

Hello, my Name is Mark and I am an alcoholic. I am gratefully serving you as your elected Delegate to serve our Area and attended the General Service Conference in Rye, New York this past April. Our theme for the 2017 conference is Supporting our Future. Before I begin my report, would like to show and tell you my experience in getting our Area Conscience to the General Service Conference. **When I** first walked into what would be my home group I noticed a chair in the middle of the room. I asked someone, "is that where the newcomer sits?" No, it is not, a member said to me. It represents that Alcoholic Anonymous will always have an open seat for anyone that enters. Having a sponsor that not only brought me through the Steps, but also showed me what the Tradition and Concepts meant. We attended my first Area Assembly in the Fall of 2001. I was three months sober...what a cruel and unusual punishment for a newcomer. What I left feeling after that assembly, was a profound appreciation for those people who attended that long weekend. **The sacrifices** they were making to help the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous demonstrated to me, the spiritual principle of anonymity because I never read, seen on TV or heard on the radio their work. **It was suggested** to me by several good AAers that I should always have a service commitment not only to be sober, but improve has a person. **Getting outside** my comfort zone and making myself available has shown me more than any educational institution ever could. Jack B, our past Delegate stated to all of us, "you will not understand its importance unless you do it". **We are required** to ask for help, share our thoughts, but more importantly listen to others point of view no matter how long or unintelligible it may seem. **He stated a** few years ago to me, you are still smiling, that is good sign. With only few months before the conference I was given the Agenda Items and background information. **I also attended** the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly and our Mini conference to get the thoughts and opinions of our AA members. In addition, I was assigned to two Area Delegates, Carlyle W. from Eastern Michigan (Detroit) and Bruce E from Northern Indiana (my conference Buddies) to assist them with any questions or concerns that they might have before or during the conference. I arrived Friday

to get acclimated with location in Rye. Mike S., our Area's Alternate Delegate drove and stayed with me for Friday and Saturday night. He accompanied me to the Sunday night Conference Opening Dinner followed by an open AA meeting.

Over the last year since the 2016 conference, a lot has transpired in that has positively impacted Alcoholics Anonymous. But, before I get into the specifics I want to give you the Makeup of the 2017 General Service Conference. This year there were are 133 voting members of the 67th General Service Conference Annual Meeting. Ninety-three delegates elected by the service areas of the U.S. and Canada comprise 69.9 percent of the voting body. Delegates always make up more than two-thirds of the voting members. General Service Board of Trustees and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and Grapevine directors, totaling 25, comprise 18.8 percent of the voting members. The General Service Office staff, general manager and Grapevine office staff and the Grapevine executive editor/publisher, totaling 15, comprise 11.3 percent of the total.

Before the Conference Begins – Saturday, April 22nd

There was special Hospitality Room on Saturday afternoon, April 22nd. This gives second-year delegates an opportunity to meet and greet new panel delegates, and an opportunity to meet staff and board members. Some delegates will plan to meet their Conference buddies here. Three meetings were held Saturday. One being the 1728 Meeting (If you multiple 12 times 12 time 12 you get 1728. This meeting reflected on the Third Step, the Third Tradition and Third Concept. Theme "Making a Decision. **Next, was the Remote** Communities Meeting. This meeting is not part of the Conference, but it is a time for Conference Members who are interested in remote communities work to join together and share experience. We also discussed barriers that make AA remote to those looking for sobriety.

That evening, all delegates are invited to attend a “Delegates Only” meeting at 7:30 p.m. At this meeting panel 66 delegate shared some of their experience to assist the panel 67’s delegate to prepare for the experience.

The Conference Week Schedule

General Service Conference members are Panel 66 and 67 delegates, trustees and directors of

the A.A. World Services and Grapevine Boards, G.S.O. and Grapevine staff. Conference

members attend all Conference sessions. G.S.O. personnel were on hand to assist with

registration, presented us with a Conference Manual, nametag and other basic

information. The Conference began on Sunday with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. and the Opening

at 10:00. This is when roll call of Delegates was taken. I was “present”. When that session completed,

Area delegates met with their regional trustees for a delegate orientation to ask questions and also,

discussed the importance of the committee system and voting procedures.

