, or purchase a subscription for the professional.
 - "Lose a Grapevine" by leaving an issue behind in a professional's office.
 - Consider inviting A.A. Grapevine reps to participate in local C.P.C. presentations and exhibits.
- The committee requested that the staff and trustees consider creating a survey-style follow up letter to be completed by the professional after a C.P.C. contact to assess the effectiveness of the C.P.C. effort. This letter could address items such as the effectiveness of A.A. literature (including the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne), C.P.C. presentations and contact by A.A. members. This letter would be included in the Guide Letter Section of the C.P.C. Workbook.

Conference Committee on Corrections

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
 - That the list of contents be corrected to indicate that both the Corrections Correspondence Service flyer for the outside A.A. member (F-26) and the Corrections Correspondence request form for inmates (CCS-2) are included in the Kit.
 - That the Spanish-language and the French-language Corrections Kit contents be updated to match as closely as possible the English-language Kit. The committee heard a report from the Publications director that *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* will be completed in Spanish by fall of 2009, and the DVD *A.A. in Correctional Facilities* will be available in a compilation of all three languages by the end of 2009.
 - That a copy of the booklet *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* (in the appropriate language) be included in the Kits.
 - That the list of Corrections Kit Contents be placed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site in the Corrections 'bucket' with the appropriate links to each service piece, pamphlet or book, where available.
- The committee considered alternatives to a biennial mailing to corrections professionals, and made the following suggestions:
 - That the automatic biennial mailing begun by an additional committee consideration of the Conference Committee on Corrections in 1999 be suspended indefinitely.
 - That the American Correctional Association Directory of Adult and Juvenile Correctional Departments, Institutions, Agencies and Probation and Parole continue to be purchased on a biennial basis and the contact information therein be sent to the relevant area corrections committee chair.
- The committee discussed issues that may be involved in A.A. members complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing 'sponsorship agreements' or legally binding documents, and requested sharing from the A.A. Fellowship regarding this topic to be gathered by the staff member and the trustees' Committee on Corrections and that this sharing be sent to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections.

Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee discussed a request to produce a Seventh Tradition poster and took no action. The committee felt that while visual aids are frequently helpful, it did not feel that there was a need for a "Conference-approved" Seventh Tradition poster, but hoped that local areas might create visual aids that could be shared with others.

Conference Committee on Grapevine

- The committee discussed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook and noted that the new portable GvR Handbook requested by the 2008 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine is scheduled for publication.

The committee also requested that the current A.A. Grapevine Workbook, *A Guide to the A.A. Grapevine*, continue to be posted on the A.A. Grapevine Web site as a free download. The committee suggested that the location and description of the Workbook/Guide be reviewed to improve visibility and accessibility on the Web site.

- The committee considered a request that “the 2007 Conference Advisory Action recommending that ‘the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña include a section on the medical, legal, and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer’ be rescinded’ and after lengthy and thoughtful discussion took no action.
- The committee requested that the disclaimer in the section on medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism in the A.A. Grapevine (Alcoholism at Large) be placed more prominently and distinctively and that the language of the disclaimer in the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña be reviewed for both clarity and consistency.
- The committee considered a request that the 2004 Conference Advisory Action—“*To allow the widest distribution of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliations with any outside enterprise, a) subscriptions to the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines be issued only by A.A. Grapevine, Inc., or by A.A. trusted servants directly; and b) the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers. Note: This recommendation is to clarify the 1993 Advisory Action stating that the Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets.*”—be rescinded and took no action. The committee noted that rescinding the 2004 Advisory Action would not have an impact on the 2009 subscription price.
- The committee supported the spirit of communication between the Grapevine Board and Conference members, as recommended in 1987 and reaffirmed in 1988 that: “The Grapevine

staff be responsible for communicating updated information to the delegates at appropriate intervals regarding editorial, circulation/fulfillment, and financial matters.”

- The committee expressed concerns regarding several changes and decisions made by the A.A. Grapevine office and Board in the last year, concerning items produced by A.A. Grapevine, Inc. The committee requested that the A.A. Grapevine Board review the history of Advisory Actions pertaining to the relationship between the A.A. Grapevine Board, A.A. Grapevine office and the Conference Committee, on the decision-making process of matters that affect the Fellowship (i.e. pricing, redesign, name change and promotional items) and forward a report to the 60th General Service Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine for their review.

