

**Alcoholic's Anonymous – Area 75**  
**9:00a.m., 05/05/2012**  
**Spring Conference**  
**Area Assembly**  
**Marriot Madison West**

## **MINUTES**

### **OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Nancy H.-Delegate; Todd U.-Alt Delegate/Literature; Randy R. -Area Chairperson; Lee Ann F.-Alt Chair; Matt K.-Secretary; Dave D.-Alt Secretary; Drew A.-Treasurer; John B.-Alt. Treasurer.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PRESENT:**

Ken N.-Corrections Chair; Brent W.-CPC Chair; Stu E.-Grapevine Chair; Barb W.-PI Chair; Thomas D.-Special Needs Chair; Lori S.-Treatment Chair; Nancy S.-Archivist; Dave K.-Archive Chair; Conference Advisory Chair-Bob S.; Registrar-JD O.

### **DCM'S PRESENT:**

D1-Jeanette S.; D9-Tori K.; D12-Karen K.; D13-Mel F.; D15-John B.; D17-John H.; D23-Thomas B.; D25-Dani C.; D27-Jay R.; D29-Lynn G.; D30-Sue M.; D31-Charley M.; D36-Pete W.

### **GSR'S, ALT GSR's, and District Committee Chairs PRESENT(:**

D1-Mike J., Randy O, Vicki E.; D2-Bob T.; D6-Daniel M.; D7-Jim W., Mary M.; D9-Sherman D.; D13-Chris P., Wendy B., Kathy H., Mark G.; D15-Nealy R.; D16-Judy Z.D17-Steve N., Darrel S., Roger T.; D20-Mary J., Laura W., Les S., Pat N.; D25-Marty P., George B., Jeff Z., Chris S.; D27-Leigh Ann W., Diane G.; D28-Chris S., Chris H., Kay K., Tim L., Steve H., Tom L.; D29-Kim N.; D30-Joel B., Kara R.; D31-Shelley I., Molly R., Kris C.; D32-Carl H., Jason K., Jamie A., John E., Chris E.; D34-Tony S., Ann W., Tom R.; D35-Mark M., Dave P., Vicki H., Joe H Others: Ricardo, Humberto D., Bruce D.,

**OTHERS PRESENT (need to check):** Past Delegates: John B., Joan J., Ken G., Leo M., Nancy G.; George P., Others: Kathy S.

Randy R., Area Chairperson, opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the serenity prayer,

- Todd U., read the **Twelve Concepts**.
- Matt K., Area Secretary, took **Roll Call**.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT - Matt K.**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT – Drew A.**

Treasurer's Report

2012 Spring Conference Assembly

<b>Total Assets</b>	<i>Dec 31 2011</i>	<i>Apr 30 2012</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Banking			
General Funds	\$ 21,890.90	\$ 7,452.13	(\$14,438.77)
Corrections Literature Fund	\$ 1,582.18	\$ 1,009.80	(\$ 572.38)
Prudent Reserve	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$1,750.00
Conference Reserve Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Banking Total	\$ 28,473.08	\$21,711.93	(\$6,761.15)
Conference Seed Money <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$1,500.00
Hotel Deposits <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 29,973.08</b>	<b>\$25,211.93</b>	<b>(\$4,761.15)</b>

<b>Net Gain / Loss</b>	<i>Apr 30 2012 YTD Total Income</i>	<i>Apr 30 2012 YTD Total Expense</i>	<i>Gain (Loss)</i>
General Funds	\$ 8,995.43	\$ 13,184.20	(\$4,188.77)
Corrections Literature Fund	\$ 936.94	\$ 1,509.32	(\$ 572.38)
Conference Assets	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$8,500.00

<b>Budget vs Expenses as of Apr 30 2012</b>			
<b>Officer / Chair</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Alternate Chair	\$980.00	\$-	\$980.00
Alternate Delegate	\$2,667.00	\$235.77	\$2,431.23
Alternate Secretary	\$640.00	\$232.69	\$407.31
Alternate Treasurer	\$490.00	\$-	\$490.00
Archives Chair	\$769.00	\$127.66	\$641.34
Archivist	\$3,600.00	\$2,054.40	\$1,545.60
Area Chair	\$2,387.00	\$211.88	\$2,175.12
CPC Chair	\$1,999.00	\$450.00	\$1,549.00
Conf Advisory Chair	\$499.40	\$-	\$499.40
Corrections Chair	\$3,866.00	\$187.45	\$3,678.55
Delegate	\$3,728.00	\$856.90	\$2,871.10
General Service Conf	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$-
Grapevine Chair	\$1,990.00	\$202.02	\$1,787.98
Overhead	\$4,950.00	\$1,948.97	\$3,001.03
PI Chair	\$1,104.00	\$-	\$1,104.00
Secretary	\$2,974.00	\$689.45	\$2,284.55
Special Needs Chair	\$1,294.00	\$-	\$1,294.00
Treasurer	\$2,070.00	\$588.37	\$1,481.63
Treatment	\$1,304.00	\$198.64	\$1,105.36

<sup>1</sup> Conference seed moneys: 2012 Conference = \$1000; 2013 Conference = \$1000; 2014 Conference = \$1000.

<sup>2</sup> 2014 Conference = \$500 hotel deposit.

