

62nd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

Delegate's Conference Report

Roger S. – Panel 62 Area 66 Northwest Texas

The 62nd General Service Conference was held at the Hilton Rye Town Hotel in Rye, New York on April 22nd - April 28th, 2012.

Conference week began with the Saturday night delegates' only meeting on April 21. This is an opportunity for the 2nd year delegates (Panel 61) to offer any experiences that may be beneficial to the first year delegates (Panel 62). The Saturday night meeting had a friendly, welcoming open discussion. The question and answer session was very helpful. This set the tone of respect, appreciation and understanding of the work that was ahead.

Delegates always make up more than two-thirds of the voting members. Delegates represent AA groups in the US and Canada fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for AA's World Services.

Voting members of the Conference - 132

93 Delegates – 70%

25 Trustees, AAWS directors, Grapevine directors – 18.9%

14 GSO and Grapevine staff – 10.6%

2012 Delegate Statistics on attendance

	<u>Years</u>
Average age	57
Oldest	75
Youngest	34
Average Length of Sobriety	20
Longest Sobriety	39
Shortest Sobriety	10
Average Length of Service	16
Longest Service	28
Shortest Service	6

Every Conference member not only has a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.

The structure of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous consists of twenty-one trustee members. Originally, the majority of trustees were nonalcoholic, but now only seven, known as Class A trustees, are nonalcoholic. Class A trustees bring to the Board special expertise in areas such as business, medicine, and law, and may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms.

The fourteen alcoholic (Class B) trustees serve four-year terms. Eight are elected to serve regions of the U.S. and Canada. Two are elected as trustees-at-large, one representing the U.S. and one for Canada. The remaining four general service trustees are selected based on their expertise in areas of finance, publishing, or other fields that would be helpful to the General Service Board and the corporate boards of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine.

Two general service trustees serve on the A.A.W.S. Board, and two serve on the Grapevine Board.

The A.A.W.S. Board oversees the publishing activities of Alcoholics Anonymous (except for Grapevine material) and the General Service Office. This board is composed of nine directors: two regional trustees, two general service trustees, three non-trustee directors, the general manager of G.S.O. and the G.S.O. staff coordinator.

The Grapevine Board oversees the operation of the A.A. Grapevine, and is composed of nine members, including one Class A trustee, two general service trustees, two regional trustees, three non-trustee directors and Grapevine executive editor.

Sunday, April 22 - Registration; opening session; roll call of the delegates; Keynote address by Vic P. Trustee; regional lunches; ...presentations; Policy/Admissions and Report & Charter committee meetings; Conference opening dinner and an AA meeting.

I will read here from the final paragraph of the keynote address by Vic P. - Western Canada Regional trustee.

“We come together in this conference once a year, Area delegates, General Service Office Staff, Corporate Directors, and Trustees of the General Service Board, all participating equally, because this is the “effective conscience of our whole society.” Our Spiritual Responsibility while here is to practice our principles of anonymity on the highest plane, to allow and encourage the manifestation of our ultimate authority, as expressed in the group conscience. For us, by way of our three splendid Legacies, the rewards for a little discipline are miraculous new beginnings, a wonderful host of friends, and incredible purpose.

If an agenda item was **RECOMMENDED** by the committee to the full Conference it is noted as either **Passed** (2/3 majority), or **Failed**. Committee recommendations automatically become a motion and a 2nd on the conference floor. Recommendations that pass with 2/3 majority are **Conference Advisory Actions** which are acted upon and implemented by the Trustees’ committees and the General Service board during the conference year.

If an agenda item received **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION** this is listed. These items serve as “strong recommendations” to the corresponding Trustees’ committee but do not come forward as items to be voted on by the full conference. Questions are asked about how the decision was made in the Conference committee but no deliberation is allowed on the item itself e.g. it is not debatable. The agenda item in question may need a more thorough review, or need additional input or work by the trustees’ committee. It is also possible that the Conference committee could not reach substantial unanimity during their committee meetings and thus did not “recommend”. But as a committee it can also use Additional Considerations to send a communication to the trustees.

If an agenda item was not acted upon as either a recommendation or an additional consideration by the committee it is noted as **NO ACTION**. This is not necessarily a negative response to an agenda item – an item may be “no action” if it is deemed unnecessary at the present time, not beneficial to the Fellowship as a whole, or perhaps because the committee itself could not reach substantial unanimity in bringing the item forward.

Floor actions are handled after the completion of all other Conference business on Friday. They can be made at any time during the Conference, in writing, and are disposed of as **VOTE NOT TO CONSIDER**, **PASSED**, or **REFER TO COMMITTEE**. The GSC now structures the floor actions in a manner which more closely agrees with our respect of the minority opinion. The presenter is given two minutes when the

floor action came up for debate to present his/her motion. After this presentation the chair asked for a motion to decline to consider. If that motion was made and seconded then a vote was taken – if the motion to decline did not receive a 2/3 majority vote then the motion went to the floor for debate.

I. AGENDA

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2013 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the theme for the 2013 General Service Conference be: “The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action”

Motion passed

B. Determine the inventory questions listed in the “INVENTORY PLAN,” which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C. that will be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences.

The committee recommended that the following inventory questions listed in the “INVENTORY PLAN,” which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C., be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences:

2013

A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall

1. *Reflecting on Concept One, how does the Conference ensure that it is the conscience of A.A. as a whole?*
2. *How well is the use of floor actions serving us?*
3. *Reflecting on Concept Ten, how well is the authority of the Conference defined?*
4. *How well does the Conference fulfill the General Warranties of Concept Twelve?*

B. Composition of Conference

1. *Should delegate areas be more consistently based on actual membership numbers?*

C. Committee System

1. *Could the committee process be improved to more effectively introduce change in the Fellowship, and if so, how?*

D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness

1. *What improvements could be considered to make sure the agenda selection process is more effective?*
2. *How well do all Conference members communicate to the Fellowship about why we have a Conference and how the committee system works? How could we improve in this communication?*

E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)

1. *How well do the delegates balance their preparation for the Conference, especially in keeping with Concept Three and Article Three of the Conference Charter? How could we improve in the practice of our rights and responsibilities under Concept Three and Article Three of the Conference Charter?*

F. Conference Week Schedule

1. *How can we improve the way time is allotted during the Conference for reports, presentation/discussion/workshop topics, and thorough discussion of agenda items?*
2. *How are leadership and participation affected by late night work sessions?*

G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)

1. *Is the current makeup of the board (numbers and proportions) still the most effective? If not, what changes should we consider?*
2. *How could we improve the methods used to solicit trustees and directors to get the most appropriate people interested in the positions?*
3. *What more could be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship?*

H. Leadership

1. *Reflecting on Concept Nine, are the qualities of leadership, as identified in the leadership essay in the Service Manual, still the qualities that we should try to encourage in Conference members? If so, how successful are we in encouraging those qualities? If not, what changes should we consider?*

2014

A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall

1. *Reflecting on Concept Four, how effective are we in treating all Conference members as equals (no one regarded as second class)?*
2. *Reflecting on Concept Five, how well does the Conference facilitate the hearing and resolution of minority appeals/report? How could it be improved?*
3. *Does the structure encourage each individual in the Fellowship to feel and act as a member of a "society of alcoholics in action?" If not, how could we improve?*
4. *Does the yearlong Conference process effectively encourage all Conference members to lead (or serve) in the spirit of our upside-down service structure? If not, how can we encourage all Conference members to do so?*

B. Composition of Conference

1. *Should regional divisions be based on membership numbers, the number of areas contained in each region or some other criteria? Please explain.*

C. Committee System

1. *What is the right balance of participation among committee members (delegates, staff) and how can we best achieve that balance?*

D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness

1. *How well is the message of the Conference theme being carried out throughout the year?*
2. *What other suggestions do we have for how to improve the effectiveness of the yearlong process?*

E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)

1. *How can we improve the manner in which Conference background material; is developed and distributed?*

F. Conference Week Schedule

1. *At the Conference, what is the difference between being a leader or being a reporter? Can a person be both at the same time?*

G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)

1. *Reflecting on Concept Eleven, does the General Service Board exercise serious care in having the best possible assistance in carrying out their duties? How can this process be improved?*
2. *Does the current role of the board most effectively address the needs of the Fellowship? If not, how should their role be changed?*
3. *Is the selection/election process for trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would you change it?*

H. Leadership

1. *How can we improve the methods of selecting effective leaders and nurturing leadership qualities in our trusted servants?*
2. *What more could be done to ensure broad diversity of representation in our A.A. leaders?*

2015

A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall

1. *Reflecting on Concept Two, how can we better serve as the actual voice and be an effective conscience for our whole society?*
2. *Reflecting on Concept Three, how can we effectively balance the freedoms and responsibilities that come with the right of decision?*
3. *How might any one of the Concepts be revised in essence or wording to more effectively and relevantly guide our leaders?*

B. Composition of Conference

1. *Is the size and structure (proportions of delegate/trustee/staff) of the Conference the most effective for conducting the work of the Fellowship? If not, how could it be made more effective?*

C. Committee System

1. *Committee system (Structure, Composition, Effectiveness, etc.): Does the Conference committee system function in accordance with our principles? If not, what changes should we consider regarding: a) structure b) composition c) effectiveness?*

D. *Yearlong Process Effectiveness*

1. *How can we better communicate that the Conference process is more than one spring week in New York?*
2. *How do the delegates and regional trustees support the yearlong process effectiveness?*

E. *Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)*

1. *What more could be done to prepare delegates for the Conference?*

F. *Conference Week Schedule*

1. *What Conference activities give participants the most opportunities to be leaders?*
2. *Does the time allotted and the manner in which information is communicated from the trustees and board members allow delegates to adequately understand and/or question their reports? How could this be improved?*

G. *General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)*

1. *Reflecting on Concept Six, how can the Conference ensure that the authority we delegate to the General Service Board is commensurate with the responsibility we have entrusted to them?*
2. *Reflecting on Concept Eight: (a) How well is the General Service Board exercising custodial oversight and how effectively are they serving as the principle planners and administrators of policy and finance? (b) What are the boundaries between oversight vs. delegation? When is each practiced?*
3. *Should the Fellowship have more direct influence in the selection of Class A trustees, corporate directors, and General Service trustees? If yes, how might that be accomplished?*

H. *Leadership*

1. *How well is the Third Legacy Procedure serving us? How could it be improved?*
Motion passed

C. Consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling for the Conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C.

D. Review suggestions for presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2013 G.S.C.

The committee recommended the following presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General service conference"

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

a) The Triangle – More than a Shape

- b) *The G.S.C. Inventory – Why is it Necessary?*
- c) *Self-Support – what Does it Mean to the Fellowship?*
- d) *Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message*

Motion passed

E. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

Additional considerations:

- The committee considered the request from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling for the 2013 Conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C.
- The committee also noted that for the General Service Conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015, there will be no solicitation for Workshop topics since the Conference Plan specifies that the time allotted for Conference Workshops during Conference week will be replaced with Inventory Group meetings to discuss Inventory questions.
- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and suggested that the Pre-Conference section of the Evaluation be separated from the Sunday section of the form.

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

A.* “A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community” DVD:

1. **Discuss report on replacing the current “A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community” DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material.**
2. **Review draft product of replacement DVD.**

B.* Consider adding the phrase “nonalcoholics may attend as observers” to the “Singleness of Purpose” statement in C.P.C. literature.

The committee recommended that the current statement regarding “Singleness of Purpose” in C.P.C. literature which reads:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings”

be revised to read as follows:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings.”

Motion passed

C. Review contents of Cooperation with the Professional Community Kit and Workbook.

In the process of reviewing the C.P.C. Workbook and Kit, the committee noted that the text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer was revised by a 2010 Conference Advisory Action

and a revision of the C.P.C. service piece “Information on A.A.” to include the text from “A.A. at a Glance” was initiated by an Additional Committee consideration from the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information. In an effort to provide consistent information in C.P.C. literature the committee recommended that the text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section in the C.P.C. pamphlets “A.A. in Your Community”, “If You Are A Professional” and “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” be replaced with the text in the section “What A.A. Does Not Do” in the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer and the entire section read 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.

Motion passed

Additional considerations:

- The committee discussed the report on replacing the current “A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community” DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material and reviewed the draft product of the replacement DVD.

The committee accepted the report with appreciation and felt that a new compilation DVD was not needed for some of the following reasons:

- a. The list of suggested existing materials seemed limited and was already available on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site.
- b. When communicating with professionals, it is often most helpful to have material that is specific to a particular profession.
- c. In the contemporary, ever-changing digital age, the DVD format might not be appropriate for the distribution of information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. Board has oversight of G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site Redesign Committee and requested that A.A.W.S. consider dedicating a portion of the Web Site to making A.A. resources easily accessible to targeted professional populations and C.P.C. Committees.
 - The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With The Professional Community Committee Kit and Workbook and made several suggestions:

- a. The sentence on page 15, which reads: “Open: Guests are welcome; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting” be changed to read “Open: Guests are welcome as observers; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting.”
- b. The revised text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section in the C.P.C. pamphlets “A.A. in Your Community”, “If You Are a Professional” and “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” replace the current text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section on page 29 of the C.P.C. Workbook.

III. Corrections

A. * Review the draft revision of the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”*

The committee recommended that the revised draft pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” be approved.

Motion Passed-Unanimous

B. * Consider revisions to the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.” *

The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be revised with the following changes:

1. Replace the first paragraph under the sections “Release and paroles” with the following paragraph from page six of the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities”;

One point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are in ~~prison~~ incarcerated. The answer is that the A.A. program is far more than staying away from alcohol. A.A. has been called a way of life and its success ~~in prison groups~~ for groups that meet while in custody shows that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life, both in ~~prison~~ custody and after release.

The pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be revised with the following changes:

2. Change the title of the section currently called “Release and paroles” to “Re-entry and Parole.”

3. The current statement regarding “Singleness of Purpose” in the last paragraph, which reads: Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.

Be revised with wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” on page 13, to read as follows:

*Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. **Nonalcoholics** may attend open A.A. meetings **as observers**, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings.*

(FA-desire to stop drinking- replace “drinking problem”) accepted then motion voted on to remove the FA – Motion passed - FA removed.

(Motion made to strike part three completely) Motion failed

Motion passed

C. * Consider a possible remake of the 1987 video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”

The committee recommended that the video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” be remade in order to accurately reflect current-day life in correctional facilities, while retaining the original message and intent consistent with A.A. traditions, at a cost not to exceed \$75000.

Motion failed

D. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Additional considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the work of the trustees Committee on Corrections with regards to the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and forwarded a list of suggested changes in the Workbook to the Publications Department.

IV. Finance

A.* Consider suggestion to increase the Conference delegate fee.

The committee considered a suggestion to increase the Conference delegate (~~fee~~/contribution) and recommended that the annual delegate’s (~~fee~~/contribution) be increased from \$1200 to \$1600.

Motion passed 2/3

B.* Review the current \$3,000 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and one-time bequests.

The committee reviewed the current \$3000 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and recommended that the annual limit on (Individual A.A. contributions) be increased from \$3000 to \$5000.

Motion failed - 49 for / 68 Against (Note non prevailing minority opinion)

See Floor Action #2 - I move that the limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board be increased from \$3000 to \$5000. Floor Action passed 84 for / 42 against.

The committee reviewed the current \$3000 dollar limit one time bequests and recommended that the limit on one time bequests (from an A.A. member to the GSB) be increased from \$3000 to \$25000.

Motion failed.

C. Review proposed Self-Support Kit.

D.* Review draft document of self-support/financial talking points to be used by the Fellowship.

E. Review information concerning General Service Office/A.A. Grapevine Financial Projections for the years 2013 and 2014.

F. Consider a review of continuing financial commitment to La Viña per the 2001 General Service Conference Advisory Action that “La Viña continue to be published by the A.A. Grapevine and supported by the General Services Board as a service to the Fellowship.”

The Conference Finance Committee reviewed the background presented and past Conference actions and recommended that the La Vina become self-supporting within three years beginning January 1, 2013. If La Vina has not become self-supporting by December 31, 2015, General Service Board funding will cease.

Motion failed.

Additional considerations:

- The committee suggested that a review of the delegate's fee be a standing item on the Conference Finance Committee agenda.
- The committee reviewed a proposed Self-Support Kit and agreed that the F-19 Self-Support Packet is sufficient service material and suggested adding "Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S." (SMF-176) to the Self-Support Packet.
- The committee reviewed and acknowledged the 21 Self-Support Talking Points presented in the background for use by the Fellowship and offers one additional point to be included: "What is the value of your sobriety?" The committee also suggested that they be added to the Finance Section of the Website.
- The committee suggested the following statements be added to the back of the F-42 Self-Support green card:

What is the value of your sobriety?

- Less Than 44% of groups contribute to the General Service Board.
 - Costs of Services provided by G.S.O. are \$6.32 per member per year.
 - Sales of A.A. literature counts for 56% of our income.
 - You can easily contribute regularly online at AA.org.
 - Give till it feels good.
- The committee reviewed the information presented concerning financial projections for 2013 and 2014 and trusts that the Corporate Boards and the trustees' Finance Committee will deal with the financial issues in an appropriate manner.

The committee also expressed that increasing the awareness of the need for Fellowship contributions is the more spiritual way to address the funding issue.

V. Grapevine

A. * Consider proposal for A.A. Grapevine's Audio Strategy.

The committee recommended that:

AA Grapevine, Inc. move forward with an audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on 3rd party recording technology.

- *The stories will be subject to the same editorial process as print stories.*
- *The Audio endeavor will, at a minimum, break even financially.*
- *The committee requests that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time.*

- *The committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background.*

Motion passed - Motion to reconsider minority appeal failed.

B. * Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2013 and later.

C. *Consider “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items.

The committee recommended that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., carry out the “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items. The “Sunset” proposal is a plan to phase out older or slow-moving Grapevine items and archive them digitally or make them available in another format.

Motion passed-unanimous

D. * Consider incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position “Grapevine Representative” into the Service responsibilities and duties of the “General Service Representative.”

E. *Review Grapevine Workbook.

Additional considerations:

- The committee agreed with the proposal to update, proofread, and digitize the Grapevine Workbook. The revised workbook will be available on the Grapevine website for downloading. The workbook will no longer be printed. Note: The cost of this project is estimated to be \$5,000.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2013 or later:

1. Attitude of Gratitude (working title)

A collection of stories on the topic of gratitude previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

2. Voices of Long Term Sobriety II (working title)

A collection of stories by members with 30+ years of sobriety previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

3. Women’s Stories in AA (working title)

Stories from women members on every topic including a special section from AA’s women pioneers previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

4. GLBT in AA — We are all the same or Sober & Out (working title)

A collection of stories from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender AA community previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

5. Relationships in Sobriety (working title)

A collection of stories on the topic of relationships previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

6. Having Fun in Sobriety (working title)

Now that you're sober you've discover that you haven't the foggiest notion on how to have fun. What now? Stories from members having fun in sobriety from stories previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

7. Daily Grapevine

365 inspirational passages as originally published in GV's thought of the day in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

8. Mid Sobriety Crisis (working title)

Not a beginner anymore and not an old-timer? This collection of stories comes from members in the middle years (10-29) who are working the program and trudging the road to happy destiny previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

9. The Best of La Viña II

Collection of Spanish language original stories (not translations) previously published in La Viña magazine.

10. AA Inside the Walls (working title)

A collection of stories from those behind bars and/or from those carrying the message to these institutions previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

- The committee considered incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position "Grapevine Representative" in the service responsibilities and duties of the "General Service Representative" and took no action.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board incorporate into all appropriate literature the 1962 Advisory Action that: "retiring delegates become Grapevine Representatives (GvRs) in their areas, with the objective of a GvR in each group."
- The committee requested that groups that do not have a GvR or RLV consider incorporating these duties into the duties of the GSR.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board look into the feasibility of producing one book in ASL format.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background, on the cost of reformatting Grapevine magazine from its current design to black/white interior, non-glossy, minimal photos and increase the font size.

VI. Literature

A. *Discuss progress report from the trustees' Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

B. * Consider the draft of the revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" be approved.

Motion passed

C. * Consider the final draft of the revised *Living Sober* booklet.

*The committee recommended that the final revision of the *Living Sober* booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved.*

4/26/12 Motion passed 94 for/31 against-minority votes to reconsider-passed 70 for/59 against - motion to table

72 for/57 against—4/27/12 Motion passed

D. * Discuss a suggestion for revision of the pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service.”

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on literature.

Motion passed

E. * Discuss a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book.

F. *Consider a request to add the A.A. Preamble to the front inside pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

G. *Consider a request to add the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service to *As Bill Sees It*.

*The committee recommended that the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service to *As Bill Sees It*.*

Motion passed

Additional considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees’ Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee forwarded to the trustees’ Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the ‘Big Book,’ *Alcoholics Anonymous*, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and took no action.
- The committee considered a request to add the “A.A. Preamble” to the front inside pages of the ‘Big Book,’ *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action.

VII. Policy/Admissions

A. Approve request for two members from the General Service Board of India to attend the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.

The committee recommended that Satander Bhalla and Daler Mathadu from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.

Motion passed

A1. Approve admission to the 2012 general service conference of Roger Bedard alternate delegate, Area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, in place of Estelle Falaedeau, Panel 61 delegate for Area 89.

The committee recommended that Roger Bedard alternate delegate, area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, be seated as a Conference member at the 62nd General Service Conference because Estelle Falardeau, Panel 61 delegate for Area 89 is unable to attend.

Motion passed

B. Review dates for the 2015 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the 65th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2015 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

Motion passed

C. Consider modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference.

D. Review policy and guidelines regarding the use of personal electronic devices at the General Service Conference.

The use of electronic devices at the General Service Conference be approved in keeping with the “Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the Conference” as presented to the 2012 General Service

Conference, superseding the 2004 Advisory Action regarding the use of personal computers at the Conference.

Motion passed

Additional considerations:

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and took no action. They agreed that the policy approved by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the “Right of Appeal” as described in Concept V — the procedure allows for a “well-heard minority” to be a “chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority,” and it makes the “best possible use of minority feeling and opinion.”
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference review the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting international observers admission to the General Service Conference, taking into account the concerns expressed by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, and provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee. The Conference committee agreed that their recommendation for approval of observers seems redundant, and this approval could appear to be a “rubber stamp” of the trustees’ action, as cautioned against in Concept VII.
- The committee requested that trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference review the “Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference” on an ongoing basis and forward any updates to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their review.

VIII. Public/Information

A. Consider 2011 annual report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.

B. Review the final draft of the “Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey” pamphlet. *The committee expressed appreciation for the fresh, bold design and recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey with minor editorial changes.*

Motion passed - unanimous

C. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

1. Consider approving the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., “Tengo Esperanza.” *The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits.*

Motion passed - unanimous

2. Review report on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2010 television P.S.A., “My World.”

3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., “Tengo Esperanza,” at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, as an addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza,” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed

\$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2013 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

Motion passed - unanimous

4. Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

5. Consider production of new video P.S.A.s.

D. * Consider a suggestion that A.A. establish a presence on Face book for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public; this presence would serve as an informational resource only, with no interpersonal communication capabilities.

E. * Discuss requests related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven.

F. * Consider updated text for Anonymity Wallet Card.

The committee recommended that the revised "Anonymity Wallet Card" be approved.

Motion passed – unanimous

G. Review contents of Public Information Kit and Workbook.

Additional considerations:

- The committee reviewed the report of the Comprehensive Media Plan Subcommittee from the trustees' Public Information Committee, and expressed their support for the continued development of the media plan.
- Following lengthy and thoughtful discussion related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven, the committee concluded that the spirit and principle of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately in the Long Form of Tradition Eleven. Recognizing that suggested changes to Tradition Eleven have come to the Conference several times, the committee requested the trustees' Public Information Committee gather Area sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee considered favorably the suggestion from the trustees' Public Information Committee that A.A. establish a presence on Face book for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. Before proceeding, however, the committee requested that the General Service Board explore all aspects of this social media page and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information an implementation plan that addresses the implications of such a page, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance.
- The committee reviewed the 2011 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and noted with appreciation the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the Web site.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the "My World" public service announcement.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. TV public service announcements and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that found them all to be relevant and useful.

- The committee assessed the need for a new A.A. TV public service announcement and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that none was needed at this time.
- The committee considered the proposed alternative packaging for the Public Information Kit and suggested that the Publications Department continue to explore options for alternative packaging that is durable, allows for organization and containment of the kit materials.

IX. Report and Charter

A. ***The A.A. Service Manual, 2012-2013 Edition:***

1. **Review revisions from the A.A. Grapevine Board.**

The committee recommended that all changes to The A.A. Service Manual be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

Motion passed

2. **Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.**

3. **Review revisions from the General Service Board.**

4. **Review list of editorial updates.**

5. **Consider suggestion for revising text on "Conference Panels," on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term "panels."**

6. **Consider suggestion to add a section on the "spirit of rotation."**

The committee recommended that the following term and definition be added to The A.A. Service Manual in Chapter One: Introduction to General Service in the section titled Glossary of General Service terms:

"Rotation – the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership"

Motion passed

7. **Consider suggestion to replace the "STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE" illustration on page S16 with a previous version.**

B. **Review draft of text to add to Article 3 in the Current Conference Charter that includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal.**

C. **Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.).**

D. **Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.**

Additional Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual 2012-2013 Edition*, and the 2012 General Service Conference *Final Report*.

- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A. Grapevine Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.

- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.

- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the General Service Board for *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Note: The committee agreed to ask the General Service Board to reconsider two changes that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.

- The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial updates for *The A.A. Service Manual* and forwarded them to the Publications Department.

- The committee considered a suggestion for revising text on “Conference Panels”, on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term “panels”, and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

- The committee considered a request to add a section on the “spirit of rotation” and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

- The committee reviewed suggested changes to the Conference Charter that were requested from the General Service Board and took no action. The committee asked that the General Service Board reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the Conference Charter, and develop text that explicitly addresses the principles of participation, petition and appeal for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

- The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.

- The committee briefly discussed the General Service Conference *Final Report* and noted that there were no requests for changes to the *Final Report*.

X. Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

A. * Discuss trustees’ progress report on the review of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*.

*The committee reviewed the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* and recommended that one line of the dialog, “Uncle Sam is not gonna come in and bail us out” be removed the next time it is reprinted at a cost of approximately \$9000.00.*

Motion failed

B.* Discuss a suggestion to develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.

The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs” be expanded to include additional stories of alcoholics with mental illness collected from the fellowship, and that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities bring a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2013 conference committee on treatment/special Needs-Accessibilities. (Staff commented that no stories had been submitted)

Motion failed

C. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.

D. Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Additional Considerations:

- The committee expressed concerns about the French and Spanish translations of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* regarding the exact translation of the direct quote read from the translated “Big Books” and for background distraction in the videos. The committee asked the Publications Department to review these items and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Workbook and Kit and suggested minor editorial changes to the service piece “A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request” and removed redundant information in the Kit. Following these minor changes the committee found the Workbook and Kit to be satisfactory for use by local committees.
- The committee reviewed the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook and Kit and suggested that the following changes be made at the next printing:
 - Add a suggestion to page 10 of the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook under the section “Activities suggested for Special Needs-Accessibilities” for “committees to gather local information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options.”
- The committee is hopeful that A.A.W.S. will format the pamphlet “A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs” for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges as soon as fiscally possible as requested in a 2011 Committee Consideration.

XI. Trustees

XII. Archives

A. Review request for changes to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Archives.

B. Review Archives Workbook

Committee considerations:

- The committee reviewed the request for changes to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Archives Committee and took no action. It was the sense of the committee that the requested changes were not necessary.
- The committee reviewed the changes to the Archives Workbook and suggested one minor editorial change in the “Shared Experiences” section.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Archives Committee develop a new section in the Archives Workbook on digitizing archival collections intended to provide guidance to local archivists and archives committees responsible for maintaining Area or District archival collections.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2025 International Convention Site- Selection Procedures.

2015 Theme: 80 Years – Happy Joyous and Free

• The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and shared some experiences that have helped increase member participation in recent Regional Forums in their regions. These included:

- Delegate and Area officers' participation helped increase interest in Regional Forums.
- Online Regional Forum registration/information on www.aa.org is convenient and easily accessible.
- One Area started workshops on Regional Forums at local service events to provide information and create enthusiasm.
- One host committee extended committee membership to other Areas in the region and to members from different cities throughout their own Areas.
- One committee member suggested including an article in the Grapevine with the Regional Forum schedule or from a member about their Regional Forum experience.
- It helps to let members know you don't have to be in General Service to attend and enjoy a Regional Forum.
- One Area took ownership of their Regional Forum hospitality committee to create enthusiasm and generate greater participation.
- Talk and continue to talk about Regional Forums and explain what Regional Forums are all about.
- When there are travel challenges look for creative/alternative ways to travel.
- Suggest combining a trip to a Regional Forum with your vacation plans.

FLOOR ACTIONS

Floor Action #1

I request to develop a pamphlet for the Alcoholic with mental illness.

Janet S-C

Panel 62 area 45

Withdrawn

Floor Action #2

I move that the limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board be increased from \$3000 to \$5000.

Lela M.

Panel 62 Area 07

Motion was considered and passed 84 for/ 42 against

Floor Action #3

Is to change the question: (1) what more could be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship concerning financial condition? Based on 2011 Financial reports given we didn't know where we stood, as far as projections. 2013 Section G

Question #3

Deborah D

Panel 61 Area 67

Motion was declined to consider

Floor Action #4

GSC recommends that the General Service Board form a subcommittee comprised of all stakeholders to develop a plan to address publication, distribution and finance of La Vina with the objective of self-support by 12/31/15

Rod B

Pacific Regional Trustee

Motion considered and failed

Floor Action #5

That the trustees' Committee on Literature develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness, with a progress report to be provided to the 2013 conference Committee on Literature with suggestions for content of the pamphlet, including breadth and scope of the pamphlet.

Scott H

Panel 61 area 79

Motion was considered and failed

– Minority to reconsider passed 71 for/55 against

Motion failed 76 for/48 against

Floor Action #6

That the pamphlet "A.A. and The Armed services" include the subtitle "none left behind"

Rod B

Pacific Regional Trustee

Motion was discussed and failed

Conference business closed at Friday April 27, 2012 10:10 pm. Delegate farewells until 12:15 am.

To close this report I would like to thank everyone that is doing anything in Area 66. What we do each and every month by taking actions and reporting to those we serve is the heart beat of AA service.