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

- The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums consider ways that the broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony could be made more widely available than was the 2005 broadcast.
- The committee discussed the site-selection process for the 2020 International Convention, and requested that the trustees’ Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums conduct a review and inventory of the site-selection process for International Conventions and prepare a report for the 2010 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums, including:
 - Be enthusiastic in announcing the Forum in advance, and reporting on it afterwards.
 - Write an article about the Forum for a local newsletter or Web site.
 - Participation is key—get people involved in the planning of the Forum, as greeters, hospitality, registration, etc.
 - Encourage all segments of the Fellowship to attend, including those who speak other languages.
 - Seek ways to prevent conflicts with other local events, such as sharing weekend A.A. event schedules through a central office or intergroup.
 - Let members know that Local Forums can be requested by any A.A. entity; the request does not need to come through the general service structure.
 - Overcome challenges of the cost of attending Forums by encouraging members to ride together and share rooms; some areas have rented buses for members to travel together.

Conference Literature Committee

- The committee considered the request to publish a book of stories from members living in remote communities and took no action. The committee noted that there was no widely expressed need.
- The committee considered the request to develop a second volume of *Daily Reflections* and took no action.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

- The committee reviewed the “General Service Board Summary of Responses to Inventory Questions Pertaining to Regional Composition and Structure” and expressed their gratitude to the General Service Board for their thorough discussion of the inventory questions.

Conference Committee on Public Information

- The committee reviewed the 2008 Annual Report from the trustees’ Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site.
- The committee considered the request to add the text “Provide initial motivation” to the section “What A.A. Does Not Do” in the flyer “A.A. at a Glance,” and took no action. The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee consider placing the full text of the section “What A.A. *Does Not Do*,” from the service piece “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous,” into the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer.
- The committee considered the request to develop a generic A.A. poster or posters for places such as hospitals, places of employment, doctors’ offices, etc., and took no action. The committee noted that there is no widely expressed need for this item at this time and that experience with posters will be gained should the wall poster for young people become available.
- The committee reviewed current A.A. television public service announcements for relevance and usefulness, and suggested that no current television public service announcements be retired.
- The committee reviewed information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2008 A.A. television public service announcement “I Thought.”
- The committee requested that the script be included in the packaging of the “Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD.”

- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider distribution options in addition to DVD for the A.A. Videos for Young People, e.g., placement on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- The committee requested that the A.A. Videos for Young People Project continue, and that video submissions be encouraged from young people in the Fellowship, especially from Spanish-speaking members.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider the purpose, usefulness, frequency and methodology of the A.A. Membership Survey.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee develop text on the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowship dies. This text, intended for inclusion in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," is requested to be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee briefly discussed the use of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in Public Information endeavors.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook and requested that the pamphlets "Too Young?" and "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late" be included.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- The committee received with a locally developed G.S.R. Preamble and decided not to include it in *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service*. The committee recognized that the G.S.R. Preamble is not broadly utilized within the Fellowship and the ideals expressed already exist in G.S.R. Material.
- Editorial responsibilities of the Publications Department of the General Service Office regarding *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* will be limited to the following:
 - Update financial and publication data that changes on an annual basis.
 - Revise dates that require periodic updating.
 - Correct typographical and spelling errors.
 - Maintain an accurate index and cross references.
- The committee reviewed a request from the A.A.W.S. Board to add text regarding the desirability of business or professional background for regional and at-large trustees to the

section of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* on “Qualifications of an Effective Trustee” found on p. S63. The committee strongly believes that placing such limitations on those who are willing to serve might prevent the selection of the most qualified candidate.

- The committee considered a suggestion to insert the page reference “(see page S63)” in the section on Regional Trustees found on page S65 and decided it was not needed.
- The committee reviewed suggested revisions to Chapters 10 and 12 of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* submitted by the A.A. Grapevine Board. The Committee suggested that the A.A. Grapevine Board forward revisions of Chapters 10 and 12 to the 2010 Conference Committee on Report & Charter and:
 - Use the current version (2009-2010) of Chapters 10 and 12 as the basic text.
 - Include any new charts necessary to the text.
 - Provide reasons for the proposed revisions.