Total Expenses	\$42,511.40	\$13,184.20	\$29,327.20
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<b>General Funds Income and Expenses: Year-over-Year Comparison</b>	<b>Jan 1 – Apr 30 2011</b>	<b>Jan 1 – Apr 30 2012</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Income <sup>3</sup>	\$7,313.2	\$8,995.43	\$1,682.23
Expenses	\$12,484.88	\$13,184.20	\$ 699.32

<b>Corrections Fund Income and Expenses: Year-over-Year Comparison</b>	<b>Jan 1 – Apr 30 2011</b>	<b>Jan 1 – Apr 30 2012</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Income	\$1,400.53	\$936.94	(\$ 463.59)
Expenses	\$2,422.49	\$1,509.32	(\$ 913.17)

<b>Expenses by department: Year-over-year comparison</b>				
<b>Officer / Chair</b>	<b>CY 2011 Budget</b>	<b>CY 2012 Budget</b>	<b>Apr 30, 2011 Actual</b>	<b>Apr 30, 2012 Actual</b>
Alternate Chair	\$984.00	\$980.00	\$-	\$-
Alternate Delegate	\$2,490.00	\$2,667.00	\$452.34	\$235.77
Alternate Secretary	\$275.00	\$640.00	\$-	\$232.69
Alternate Treasurer	\$341.25	\$490.00	\$-	\$-
Archives Chair	\$700.00	\$769.00	\$-	\$127.66
Archivist	\$3,300.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,012.46	\$2,054.40
Area Chair	\$2,337.00	\$2,387.00	\$-	\$211.88
CPC Chair	\$1,970.00	\$1,999.00	\$475.00	\$450.00
Conf Advisory Chair	\$-	\$499.40	\$-	\$-
Corrections Chair	\$5,201.81	\$3,866.00	\$583.76	\$187.45
Delegate	\$4,665.00	\$3,728.00	\$1,727.03	\$856.90
General ServiceConf	\$-	\$5,200.00	\$-	\$5,200.00
Grapevine Chair	\$2,087.00	\$1,990.00	\$615.95	\$202.02
Overhead	\$9,185.00	\$4,950.00	\$5,556.76	\$1,948.97
PI Chair	\$1,198.00	\$1,104.00	\$-	\$-
Secretary	\$2,148.00	\$2,974.00	\$420.59	\$689.45
Special Needs Chair	\$1,181.00	\$1,294.00	\$-	\$-
Treasurer	\$1,890.00	\$2,070.00	\$347.80	\$588.37
Treatment	\$1,278.00	\$1,304.00	\$293.19	\$198.64
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$41,231.06</b>	<b>\$42,511.40</b>	<b>\$12,484.88</b>	<b>\$13,184.20</b>

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$6,500 transfer to Conference Checking Account.

**General Funds Cash Flow**  
**01/01/2012 - 04/30/2012**

Source/Destination	Amount
Conference Reserve Fund (Expenses)	\$6,500.00
M&I Bank:Prudent Reserve (Expenses)	\$1,750.00
Area Conferences:2013 Conference (Expenses)	\$1,000.00
Area Conferences:2014 Conference (Expenses)	\$1,000.00
Alternate Delegate:Meals (Expenses)	\$39.00
Alternate Delegate:Registration Fees (Expenses)	\$15.00
Alternate Delegate:Transportation (Expenses)	\$181.77
Alternate Secretary:Misc Office Expense (Expenses)	\$20.98
Alternate Secretary:Registration Fees (Expenses)	\$15.00
Alternate Secretary:Transportation (Expenses)	\$196.71
Archives Chair:Meals (Expenses)	\$28.00
Archives Chair:Registration Fees (Expenses)	\$15.00
Archives Chair:Transportation (Expenses)	\$84.66
Archivist:Archives Rent (Expenses)	\$1,200.00
Archivist:Lodging (Expenses)	\$226.72
Archivist:Meals (Expenses)	\$25.00
Archivist:Misc Office Expense (Expenses)	\$302.83
Archivist:Registration Fees (Expenses)	\$20.00
Archivist:Transportation (Expenses)	\$279.85
Area Chair:Postage (Expenses)	\$45.00
Area Chair:Printing/Copies (Expenses)	\$54.00
Area Chair:Transportation (Expenses)	\$112.88
CPC Chair:Health Fair Booth Fee (Expenses)	\$450.00
Corrections Chair:Literature (Expenses)	\$187.45
Delegate:Lodging (Expenses)	\$201.14
Delegate:Meals (Expenses)	\$92.00
Delegate:Postage (Expenses)	\$44.00
Delegate:Printing/Copies (Expenses)	\$27.51
Delegate:Registration Fees (Expenses)	\$40.00
Delegate:Transportation (Expenses)	\$452.25
General Service Conference:GSO Conference Additional Donation (Expenses)	\$4,000.00
General Service Conference:GSO Conference Standard Fee (Expenses)	\$1,200.00
Grapevine Chair:Misc Office Expenses (Expenses)	\$37.26
Grapevine Chair:Transportation (Expenses)	\$164.76
Overhead:Misc Office Expense (Expenses)	\$42.45
Overhead:Postage (Expenses)	\$85.00
Overhead:Printing/Copies (Expenses)	\$456.28
Overhead:Rent (Expenses)	\$1,194.25
Overhead:Transportation (Expenses)	\$170.99
Secretary:Printing/Copies (Expenses)	\$512.43
Secretary:Transportation (Expenses)	\$177.02
Treasurer:Meals (Expenses)	\$39.00
Treasurer:Misc Office Expense (Expenses)	\$190.11
Treasurer:Postage (Expenses)	\$45.00
Treasurer:Printing/Copies (Expenses)	\$120.68
Treasurer:Registration Fees (Expenses)	\$15.00
Treasurer:Transportation (Expenses)	\$178.58
Treatment:Literature (Expenses)	\$43.20

Source/Destination	Amount
Treatment:Transportation (Expenses)	\$155.44
General Contributions (Income)	\$8,995.43
Total	(\$14,438.77)

Summary

Beginning Balance	\$21,890.90
Total Income	\$8,995.43
Total Expenses	\$23,434.20
Ending Balance	\$7,452.13

## **DELEGATE’S REPORT – Nancy H.**

It is hard to believe than my 2<sup>nd</sup> conference has concluded. It seems like only yesterday that I was elected to serve as your Panel 61 delegate and waited with anticipation to receive my committee assignment. Serving on the literature committee and attending the General Service Conference these past two years has been incredible. Words cannot express my gratitude for the awesome experience.