Conference Sessions

Several Conference sessions have specific designations: *Area Service Highlights, Conference*

Committee Meetings, Presentations/Discussion, General Sharing Sessions–What’s On Your

Mind?, Inventory Groups. Here is a brief description of each:

Area Service Highlights: During the Conference, each regional trustee introduces first-year

panel delegates from the region at the podium. Each Panel 67 delegate then shares a two minute

report or “highlights.” Panel 67 delegates will receive a letter with details regarding Area

Highlights.

Conference Committee Meetings This December, Panel 67 delegates' names were drawn for assignment to Conference committees. Each standing Conference committee has delegate members from both panels. Most delegates met with their perspective trustee committee chair to report their activities and actions over the past year and were available for questions from the delegates regarding the report, and future committee plans such as projects that are being considered or that are in progress may be discussed. I had reviewed the trustees' report carefully in advance and asked a few questions in order to make the best possible use of the time available. Since I was in the Literature committee and I asked "why so many pamphlet". Many of our Area members approached me and stated, "When I read any particular pamphlet, after they identified their uniqueness young, woman, LGBTQ, black all of the story are the same. Why can't we focus on providing "living the program" pamphlets to AA members and not impose barriers that might inhibit new members. The simple answer from the Literature committee chair was "it was what the conference voted for".

Once the committee has asked their questions of the trustees' committee, the trustees' will leave, and the Conference Committee started their deliberations. All matters of policy (Conference Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity, that is, *a two-thirds majority*. Any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or motions that might result in such an action, also require a *two-thirds majority*. In the Literature Committee that I served, we voted to have substantial **anonymity** in all the decision we make. ☐ ☐We did vote to have substantial unanimity.

It is during the Conference committee meetings, that a great deal of the work of the General

Service Conference gets done. Subsequent to these meetings, individual Conference

Committee Reports are presented to the entire Conference body on Wednesday, Thursday and

Friday. Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference may come from these reports.

Presentations/Discussion: Some Conference members will give presentations on subjects accepted for the Conference agenda. These talks are made to the entire Conference body. Brief discussions followed the presentations.

General Sharing Sessions - What's on Your Mind?: General Sharing Sessions are set aside for Conference members to ask questions or voice concerns. Each Conference member is a leader and trusted servant of A.A. These Conference sharing sessions provide a chance to express your vision for the future of A.A., your hopes and concerns. I had one concern, that the Delegates were to be provided with a list of tasks that were not completed because of lack of funding. It was explained to me in this general sharing that all tasks are being address and there are no longer any projects on hold due to funding.

Workshop: Wednesday morning, groups of Conference members met in breakout rooms to share experience on the workshop topic "Anonymity: The Spiritual Foundation." The workshop sessions will provide an opportunity for all Conference members to share in a small, informal setting. I served has the **reporter** and here are question we were asked to discuss

- a. What are some of the ways groups/districts in your area foster awareness of our principle of anonymity?
- b. How has misinformation about personal anonymity among A.A. members been an obstacle in Public Information and CPC service?

- c. What is the experience of members in your area regarding social media with regard to A.A.'s Anonymity Traditions?
- d. How well do we practice a "genuine humility"? As members? As a Fellowship?

A report of the workshop will be provided in the Annual Report.

General Sessions: At general sessions throughout the week, Conference members come together to hear reports, ask questions and discuss Committee recommendations. Because the Conference agenda is full, at general sessions, a bell is used to signal at two minutes that "time is up."

Reports on the General Service Conference

The work and activities of the General Service Conference are reported as follows:

- The Conference Summer Edition of *Box 4-5-9* includes highlights of Conference Advisory Actions plus condensed board reports and reports of the trustees' Conference committees. It is mailed to you and all trusted servants (i.e., D.C.M.s, G.S.R.s, area officers, committee chairs, etc.) in May. *Box 4-5-9* can be viewed and downloaded from G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- The *Conference Final Report* containing detailed information from the Conference will be mailed to Delegates in late summer in English, Spanish and French. Delegates are responsible for making the Final Conference Report available to trusted servants in their areas who would like to receive it.

