

# 64th General Service Conference

## Communicating Our Legacies –Vital in A Changing World



Rye, NY  
April 27 – May 3, 2014



So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society.”

*- Bill W, speaking at the 1954 Texas State Convention*

## Remote Communities Communicator



Reports and Presentations  
From the Remote Communities Meeting  
Prior to the 64th General Service Conference

### **"Remote Communities - When Anyone, Anywhere Reaches out for Help"**

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Becky Burden, Panel 63, Area 21 Southern Illinois  
Sheryl Figley, Panel 63, Area 24, Iowa

This report is confidential A.A. document for members only. It contains members' full names. This usage, to facilitate communication within the fellowship, was approved by the 1975 conference. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as web sites available to the public, may breach confidentiality of the material and anonymity of members, since it contains members full names.

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**64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
General Service Conference**

**Communicating Our Legacies –  
Vital in a Changing World**

# Roll Call

## 93 Delegates

Represent AA groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for AA's World Services.

7A / 13B Trustees  
3 AAWS Directors  
2 GV Directors  
(25)

Responsible for policy & implementation

15 GSO & GV Staff

Carry out policies of and report to the General Service Board and Conference

133 Voting Members





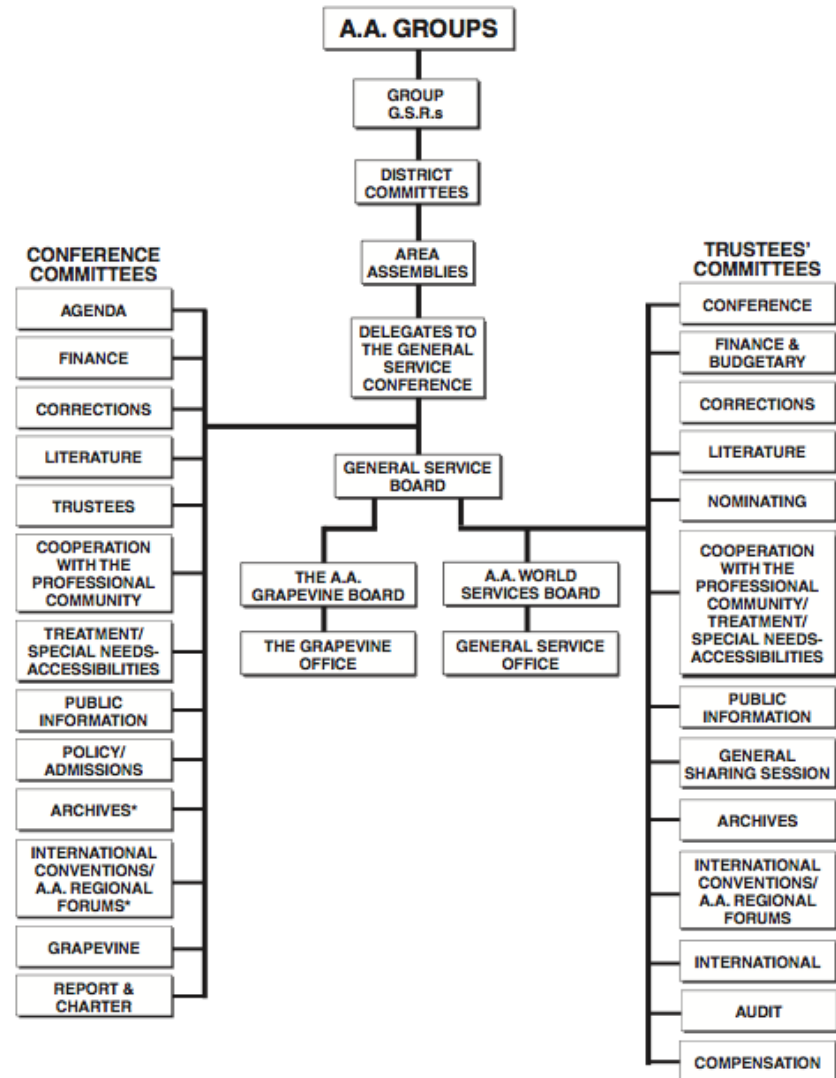
“ Consider the challenges of carrying our message to the alcoholic who still suffers in a world where communication is clogged and complicated by television, the internet, cell phones, tablets, and laptops, along with the enhancements of Facebook, Twitter and the like.”

*- Roberta L., Trustee - Keynote Address, 64th GSC April 2014*





### The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)



Without committees, it is doubtful that any Conference would be able to function effectively. Most questions suggested for the Conference agenda are assigned to a committee, where items can be discussed in a small group before they are forwarded for discussion to the full Conference body.

