

Alcoholic's Anonymous – Area 75
Spring Conference 05/01/10
Olympia Resort

MINUTES

2010 Spring Conference

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stu E, Delegate; Nancy H., Area Chairperson; Nancy B., Alt Chair; John B, Alt Delegate/Literature; JD O., Secretary ; Cynthia H., Alt Secretary; Doreen H., Alt. Treasurer

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PRESENT:

George P., Grapevine Chair; George B., Conf. Adv. Com. Chair; Les M., Corrections Chair; Randy R., CPC Chair; Liz Y., PI Chair; Fred K., Treatment Chair; Lee Ann F., Special Needs Chair; David K., Archives Chair

DCM'S PRESENT:

D2-Clyde M.; D4-Ryan G.; D7-John S.; D8-Dave A.; D9-Sherman D. (Alt); D11-Ric C.; D12-Terry H.; D13-Leslie F.; D14-Frank S.; D15-Peter W. (Alt); D20-Brent B.; D22-Clayton S.; D24-Matt K.; D25-Nicole S. (Alt); D27-Neile (Alt); D28-Dave F.; D29-Mike T.; D30-Sharon G. (Alt); D36-Barb W.

GSR'S and ALT GSR's and Others PRESENT:

DISTRICT 1: STEVE S.; BEA N.; TOM M.; HERYL R.; CHRISTY G.; DAWN E.; SCOTT J.; DISTRICT 2: ROSE K.; BOB T.; DISTRICT 9: SHERMAN D.; DISTRICT 12: LARRY G.; CHATHI W., CPC CHAIR; BECKY G., DCM; DISTRICT 13: TOM W.; SYWEN Y.; MARK G.; TOM G.; MEL F.; PHYLLIS R., GRAPEVINE; DANNY N.; DISTRICT 14: JERI P.; DISTRICT 15: PETER W.; JEFF P.; DISTRICT 16: DICK H.; CHERYL M.; DISTRICT 17: STEVE H. LITERATURE REP.; DARREL S., GUEST; DICK K, GUEST; DISTRICT 20: DAVE J.; DARREN P.; MARK B.; RICH B.; LIS T.; JASMINE S.; SYBIL D.; PENNY R.; GREG S., ALT GSR; LINDSAY P., GUEST; DISTRICT 22: HERB P.; BRIAN B.; BEN B.; DISTRICT 24 JARED R.; JUNE G.; DISTRICT 25: JEFF Z.; SCOTT D.; ERIC; DISTRICT 27: NEALY R., SPECIAL NEEDS; DISTRICT 29: DENNIS D.; LYNN G.; HEATHER P.; DISTRICT 30: SHARON G.; DISTRICT 32: AARON M.; EDUARDO A.; KURT H.; RYAN S.; GEORGE D.; HOWARD P.; DAVID E.; JOHN E.; RICK M.; DON D.; LAURA C., BRDGING GAP CHAIR; DREW A.; ERICK D.; R.J. E.;

OTHERS PRESENT: Past Delegates: John B., Bob B.; Joan J., Bill A.; Ken G., Leo M.; Nancy G.; George P.; Spring Conf. 2010 Chair – Robert S., Spring Conf 2011 Chair – Ken N.; Spring Conf 2012 Co-Chair – Penny R.; Nancy S., Archivist; Kathy W., Registrar

- Nancy H., Area Chairperson, opened **the meeting with a moment of silence**, followed by the **serenity prayer**.

- John B., Alternate Delegate, read the **Twelve Concepts**.
- JD O., Area Secretary, took **Roll Call**.

SECRETARIES REPORT - JD O.

- Roll Call
- Minutes Approved

TREASURERS REPORT – Alt. Treasurer, Doreen H.

Todd U, Doreen H, Nancy G, Ken G, Ryan G, Drew A

1. Deposited contributions on a weekly basis.
2. Paid bills as requested.
3. Presented paid bills to the committee for review.
4. Chairs please submit expenses as soon as possible so that the Finance committee and Area has an understanding of what our financial status is.
5. Contributions continue to be received without any indication of the, GSO number, District number, or the name of Group that is making the contribution.
6. When making Area, Rainbow fund, or COU contributions, please fill out the Area 75 contribution form found on the Area 75 web site.
7. Please also make a note that checks should be made out to Area 75 Treasurer, not SWAC, Rainbow Fund or Count on Us
8. The Count on us fund is very low. The Grapevine is in financial trouble. Donations for the COU could only help support the Grapevine.
9. There are financial reports on the back table
 - a. A year to date general financial report, which I have made 100 copies
 - b. A year to date contributions report, which I have made 2 copies of, please leave these on the table.
 - c. A year to date Chair expense report, which I have made 2 copies of, please leave these on the table.
10. As GSR's, DCM's, Area Officers, and especially active members of AA, we need to promote on a personal, service and especially sponsored level the values of the 7th Tradition and what its purpose is. We want the hand of AA to be there for the newcomer just like it was for us when we walked thru the doors.