This year the conference was held at the Hilton Westchester – Rye Brook which is located about 40 miles outside of the city. I arrived at the Westchester airport in White Plains, which is a much smaller airport than Milwaukee or LaGuardia, on Friday. I had uneventful flights to and from the conference but did get my exercise changing planes in Detroit. I was extremely grateful that I was able to get a good nights sleep before beginning the conference activities on Saturday.

The conference unofficially began on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> with the Remote Communities Meeting which included sharing not only on being remote because of geography but also culture and language. All was aimed at how we can reach the still suffering alcoholic. Anyone wanting a copy of the presentations from this meeting please email me at [delegate@area75.org](mailto:delegate@area75.org) and I will send you one.

We had planned to have dinner on Saturday evening as a region at the hotel. However, the hotel had remodeled since the conference was held there two years ago and the restaurant could not accommodate a group our size. We had a much more enjoyable time, along with delegates from the Southeast Region, having pizza delivered to the hotel and eating outside on the patio. This was also a much cheaper meal option.

Sunday morning I attended the 1728 meeting. The meeting got its name from 12 (Steps) x 12 (Traditions) x 12 (Concepts) = 1728. The purpose of the meeting is to help the class A (non-alcoholic) trustees understand and learn about our program. It is held on the quarterly board meeting weekends. After speakers shared on the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and 7<sup>th</sup> Concept there was sharing for the rest of the hour.

I picked up my conference materials after the meeting and headed to my room to get everything organized. The schedule for the conference was a little different this year with the next item the delegate orientation by region which occurred over lunch in a

conference room. This was a final chance for new delegates to ask questions they may have on the conference process.

A few items about the conference in general. There were 132 voting members of the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference. The 93 delegates comprise 70.5% of the voting members. 25 trustees and directors comprise 18.9% and 14 G.S.O. and Grapevine staff comprise the remaining 10.6%. Of the 94 responses to a request for information The average age was 57, Oldest was 75, Youngest 34, Average length of sobriety was 20 years, Longest – 39 years, Shortest – 10 years, Average length of service – 16 years, Longest – 28 years and shortest – 6 years.

Following the delegate orientation the conference officially opened at 1:00 pm with a welcome from Ward Ewing, non-alcoholic trustee and chair of the General Service Board talking about our common heritage, singleness of purpose and unity. An opening reading from page 224 of A.A. Comes of Age was followed by the chair of the conference policy and admissions committee bringing two recommendations – to seat 2 observers from India and to seat the alternate delegate from area 89. Both recommendations passed. Phyllis H., general manager, G.S.O. then performed the roll call. We immediately had some excitement. A motion was made to refer the General Service Boards motion regarding Grapevine to the Conference Trustees Committee. After a point of order was made – that it wasn't really a motion – a decision was made to allow the conference to vote to refer to committee if this is what the conference desired. Much discussion centered on referring it to committee would limit input and discussion on the issue. The motion failed with substantial unanimity. No count was taken. Vic P., Western Canada Regional Trustee gave the keynote address which focused on anonymity being real humility at work.

The rest of Sunday afternoon was spent in committee meetings. I serve on the Literature committee and we had an opportunity to have a joint meeting with the Trustee's committee on Literature. The day ended with the opening dinner and open A.A. Meeting. At the dinner I sat with the Director and a board member from Stepping Stones and it was interesting talking to them about what we would be visiting at the end of the week.

Most of the work of the conference takes place in the committee meetings. Monday and Tuesday mornings were spent in committee meetings scheduled from 9:00 am. until noon. Some committees met for additional time to complete their work. I was grateful the literature committee chose to meet thru lunch on both days which enabled us to finish our work without any late night sessions.

Monday afternoon we heard the General Service Board Report given by Ward Ewing, Chair, the A.A.W.S. Board Report given by Pam R. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. report given by Don M. Some questions included looking at online ordering and having the Big Book and other A.A.W.S. Items in the same place as Grapevine items; reserve fund is near its cap and we are not in any financial difficulty at this time; we have larger strategic issues to look at such as how do we relate to a new generation that does not

relate to print, what appears to be a flattening of membership and long term financial implications and self support.

The afternoon also began introductions of the panel 62 delegates by their regional trustees. The West Central Region had 4 new delegates followed by the Southeast Region with 6. Each delegate had an opportunity to give 2 minute highlights about their area. Terry Bedient, non-alcoholic trustee and chair of the trustee's Finance & Budgetary Committee gave a presentation on Finances

Following a dinner break we had two more groups of new delegates introduced and giving area service highlights. The Eastern Canada Region with 4 delegates and our own East Central Region with 6. This was followed by our first General Sharing Session – What's On Your Mind? Comments ranged from those about the conference location, timing and availability of materials, concern that groups are not talking about alcohol and getting away from low bottom drunk, how do changes get in the service manual, learning from the past, unity and trust.