Board Reports:

The Chair of General Service Board, Terry B. gave his report Sunday morning. He welcomed all in attendance, especially the new panel 67 Delegates. This is some of what he shared with us. This Conference plan was established 67 years ago as a guarantee that our movement wide services would continue to function under all conditions, providing a practical successor to our beloved co-founders. The General Service Board has met four times since our last Conference: for the annual members meeting in April, and quarterly board meetings in August, November and February, and as I review some of the highlights of those meetings, I would also like to call your attention to the in-depth reports of the 11 trustees' Committees that appear in your Conference Manuals and will provide greater detail into the work we have undertaken throughout the year. Following the 2016 General Service Conference, the General Service Board welcomed two new Class A Trustees, Christine Carpenter and Nancy McCarthy, along with three new Class B trustees: Carole B., general service trustee; Tom A., West Central regional trustee; and Cate W., Western Canada regional trustee. The last year also saw a number of promotions, reorganizations and new hires. Among these, Albin Z., former general service trustee, came on board at the end of 2016 as G.S.O.'s director of administration and staff services; Bob S. was promoted to director of finance and accounting; Malini S. stepped into the new position of publishing operations manager; and Ames S. was hired as G.S.O. managing editor. The past year has also marked the first full year of Grapevine's relocation to the 11th floor at 475 Riverside Drive, as the G.S.O./Grapevine co-location project has moved through a series of construction phases, with completion expected in 2017. Since the 2016 General Service Conference, Regional Forums have been held in the Eastern Canada, Western Canada, Pacific and Southeast regions. The final "Additional" Forum was held for the Southwest Region in Denver, Colorado, and the Western Canada Regional Forum included a small celebration to mark the 200th Forum since their inception in 1975. Over 1,800 enthusiastic A.A. members participated, including more than 1,000 first-time attendees who learned

more about the General Service Board, General Service Office and A.A. Grapevine. On the international front, the 24th World Service Meeting was held October 23-27, 2016 in Rye Brook, New York with the theme "One World, One A.A., One Language of the Heart." In attendance were 60 delegates representing 41 countries or linguistic zones, including two countries attending for the first time, Paraguay and Slovakia.

The video "A New Freedom" -- approved at the 66th General Service Conference and the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work throughout the Fellowship -- has been quite well-received. In addition to making the video widely available through our many local, district and area Corrections Committees, we have been monitoring the number of online views on aa.org, with the number reaching 856,770 for 2016 -- well beyond 2016 numbers for the video, "A.A. in Correctional Facilities." We're also happy to report recent progress made with the governmental agency Corrections Canada to reach members behind the walls in Canadian prisons and ongoing efforts to expand the Corrections Correspondence Service in Canada, along with additional efforts being made throughout the Fellowship in carrying the message to Native American/First Nations people both in tribal jails and other correctional facilities in the U.S. and Canada. **We look forward, as well, to another exciting development in 2017 -- the first National Corrections Conference to be held in November in St. Louis.**

Lastly he stated, let us reaffirm our commitment to carrying A.A.'s lifesaving message. The General Service Conference is a gift passed on to us, and each of us has an obligation to keep the doors of A.A. open to those who so desperately need it -- now and in the future -- no matter who or where they are or what their background is. Our resolve to communicate effectively with each other and to bring forward what is best for the future of A.A. should be our guidepost and a measure of our success this week.

Corporate Board Report: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Bill N., Chairperson reported Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) is a not-for-profit corporation composed of nine directors. Members of A.A.W.S., Inc. are the 21 trustees of the General Service Board, who elect the nine directors responsible for oversight of the General Service Office (G.S.O.), group services, printing and distribution of Conference- approved literature and service material. A.A.W.S. holds copyrights in A.A. literature, and is responsible for translations of A.A. literature, including titles licensed to A.A. boards in other countries.

Group Services – A net total of 1,020 new A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada were listed at G.S.O. last year. Each new group’s general service representative (G.S.R.) or contact receives A.A. literature and basic information to encourage the group to link with their local structure and support Twelfth Step activities. The service piece, “Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.,” describes in detail the services provided by the A.A. staff assignments and other employees at G.S.O.