The committee also suggested that the A.A. Grapevine Board may wish to retain accurate historical information currently in *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

- The committee is forwarding a request to clarify language regarding nominating a regional trustee candidate in the same year when nominating a trustee-at-large candidate to the 2010 Conference Committee on Trustees, as the request includes reference to the 1985 Conference Committee on Trustees Advisory Action, “no area shall submit an individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.”

The committee noted inconsistencies in the current *A.A. Service Manual*, the current Conference Charter, and the 1985 Conference Advisory Action.

- The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial changes to *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forwarded them to the Publications Department.
- The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial changes to *The A.A. Directories* and forwarded them to the Publications Department.
- The committee agreed to review the rough draft of the *Final Conference Report* and the tear sheets of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* with careful attention to accuracy and completeness of reporting. The committee agreed to return corrections or suggestions to the G.S.O. within 21 days of receipt.

Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities

- The committee considered a proposal to include additional information on carrying A.A.'s message to treatment facilities with out-patient programs. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities consider developing a section on carrying the A.A. message into out-patient treatment settings, using shared experience, for inclusion in the Treatment Facilities Workbook and the A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Facilities.

In addition, the committee suggested that staff continue to gather shared area experience regarding carrying the A.A. message into out-patient treatment settings and that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities continue to explore ways to carry the A.A. message to treatment professionals and patients in out-patient settings.

- The committee discussed possible uses of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in Treatment Facilities endeavors and suggested that the A.A. Grapevine consider developing an annual treatment facilities issue similar to its annual Corrections issue. In addition, it was suggested that if a new treatment facilities issue is published that it be placed in the Treatment Facilities Kit.

It was also suggested that groups be encouraged to adopt a treatment facility or center for the purpose of providing subscriptions and/or back issues of the A.A. Grapevine.

- Upon review of the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook, the committee suggested that an A.A. Grapevine as well as the DVD *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*, be included in the kit.

It was also suggested that a one-page insert containing suggested uses/examples of the "Local Experiences" tab be added to the Treatment Facilities Kit.

Conference Committee on Trustees

- The committee thoroughly reviewed and unanimously accepted, with one correction noted, the report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating pertaining to the 2008 Additional Committee Consideration regarding Class B regional trustee and trustee-at-large successor terms in the event of an unexpected vacancy.

END OF THE CONFERENCE

This year we ended the business part of the Conference around 10:15 pm and we took the time for the Panel 59 Delegates to say their farewells and share their experiences. It was around midnight when we finally shut it down. We started four hours early on Sunday and did away with the trip to our General Service Office on Tuesday and worked instead. Had we not taken those measures, we would have set another record for the longest Conference in our history. Was it a lot of unnecessary conversations or members just wanting to be heard? This year I feel everything said and heard was for the best of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole and it was well worth the extra hours.

On Saturday morning we have a brunch to end the week and to say farewell to Trustees that are rotating off the board. This year we said good-bye to Bill Clark who served as a Class A Trustee for six years and Madeline P. who served as our Pacific Regional Trustee for four years. They both brought a lot of flavor to the Board and will be missed by all that served with them.

MY CLOSING REMARKS

We did a lot of good things at this year's General Service Conference. I feel as though we are seeing a shift in how the work gets done on a year round basis. One of the items from Policy and Admissions was building a committee comprised mostly of Delegates to work on a project throughout the year. We didn't just pass the buck and ask for a Trustees Committee to do the work. The Conference Committee on Report and Charter will be working with our Publications Department on the editing of the Final Conference Report and I can see this happening with the Service Manual if we let it happen and work together. If we keep moving forward in these directions, being a delegate could take on a whole new meaning. It could mean more involvement with A.A. as a whole and less within your own Area.

We had a couple of tough years at the 2008 & 2009 Conferences with distrust and not a whole lot of unity but we put it all behind us this year and worked together (staff, delegates, trustees & non-trustee directors) with the best in mind for A.A. as a whole. I felt really good about everything that happened this year as I came back home to Minnesota.

Thank you all again for allowing me to serve in the capacity as your Area Delegate.

Scott A.