

Ad hoc AAWS / Grapevine consolidation

2019

As a result of much discussion at the Area 31 Fall Assembly 2018 regarding a perception expressed by our Delegate that there may be a merging between AAWS and AA Grapevine Inc. by the General Service Board, and that there may be a conflict with A.A. principles. Specifically Concept 8 and parts of Concept 11 that pertain to this. An Ad-hoc committee was formed to look into, and to evaluate if necessary an agenda item to present to the 2020 General Service Conference. The committee was formed which included Sue S., Suzanne L., Tom L., John S. and Carl G. as members.

We held three meetings on January 8, March 12, and May 14, 2019. We reviewed a considerable amount of background materials from various sources including Concepts, a past Delegate's presentation on "The Plan", materials provided from GSO Archives, and General Service Board minutes.

At our first meeting Bob W. past Trustee at large U.S. gave a presentation sharing his experience and thoughts involving his service on the General Service Board as well as other committees which were post 2013 General Service Conference where "The Plan" had not passed. He later provided the committee with a written summary of his presentation as well as a copy of the 14 initiatives, which were one of the proposed solutions to the issues raised as a result of an inventory taken by the General Service Board. Another solution that was proposed was an "Interlocking Directorate" a.k.a. "The Plan".

For our second meeting David E. past Trustee serving on the Grapevine Board presented his experiences and thoughts pertaining to the topic. Bob W. was also present at this meeting as an observer. Both David and Bob were available for questions and answers following David's presentation.

Our third and final meeting was held in May with 4 of the 5 committee members present. Our focus was around discussion of the information that we had gathered to date. There was some sentiment that there may have been some leanings in the direction of the concerns that had been expressed, however that those leanings hadn't gone to the point beyond necessity by the Board. The largest of these concerns was around the consolidation of the retirement plans. It was felt that that action was in fact in the best interest of employees of both companies and was generally standard business practice. It was the general unanimous consensus of all those in attendance that there was no cause to recommend any agenda item requesting the General Service Conference to take any action regarding the issue at hand. That the entities A.A.W.S and the A.A. Grapevine Inc. have been kept sufficiently segregated both physically and from a structural business sense. That the General Service Board and the Trustees are acting in the best interests of A.A. That they are acting within their designated authority and have been open in communicating the ongoing process of implementing the initiatives through the various sub-committees created to address solutions to these specific initiatives, and that they clearly understand the principals involved. That they very clearly heard the voice of the Fellowship to *NOT* implement The Interlocking Directorate a.k.a. "The Plan".

There will be a folder provided to Area 31 Archivist and all background materials that we used will be available to the fellowship to review.

Thank you from the committee for the opportunity to serve.