G.S.O.’s A.A. Website – Oversight of G.S.O.’s A.A. website is the responsibility of the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors, acting through its Technology/Communication/Services and Publishing Committees and in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The website received a total of 13,327,469 visits for the year 2016, an increase of 4% from last year’s total of 12,793,449. The highlights of new features include multiple navigation updates, an enhanced learning search feature, the new service piece, “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare,” and audio clips of Bill W.

Representatives from G.S.O. attended the National A.A. Technology Workshop, Regional Forums. National A.A. Archives Workshop: Intergroup/Central Office, A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine: The Annual Intergroup/ Central Office seminar.

International licensing and translation: January-December 2016 saw a continuation of the surge in international requests, submissions and licensing. Translations shepherded through the review process

reached an all-time record high of 62 reviews across 44 languages (up from 58 reviews across 28 languages in 2015).

Licenses to reproduce and distribute English and translated A.A.W.S., Inc. copyrighted literature rose from 10 countries granted new licenses in 2015 to 12 countries in 2016. Total licenses saw a dramatic uptick from 30 licenses in 2015 to 118 licenses in 2016, an increase of 293%.

Notable languages/countries include (among others): Bulgaria, India, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, South Africa, and Ukraine.

G.S.O. and Staff Operations

Employees: At the end of 2016, G.S.O. had 73 full-time, 2 part-time, and 1 temporary employee. It was the busiest year we have ever seen for recruiting, hiring 13 new employees which represents 20% of our total permanent positions. The main reason for this was our retirements. We had 14 employees resign or terminate in 2016, eight of whom were retirements, and four relocated or left for a new opportunity.

G.S.O. Visitors: In 2016, G.S.O. welcomed 2,520 visitors, many of whom travelled great distances to visit and express gratitude for their sobriety. G.S.O. hosted 24 large group visits.

Archives: Archives finished 2016 with approximately 1,450 requests for information and research, compared to 1,300 in 2015. In the coming months, we will begin to retrieve records temporarily stored off-site, acquired during the construction period, appraise these records and determine final disposition.

Reprint Requests: In 2016, A.A.W.S. granted permission/did not object to 70 requests to reprint from A.A. literature, and denied permission to 53 requests.

With the unanimous support of the A.A.W.S. Board, the general manager of G.S.O. has undertaken a complete review of day-to-day business practices, including our vendor selection and contracting policies and procedures. The purpose of this review is to make sure that current “best practices” are used in order to better serve the Fellowship. Past trustee-at-large/U.S. John Q. worked as an adviser to the general manager with this review, with the transition of the CFO’s retirement, and with the restructuring of the A.A.W.S. Finance Department.

Corporate Board Report: A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Joel C., Chairperson shared the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is one of two affiliate corporations of the General Service Board and the multimedia publisher of Grapevine magazine content, available on various platforms and in a variety of formats. A.A. Grapevine, Inc. also publishes Spanish- language content in La Viña magazine and its related books, CD and audio formats, as well as Spanish-language web pages on aagrapevine.org. A.A. Grapevine, Inc. distributed 91,528 Grapevine and La Viña books, e-books, CDs, and other content related items, including the two latest book titles: *Un día a la vez*, published during La Viña’s 20th anniversary, featuring a collection of stories that appeared in the magazine between 2007-2015 and reflecting the voices of the growing and vibrant Hispanic community in A.A.; and Grapevine’s *Our Twelve Traditions*, featuring stories from A.A. members about their personal experiences with the core principles contained in A.A.’s Twelve Traditions.

Circulation – Grapevine’s average monthly print circulation was 71,811 in fiscal year 2016 (this is more than budget by 1,442 and less than 2015 by 155). The Grapevine Online (GVO) averaged 5,030 subscribers in 2016. The average bimonthly circulation of La Viña was 10,374 (this is 357 greater than budget and 19 over 2015 levels).

Operations – During 2016, A.A. Grapevine continued operational cost-control measures resulting in expenses coming in under budget.