11. Here are the expenses and contributions to date:

2010	5/1/10	2009	5/16/09
YTD Income	\$ 13,604.07	YTD Income	\$ 12,234.39
2009 endbalance	\$ 21,262.27	2008 Checks	\$ (1,570.93)
Rainbow Out	\$ (1,573.90)	Rainbow Out	\$ (903.45)
Count on Us Out	\$ 0	Count on Us Out	\$ (72.72)
YTD Expenses	\$ (7,325.27)	YTD Expenses	\$ (8,172.64)
Checking Balance	\$ 25,967.17	Checking Balance	\$ 20,986.37
Prudent Reserve	\$ 5,000.00	Prudent Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Count on Us Balance	\$ 258.03	Count on Us Balance	\$ 640.84
Rainbow Balance	\$ 2,023.72	Rainbow Balance	\$ 2,051.61
Usable Balance	\$ 18,685.42	Usable Balance	\$ 14,007.48

12. Expenses compared to budget:

Total	Budget	Variance YTD	Percent used	CHAIR
\$ 1,425.12	\$ 4,180.00	\$ 2,754.88	0.34	Overhead
\$ 2,283.24	\$ 4,111.00	\$ 1,827.76	0.56	Delegate
\$ 448.78	\$ 2,245.00	\$ 1,796.22	0.20	Alt. Delegate
\$ -	\$ 1,309.00	\$ 1,309.00		Chair
\$ -	\$ 1,968.00	\$ 1,968.00		Secretary
\$ 465.73	\$ 1,456.00	\$ 990.27	0.32	Treasurer
\$ 450.00	\$ 1,810.00	\$ 1,360.00	0.25	CPC
\$ 282.13	\$ 2,063.00	\$ 1,780.87	0.14	Corrections
\$ -	\$ 1,568.00	\$ 1,568.00		Grapevine
\$ -	\$ 1,090.00	\$ 1,090.00		Public Info.
\$ -	\$ 1,083.00	\$ 1,083.00		Treatment
\$ 273.29	\$ 1,077.00	\$ 803.71	0.25	Spcl. Needs
\$ 1,639.58	\$ 3,301.00	\$ 1,661.42	0.50	Archivist
\$ 57.40	\$ 895.00	\$ 837.60	0.06	Alt. Chair
\$ -	\$ 416.00	\$ 416.00		Alt. Secretary
\$ -	\$ 315.00	\$ 315.00		Alt. Treasurer
\$ -	\$ 638.00	\$ 638.00		Archives Chair
\$ 7,325.27	\$ 29,525.00	\$ 22,199.73	0.25	Total Expenses

13. Expenses by category

YTD 09'	YTD Total	YTD 10'
\$ 450.00	Conference Booth Fee	\$ 450.00
\$ 1,200.00	GSO Fees	\$ 1,200.00
\$ 56.32	Literature	\$ 148.20
\$ 523.37	Lodging	\$ 691.48
\$ 560.27	Meals	\$ 246.00
\$ 2,092.77	Mileage	\$ 1,603.76
\$ 524.57	Misc/Office Expense	\$ 450.84
\$ 366.17	Postage	\$ 431.64
\$ 447.17	Printing/Copies	\$ 672.45
\$ 171.00	Registration Fees	\$ 100.00
\$ 1,281.00	Rent	\$ 1,331.00
\$ 7,672.64	Total Expenses	\$ 7,325.27

Treasurer's Report Approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Nancy H.

Nothing significant to report.

DELEGATE'S REPORT – Stu E.

Area 75 Delegate's Report on the 60th General Service Conference

April 26, 2010

(Note: As we agreed when we last gathered, ***a preliminary report was distributed at the Spring Conference Assembly.*** The General Service Conference Coordinator sends out the final wording of the Advisory Actions and the Additional Committee Considerations after all have been translated into French and Spanish, and after all have been proofread. Delegates usually get them the second week after the end of the Conference. We agreed here that we all want the wording in the minutes and in the Area 75 Archives to reflect the actual final wording used by the General Service Conference. ***This is the final version*** of the Delegate's Report, which I did edit after I received that wording.) Welcome all to the Area 75 Spring Conference Assembly! The 60th General Service Conference convened in Rye, New York on April 18, 2010, and it adjourned at approximately 11:10 p.m. on Friday April 23. The Remote Communities Meeting and a Delegates Only Meeting occurred on Saturday, April 17th, prior to convening the full Conference. A closing brunch and Farewell Talks from the Rotating Trustees were held on Saturday, April 24th, after adjourning the Conference's business.