Tuesday afternoon we continued the new delegates area service highlights with the Southwest Region with 4 and the Pacific Region with 8. This was followed by four presentations and discussion on **Carrying the A.A. Message**. Topics included: **Still Our Primary Purpose, Social Web Sites, Young People in A.A. and Importance of Sponsorship**. Following a break we continued area service highlights with the Western Canada Region with 2 delegates and the Northeast Region with 10 new delegates. Another General Sharing Session followed and among concerns expressed were comments on the release of prisoners early will increase our workload, wondering if anything special being planned for A.A.'s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2035, concerns about areas tax status and 501c3, use of delegate mailing list by non-delegates, loss of detox facilities, use of acronyms that can't be translated to name a few.

Tuesday evening ended with the Delegates dinner and Delegates Only meeting. Each region submitted one panel 62 delegate to be the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference Delegate chair. Roger S., NW Texas, was the first name out of the hat and he will be chair. Greg B., Wyoming was next out and he will serve as alternate chair. I served with Greg on the Literature committee and Roger was the first person I talked to after arriving at the hotel on Friday. I believe the conference is in good hands with the selections made.

Wednesday morning we were divided into 10 groups for a workshop on “**Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare**”. Each group discussed the same questions. I have not received a summary of the discussion groups but the questions asked were: 1) **How can we make our Home Group a welcoming and accessible place?** Some items brought up in our group included hospitality, welcome newcomers and guests, coffee, having a meeting directory with a space for people to write their names and phone numbers, let newcomers know where the restrooms are, include directions on how to find the meeting room in the directory, have a sign on the door. 2) **How can sponsorship aid in keeping our A.A. Meetings safe?** Items mentioned on this topic

included groups having a plan on handling a problem situation, sponsors should model what is said here stays here, sponsors give someone a person to talk to about problems in a group, we need to protect our young people and others who are vulnerable from predators. 3) **In keeping with the Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as: a) conduct that disrupts the meeting b) illegal activity c) Inappropriate behavior toward vulnerable new members (e.g. “13 Stepping”) and d) Emergencies (injury/accident/fire/etc.)** Comments in my group included: Important for group to have a plan, Let people know we do not do that here, Treat others with kindness.

Following the workshop we had our second presentation and discussion of the conference on “**Change – Essential to A.A.'s Growth**. Presentation topics were: **Service: Our Third Legacy; Spirit of Rotation; Diversity – Let's Keep Our Doors Open for Any Who May Suffer from Alcoholism**, and **Archives – Where the Past Meets the Present**”. I served as the moderator for this panel and was told I did a good job handling the discussion. It is hard with multiple microphones keeping track of who can speak next. Didn't get any notes on any of the discussion portion. I do have copies of the presentations and will send copies to anyone who would like one. Just send me an email at [delegate@area75.org](mailto:delegate@area75.org).

Next on the agenda were regional luncheons for delegates which gave us an informal chance to ask questions. We also discussed the 2015 Forum which will be held in Area 75. I have given the Regional Forums secretary information on two hotels near the airport in Milwaukee that met the criteria for space requirements. GSO handles all contract negotiations with the hotel. Our area will have an opportunity to host a hospitality room if we choose and/or furnish coffee for breaks. Something we will need to address in the future.

The afternoon then began with elections for West Central Region trustee to replace Ken B. Andrew W. candidate from Montana was drawn from the hat when no one received a 2/3 majority after the 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. The next election was for the Western Canada Regional Trustee to replace Vic P. Marty W. was elected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot and he is from British Columbia/Yukon. The elections are an interesting procedure to watch and next year our Panel 63 delegate will have an opportunity to vote for the new East Central Regional Trustee.

Following the elections, and a break we began committee reports. This process continued until late Friday afternoon. Some committees took about 5 minutes while others went over 3 hours. Each year the sequence the committee reports are given in varies.

Committee Reports and Discussion was interrupted on Thursday afternoon by a Presentation given by Michelle Mirza, the archives director. She is the 5<sup>th</sup> archivist in the history of A.A. I wish I had the pictures that accompanied her presentation. In her presentation she hoped to demonstrate how connections to our past are important to



developing and maintaining our sense of place, purpose and connectedness. After breaks for dinner and coffee we concluded committee reports for the day at 11:45 pm.

The committee reports (except for conclusion of the literature committee report – we were waiting for copies of “Living Sober” with changes identified to be printed and delivered to the hotel) ended about 11:30 am. on Friday. We then began discussion on the General Service Board Motion regarding Grapevine. After a lunch break that discussion ended at 3:30 pm. If you would like to see the flow of discussion and amendments please see me but the advisory action adopted follows later in this report. We returned to complete the literature committee report which ended at 4:30 pm. We then moved to Floor actions. There were 7 but only one resulted in an advisory action.

At 7:10 pm. we began farewells by rotating delegates. As I lined up with the other Panel 61's I experienced a gamut of emotions. I thought I would make it through saying something until it came time to open my mouth and the tears started. One thing I do know is A.A. Is in good hands. After some brief closing remarks from Ward Ewing the 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference adjourned at 9:03 pm. and closed with the Serenity Prayer recited in French, Spanish and in English.

I went for a late dinner with delegates from several areas and had another very expensive hamburger in the hotel dining room. Saturday morning we had a closing Brunch at 8:00 am. followed by farewell talks from rotating trustees, Ken B., and Vic P. We also heard from the two observers from India. After other farewells and final announcements the conference was officially over.

Next years conference will be held at the Crown Plaza – Times Square in New York City. The dates are April 21-27, 2013.

Nancy H., Area 75 Delegate, Panel 61

If you would like more information on any item or the conference in general please email me. [delegate@area75.org](mailto:delegate@area75.org)

**NOTE:** These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports.

### **CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 62<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

#### **Motion**

It was recommended that:

1. The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

### **Floor Action**

It was recommended that:

2. The limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

- ***Agenda***

It was recommended that:

3. The theme for the 2013 General Service Conference be: "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action."
4. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference:

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- ⤴ The Triangle – More Than a Shape
- ⤴ The General Service Conference Inventory – Why is it Necessary?
- ⤴ Self-Support – What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?
- ⤴ Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message

5. 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

- Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall

- Reflecting on Concept One, how does the Conference ensure that it is the conscience of A.A. as a whole?
- How well is the use of floor actions serving us?
- Reflecting on Concept Ten, how well is the authority of the Conference

defined?

- 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

- ⤴ 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

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

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

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

## ^ 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

- ^ Reflecting on Concept Four, how effective are we in treating all Conference members as equals (no one regarded as second class)?
- ^ Reflecting on Concept Five, how well does the Conference facilitate the hearing and resolution of minority appeals/report? How could it be improved?
- ^ 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?
- ^ 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

- ^ How well is the message of the Conference theme being carried out throughout the year?
- ^ 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)

- ⤴ 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?
- ⤴ Does the current role of the board most effectively address the needs of the Fellowship? If not, how should their role be changed?
- ⤴ Is the selection/election process for trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would you change it?

◦ Leadership

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

2015

⤴ Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall

- Reflecting on Concept Two, how can we better serve as the actual voice and be an effective conscience for our whole society?
- Reflecting on Concept Three, how can we effectively balance the freedoms and responsibilities that come with the right of decision?
- 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.)

- △ 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?

◦ Leadership

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

**Archives**<sup>1</sup>

No recommendations.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

- **Cooperation With the Professional Community**

It was recommended that:

6. 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.’ Nonalcoholic 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.”

7. 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.

- **Corrections**

It was recommended that:

8. The revised draft pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” be approved.

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

- ✦ Replace the first paragraph under the section “Release and paroles” with the following paragraph:

One point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are 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 for groups that meet while in custody shows that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life, both while in custody and after release.

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

- ✦ 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.



10. The trustees' Corrections Committee develop a draft replacement for the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" to be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections.

- ***Finance***

It was recommended that:

11. The annual delegate's contribution be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600.

- ***Grapevine***

It was recommended that:

12. AA Grapevine, Inc. move forward with an audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
13. 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.

### **International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>**

No recommendations.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

- ***Literature***

It was recommended that:

14. The revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" be approved.

15. The short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be added to the book *As Bill Sees It*.
16. The final revision of the *Living Sober* booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved with minor editorial changes.
17. The pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be revised, and requested that the trustees' Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

- ***Policy/Admissions***

It was recommended that:

18. Satander B and Daler M from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference as observers.
19. Roger B alternate delegate, Area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, be seated as a Conference member at the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference because Estelle F, Panel 61 delegate for Area 89, is unable to attend.
20. The 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2015 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.
21. 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.

- ***Public Information***

It was recommended that:

22. 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.
23. The video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits.

24. 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.
25. The revised "Anonymity Wallet Card" be approved.

- **Report and Charter**

It was recommended that:

26. 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.
27. 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."

28. The current illustration on page S16 be modified in the following manner:
  - ✦ Replacing the bottom section of the illustration that deals with the General Service Board and its two operating corporations with the corresponding section from a previous version, minus the table-and-chair graphic.
  - ✦ Changing "District Committees" to "Districts."

- **Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities**

No recommendations.

- **Trustees**

It was recommended that:

29. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2012:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE  
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.  
Corliss Burke, B.Ed.  
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.

Class B Trustees

Rod B  
Donald C  
Nancy H  
Barbara K

The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores  
John Fromson, M.D.  
Michele Grinberg, J.D.

Roberta L  
J. Gary L  
George G. M  
Don M  
Don M  
Eleanor W. N  
Pamela R  
Clayton V  
Andrew W  
Marty W

30. The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson  
First vice-chairperson  
Second vice-chairperson  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Ward B. Ewing, D.D.  
Pamela R  
Michele Grinberg, J.D.  
Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE  
EI N

31. The January 2012 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

Assistant Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary

Donald W. Meurer  
Rick W

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

32. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2012:

Andrea G. B  
Rod B  
Joe D  
Phyllis A. H  
Roberta L

J. Gary L  
George M  
William N  
Rick W

33. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2012:

Ami B  
Donald C

Clayton V  
Albin Z

Michele Grinberg, J.D.  
Nancy H  
Don M

[vacancy]  
[vacancy]

**NOTE:** The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Bylaws state that its board shall be comprised of “no less than seven (7) and no more than ten (10) directors.”

April 2012

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## **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS**

*Advisory Action 40 of the 1990 General Service Conference states: “Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section of the Final Report.” All items, listed by committee, are as follows:*

### **Conference Agenda Committee**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

### **Conference Committee on Archives<sup>1</sup>**

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.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

### **Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community**

- ⤴ 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:

- ⤴ The list of suggested existing materials seemed limited and was already available on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site.
- ⤴ When communicating with professionals, it is often most helpful to have material that is specific to a particular profession.
- ⤴ 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:
  - 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.”
  - 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.

### **Committee on Corrections**

- ⤴ 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.

### **Conference Committee on Finance**

- ⤴ 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.

### **Conference Committee on Grapevine**

- ⤴ 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.
- ⤴ Relationships in Sobriety (working title)  
A collection of stories on the topic of relationships previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
- ⤴ 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.
- ⤴ Daily Grapevine  
365 inspirational passages as originally published in GV's thought of the day in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
- ⤴ 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.
- ⤴ The Best of La Viña II  
Collection of Spanish language original stories (not translations) previously published in La Viña magazine.
- ⤴ 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.

### **Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>**

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2025 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.
- ⤴ 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](http://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.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

## **Conference Literature Committee**

- ⤴ 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.

## **Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions**

- ⤴ 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.

## **Conference Committee on Public Information**

- ⤴ 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 Facebook 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.

### **Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

- ⤴ 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*.

### **Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

9. 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.

10. 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.

### • **Conference Committee on Trustees**

✧ The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B Trustee candidates for the West Central and Western Canada Regions.

✧ The committee reviewed and accepted the report from the trustees’ Committee on Nominating on the Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate noting that, as requested, the report solely addressed the admission of slates; the committee recognizes that the General Service Conference has additional authority related to the General Service Board not commented upon in the report.

✧ The committee strongly suggested that the practice of including the operating corporation board slates (A.A.W.S. and Grapevine) on the General Service Conference agenda be continued.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

### Conference Committee on Corrections

- ⤴ 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 \$75,000.

### Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee reviewed the current \$3,000 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and recommended that the annual limit on contributions be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
- The committee reviewed the current \$3,000 dollar limit one time bequests and recommended that the limit on one-time bequests be increased from \$3,000 to \$25,000.
- The Conference Finance Committee reviewed the background presented and past Conference actions and recommended that La Viña become self-supporting within three years beginning January 1, 2013. If La Viña has not become self-supporting by December 31, 2015, General Service Board funding will cease.

### Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

- ⤴ The committee reviewed the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* and recommended that one line of 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 \$9,000.00.
- ⤴ 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 Need-Accessibilities bring a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.

## FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT

## RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

- ⤴ I request to develop a pamphlet for the Alcoholic with Mental Illness. **(Withdrawn by submitter)**
- ⤴ 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? 2013 Section G Question #3 **(Conference voted not to consider)**
- ⤴ GSC recommends that the General Service Board form a subcommittee comprised of all stakeholders to develop a plan to address publication, distribution and finances of La Vina with the objective of self-support by 12/31/15. **(Not approved)**
- ⤴ 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. **(Not approved)**
- ⤴ That the pamphlet "A.A. and The Armed Services" include the subtitle "none left behind." **(Not approved)**
- ⤴ This body form an A.A.W.S. Committee to allow this motion to be heard by a committee before coming to the floor for approval. **(Conference voted not to consider) (Note: this was in reference to the Grapevine motion that was made by the General Service Board)**

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Randy R.

No Report

### **ALT CHAIR / DARK DISTRICT**—Lee Ann F.

No Report

### **ARCHIVIST REPORT**—Nancy S.

No Report

### **ARCHIVE CHAIR** – David K.

No report.

### **CPC CHAIR** – Brent W.

See PI report.

### **CORRECTIONS CHAIR – Ken N.**

This was one of the most informative meetings we've had in a long time.

There were 20 people that attended along with two past Delegate's Bob B. and John B., and there was much concern about requirements about going into correction facility's. The corrections committee would like to see a uniform requirement for all facilities. But we don't think this will happen.

We gave Iowa County jail 10 Big books and informed the committee that literature is available for outside sponsors when needed if there's enough money in the fund.

There was talk about the Wisconsin/ UP corrections conference coming up in June 23 in Montello, WI. Anyone interested in corrections should attended.

All in all it was a very good meeting.

Your trusted servant.

Ken N. Area75

### **PI CHAIR – Barb W.**

#### May 5, 2012 PI/CPC Committees Meeting

##### Attendees:

Jim W.	District 7 CPC Chair
Shelley I.	District 31 PI/CPC Chair
Dan M.	District 6 CPC Chair
Brent W.	Area 75 CPC Chair
Mary M.	District 7 PI Chair
Steve N.	District 17 CPC Chair
Sue M.	District 30 DCM
Hawk M	District 32/33 CPC
Al B	Area 75 Web Master
Marcy J.	District 20 CPC Committee Member
Will S.	District 20 PI
Barb W.	Area 75 PI Chair
Jim B	Dist 30, past PI Chair
Clare	
Jane	

The meeting started out with introductions, then moved to round table discussion. The topics covered include:



#### District 7:

- Their goal is visibility of AA in Kenosha.
- They have worked with tear off's and business cards with the hotline number in hospitals and waiting rooms
- Are working with a local radio station
- Have inroads into different places with literature.
- Have half dozen or so literature racks in various places in which the committee monitors

#### District 31?

PI/CPC Project – assign project leaders – different people from different towns, generates interest. Current project = pamphlet project

Ideas of places to contact

How to contact

Check off list of who gets what by category

Mailing to Distribution list asking if they've received anything, do you need more, here is how to contact us

#### District 17

Just had a "Association for Treatment Court Professional conference in which they had a table

#### District 30

Trying to get more info. Thought PI work consisted only of meeting lists.

#### District 32/33

- Discussed issues of anonymity breaks and trying to contact local reporters/editors to explain our tradition.
- Mentioned how breaking CPC into organization types and working on one at a time can give focus and keep the job from being overwhelming.
  - Religious
  - Schools
  - Media
  - Etc
- Like local meeting list
- have a direct contact list of people

#### Web Site

It is important to have district contact information on the Website, in case a meeting needs to be verified.

Lots of discussion centered around information on AA in hospitals. A suggestion was to try to get an AA person, who also works at the institution, to try to get information in, as that has been successful at the VA and in a Baraboo area hospital. If not actually educating staff, perhaps putting some literature in a rack in the ER or waiting room.

District 6

Working with UW Whitewater students. When asking for volunteers, avoids calling it work.

### **AREA WEBMASTER Allen B.**

No written report.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS CHAIR –Thomas D.**

1. The Chair went over the present 2 projects, 1) the binder for local chairpersons and 2) the additional materials for the Area 75 Website relating to special needs. Nealy R will be working on the on-line materials and Lynn G. has agreed to help with the Binder.
2. Other District Reports:
  - a. District 20 reported that they are working on a Meetings on Wheels concept – taking meetings to people unable to attend meetings because of injury, temporary disability etc. Gavin M., Chair of the District Sp. Needs Com., has developed a flyer that the Area committee discussed and which he will take to the MAICO meeting for their input and to see if they will be responsible for fielding the initial calls and referring them to the people who agree to assist in the District. A meeting for the elderly has begun at the Goodman Center.
  - b. District 29 takes meetings to people in the Mt. Carmel Nursing home who have traumatic brain injury. They utilize the Grapevine to allow for easier introduction to AA for those with brain limitations from injury and to help people past their denial.
  - c. District 32 reports that they have a short list of people who will take meetings to people who are home-bound and the hospital can also call and request people to bring a meeting.
3. The Chair of the Area 75 position was discussed and people were alerted to consider a candidacy and how to go about it.
4. Several questions were raised about accessibility at the conference. The distance between some of the sessions was raised on behalf of some people with limited mobility (maybe have some wheelchairs available) and no seats in the hallways where one could sit down and rest if they had leg fatigue issues. It was suggested that perhaps a person from the SNC could be on or be asked to give input to the Conference Committee.
5. Future concerns related to assessing the need for committees in the various districts and how the Area may assist in this process.

## **TREATMENT CHAIR – Lori S.**

On April 29th I received the Treatment report from D-13. Background checks continue to be submitted for men and women at Genesis Public Detox. There continues to be an issue with individuals with an out-of-state history. They must go through further processing. There are nightly meetings, with outside sponsors available. Thurgood Marshall has only night meetings, also with outside sponsors available. Stephan E. has rotated out as Treatment Chair. Thank you for your service. A warm welcome to the incoming chair.

### Area Conference

D-16 has reported that the Sisters-In-Arms meetings at the VA have not been going very well. The staff at the VA has been very disrespectful to our volunteers. The meeting place is constantly being changed. There is however some success.

Volunteers from D-34 are called on if necessary.

D-20 Thank You for hosting this years conference. Mendota Mental Health Facility is trying to the long-term units of the facility. More volunteers are needed, they currently have 3, 1 volunteer was turned away. Detox at Tutelgurian facility rolls right into a treatment center. Has meetings everyday at 8pm.

D-34 Menominee Falls Rogers Memorial has Speaker Meetings.

In Service,

Lori S.

Area 75 Treatment/BTG Chair

## **GRAPEVINE CHAIR – Stu E.**

Greetings. I would like to share some news about the Grapevine and about the activity of our Area 75 Grapevine Committee since our last gathering in April.

The Area 75 Grapevine Committee met on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 2:15 p.m. during the course of The Area 75 Spring Conference. Earlier in the day, the Area 75 Assembly heard the report of the Delegate on the 62nd General Service Conference. Much more Grapevine and Conference Grapevine Committee news can be found in the Delegate's Report attached to these minutes. That committee has forwarded to the Grapevine Board a suggestion to consider the publishing of up to ten more Grapevine books in 2013 and later. Specifics are contained in the Delegate's Report. No action was taken on an agenda item to incorporate the duties of current Grapevine Representatives into the duties and responsibilities of the General Service Representative, presumably doing away with the former position. The committee requested that the Grapevine Board look into the feasibility of producing one Grapevine book in American Sign Language (ASL). A plan is being developed for an audio publication by Grapevine in which members phone in and record stories for review and future publication. So, it can be said that the Grapevine and LaVina magazines and Grapevine Board are open to exploring new forms of publications which are both technologically current and meet the requested

desires of members for Grapevine and LaVina material. There were a couple of other items, but these are the highlights.

Please remember that the 7-Day Free Trial Subscription offer for digital Grapevine is still on! And please consider attending our next Area 75 Grapevine Committee meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2012 at 9 a.m. before the Area 75 Summer Service Assembly. The meeting will happen at the Madison Senior Center in Madison, WI.

Because there was so much of Grapevine's business discussed at the General Service Conference and reported at the Assembly by our delegate, the Grapevine Chair invited the Delegate to attend our committee meeting. She did and answered questions put to her by those in attendance. It should be noted that 2011 Grapevine income was positive, reflecting a profit of \$23,000 (rounded off). For 2012 Grapevine anticipates a profit of approximately \$34,000 (rounded off) and a LaVina loss of \$105,700 (rounded off). In 2011, Grapevine requested no drawdowns from the Prudent Reserve. All involved hope that the membership of Alcoholics Anonymous will help the magazine meet these goals. Your support and that of your sponsees is needed to make that happen. Grapevine and LaVina are YOUR magazines!

In addition to the above, the committee was given copies of a draft document summarizing our experience with the Area 75 Corrections Literature Fund since early 2011. A copy of the document is enclosed with this report. The Area 75 Grapevine Chair authored the document. It was shared with the Area 75 Treasurer and the Area 75 Corrections Chair next. Then the draft version was shared with the Area 75 Grapevine Committee and other members on May 5th. If any member has any input on the document before we vote to adopt or not adopt it at our next committee meeting, please come to the Grapevine Committee meeting on June 24th.

Early in 2012, some major surgery kept me from visiting many districts and events. If you would like the Area 75 Grapevine Chair to come discuss the Grapevine and LaVina at your district meeting, workshop, or other event, please contact me per the Area 75 Directory. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and A.A.

Yours in Recovery, Unity & Service,  
Stu E., Area 75 Grapevine Chair

The Area 75 Corrections Literature Fund was created by Assembly Action at the 2010 Fall Service Assembly. It combines the former Area 75 Rainbow Fund and the former Area 75 Count on Us Fund to purchase Conference-approved literature and Grapevine/LaVina subscriptions and/or materials for use in correctional institutions. Under current practice, the normal functions of the Area 75 Corrections Literature Fund are jointly overseen by the Area 75 Corrections Chair, the Area 75 Treasurer, and the Area 75 Grapevine Chair.

We have now had a year of learning since the funds were combined. With the goals of fostering greater understanding of this fund among our members and of bettering our

ability to carry A.A.'s message into correctional settings, the below is offered for your consideration and information.

Contributions to the Area 75 Corrections Literature Fund can be made by A.A. members, groups, and districts. Contributions should be directed to the Area 75 Treasurer. For more information or for answers to questions about contributing, please contact the Treasurer.

Matters concerning General Service Conference-Approved Literature for use in correctional facilities should be brought to the Area 75 Corrections Chair, who is listed in the Area 75 Directory.

For Grapevine subscriptions, it has always been hoped that local groups and districts would fund most of the Grapevine and LaVina needs for jails and prisons nearby. In some cases though, there is far more need than can be met locally. One example-- Dodge County has more prison and jail population than many other much larger counties have, with a county jail and with prisons located in Waupun and Fox Lake. There are no large cities and not that many groups in this mostly rural county. And it is not the only locality with many inmates compared to a small number of groups. In cases like these, the Area 75 Corrections Literature Fund can help fill the need. Remember--we ALL share a responsibility to be sure the hand of A.A. is there when anyone reaches out. In order to provide Grapevine subscriptions paid for by the Area 75 Corrections Literature Fund, we need a few things, which can be sent by regular mail to the Area 75 Grapevine Chair (address available in the Area 75 Directory). This should be submitted by the currently active outside sponsor for the facility or the District Corrections Chair if he/she coordinates the meetings. We need:

1. Which meetings/groups in which facility will be using the subscriptions we provide;
2. A Grapevine or LaVina subscription card (found in the magazine) filled out with a correct address;
3. Your phone number and/or email address in case we have questions.

We need this information so we can order your subscriptions, and so that we can fulfill our responsibility to the groups and districts in Area 75, ensuring that these funds are being used for their designated purpose in a Corrections setting.

In the past, some subscriptions were started or renewed as Gift Subscriptions. This has proven to be a problem at renewal time. So we are moving towards getting all renewal notices sent to the actual recipient of the subscription. That member can contact me at renewal time about renewing the subscription(s). The Treasurer, the Corrections Chair, and I are happy to answer any questions you might have about the Corrections Literature Fund. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to you and to Alcoholics Anonymous!

Yours in Recovery, Unity & Service,  
Area 75 Grapevine Chair

**ALT DELEGATE/LITERATURE CHAIR – Todd U.**

No report.

**CONFERENCE ADVISORY REPORT CHAIR** – Bob S.

No report.

**SPRING 2012 CONFERENCE CHAIR** – Nancy G. Penny R.

No report.

**SPRING 2013 CONFERENCE CHAIR** – Joel B.

No Report.

**SPRING 2014 CONFERENCE CHAIR**—Jim

No Report.

**MAICO** –Read by Nancy G.

No Report.

**Winnebago Land Central Office** –Les M.

No report.

**MILWAUKEE CENTRAL OFFICE** –

No report.

**RACINE AREA CENTRAL OFFICE**-Darrel S.

No report.

**New Business**

- Coffee Volunteers: Summer Service Assembly—June 24, 2012--
- the meeting closed 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!”***

## **Reminders:**

The elections are just around the corner (new rotation 2013) and everybody needs to be thinking/meditating/praying to find the willingness to stand and take the awesome/rewarding positions that Area 75 has to offer.

## **Upcoming dates:**

**6/24/12—Summer Service Assembly – Madison Senior Center**  
**6/29/12—7/1/12—East Central Regional Conference (ECR), Grand Rapids, MI**  
**8/10/12—8/12/12—“Additional” East Central Regional (ECR) Forum – Mt Vernon, IL**  
**10/21/12—Fall Service Assembly “ELECTIONS” - Madison Senior Center**  
**1/20/13 — Winter Service Assembly**  
**2/15/13—2/17/13—Conference of Delegates Past & Present - La Porte, IN**  
**3/17/13—Delegates Workshop**  
**4/7/13—Pre-Conference Assembly**  
**4/21/12—4/27/13—General Service Conference, NY**  
**5/17/13—5/19/13—Area 75 Conference, Janesville**  
**6/23/13—Summer Service Assembly**  
**7/19/13—7/21/13—ECR Conference, Appleton**  
**10/20/13—Fall Service Assembly**  
**11/15/13—11/17/13—ECR Forum, Fort Wayne, IN**