Website – The website is regularly updated to better serve the Fellowship and to engage a wider and more diverse audience; it is central to Grapevine’s current and future plans. Month end December 2016 reports indicate that an average of 41,917 unique visitors go to an average of 3.17 pages on aagrapevine.org each month. The Grow Your Grapevine (GYG) outreach effort encouraged the Fellowship to learn more about Grapevine and to inform Grapevine about members' favorite activities related to the magazine from March 2016 - February 2017. The area with the greatest number of submissions to GYG will be featured in a special section in Grapevine magazine during 2017. A web page dedicated to La Vina’s 20th anniversary was also developed and resulted in 800 subscriptions.

The audio page on aagrapevine.org showcases the Audio Project, featuring instructions for recording up to seven-minute-long stories submitted by members, with two member’s audio stories offered online as samples. Over 400 audio stories have been received for Grapevine and are being archived, with 70-plus more for La Viña.

Grapevine continues to produce a complimentary Grapevine Daily Quote online, featuring excerpts drawn from the archives of classic Grapevine literature. Selections are posted daily on aagrapevine.org and may be requested on an opt-in basis for daily email delivery. Subscriptions number 41,767 as of February 2017.

Should the Fellowship desire that Grapevine and La Viña continue into the future — for alcoholics and friends, many of whom may not know about A.A. yet — additional subscribers will be required. Fellowship-wide support for A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is integral to this effort, to our history and to our future.

2016 Good Year - PRE -Financial (From AAWS) – Complete audited financial details for 2016 are included in the Conference Manual and *Conference Final Report*. Here is an overview:

- **Total** contributions for the year ended December 31, 2016, were \$7,934,869, which is \$834,869 (11.76%) greater than budget and \$780,724 (10.91%) greater than last year.
- Net sales for the year 2016 were \$13,189,258.
- Gross margin from literature sales was \$10,549,316.
- For the year 2016, net revenues were \$16,880,440.
- For the year 2016, total operating expenses were \$15,427,220.

AA's Financial Report

David Morris, a Class A trustee and treasurer of the General Service Board reported , “Finance around the Picnic Table,” the phrase coined at the 59th Conference.

This phrase means that much of the finance discussion during Conference is "preaching to the choir." As always, what we need is better communications about what finance really means when members talk about the “numbers” around the euphemistic picnic table before and after meetings. Clear and concise communication is the key. Although our finances continue to grow more complex, remember that Corporate Poverty is more a state of mind, rather than the size of our bank account. “Too much – and we argue over perilous wealth and lose sight of our primary purpose of carrying the message. Too little – and we risk losing the ability to carry the message at all.”

Next slide lists the key financial highlights from our 2016 operating results that should be communicated to the Fellowship. Specifically, 7th Tradition of self-support contributions were a record of \$7,934,869, up \$780,723, or 10.9%, from 2015.

Costs of services provided to the Fellowship were \$9,906,588, up \$277,089, or 2.9%, from 2015

Difference or shortfall between our 7th Tradition of self-support and the costs of services provided to the Fellowship was \$1,971,669 or 80.1%, compared to \$2,475,353, or 74.3%, in 2015

AAWS gross literature sales were \$13,413,929, up \$693,707, or 5.5%, from 2015

AAWS publishing net income of \$3,424,887 covered the shortfall between our 7th Tradition of self-support and costs of services provided to the Fellowship, resulting in a net profit of \$1,453,218, up \$1,247,593 from 2015

Grapevine subscriptions levels increased in 2016, the first time since 1989, resulting in net income of \$164,539, although down \$76,272, or 31.7%, from 2015

General Fund support of La Viña was \$152,082 compared to \$146,378 in 2015

Reserve Fund was \$14,958,734, resulting in a ratio of 10.3 months, compared to 10.2 months in 2015

Next slide – displays key member statistics for 2016, along with the past two years. They are simple calculations using the Seventh Tradition of self-support contributions and the cost of services provided divided by the number of members and groups shown on the Contribution Statistical Report. Please remember that those numbers are only as good as the data we capture in an anonymous fellowship system.