- AA Service Manual, p.S59

# About AA

## Making Alcoholics Anonymous Accessible to Those with Special Needs

Alcoholics Anonymous is dedicated to making its message of recovery from alcoholism available to as many as possible, including those with special needs.

The designation special needs usually applies to the blind or visually impaired, the deaf or hard of hearing, and those who are chronically ill or homebound. It can also include those in wheelchairs and others who may have problems accessing A.A. meetings.

"A person with a disability is already stigmatized and may be afraid of meeting strangers; they have been told they are different," says Michael N., an A.A. member who is blind. A director of a state agency in the Midwest that serves people who are blind, he says, "there is evidence that those with disabilities are more likely than able-bodied people to suffer from alcoholism, and we need to do what we can in A.A."

Shane K., an A.A. member in a recovery program at a university in California, says, "I want to go, but people are getting in the way. The news piece is that in the disability community there is a need to get people in the room. We need to be there for those with disabilities."

### Committees Tackle

A.A. members in regions are forming committees addressing how best to meet the needs of those with special needs to reach out to those who are unable to attend meetings. Committees work with local A.A. groups to make meetings available to all who want them.

Typical of what such a committee in New York City is doing is a group interested in starting a group for those who are hard of hearing. The committee is determining a need by visiting with those who are hard of hearing. The committee is also looking out from the deaf A.A. members to see if they can come another such meeting. The committee is also hiring an interpreter versed in sign language.

"As a borderline profound deaf person, I prefer going to small groups. I can take advantage of my hearing aid. Sacramento, Calif."

"I do use interpreters in meetings, though, because reading lips on the lips can look alike. I do use interpreters in a new group I have a lot of fun with something because I am clueless."

Mail address

"A.A. is a great program, but it depends so much on personal interaction of people that it can be especially difficult for the deaf. A sponsor, who is so very important to our recovery, is even more so for people who are deaf."

Though the use of e-mail has become almost universal, some local A.A. offices—called central offices or intergroups—still employ TTY (Teletypewriter or Text Telephone) to enable the deaf or hearing impaired to communicate with them. Offices lacking such equipment use the Telecommunications Relay Service, which is offered in most communities.

In Tucson, Arizona, an A.A. special needs committee sent a letter to the groups in the area inviting them to contact the committee to tell it about the ways their A.A. meetings were having promising

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## Special Needs/ Accessibilities WORKBOOK

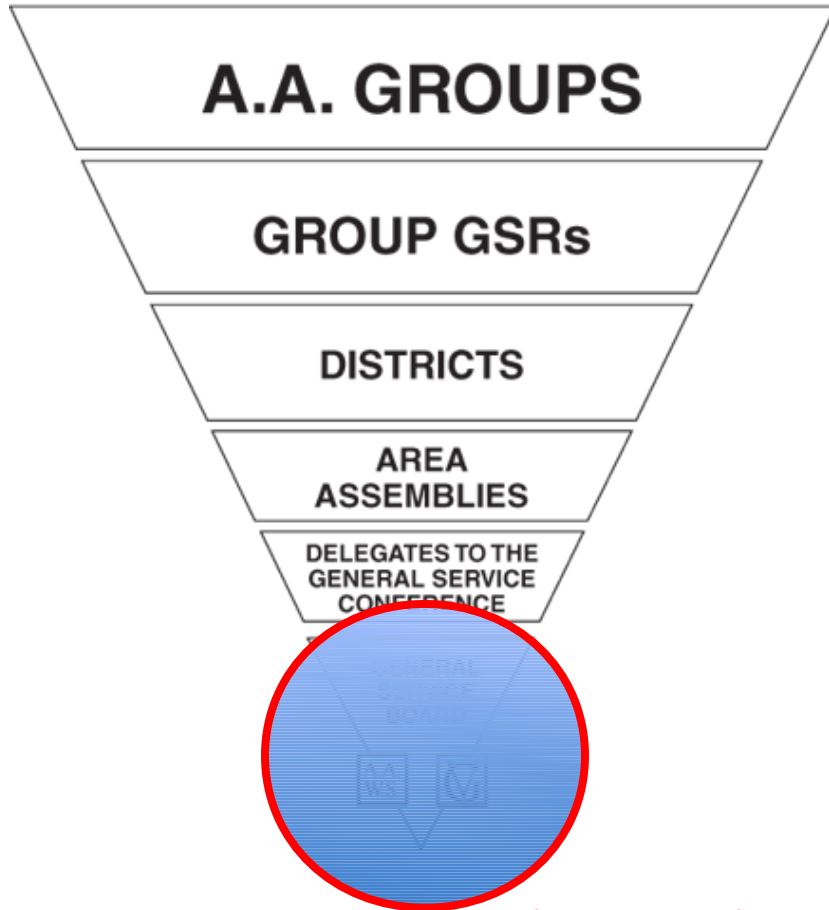
## Treatment Committee WORKBOOK

### BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN TREATMENT & A.A. THROUGH TEMPORARY CONTACT PROGRAMS

This is A.A.'s General Service Conference-approved resource.

service

**STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE  
(U.S. and Canada)**



**REPORTS OF:**

**The General Service Board – Terry Bedient, Chair**

**Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc – Gary Lutz, Chair**

**Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc – Nancy Haynes, Chair**

# General Service Board

## Remember **The Plan?**

### 14 Initiatives that did not require Conference Approval:

1. Minutes
2. Real Estate
3. Attendance at Mtgs of Operating Corps
4. Orientation
5. Non-trustee dir service
6. Size & Scope of subsidiary board
7. Eligibility of GSB trustees
8. Eligibility of Appointed Committee Members
9. Distribution – info & products
10. Intellectual properties
11. Technology
12. Contracts & Services
13. Format GV & LaVina Products
14. Accounting & Reporting
- \*15. Serving the Fellowship

# Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc

Alcoholics Anonymous®  2015 International Convention **DAILY REFLECTIONS** English Español Français

Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous®

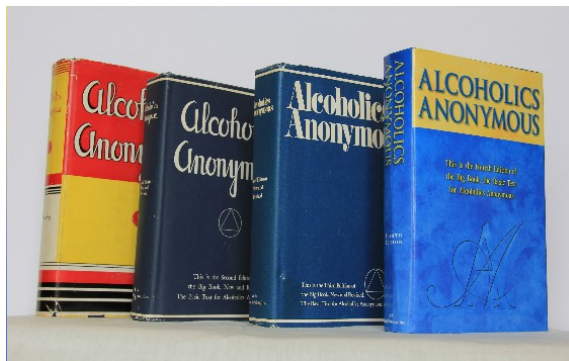
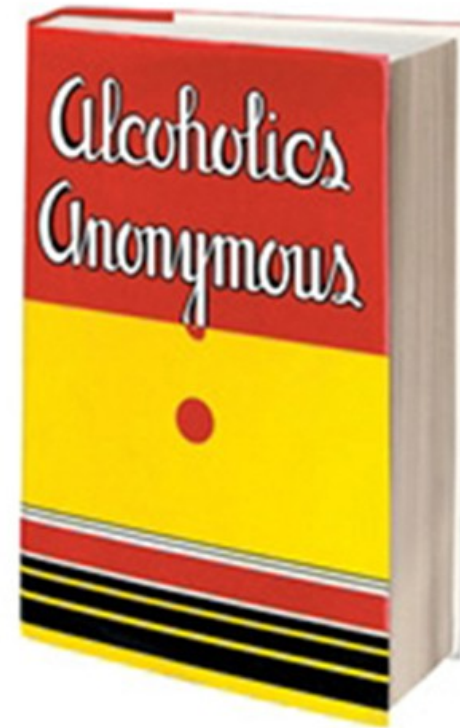
Search Our Site

**NEED HELP WITH A DRINKING PROBLEM?**  
If you are concerned with a drinking problem, wish to learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous or want to find A.A. near you, we can help you.  
[Learn More »](#)

**FIND A.A. NEAR YOU**  
U.S./Canada City   
Zip/Postal Code    
Select a Country

**INFORMATION ABOUT A.A.**  
▶ What is A.A.?  
▶ For Professionals  
▶ For A.A. Members

[Contributions & Self-Support](#) [Archives & History](#) [Press / Media](#) [Videos and Audios](#) [A.A. General Service Board Calendars](#) [A.A.W.S. Online Store](#)



# AA Grapevine Board





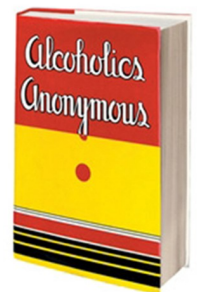
## **SELF-SUPPORT OF THE WORLD SERVICES OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

**The A.A. spiritual principle of self-support enables us to pursue our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic with a shared sense of responsibility for our lifesaving work and without interference or financial dependence on outsiders. From our Fellowship's earliest days, the expenses of the General Service Office, and the world services provided by it, have exceeded the amount derived from contributions of A.A. groups and members. As a result, providing these needed services has necessarily been supported in part by income from the sale of A.A. literature. It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a Reserve Fund. We hope that the day will come when A.A. groups and members, through their contributions, will be able to fund fully the services provided by the General Service Office. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a Reserve Fund.**

**Approved by the General Service Board February 3, 2014**



Tuesday April 29, 2014











75th Anniversary Edition

# Conference Committee Reports / Discussion



2015 International Convention

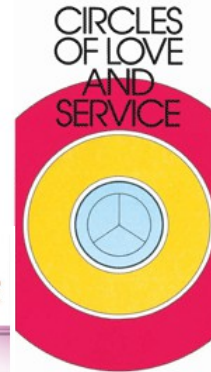
## **THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here — especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking,” we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

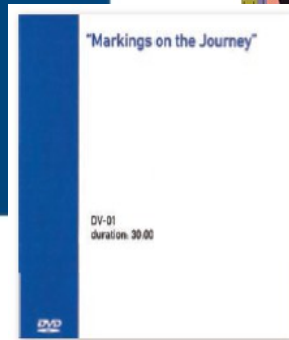
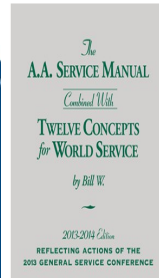
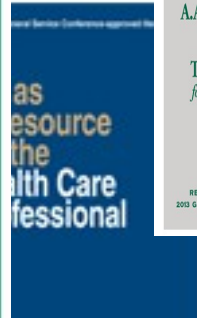
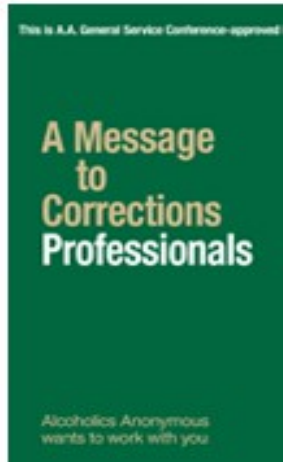
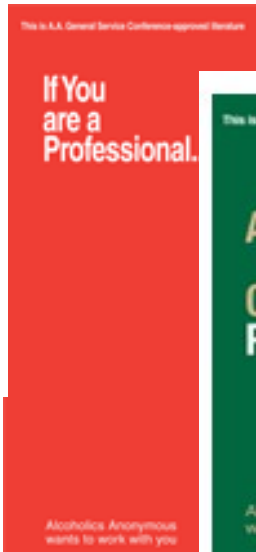
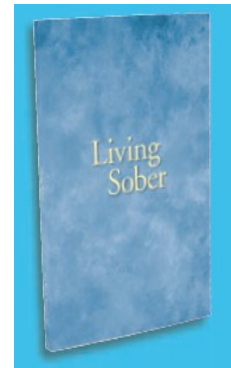
*(The 1987 General Service Conference made this statement available as an A.A. service piece for those groups who wish to use it.)*

30M - 08/12 (Intra)

This is A.A. General Service Conference approved literature



How the parts of A.A. all fit and work together



### **A.A. ANONYMITY**

**(ANNOUNCEMENT FOR READING AT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)**

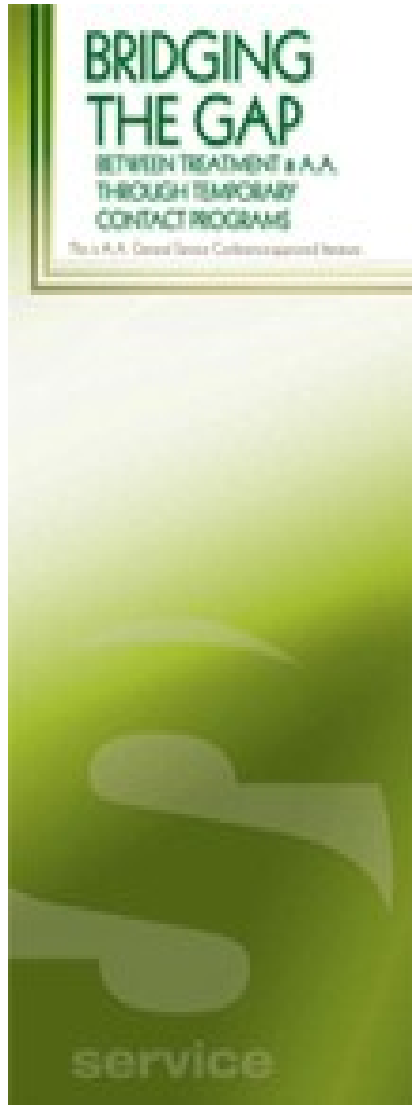
There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.”

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on new media technologies such as the Internet.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that “A.A. principles come before personalities.”





## Treatment / Special Needs-Accessibility

Proposal to revise Bridging the Gap pamphlet to expand its scope to include information on related Corrections service activity – TOOK NO ACTION

# Grapevine

The Committee recommended that the AA Grapevine have the 'Right of Decision' for all formatting decisions on producing the Grapevine and La Vina.

Amendment offered to clarify 'Spiritual Parity"...**Failed**

Vote: 76 in favor, 49 against... **Failed** (2/3 = 83)

No minority opinion

**AA GRAPEVINE**

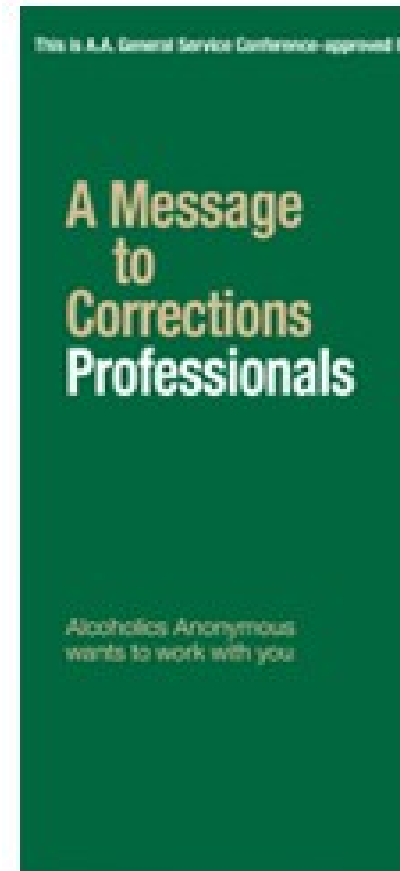
The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



# Corrections

Revisions to the text to be consistent with similar text in CPC literature

New video to replace  
“It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell”



# Literature

Many paths to spirituality

Circles of Love and Service

Correct text related to appendices in preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous*

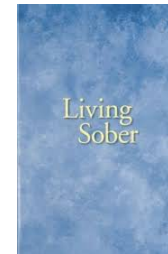


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30M - 08/12 (Intra)



# Public Information



Changes to the membership survey

Conduct the membership survey

Discontinue PSAs “Living in Chaos” and “We Know What it’s Like”

Produce new PSA at a cost not to exceed \$30,000

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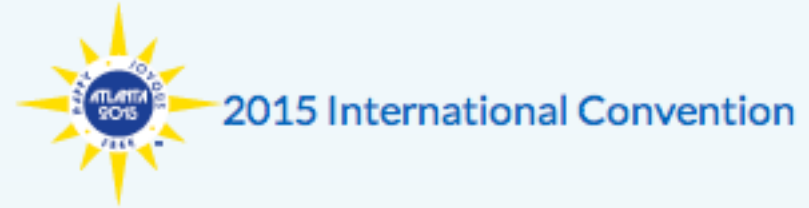
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## Finance



Call for the creation of a plan for  
Translation of all conference materials – background material and conference  
manual, etc. be translated into Spanish and French

## International Conventions / Regional Forums

An anonymity protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken  
At the 2015 International Convention

An encrypted anonymity-protected internet broadcast of the 2015  
International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony

## Policy / Admissions

One day of electronic voting at the General Service Conference during a two-year  
Trial period

Archives – Markings on the Journey - updated

# Report and Charter

Additions / Changes to the AA Service Manual:

Glossary additions:

**Advisory Action** – Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of a recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole

**Additional Committee Consideration** – an item that was discussed by a conference committee but with no action taken or made by the conference as a whole

Add description of Registrar on page S45

# Cooperation with the Professional Community



Updates / changes



# Agenda

Theme for the 2015 General Service Conference:

Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity, and Service – The Foundation for our Future

Presentation / discussion topics for the 2015 General Service Conference:

“Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action”

- a. Diversity in AA – Our Heritage of Inclusion
- b. Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles begins in our home groups
- c. Safeguarding our Traditions through the evolution of technology
- d. Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead

Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the AA fellowship gives; this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an AA service is anything whatever that helps up to reach a fellow sufferer – ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Office for national and international action.

*- Bill W., AA's Legacy of Service, The AA Service Manual p.S1*

What questions do you have?