Before I begin the actual report, please allow me to explain a few items for the benefit of those attending this particular Assembly for the first time. First, The General Service Conference is usually referred to as the Conference (capital "C"), and that is what I will be calling it in my presentation. The first one occurred

in 1951. The first five were held on a trial basis, and the Conference worked so well that it was made permanent in 1955. It exists as the active voice of the A.A. groups, and it is considered to be the group conscience of A.A. in the U.S. and Canada. Second, the General Service Board (GSB) is ideally comprised of twenty-one trustees--seven non-alcoholic or "Class A", and fourteen non-alcoholic, or "Class B". Those trustees also sit on the Trustees Committees. We have two corporations inside A.A. here, A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) which oversees the General Service Office (G.S.O.), our publishing, and other operations, and we have the A.A. Grapevine, which also includes *LaVina*. At the General Service Conference, most of the delegates' early work is done in committees on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Here Agenda Items are reviewed, and actions are recommended. Most of the Conference Committees (usually about eight delegates plus one non-voting staff member serving as secretary) have a corresponding Trustees Committee. For example, you will hear me talk about the Trustees Committee on Corrections and about the Conference Committee on Corrections. Most Conference Committees meet jointly on Sunday (only) with their corresponding Trustees Committee for the purpose of sharing on their respective work, agenda, and projects. No actual business or voting is conducted at this initial meeting. Then the Conference Committee meets (just delegates and their secretary) on Monday and Tuesday. The process really works, and it is important for all Conference members to trust it and to work inside it. Also on Monday and Tuesday, we all gather together to hear reports from the three Boards and others as needed. We also hear presentations of various types, generally related to an event, service, or to aspects of the Conference theme. On Tuesday afternoon, I had the privilege of giving a presentation on "Unity Through Inventory: This We Owe to A.A.'s Future." We did a workshop one afternoon on the subject of choosing items for the General Service Conference Agenda for future Conferences. Very little actually came out of that workshop. We elected a new Eastern Canada Regional Trustee on Wednesday and also a new Pacific Region Trustee. Again I had received one of those "Loving Invitations" and assisted in conducting both elections. My duties were pretty humble, but it is indeed an honor and a trust to be tasked with absolutely *any* responsibilities at the General Service Conference. In this report, I will first highlight the actions on the Conference Floor, which are presented to the body by the respective chairs of the Conference Committees (delegates). Order of committee presentation is by random drawing. Then I will proceed to the information from the various board reports and other presentations. In many cases, the latter part will be just as interesting as the actions of the Conference. The main floor sessions of the Conference are presided over by our Conference chairs, Ward E., Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee and Chairman of the General Service Board; Phyllis H., General Manager of the General Service Office and President of A.A.W.S.; and some sessions were handled by Lowell L. Delegate Chair (Panel 59 from Area 59 Eastern Pennsylvania). The theme of the 60th General Service Conference was "Practicing A.A.'s Principles--The Pathway to Unity". My report will follow the order of the committees day by day. *Please remember that the purpose of the Conference is spiritual. It is all about how best to carry our message to the*

alcoholic who suffers. We were all intensely aware of that spiritual purpose during the entire Conference.

During the voting sessions on the Conference floor, your input from the Delegate's Workshop and other discussions, district visits, and so on proved invaluable to me. I relied even more on all of you this year than I did last year. The results were good, and I thank all who shared with me on topics throughout the past year. I had all those notes in a folder on the table in front of me during all floor sessions.

Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations-- in order by Conference Committee, and **summarized:**

1. Treatment Facilities-Special Needs/Accessibilities--

The Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities met

separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee, for a total of six hours. It forwarded no recommendations for Advisory Actions (which are binding). It did forward the following Additional Considerations (which are taken as strong suggestions and are generally implemented):

1. Regarding the proposed Special Needs recovery pamphlet, the Committee requested that:

In the first paragraph, second sentence under the proposed introduction "Do You Have a Drinking Problem?" other language be considered that is more special needs focused. In all aspects of pamphlet development, the use of language that is inclusive of a wide variety of special needs be continued.

2. No action was taken on a request to change the name of the Committee.

3. The Committee reviewed two locally prepared Bridging the Gap forms, liked them, and asked the corresponding Trustees Committee to include them in the next issue of the Workbook.

4. The Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous video and the Young People's Videos will be included in the kit along with suggestions for their use.

5. The Committee suggested that the Special Needs Kit be incorporated into a three-ring binder in order to achieve parity with other kits.

6. The Committee suggested that the Special Needs Workbook contain shared experience with carrying the A.A. message to those with less visible challenges such as autism, illiteracy, etc., when it is feasible to do so.

2. Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.)--

The Conference Committee on C.P.C. met twice following the joint meeting with the Trustees Committee for a total of five and three quarters hours. It brought forward no recommendations for Advisory Actions, but it suggested that:

1. The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities gather sharing from the Fellowship on the need to develop a sample format for one-

on-one C.P.C. contact with professionals for inclusion in the C.P.C. Workbook.

2. The first bullet on page 14 in the C.P.C. Workbook, be revised to read: "Consider showing videos such as the C.P.C. video 'A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community', 'Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous', 'A.A. Videos for Young People,' at this point, or other videos appropriate for the audience."

3. The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a service piece with Class A trustees' shared experiences emphasizing the value found in the continued use of the A.A. Grapevine, La Vina and LaVigne. (Delegate's Note-- LaVigne is not a Conference Approved publication and its inclusion here is a cause for concern by some. It is produced by the French-speaking A.A. areas in Canada.)

4. The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a sample letter which reinforces the value to professionals of the A.A. Grapevine, LaVina and La Vigne as well as providing information on how the recipient may subscribe to the A.A. Grapevine, LaVina, and LaVigne.

5. The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs- Accessibilities consider creating a process by which professionals attending national C.P.C. exhibits can request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.

6. The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs- Accessibilities consider adding to the "About A.A." postal card a question to allow professionals to request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.

7. The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs- Accessibilities discuss developing a method by which appropriate C.P.C. pamphlets and other materials may be consolidated on cost effective digital media such as CD and DVD in order to be distributed to professionals.

3. Policy/Admissions

The Conference Committee on Policy & Admissions met four times for a total of 11 hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. Donna G., alternate delegate, Area 33, Southeast Michigan, be seated as a Conference member at the 60th General Service Conference since the Panel 59 delegate for Area 33 resigned.

2. Angel C. and Carlos H. from the General Service Board of Venezuela be admitted to the 60th General Service Conference as observers.

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

4. The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan to bring forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration along with an estimated cost for conducting the inventory. (There was broad support of this, and a motion for reconsideration failed. The committee composition that was proposed will reflect a properly weighted sampling of delegates, trustees, directors and staff in the same proportion as the composition of the GSC.)

Note: There was on the agenda an item to develop a process for a Concept V Minority Appeal. The wording brought forward from the committee was confusing and was something the Conference could not support as brought forward. After much discussion the Conference declined to "edit on the floor", a process which nearly never results in a good procedure. Nearly all were committed to the spirit of such an appeal process and we encouraged the committee to continue working on it. Later, a Floor Action passed, which recommitted the development of a Concept V Minority Appeal process to the general Service Board, taking into account considerations expressed during the 2010 General Service Conference, report to be forwarded to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy & Admissions. (A Floor Action is binding upon the General Service Board and upon any committees acting in this process. So we have passed from the discussion to the development of the process, a major milestone.)

4. Literature

The Conference Committee on Literature met three times for a total of eight and one half hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. The revised pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be approved.

2. The trustees' Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature. (Passed after much discussion and reconsideration. This was the place we ended our floor session Thursday, at 11 p.m.)

3. The paragraph regarding closed meetings on page 22 of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.," which reads:

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

Be replaced with:

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

4. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature. (This passed unanimously.)

5. The trustees Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

Note: There was an item on the agenda to revise the pamphlet "The A.A. Member--Medications and Other Drugs. It was the subject of long discussion. The draft brought forward had typos in it, and many members of the Conference felt the stories did not reflect our current experience. After discussion, a vote, minority opinion, reconsideration, and a second vote, the item failed. More work is needed on the revisions to the pamphlet. The Conference demonstrated a great deal of maturity and restraint by saying that we have an acceptable pamphlet in place, but it needs revisions. Then the Conference said the proposed revisions do not suit our purpose, so let's work on it till we get it right and have a *solid* revised pamphlet. Also considered was a book focusing on Pioneer Women in A.A.. The committee took no action and the Conference accepted that for a number of reasons. In general, there was an understandable reluctance to commit to new, large publishing projects at this time.

5. Grapevine

The Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine met three times for a total of 7 1/2 hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. La Vina achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:
 - Publishing La Vina as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-

page issue
at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year
beginning in 2011
followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of
this review
and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee
on the A.A.
Grapevine.

- Content and substance be of primary importance.
- An announcement will be published in La Vina magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.

2. The A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:

- What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
- How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
- What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
- What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

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

Notes: Also discussed in the committee were plans for three new Grapevine books. I will refer to them by their current working titles as "Step By Step", "The Sponsorship Book", and "Staying Sober Through Adversity". A discussion to begin discussion about the development of these books and a request to consider beginning actual work on them for production in 2011 or later was forwarded to the Grapevine Board. This whole discussion was an excellent example of the voices of groups being heard through the General Service process at all levels! The plan seems responsible and received broad approval. Other considerations addressed updates planned for the A.A. Grapevine Workbook, an ongoing project which will continue into 2012.

6. Corrections

The Conference Committee on Corrections met twice for a total of six hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

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

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

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

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

Will now read:

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

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

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

Notes: Other items discussed by the committee were progress reports on "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" and language regarding the signing of sponsorship and other legally binding documents. These remain works in progress, with additional sharing of experience from the membership requested on the latter. Please send this to the Corrections Assignment at G.S.O. Also discussed by the committee was the need for language in the Corrections Workbook and other service pieces to reflect language updates in Conference Approved literature. A request to work towards that was made to the Trustees' Committee on Corrections.

7. Public Information

The Conference Committee on Public Information met twice for a total of 7 1/3 hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.
2. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
3. The A.A. Video for Young People titled "Animation" be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: "For more information, search 'Young People' at www.aa.org."
4. The following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," under Facts About Anonymity on page 10, to read as follows:

"A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still-living A.A. members should be respected in obituaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice."
5. The term "drying out" be replaced with "detox" and "rehabilitation" replace "sanitarium" in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer so that the phrase reads "...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services..." and the entire section reads as follows:

"What A.A. Does Not Do

"A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover...solicit members...engage in or sponsor research...keep attendance records or case histories...join "councils" or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them)...follow up or try to control its members...make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses...provide detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment...offer religious services or host/sponsor retreats...engage in education about alcohol...provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services...provide domestic or vocational counseling...accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A.

sources...provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc."

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

Notes: Additional Committee Considerations included a request that the young People's Video Project be continued because A.A.'s young people are so committed and dedicated to the project. The submissions have been excellent and heartfelt. A desire for a future General Service Conference to be themed "Anonymity in a Digital Age" was brought forward as a strong suggestion. Discussion in committee covered a multitude of topics, far too much to share in a Delegate's Report here. The committee did outstanding work! No sweeping policy on "Full Face Photography of actors portraying A.A. members" was brought forward. Much sharing has been brought forward and more is desired. To date, no clear group conscience has emerged, and the Conference declined to put a policy in place now. An Advisory Action directed the Trustees Committee on Public Information report back to the 2011 General Service Conference with a draft policy on either showing or not showing faces of actors portraying A.A. members in Conference-Approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

8. Report & Charter

The Conference Committee on Report & Charter met six times for a total of 13 hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. The General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees *emeriti* to *The A.A. Service Manual*.
2. The Publications Department publish the Area Service Highlights in their entirety in the *Final Report*.
3. *Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*. This was later **rescinded by Floor Action #4**, which reads: "That the Publications Department work cooperatively with the Conference Committee on Report and Charter on the Final Report of the General Service Conference to ensure that all Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations are consistent in format, grammatically correct, and accurately reflect the

actions of the General Service Conference."

Note: Last year, revisions to the chapters of the A.A. Service Manual describing the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board, and the Grapevine Board were requested from those boards. The committee members received them in February 2010 and we reviewed them this year. All three boards did excellent work and this was a highly cooperative effort from the start last year! All three revisions were approved with minor changes suggested by the Report & Charter Committee. The changes are partly for consistency with the GSC Charter and the By-Laws of the GSB.

Other discussions in committee focused on how we review the GSC Final Report and the Directories. An agenda item forcing annual publication of the directories failed 30-92 by my count. Also, the Conference did not agree that an area should be able to opt out of the 30-day waiting period for a group to be included in the directories. Some problems with such a procedure were raised by other areas and we felt there was not enough of a benefit to warrant changing the current process.

9. Agenda

The Conference Committee on Agenda met three times for a total of 7 hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: "We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future - Let it Begin With Us."

Other recommendations and considerations were concerned with the presentation topics and the workshop topic for the 2011 General Service Conference.

10. Trustees

The Conference Committee on Trustees met three times for a total of 8 1/3 hours.

I am unable to list the full slates of Trustees, Officers, and Directors here because that slate uses full names. The Conference did elect a new Eastern Canada Regional Trustee and a new Pacific Region Trustee. The latter of these brings a Native North American to the General Service Board for what is probably the first time in A.A.'s history. I had the honor of assisting with the election balloting, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the A.A. Service Manual.

11. Finance

The Conference Committee on Finance met three times for a total of 9 hours and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. The following be added to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" where appropriate:

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

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

2. In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading "How can groups participate?"

in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"; the second

sentence "*(rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,...)*" be changed to read "**(for example:**

rent, refreshments, A.A. and A.A. Grapevine literature,...)"

3. The trustees' Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship

that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of

communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

Note-The above all passed with minimal opposition, but there was a very ***l-o-n-g*** discussion on all of them.

4. A Floor Action later recommitted to the GSB trustees' Finance Committee the request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix," and report back to the 2011 General Service Conference. By the time this discussion was finished, I think we were all expecting to see pie-charts in our dreams that night.

Note: It became apparent that there is no clear mandate from the Fellowship to force the matter of self-support and that there is no wide agreement about how to fund services without relying on literature sales. All seemed to hope the Fellowship would move in that direction, but that movement is not occurring now. The Conference once again exercised great restraint in acting at the present time.

12. Archives

The Conference Committee on Archives met one time for a total of 2 1/2 hours and brought forward no recommendations. Discussions revolved around the Workbook, a self-guided tour of the G.S.O. Archives, and suggested local committee activities.

13. International Conventions/Regional Forums

The Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums met once for 2 1/2 hours and brought forward no recommendations. It was noted that 37,00 are registered for San Antonio in July. And, regarding Regional Forums, the orientation for first-time attendees is working splendidly, according to feedback received.

To summarize the reports and presentations given from the podium by the General Service Board Chair, the A.A. Treasurer, the Chair of A.A.W.S. and the Chair of the A.A. Grapevine Board, I would like to say that we are substantially in good health as a Fellowship, despite the world-wide economic turmoil of the past year. There are serious concerns about the future of the A.A. Grapevine. I will keep abreast of that situation and either the Area 75 Grapevine Chair or I will report to you regularly.

A reason for concern about the A.A. Grapevine is that subscriptions at the end of 2009 had dropped to 97,900 per month, though average circulation for the year was 102,281. *LaVina* circulation fell to 9,100 at end of 2009. Grapevine net loss for 2009 was \$ 128,957, about \$39,000 better than the anticipated net loss. It is still a large number! Profits on other items published by the Grapevine fell \$95,530 less than budgeted. Many questions were raised and concerns do exist about just who the Grapevine is serving, with 73% of its subscribers being over age 50. Many of the remaining subscribers are groups or committees (on behalf of groups in corrections or treatment facilities). The Grapevine Board has hired a professional consultant and has begun action on a sweeping new business plan at an anticipated cost of about \$245,000 in the short term. This is in addition to an anticipated operating loss for 2010 of \$138,000 due to expected decreases in circulation, which might have to be funded from the Reserve Fund. There will be substantial website and online ordering revisions, all aimed at making the Grapevine more accessible and useful to members. The General Service Board has reviewed and approved the funding and is watching closely. (Speaking as your delegate: Yes, the General Service board has final authority on matters of finance. The Grapevine Board is responsible for the direction the magazine takes in carrying out its stated purpose. The Grapevine Board, staff, and the Conference Committee on the Grapevine have been conducting periodic conference calls to keep all informed. The U.S. economy is troubled right now, and the non-A.A. print media economy is very troubled right now. What all are trying to do is to create the best possible, most attractive magazine that can be produced reasonably for our members. It is up to the membership to support--or not support--the Grapevine with your subscriptions and your purchases of

Grapevine's other published items. Some of the numbers are difficult to swallow. There are many of them. Our East Central Regional Trustee has expressed many of the same concerns as I have, but not all. I do believe we are increasing the risk associated with the plan because we have put the Grapevine essentially in competition with A.A.W.S and member services for the same dollars out of the A.A. treasury. Only time will tell whether those concerns are well founded. I promise my continuing attention to the Grapevine's situation and have discussed all of this with our Area 75 Grapevine Chair. I have also made these concerns known to the Chair of the General Service Board, the Chair of A.A.W.S., and the General Manager of the General Service Office.)

The Chair of the General Service Board reported on staff changes which occurred this past year and on A.A.'s international activities. Many foreign General Service Structures look to A.A. in the U.S. & Canada for guidance in establishing their own structures, for how we apportion authority, for experience on overcoming problems in a growing structure, and for how we serve as a Fellowship. Ward also clearly discussed the change in General Service Board meeting agenda that replaces the former Executive Session with the current General Sharing Session. The reasoning is that the latter is more transparent and that our leadership needs to simply share on items facing us, in an open atmosphere, without legal counsel being present unless matters of personnel or misconduct are on the agenda. It is only rarely that matters of personnel or misconduct come up. So only rarely is that part of the meeting truly an Executive Session. Notes are taken on general sharing, but will not be regularly published on certain matters where strong/divisive opinions exist, particularly in early stage discussion of some future business decisions. The bottom line is that open sharing must be able to occur and that some of it has to remain private at the time. But the perceived secrecy needed to go away, and most of the material shared can in fact be reported. He also detailed the report forwarded by the Vulnerable Members Subcommittee. The subcommittee was originally tasked with exploring how safe A.A. meetings are for minors, but input quickly emerged suggesting that other segments of A.A.'s membership might also warrant inclusion. I will have copies of that report for DCM's.

The report delivered by the A.A. Treasurer will appear in its entirety in the Final Report on the 60th General Service Conference. That is usually published in August. It is also summarized in the Summer edition of *Box 4-5-9*, which can be downloaded at www.aa.org. I will note here that the Prudent Reserve currently stands at about nine months of operating expenses. In 2009 and 2010, for the first time in recent history, the independent auditor noted that the Reserve Fund is sufficient to meet short term needs, but not sufficient for long term needs. Contributing factors to that assessment include a troubled economy in the U.S. and Canada, recent federal legal requirements related to pension funds, and low rates of interest being received on that portion of the Reserve Fund which is invested. The Fund is invested in insured Certificates of Deposit and in Treasury securities, very safe investments. The entire amount of the Reserve Fund is available to us, should we ever need it in the short term. Unanticipated bright spots for the year were income received from literature sales prior to the July

price increase and very effective cost saving measures undertaken mainly by my Management at G.S.O. (Note: The membership has said that it prefers literature price increases to happen about every three years in order to keep the amount of any increase moderate. With shipping, warehousing and other costs always on the increase, there was a profit from literature sales in this, the first year of the new pricing. Combined with effective cost savings programs, some better than expected contracts from printers and fuel surcharge reductions from shippers, we finished the year with a positive operating bottom line of \$1,273,560. That profit helped relieve some of the stress on the Reserve Fund.) Groups contributions lagged 2008 numbers by \$218,600. Your contributions to G.S.O. as members and as groups continue to be needed.

A very detailed report was delivered by the Chair of A.A. World Services. Again, I would encourage all to read the detailed information which will be contained in the Final Report on the 60th General Service Conference due out in August. I would like to note here that G.S.O. welcomed 1,513 visitors in 2009. Registration for the International Convention in San Antonio is now approximately 37,000. In 2009, 1,224,346 Big Books (all formats) were distributed, compared with 1,111,906 units in 2008. Part of this was a 2-3 year supply ordered prior to the price increase by one large non-A.A. customer. Total Big Books distributed accounted for 55.5% of all books distributed in 2009.

Some insights were provided into our future as a publisher, both by A.A.W.S. and by the A.A. Grapevine. I would like to summarize those at this point in my report. Some had to do with the 2010 business plan of the A.A. Grapevine and some came from discussions of the publishing future of A.A.W.S. In order to not get left in the dust as a publisher and in order to best serve the membership by providing our publications in formats they find attractive, we must, at some point, enter the field of electronic delivery of both the A.A. Grapevine and of our Conference-Approved literature. The Grapevine's business plan calls for downloadable versions of product/subscription bundles later in 2010 and for a further shift to multi-media publishing in 2011. This latter will likely include downloadable book and subscriptions to daily reading products. A.A.W.S. is watching closely and will likely position to take best advantages of new technologies as they emerge. During one of our sharing sessions afterwards, I did go to the microphone with a question. At the front of my mind was that much of our membership has bad memories of last year's ill-fated venture with Amazon's Kindle Reader. So I asked how all this was going to be different. John K., the Chair of A.A.W.S., came to a microphone to answer the question. He said that the most important difference is the learning we experienced from the Kindle experience. Principally, we learned that we must control order delivery/fulfillment, rather than placing it in the hands of an outside retailer. We also need to do more homework before launching the venture. I would add here that the approval of the membership ought to be sought before making sweeping changes. And, I would note here that both A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine are on record saying that there will remain a definite commitment to producing our publications in traditional printed forms just as long as there is a need expressed by the Fellowship. Nobody need feel threatened because they are not skilled

computer or media users. In addition, our service committees need print versions of our literature and of the Grapevine in order to put them physically in the hands of those we are trying to reach.

One thing missing from this year's report was an account of our visit to the General Service Office. That is because, with the 60th GSC being held in Rye, NY, not in Manhattan, no visit was scheduled. Remember that one of the purposes of the General Service Conference from the very beginning in 1951 was to allow the elected representatives of the areas to lay eyes upon the operations and the books. So, the loss of an opportunity for this visit was keenly felt by some, myself included. The 61st General Service Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel in Manhattan again. It is anticipated such a visit will be scheduled next year. We have a one-year contract with the hotel, according to General Manager of G.S.O. Phyllis H.

Though much of this probably seems like so much business, please be aware that we the Conference Members were definitely cognizant of our spiritual obligation to reach a group conscience decision that was as fully informed as possible. Our goal was to determine the will of a loving God, as we understand Him, and to act on that. At all times, we were aware that our primary purpose is to aid in carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic. At times, one could physically feel the spiritual nature of what was happening on the Conference floor. I do not have words which adequately convey that sense. But it was there, even at those sometimes late hours when we finished the agenda for that day.

As your delegate, it was a huge privilege to have participated on your behalf in the exceptional General Service Conference we enjoyed this year. I hope that, in some small way, you can feel that you have been adequately represented there. I look forward to the future work of the Report & Charter Committee as we prepare the Final Report and review changes to the A.A. Service Manual and copy for the A.A. Directories this summer. As to Area 75 in general, your delegate stands in awe of you and of your participation in this great Fellowship which our Higher Power has entrusted all of us to nurture and to preserve for those who will someday find themselves on the doorstep of an A.A. meeting place. Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your thoughtful input. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to serve!

Yours in Recovery and Service,

Stu E.
Panel 59 Area 75 (So. WI)
Delegate

Corrections Committee

The Area 75 Corrections chair, Les M opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity prayer.

Discussion on the upcoming WI/UP Corrections conference, in Fond du lac, WI. was held. Jim the corrections chair from GSO will be coming to speak. Please register so we can order enough food. A dish to pass would be appreciated. All panels are full.

GSO needs male writers for their "Pre-Release writers program. Please download the form on line.

Jo Mc will be handling the temporary writers list for women , in Treatment and Corrections. Please call Jo Mc with all requests and she will find a writer. It was noted the area correction chair has a very hard job and finding writers for the inmates could be handled by another individual. During discussion it was determined we could bring a new job description for the corrections chair to the area, maybe develop a new chair to handle writers. Les M said he gets about 10 requests every 2 weeks from incarcerated AA's seeking a sober writer. Les M and Fred K are handling male requests.

Mark G the outside sponsor for Ethan Allen reports Lincoln Hills and E.A.B.S will be merging facilities. Mark needs help with the meetings at this facility.

Everyone in attendance reported on their facilities. Some are having problems with correction staff but many are having good cooperation. Most need help carrying the message.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Grapevine Committee

Grapevine Notes:
Spring Conference
May 2, 2010

George informed us that the Count on US Labels that he sent to the group via e-mail had the incorrect PO Box # for sending donations. The PO Box should be #167.

Donations should be sent
Area 75 Corrections
PMB #167
5464 North Port Washington Rd

Glendale, WI 53217

There was a misconception in the group that the Count on Us fund could only be used for Grapevine Subscriptions but it can be used to purchase any Grapevine materials from the catalog as long as it is being used for Corrections.

Rainbow Funds are used to purchase Conference approved literature. Someone thought that this started at the Area and then was passed down to the Districts. There is some confusion with the groups on how the funds should be utilized... Do all the Districts know that they can get funds from the Area to be used to purchase literature for Corrections?

The group had a good discussion about the Rainbow and Count On Us Cans and we thought it would be a great idea if we could combine the funds into a unified fund and then one "Can" could be passed at meetings.

George will follow up to see if it is possible and what it would take to combine the funds. If he needs assistance to go through Assembly Actions, he will contact Doreen H.

Stu E mentioned that the new workbooks that are sent to the standing committee chairs have been updated to encourage committees to use Grapevine materials.

John B shared graph information from the new Box 4-5-9 (can be found on aa.org) that showed Grapevine subscription information from 1995-2009. From approximately 2002-2009 subscriptions have gone from 115,000 down to a little over 100,000. We thought part of this decrease was due to 911, the economy and the Grapevine used to sell bulk subscriptions, which they no longer do. Also thought maybe there were more people using the digital Grapevine. No reference to digital was shown on the Graphs. This is our speculation.

70% of subscriptions go to persons over 55. Grapevine is looking for ways to appeal to the Young Timers.

You can find a comment in the May edition of the Grapevine by our own Area 75 Grapevine Chair, George P.

Minutes kept by volunteer committee secretary Doreen H.

Unfinished Business – Nancy H.
Spring 2013 Conference Bid

Sharon G.; District 30 would like to put in a bid. The bid packet is online – you can get it at www.area75.org – see George B. to work on the bid packet.

District 25 would like to submit a bid.

We will have to wait till June to consider bids.

Next Assembly is June 13th in Madison, District 28 will be doing the coffee.

We will be considering proposals at the June 13th Assembly, committees and the proposal committee will be reviewing the proposals at the June 13th.

Eric G. – outreach chair for ICYYPA. May 14th and 15th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 3 Legacies.

Stu E. – ICYPAA requested the letter from Area 75 drafting a letter so they can pursue their bid for the international – no problem.

COFFEE VOLUNTEER:

Summer Service Assembly, 6/13/10 – District 28

The coffee volunteer is to take the coffee supplies with them at the end of today's meeting and replenish supplies from the donation can if needed. Coffee pots are supplied by the Madison Center, which opens at 8:00 AM coffee pots and transfer of supplies to the next volunteer at the end of the day.

The meeting closed at 11:07 am with the **Responsibility Declaration**:

“When anyone, anywhere reaches out, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that; I am responsible!”

Upcoming events:

06/13/09 - Summer Service Meeting at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin

7/1/10 thru 7/4/10 – AA International Convention, San Antonio, TX

10/17/10 – Fall Service Assembly (Elections), Madison Senior Center

2/11-13/11 – Conference of Delegates Past and Present – Appleton, WI

5/1-7/11 – General Service Conference - NY

5/20-22/11 – 60th Annual Spring Conference – Sheraton Brookfield

11/11-13/11 – East Central Regional Forum – Miamisburg, OH