Using the 2016 cost of services provided of \$9,906,558, we calculate cost of services provided is \$7.27 per member or \$149.34 per group. Using the 2016 contributions of \$7,934,869, we calculate self-support per member of \$5.82 or per group of \$149.34. The costs of services provided are NOT fully covered through self-support is \$1.45 per member and \$29.72 per group.

Since only 27,542 groups or 41.5% actually contribute towards Seventh Tradition of self-support, we show the average amount contributed of \$288.10.

This slide – compares 2016 actual results with the 2017 budget. Although sales are budgeted to increase by 2.5%, this additional revenue does not offset the anticipated increase in operating expenses, up approximately 4.4%. Net publishing results are projected to be down \$377,000, or 11%, to \$3,048,000 in 2017 from the 2016 actual of \$3,425,000.

When the 2017 publishing profit of \$3,048,000 is then combined with the Seventh Tradition contributions of \$ 7,675,000 (down 3.3% 2016 actual) and the costs of services provided to the Fellowship of \$10,459,000 (up 4.3%), a net profit of \$398,000 is projected. The primary driver of higher expenses is from the filling of all open positions in 2017. Further, assuming that there are no changes in the way business is conducted or Seventh Tradition of self-support does not increase, then this 2017 net profit is projected to become a net loss of \$255,000 in 2018 and a net loss of \$746,000 in 2019.

Shown Here – summarizes the preliminary budget outlook for the next three years and trends. 2017 shows a combined operating profit of \$116,000. However, in 2018, the combined results show a loss of \$763,000, increasing to \$1,468,000 in 2019. Since the Reserve Fund will need to be utilized to fund these losses in 2018 and 2019, the coverage ratio declines to 8.8 months by the end of 2019, assuming that there are no changes in the way business is conducted or Seventh Tradition of self-support does not increase. All three Boards are committed to finding ways not to have these negative outcomes.

This Slide – was created to help put into perspective the October 1, 2014 price increase of the Big Book from \$8.00 to \$9.50. The decision for the price increase was fully vetted at both the A.A.W.S. and G.S.B. board meetings. In both cases, it was agreed that for the long-term viability of A.A. additional revenue was needed to maintain the level of services that the Fellowship has come to expect and is continuing to seek. We updated this slide to help put in perspective that even at \$9.50 the Big Book today is still a bargain compared to what it has sold for during the past 78 years.

Source – 2017 inflation information based on the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Inflation Calculator website

Now for the Advisory Action the 2017 Conference implemented.

NOTE: These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports will come with the Annual report.

The following recommendations were approved by the 67th General Service Conference:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2018 General Service Conference be: “A.A. – A Solution for All Generations.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2018 General Service Conference:

- a. Today’s Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion
- b. Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?
- c. A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions

d. Attraction Not Promotion: A.A.'s Relation to the World

e. Group Conscience: The Guiding Force

The following be the workshop topic for the 2018 General Service Conference:

“Getting the A.A. Message Out...”

Archives

It was recommended that:

A draft or a progress report of Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 (working title) be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Archives for review.

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

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” be retired.

A footnote with the following text be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” at the bottom of page one: This pamphlet is derived from an article written by A.A. co-founder Bill W.

in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.

The title of the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” be changed to “Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?”

The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional,” develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A.

worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.

The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous," develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.

The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional," develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.

Corrections

None.

Finance

It was recommended that:

The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800.

Review of the suggested Area contribution for delegates' expenses to the Conference be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.

Review of the Conference-approved level for bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.

Review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.

The following text be added to the pamphlet: "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix":

"Question: Can an individual or group make a recurring online contribution? Answer: Yes, online at aa.org."

Grapevine

None.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

None.

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

Literature

It was recommended that:

The following two bullet points in the section "What procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?" in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be removed:

- A file of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one.
- Review of newcomers list by steering committee (or Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee) – with follow-up activity where it seems needed.

The revised plan for the annual review of recovery literature be implemented, with the first report to be delivered to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

The following text about young people's conferences be added to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." in the section "Where do I find A.A.?":

Young people's conferences are held in the United States and Canada and around the world. For information, consult your local A.A. area, intergroup office, or search online for YPAA.

Question 10 in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" in the section "A.A. Group Inventory" that currently reads, "Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?" be revised to read: "Are we doing all we can to provide a **safe**, attractive and accessible meeting place?" (Four letter word)

The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be revised to add the following text from "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" to the section "Principles Before Personalities": Safety and A.A.: Suggestions to Consider

"Safety is an important issue within A.A. – one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship. "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great

whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first.

But individual welfare follows close afterward. (Tradition One, Long Form)"A.A. groups are spiritual entities made up of alcoholics who gather for the sole purpose of staying sober and helping other

alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Yet, we are not immune to the difficulties that affect the rest of

humanity. "Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist. Problems

found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a

spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable

for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose – to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety.” For more information see “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare”

(SMF-209) www.aa.org.

The trustees’ Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

The 2018 General Service Conference move ahead with electronic voting to be used for all Conference voting, with the exception of elections for regional trustees and trustees-at-large, which are conducted by ballot.

The trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference develop a plan for the equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Starting with the 67th General Service Conference, an anonymity-protected, digital Final Conference Report be published in addition to the current print version.

The 70th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2020 since these dates

do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

Starting at the 2018 General Service Conference, the proposed dates of future General Service Conferences be considered as an Additional Committee Consideration rather than requiring an Advisory Action.

General Service Office management submit a report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

A new video public service announcement be developed for a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

The pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" be rewritten to include material from G.S.O. literature covering Tradition Eleven and to expand the discussion of humility in Tradition Twelve as it relates to anonymity and that a progress report or draft language be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.

A.A. World Services, Inc. create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on A.A.W.S. YouTube pages. The committee requested that a report including information from website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

The following text be added to Chapter Four of The A.A. Service Manual.

Area Websites

Many A.A. entities now use websites as a way to communicate meeting and service information within the Fellowship. An A.A. website can serve as a public information tool, providing information about A.A. to the public as well. As with newsletters, it has been found prudent for a committee (rather than one or two individuals) to be responsible for the format, planning, and content of the website. As anonymity is the “spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,” we practice anonymity on A.A. websites at all times. An A.A. website is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film. Some areas have included password protected sections of the website, which can limit access to members only, and where full names may be used. Not all A.A. websites contain the same information. For instance, in places where an active intergroup or central office provides meeting information, general service websites may not need to duplicate this effort, and may link to them instead. A.A. websites may feature brief excerpts from A.A. literature using the same guidelines as newsletters. If a site wishes to include items that are currently available on the G.S.O. or Grapevine websites, they may link to the appropriate pages of those sites. Area websites may copy a thumbnail of a pamphlet, book or video from these sites and use it on the site as a link to the material on the G.S.O. or A.A. Grapevine site. Because public service announcements are intended to be widely shared, they may be posted directly on local A.A. sites. For more information, see the “FAQ on A.A. Websites” and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet.

The bylaws of A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. be included in The A.A. Service Manual as appendices.

A new section on the General Service Board's "Mission-Vision-Action Statement" be added to Chapter 9 of The A.A. Service Manual.

The G.S.O. Department reports which are shared at Conference be included in the Final Conference Report.

Brief bios for nontrustee directors, similar to those for trustees, be included in the Final Conference Report.

Treatment and Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be approved with suggested editorial changes and be retitled "Accessibility for All Alcoholics."

Trustees

It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees was elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S, and Grapevine. Newton P. (Southeast Region) became the New US Trustee at Large replacing our Bob W.

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. In the spirit of unity and inclusiveness, the General Service Office strive to provide Conference background materials in English by February 15 and Spanish and French by the first week in March, beginning with the 68th General Service Conference.

2. The pamphlet "Too Young?" be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.

3. A.A. Grapevine create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on the A.A. Grapevine YouTube pages. The A.A. Grapevine Board will track its effectiveness through website metrics.

At the end of the day it is not about doing things differently or better but about making sure we are carrying the message of hope to all those that suffer.

Thank you for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous