

# Alcoholics Anonymous – Area 75

## Conference Assembly

### Meeting Minutes

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May 16, 2015 • Holiday Inn • 625 W. Rolling Meadows Dr. • Fond du Lac, Wi. 54937

#### Officers Present:

East Central Regional Trustee – Bill F.

Drew A. – Delegate, Barb W. – Alt. Delegate/Literature, Kris C. – Chair, Katherine H. – Alt. Chair, Bob S. – Secretary, Pete W. – Treasurer, Ted B. – Alt. Treasurer

#### Standing Committee Chairpersons Present:

Brent H. – Archives, Nancy S. – Archivist, Tara H. – Corrections, Bart V. – CPC, Randy R. – Grapevine, Mike G. – PI, Wendy B. – Special Needs, Sean M. - Treatment, Chris S. – 2015 Conference, 2016 Fall Conference – Tom R., 2017 Conference – Fred K.

DCMs Present: D01 – Rosalie T., D02 - Camela S., D03 - Mary M., D06 – Cynthia S., D10 – Noe V., D12 – Diana K., D15 – Steve G., D22 – Mark M., D25 – Zach L., D27 – Jay R., D28 – Alt. Megen, D29 – Connie S., D30 – David A., D32 – Steve E., D36 – Pamela S.

#### GSRs, Alternate GSRs, District Committee Chairs, and Others Present:

Pat B., Laura C., Liz N.

#### Past Delegates Present:

Bob B., Ken G., Nancy G., George P., Nancy H., Randy R.

Kris C., Area Chairperson, opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the serenity prayer at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Barb W. read the Twelve Concepts.

Bob S., Area Secretary, took Roll Call.

#### Secretary's Report – Bob S.

The minutes from the Pre Conference Assembly were accepted with the only correction being, adding in the page numbering.

**Treasurer's Report** – Pete W.

<b>Income and Expenses</b>	
<b>01/01/2015 - 05/16/2015</b>	
Account	<b>2015</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Conference Proceeds	\$0.00
Corrections Literature Fund - In	\$1,175.78
General Contributions	\$9,562.52
<b>INCOME - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,738.30</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Alternate Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Alternate Delegate - TOTAL	\$299.99
Alternate Secretary - TOTAL	\$66.43
Alternate Treasurer - TOTAL	\$124.08
Archives Chair - TOTAL	\$147.74
Archivist - TOTAL	\$1,200.00
Area Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
CPC Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Conference Advisory Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Corrections Chair - TOTAL	\$482.78
Delegate - TOTAL	\$1,227.19
General Service Conference - TOTAL	\$1,600.00
Grapevine Chair - TOTAL	\$544.55
Overhead - TOTAL	\$1,489.34
PI Chair - TOTAL	\$117.03
Secretary - TOTAL	\$498.13
Special Needs Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Treasurer - TOTAL	\$466.24
Treatment - TOTAL	\$0.00
<b>Corrections Literature Fund Out</b>	<b>\$934.60</b>
<b>EXPENSES - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,198.10</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,540.20</b>

<b>Income and Expenses</b>	
<b>01/01/2014 - 05/16/2014</b>	
Account	<b>2014</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Conference Proceeds	\$0.00
Corrections Literature Fund - In	\$1,292.45
General Contributions	\$7,843.86
<b>INCOME - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,136.31</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Alternate Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Alternate Delegate - TOTAL	\$767.16
Alternate Secretary - TOTAL	\$0.00
Alternate Treasurer - TOTAL	\$136.12
Archives Chair - TOTAL	\$530.19
Archivist - TOTAL	\$1,200.00
Area Chair - TOTAL	\$540.66
CPC Chair - TOTAL	\$1,011.25
Conference Advisory Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Corrections Chair - TOTAL	\$424.48
Delegate - TOTAL	\$973.84
General Service Conference - TOTAL	\$1,600.00
Grapevine Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Overhead - TOTAL	\$1,414.75
PI Chair - TOTAL	\$0.00
Secretary - TOTAL	\$489.65
Special Needs Chair - TOTAL	\$237.33
Treasurer - TOTAL	\$443.16
Treatment - TOTAL	\$0.00
<b>Corrections Literature Fund Out</b>	<b>\$605.14</b>
<b>EXPENSES - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,373.73</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$1,237.42)</b>

### Budget To Actual Condensed

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent</u>	-
Alternate Chair	\$980.00	\$0.00	\$980.00	0%	
Alternate Delegate	\$2,791.70	\$299.99	\$2,491.71	11%	
Alternate Secretary	\$452.50	\$66.43	\$386.07	15%	
Alternate Treasurer	\$467.00	\$124.08	\$342.92	27%	
Archives Chair	\$1,400.00	\$147.74	\$1,252.26	11%	
Archivist	\$3,240.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,040.00	37%	
Area Chair	\$3,047.00	\$0.00	\$3,047.00	0%	
CPC Chair	\$3,115.00	\$0.00	\$3,115.00	0%	
Conference Advisory Chair	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	
Corrections Chair	\$3,660.00	\$482.78	\$3,177.22	13%	
Delegate	\$3,955.00	\$1,227.19	\$2,727.81	31%	
General Service Conference	\$5,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	29%	
Grapevine Chair	\$1,915.00	\$544.55	\$1,370.45	28%	
Overhead	\$5,231.50	\$1,489.34	\$3,742.16	28%	
PI Chair	\$1,620.00	\$117.03	\$1,502.97	7%	
Secretary	\$2,227.00	\$498.13	\$1,728.87	22%	
Special Needs Chair	\$1,419.01	\$0.00	\$1,419.01	0%	
Treasurer	\$1,735.45	\$466.24	\$1,269.21	27%	
Treatment	\$1,014.00	\$0.00	\$1,014.00	0%	
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$44,370.16</b>	<b>\$8,263.50</b>	<b>\$36,106.66</b>	<b>18.62%</b>	

<b>Account Balances</b>		<b>Account Balances</b>	
<b>As of: 5/16/2015</b>		<b>As of: 5/16/2014</b>	
Account	Current Balance	Account	Current Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Conference Funds	<b>\$8,500.00</b>	Conference Funds	<b>\$9,246.31</b>
<b>Operations Account</b>		<b>Operations Account</b>	
Corrections Literature	\$1,294.44	Corrections Literature	\$2,701.34
General Funds	\$4,365.18	General Funds	\$453.92
Prudent Reserve	\$3,000.00	Prudent Reserve	\$3,750.00
<b>Operations Account - Total</b>	<b>\$8,659.62</b>	<b>Operations Account - Total</b>	<b>\$6,905.26</b>
<b>Bank Accounts - Total</b>	<b>\$17,159.62</b>	<b>Bank Accounts - Total</b>	<b>\$16,151.57</b>
<b>Assets</b>		<b>Assets</b>	
Area Conferences		Area Conferences	
2015 Conference	\$1,500.00	2014 Conference	\$2,500.00
2016 Conference	\$2,000.00	2015 Conference	\$500.00
2016 Fall Conference	\$500.00	2016 Conference	\$1,000.00
Area Conferences - Total	\$4,000.00	Area Conferences - Total	\$4,000.00
<b>Assets - Total</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>Assets - Total</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,159.62</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,151.57</b>

**ECR Hospitality Suite Contributions**

**District**

4/12/2015	\$199.00	Area Assembly	
4/17/2015	\$13.00	Courage to Change	36
5/3/2015	\$20.00	Group 60	29

Total  
\$232.00

**Delegate's Report** – Drew A.

6/29/2015

The 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference of A.A. was held April 19 – 25, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Times Square in New York, NY. I served on the Conference Committee on Trustees.

There were 134 voting members of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. The 93 delegates comprised 69.4% of the voting members. 26 trustees and directors comprised 19.4% and 15 G.S.O. and Grapevine staff comprised the remaining 11.2%.

Of the 93 delegates who responded: the average age was 57, Oldest was 78, Youngest 32, Average length of sobriety was 22 years, Longest – 42 years, Shortest – 8 years, Average length of service – 18 years, Longest – 37 years and shortest – 5 years.

Attending the General Service Conference and serving as your Delegate was an incredible experience. Words cannot express my gratitude for this amazing experience. I will never forget walking into the main hall and seeing the banner for the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference for the first time, hearing my name called during roll call or tearing up when previewing the new P.S.A. video Doors. The entire week can be summed up for me as simply awe-inspiring.

The Conference opened on Sunday April 19, 2015 with sessions running from morning to evening Sunday through Friday. The opening day featured roll call, a keynote address, an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting. Business sessions included committee meetings, presentations, sharing sessions, and new trustee elections. (As a member of the trustees committee, I was privileged to have the opportunity to participate in the election of two regional trustees.) This year was the third and final year of the conference inventory. The week also included a visit to the G.S.O. offices. On Saturday morning, the rotating Trustees gave farewell talks.

Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) 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 trustees committee was able to finish our work without any late night sessions.

The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions. Two and a half days were devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations as well as discussion of the additional considerations.

The balance of my report is broken into three sections. Recommendations made by the conference committees, additional considerations made by the conference committees and floor actions.

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

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

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

There were six floor actions during the 65th GSC. Floor actions are handled after the completion of all other Conference business on Friday. They can be made at any time during the Conference, they are voiced and submitted in writing, and they are disposed of as VOTE NOT TO CONSIDER, PASSED, FAILED, or WITHDRAWN BY SUBMITTER. The presenter is given two minutes when the floor action comes up for consideration to present his/her motion. After this presentation the chair asked for a motion to decline to consider. If that motion was made and seconded then a vote was taken – if the motion to decline did not receive a 2/3 majority vote then the motion went to the floor for debate.

My report will be a brief summary of the recommendations, committee considerations, and floor actions that were presented. For the full text of the committee recommendations and actions, I refer you to the final report that will come out later this year.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Agenda**

It was recommended that:

A. The theme for the 2016 General Service Conference be: “Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts.”

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

B. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2016 General Service Conference:

1. Connecting With the Newcomer:
  - a. All Inclusive – Never Exclusive
  - b. Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer – Are We Going to Any Length?
  - c. Home Group – Where It Begins
2. Connecting With Each Other:
  - a. Singleness of Purpose – Staying Pertinent in a Changing World
  - b. Informed Group Conscience – The Key to Unity

- c. Be Involved, Be Inspired, Be of Service
  3. Connecting With A.A. as a Whole:
    - a. Participating in All of A.A.
    - b. Understanding Self-Support
    - c. Reaching Out to the Next Generation of A.A.s
- Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

C. The following be the workshop topic for the 2016 General Service Conference: “Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation.”

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

### **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**

No recommendations.

### **Corrections**

No recommendations.

### **Finance**

It was recommended that:

A. The maximum annual limit contribution to the General Service Board can receive from an A.A. member from \$3000 to \$5000.

Motion failed. Yes – 67, No – 59, failed to achieve substantial unanimity. I voted against.

B. Phase 1 of the G.S.O. proposed plan (February 5, 2015) to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French be implemented beginning with the 2016, 66th General Service Conference.

At minimum the following items will be included:

- Welcome correspondence to new panel delegates
  - Letter
  - Memo to a Delegate from a Delegate, The Role of the Delegate
- Communications Kit (71 pages total)
- Committee Material:
  - Agenda 1-3 pages per committee
  - Composition, Scope and Procedures for 13 committees (17 pages total)
  - History and Actions of 13 committees (484 pages total)
- Pre-Conference documents
  - Board reports (G.S.B., A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine)

- Trustee committee reports
- Conference Kit

This initial phase of translations would be coordinated by G.S.O. departments, including staff and Publishing department personnel. Costs currently estimated by G.S.O. for the initial phase would be included in the G.S.O./A.A.W.S. budget at approximately \$80-120,000 for the year. Actual cost may be higher or lower upon receiving competitive bids.

Motion passed. Yes – 107, No – 22. I voted in favor. Motion to reconsider followed by lengthy discussion, many attempted amendments, and then finally a second vote where the motion passed Yes 104, No – 25. Voted for.

C. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describes the process and costs, including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

This recommendation was amended several times from what the committee originally put forth.

Motion originally failed. Yes – 81, No- 43. I voted in favor. Motion to reconsider successful. More amendments. Motion ultimately passes as presented above with a vote of Yes – 113, No – 18. I voted in favor.

### **Grapevine**

It was recommended that:

- A. The revised pamphlet "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" be approved.  
Motion passed Yes – 104, No – 26. I voted in favor.

### **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:

- A1. The revised draft pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Service Agencies," with the revised title "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services," be approved with minor corrections.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

- A2. That the draft text for the section of the "A.A. Grapevine, Inc." in "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship" be changed from:

A.A. Grapevine, Inc., while not a service agency, is a separate corporation with its own board, which is under the guidance of the trustees. A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is responsible for publishing the print magazines Grapevine and La Viña, the Website, books, audio and other products to carry the A.A. message to U.S., Canada and beyond.

To:

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is a separate corporation with its own board that is under the guidance of the trustees. A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is responsible for publishing the print magazines Grapevine and La Viña, the A.A. Grapevine website, books, audio and other products to carry the A.A. message worldwide.

Motion failed to achieve substantial unanimity. I voted against.

A3 A comprehensive revision to the retitled pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services," be undertaken by the trustees' Literature Committee, to better reflect the full range of A.A. services, and that a fully revised draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2016 General Service Conference.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

B. The revised pamphlet "Your A.A. General Service Office" be approved with minor corrections. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

C. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. The committee requested that the title of the pamphlet be revised to reflect this broader scope and that a draft revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

D. The trustees' Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues. The committee requested that a wide range of A.A. recovery experience be gathered from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members for inclusion in literature on this topic. The committee requested that a progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Motion passed. Motion passed with substantial unanimity. A count of the votes was requested and the results of the hand count were Yes – 99, No – 11. I voted in favor.

E. The pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A., and suggested inclusion of stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds. The committee requested that a draft revised pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

### **Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

A. The 68th General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2018, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

B. The policy regarding General Service Conference audio recordings, which reads:  
Tapes of Conference presentations not be made available, affirming the 1979 General Service Board recommendation which prohibits making tapes of any Conference session for distribution outside of the A.A. Archives, except for the opening and the closing brunch.

Be revised as follows:

Audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations published in the General Service Conference *Final Report* and audio recordings of the trustees' farewell talks given at the closing brunch be made available in accordance with Archives' Policies. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

### **Public Information**

It was recommended that:

A1. The video public service announcement, "Doors," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with the following change: Rerecord the dialog voice-overs using professional voice actors in English, Spanish and French, removing any sense that the voices are recorded phone calls, at a cost not to exceed \$24,000.

Motion failed Yes – 77, No – 52. Motion to reconsider. Much discussion. Motion passes with substantial unanimity. Voted in favor.

A2. The video public service announcement, "Doors" 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 2016 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

Motion passes with substantial unanimity. Voted in favor.

B. The video public service announcements "A Force of Nature" and "Testimonials" be discontinued.

Motion passes with substantial unanimity. Voted in favor.

C. The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2014 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor edits.

Motion passes with substantial unanimity. Voted in favor.

D. In light of the potential for continuing to improve the relevance and usefulness of the aa.org website on a timely basis, the A.A.W.S. Board be authorized to produce and post audio/video service material on the aa.org website provided the following conditions are met:

- Audio/video service material produced via this process provides information already available on aa.org;

- Proposed audio/video service material is for posting on aa.org only (audio/video items produced for distribution beyond the aa.org website will continue to require Conference review and approval);
- Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed for content by an appropriate trustees' committee prior to posting - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to forwarding to the A.A.W.S. Board;
- Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed and approved for posting by the A.A.W.S. Board - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to posting.

Motion passes with substantial unanimity. Voted in favor.

### **Report and Charter**

It was recommended that:

A1.1. The following paragraph be edited for stylistic consistency and incorporated into Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

“The Trustees’ Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending to the General Service Board candidates for General Service Trustee, Class A Trustee, and nontrustee director. The candidates approved by the General Service Board are subject to the approval of the General Service Conference. The Trustees Nominating Committee receives advice from and consults with the A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine boards with respect to potential General Service Trustees, nontrustee directors, and Regional Trustees to serve on the respective boards. The Trustees Nominating Committee also recommends a slate of trustees to serve as officers of the General Service Board.”

Motion passed. Yes – 101, No – 28. I voted in favor.

A1.2. Under NOMINATION PROCEDURE in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the first paragraph that currently reads:

“General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards, and it has been the privilege of those boards to propose the name of a candidate to represent them on the General Service Board.”

Be revised to read (deleting the final phrase):

“General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards.”

Motion passed. Yes – 120, No – 7. I voted in favor.

A1.3. Under NOMINATING in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following sentence be inserted to begin the description of the trustees’ Nominating Committee:

“Reviews procedures for selection of candidates.”

Motion passed. Yes – 124, No – 4. I voted in favor.

A1.4. Under **Choosing Nontrustee Directors** in Chapter 10 (The Board's Operating Corporations) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the second paragraph that currently begins:

"The nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received."

Be revised to read (text addition in **bold**):

"**Working in concert with the trustees' Nominating Committee**, the nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received."

Motion passed. Yes – 118, No – 9. I voted in favor.

A2.1. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the end of the second paragraph:

"The group information provided on these two forms is stored in G.S.O.'s database, which is accessible to the area registrar."

Motion passed. Yes – 103, No – 19. I voted in favor.

A2.2. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the beginning of the third paragraph:

"G.S.O. also uses this database to generate mailing lists for A.A. newsletters. Group information included in G.S.O.'s database may be used by areas and districts for various purposes: the delegate may use it to communicate with groups; some areas use it for their meeting locators or to generate mailing lists."

Motion passed. Yes – 118, No – 10. I voted in favor.

A2.3. The following text be added at the end of the section **District Information** in Chapter 3 (The District and the D.C.M.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

"The information provided on this form is stored in G.S.O.'s database, which is accessible to the area registrar. G.S.O.'s database also provides the capability for the area registrar to identify district officers and service chairs with local or specific information that then can be used to facilitate communication."

Motion passed. Yes – 123, No – 6. I voted in favor.

A2.4. In Chapter 5 (The Area Committee) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, a new section be added after **Financial Support** with the following text:

**"Area Information**

The outgoing delegate provides G.S.O. with contact information for all incoming area officers and committee chairs. This information is stored in G.S.O.'s database, which is also accessible to the area registrar, and is used to communicate with these officers and committee chairs throughout their rotation."

Motion passed. Yes – 94, No – 36. I voted in favor.

A3. A new subsection of the section **STIMULATING INTEREST IN GENERAL SERVICE** be added to Chapter 1 (Introduction to General Service) in *The A.A. Service Manual* with the following text:

*Reactivating districts:* Frequently, there is a need within an Area to attempt to reactivate districts or groups that have become inactive or are unrepresented. Areas encourage participation in general service in many ways, especially by direct contact with groups by district/area officers to provide

information about service events and opportunities to carry the message beyond the group level. Sometimes there is district-to-district sponsorship in which an active district shares its experience and suggestions to “jump start” activity among groups within the inactive neighboring district.

Motion passed. Yes – 110, No – 18. I voted in favor.

A4.1. A new section on “Regional Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* before the “World Service Meeting” section with the following text:

**“Regional Forums**

Regional Forums, which originated in 1975, are weekend-long sharing and informational sessions which provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. They are also designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, and A.A. Grapevine; and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers throughout the A.A. service structure. G.S.O.’s staff member on the Regional Forums assignment coordinates details for the Forum and works closely with the volunteer host chair who recruits volunteers to assist staff with hospitality, set-up and registration during the Forum. Forums are held on a rotating basis, at the request of each region. There is no registration fee for Regional Forums. The General Service Board covers the expenses of meeting rooms. As all Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing is captured in Forum Final Reports, which are distributed to all attendees, and are available on G.S.O.’s website. Regional Forums carry A.A.’s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship.”

Motion passed. Yes – 116, No – 14. I voted in favor.

A4.2. A new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* and requested that draft language be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Motion passed. Yes – 108, No – 18. I voted in favor.

B. The *Twelve Concepts for World Service* and the Twelve Concepts section of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* include the following pages in the same order as published in the 1990-1991 Edition:

- a. Title page;
- b. Copyright page;
- c. Preface;
- d. The Twelve Concepts (Short Form);
- e. The Twelve Concepts (Long Form);
- f. Contents page with short descriptions of the Twelve Concepts and page numbers;
- g. Introduction.

Motion failed. Yes – 85, No – 47. Motion to reconsider passed. Motion passed. Yes – 94, No – 39. I voted against.

C. A limited run of the A.A. Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be printed annually for purchase upon request.

Motion passed. Yes – 121, No – 12. I voted in favor.

**Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities**

No recommendations.

**Trustees**

It was recommended that:

A1. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015:

Class A Trustees

Class B Trustees (See "Note" below)

Leslie S. B., B.A.

Richard B.

Terrance M. B., FACHE

Joel C.

John F., M.D.

Joe D.

Michele G., J.D.

William (Bill) F.

Hon. Ivan L.R. L.

Yolanda F.

Peter L., Ph.D., LCSW-C

Scott H.

David M. M., C.P.A.

Ed M.

William N.

Chet P.

Richard P.

Andrew W.

Bob W.

Albin Z.

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee.

Motion passed. Yes – 102, No – 2. I voted in favor.

A2. The appointment of the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be approved at the Second Quarterly Meeting of the General Service Board in April 2015:

Chairperson

Terrance M. B., FACHE

First vice-chairperson

Michele G., J.D.

Second vice-chairperson

William N.

Treasurer David M. M., C.P.A.

Secretary Andrew W.

Motion passed. Yes – 121, No – 2. I voted in favor.

A3. The March 2015 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 2015:

Assistant Treasurer Donald W. M.

Assistant Secretary Julio E.\*

\*Will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in summer of 2015

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

Motion passed. Yes – 126, No – 1. I voted in favor.

B. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2015:

Carole B. Phyllis H.

Richard B. David N.

Beau B. William N.

Joe Downey Chet P.

Julio E.\*

\*Will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in summer of 2015.

Motion passed. Yes – 124, No – 2. I voted in favor.

C. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2015:

Linda B. Ed M.

Ami B. Paz P.

Joel C. Albin Z.

William (Bill) F.

Ivan L.

Motion passed. Yes – 124, No – 6. I voted in favor.

D. The Bylaws of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as amended to comply with the New York State nonprofit law, be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015.

Motion passed. Yes – 124, No – 6. I voted in favor.

## **COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS**

### ***Agenda***

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Conference Evaluation Form and made no changes.
- The committee discussed providing the General Service Conference Evaluation Form in an anonymous digital format, in addition to the current paper format, and requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference explore this option and provide a report to the 2016 Conference Agenda Committee.
- The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the Conference with appreciation. After a thorough and lengthy discussion, the committee noted that while there were several areas of progress, the report did not fully explore the potential role that the Conference Agenda Committee might play in the selection process of Agenda items in the future. Therefore the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the Conference fully explore the potential role that the Conference Agenda Committee might play in the selection process of Agenda items in the future and provide a report to the 2016 Conference Agenda Committee.
- The committee supported the concept under consideration by the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to make trustees' Committee background available to the delegate chairperson of their corresponding Conference committee at the quarterly board weekend prior to the Conference. The committee noted that this would increase the effectiveness of the delegate chairpersons' participation in the trustees' committee meeting.
- The committee discussed adding a review of the Conference week schedule (Conference Agenda) to the standing items on the committee agenda and took no action, noting that this is not necessary as this is included in the Conference Agenda Committee's Scope.

### **Archives**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook noting minor editorial changes and a new section, “Sharing on Digital Archives,” which will provide sharing and suggestions for Archives committees.
- The committee discussed the “Shared Experiences” section in the Archives Workbook, which is refreshed every five years. The committee suggested including experience shared by local archivists and archives committees on where archives are housed, associated costs, access procedures, and description of contents.

### ***Cooperation With the Professional Community***

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With the Professional Community Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

- That changes suggested by the 2015 Cooperation With the Professional Community Conference Committee to the Cooperation With the Professional Community Workbook be forwarded to the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities for review and implementation.
- That the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities review the pamphlet, “Three Talks To Medical Societies by Bill W., Co-Founder of A.A.,” noting the 2015 Conference Committee’s concerns related to its language, outdated information and relevance to modern day medical professionals.

The committee noted that future development of material may be needed to reflect current information about A.A. to be provided to medical professionals, perhaps utilizing past and current Class A trustees.

- That the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities continue to read and review the selection of pamphlets included in the C.P.C. Kit, taking into consideration whether the current selection best supports the needs of C.P.C. Committees and professionals in terms of language and content, particularly in the following pamphlets:
  - Speaking At Non-A.A. Meetings
  - A Brief Guide To Alcoholics Anonymous
  - Is There an Alcoholic In the Workplace?
  - How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals
  - The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs

### ***Corrections***

6/29/2015

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) and requested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections consider reviewing the effectiveness of the criteria used for linking alcoholics behind the walls with outside volunteers. One specific concern is the distance requirement for correspondents participating in the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.).
- The committee discussed ways to engage members in Corrections service and noted the helpfulness of the new service piece, "Engaging A.A. Members in Corrections Work" is in this effort.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and suggested that the prison issue of the A. A. Grapevine publication, La Viña, be included in the English-language Corrections Kit.

**Finance**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and after a lengthy discussion, agreed an increase was not appropriate at this time.
- The committee received and discussed information from the A.A.W.S. Self-Support Committee, looked favorably on work to date and urged continuing efforts.
- The committee ran out of time and did not review the Self-Support packet, however, it noted it was reviewed in detail last year.

**Grapevine**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the 2015 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and requested that the Grapevine office provide an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future to the 2016 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.
- The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board's 2015 Office Report on La Viña and agreed that La Viña is published as cost effectively as possible given existing parameters and conditions. The committee agreed with the A.A. Grapevine Board's suggestion to develop and implement a communication plan that utilizes (but is not limited to) A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s newsletters, Forum presentations, and *Box 4-5-9* to clarify to the Fellowship La Viña's unique status as a hybrid entity that is at once a service to the Fellowship and is also required to strive to become self-supporting.

- The committee encouraged the support and purchase of Subscription Gift Certificates by local service committees, groups and members as a way to carry the A.A. message. These subscriptions would be used to provide magazines to people in correctional facilities, treatment centers, nursing homes, and other facilities or locations. This work would be accomplished at the local area level.
- The committee discussed ways to increase organization-wide support for Grapevine and La Viña and suggested that:
  1. Areas champion and embrace Grapevine/La Viña as the International Journals of A.A. through consistent narrative support in all relevant presentations, reports, announcements, newsletters and letters.
  2. All A.A. entities be offered the opportunity to include a GV/LV link (with or without images) on local/area websites.
  3. All areas participate in AAGV Inc.'s 2015 Subscription Challenge.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2016 or later:
  1. Armed Forces Members' AA Stories (working title)
 

Members who have served in the military share their experiences with getting sober or staying sober in AA, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
  2. Voices from Early AA (working title)
 

A collection of stories from the earliest days of Alcoholics Anonymous and Grapevine, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
- The committee reviewed the Grapevine Workbook.

### **International Conventions/Regional Forums**

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee heard reports on the upcoming 2015 International Convention:
  - Over 40,000 people have registered for the Convention so far. About half of those have pre-purchased the special 2015 Convention souvenir book, *Alcoholics Anonymous: 80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free*. The Grapevine's commemorative edition of the book, *Happy, Joyous and Free*, has also been preordered and subscriptions to the Grapevine and La Viña have been sold through the preregistration process.
  - This is the third International Convention where online registration was available. Communications have been made to insure that all attendees are prepared for the Convention experience, and understand the challenges of weather and getting around the large convention facility.

- Preparations are in place for the anonymity-protected broadcast of the Friday night Flag Ceremony.
  - The Advance Program guide has been sent to all registrants and is available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website.
  - Notices have been included in Convention material to emphasize A.A.'s Anonymity Traditions to attendees and the *Box 4-5-9* spring issue featured the article "Anonymity and the 2015 International Convention." The Convention program also includes a new panel meeting titled "Anonymity and the Convention – I get It!"
  - The Convention APP will be launched in early May for download on mobile devices.
  - New to the International Convention will be an Anonymity Booth and a "Carry the Message" pavilion featuring booths providing information on A.A.'s Cooperation With the Professional Community, Corrections, Grapevine/La Viña, Public Information, Special Needs-Accessibilities and Treatment committee service.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees, and suggested:
    - That delegates and area trusted servants communicate the value of Forum participation early and often;
    - Share with the Fellowship the easy availability of one-on-one conversations with trustees, directors and staff members that can be found at the Forums;
    - Consider utilizing A.A. Conventions and other A.A. events as opportunities to share the new Regional Forum Flyers with the Fellowship;

## **Literature**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed a suggestion to produce a book combining "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" with the "Twelve Concepts for World Service" and took no action. The committee noted that the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* are suitably placed with *The A.A. Service Manual* and in a stand-alone volume.
- The committee suggested consideration of developing a service piece on A.A. as a resource for the mental health professional.
- The committee reviewed the complete text of "The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature" and suggested that "The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature" always be included as background for the Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee suggested that the trustees' Literature Committee develop a plan for the systematic review of recovery literature and bring it to the 2016 Conference Literature Committee for its review.
- The committee suggested that a white imprint area for local use be included on the back of each pamphlet as it comes up for reprint.

## **Policy/Admissions**

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed a request for a representative from the General Service Board of A.A. in the Czech Republic to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference as an observer. In light of a recent communication from the General Service Board of the Czech Republic that their group conscience had come to a decision not to send an observer to the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, no action was necessary.
- The committee requested that, to assist the committee in its deliberations, when background for any agenda item of the committee references specific policy, that the policy referenced be included as part of the background.
- The committee considered a request that a recording of the A.A. meeting at the opening dinner of the General Service Conference be provided to each member of the General Service Conference and took no action. The committee agreed that the A.A. talks at the Opening Dinner of the Conference are enjoyable and reflect the A.A. stories of the speakers, but are not specifically focused on A.A. service.

#### ***Public Information***

#### Committee Considerations:

- While discussing the proposed video public service announcement, “Doors,” the committee expressed their appreciation for the thinking behind attempting to use already-recorded A.A. members’ stories, as both a cost-saving measure and for the purpose of authenticity.
- The committee reviewed the 2014 Annual Report from the trustees’ Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. website. The committee appreciated the inclusion of selected website analytics and looks forward to emerging clarity of how this information might be useful to A.A.’s work of carrying the message.
- The committee discussed a brief video on anonymity produced to accompany the annual Anonymity Letter to the Media, and agreed that the video is an engaging tool for communicating with the press. The committee suggested that the Intra-Office Website Committee (I.O.W.C.) explore additional pages on the aa.org website where this video might be useful, in addition to the Press/Media page, and pass along their suggestions to the A.A.W.S. Board for consideration.
- The committee reviewed the 2015 Public Information Comprehensive Media plan and expressed their appreciation for the report’s responsiveness to suggestions offered by the 2014 Conference Public Information Committee. The committee offered the following suggestions:

Refining existing tools.

Considering the immediate need for guidance on the use of social media by A.A. members, the committee asked the staff secretary to share information with all P.I. committee chairs and area delegates about existing literature that offers suggestions regarding A.A. principles and the Internet. The distribution of this information should correspond with the launch of the new Anonymity Resource Page planned for the aa.org website, which promises to be a useful tool for sharing information on this vital topic with A.A. members, the media, and the general public.

The committee also suggested that the Publishing Department develop a new section in the Public Information Workbook on the Internet and Social Media based on existing literature on the subject, with the understanding that such content may need updating as new information is gathered about online platforms.

The committee agreed with the suggestion in the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s that the Spanish video P.S.A. "Tengo Esperanza" be translated into English and French, and that the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee consider centrally distributing and tracking the new spots.

#### Exploring new forms/channels of presenting/distributing content.

The committee considered favorably the suggestion that the 2015 trustees' Public Information Committee gather information about the potential for using platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Google+ for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. The committee strongly suggested that the exploration take into consideration the still-relevant concerns regarding potential implications to our Traditions reflected in the 2012 Report of the Public Information Social Media Page Subcommittee. The committee suggested that the General Service Board explore these resources and report back to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee with consideration of the following:

- Specific benefits of using each resource for reaching the still-suffering alcoholic;
- How each platform will help the public information task of providing accurate information about what A.A. is and what it is not;
- How each platform might be utilized while still maintaining member anonymity;
- How each platform might be utilized while avoiding the appearance of promotion and still allowing our friends to recommend us;
- How user interaction with A.A. content on such platforms might avoid controversy, or the appearance of endorsement or affiliation;
- Clear distinctions between (a) public information work, and (b) general communication such as fellowship among members, and interaction between members and nonmembers;
- Information about terms of service and privacy policies;
- Information about the use of these platforms by other Twelve Step fellowships;
- Information about the local use of these platforms gathered from various parts of the A.A. Fellowship (e.g. delegate areas, intergroup/central offices, YPAAs, the National A.A. Technology Workshop and G.S.O.s outside the U.S. and Canada).

- The committee discussed a suggestion that the trustees' Public Information Committee explore a project for anonymity videos produced by A.A. members for A.A. members and agreed that emerging technologies for how member-submitted content might be gathered should be explored prior to developing a proposal for such a project. The committee asked the staff secretary to forward a list of questions and concerns to the trustees' P.I. Committee, and asked that a report or draft proposal be brought back to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee for review.
- The committee discussed how to increase A.A. member participation in local public information work, and asked the staff secretary to share a list of suggestions with the trustees' Public Information Committee and with local P.I. chairs.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook, and made the following suggestions:
  - Information about the new video on anonymity be included with information already in the Kit about annual communication with the media.
  - The committee suggested that the text on page 14 of the current P.I. Workbook be revised to reflect the current content on the F-20 Anonymity Card.
  - The committee suggested that the information on page 47 of the current P.I. Workbook regarding the G.S.O.'s A.A. website be updated to reflect the redesigned website.
  - The committee suggested that the online PDF version of the P.I. Workbook, when referencing other A.A. publications on the aa.org website, be linked digitally to those items online. The committee suggested that other service workbooks might need review for similar updates.
  - While discussing potential changes to the P.I. Kit and Workbook, the committee agreed that it would be helpful to have a way to easily identify new or updated information on the aa.org website and in printed material. The committee asked the staff secretary to share this suggestion with the A.A.W.S. Board.

## ***Report and Charter***

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual 2015-2016 Edition*, and the 2015 General Service Conference *Final Report*. The committee noted that the "Report of the 2015 General Service Conference Inventory" in the *Final Report* may take longer to prepare than the other front matter and asked to review the page proofs of the inventory report as soon as possible prior to publication.
- The committee requested the opportunity to review the page proofs of the *Final Report of the General Service Conference Inventory* prior to publication.
- The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.

- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and 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 the updates from the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions.
- The committee considered a request to include a chart in *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section “Working with Local Intergroups and Central Offices” on pages S41-S42 and took no action. The committee noted that since local intergroups and central offices are not part of the general service structure, a chart could be misleading; and that the description of this vital service provided by these local intergroup/central offices was adequately expressed in the text.
- The committee considered the complexities involved in annual production of *The A.A. Service Manual* and requested that the General Service Office consider publishing *The A.A. Service Manual* every other year and requested that a report on alternative publishing schedules, including cost considerations, be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee considered the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S. and International) and suggested that the section currently called “Online Meetings” be reviewed and possibly renamed “Online Meetings/Groups” to reflect the Twelfth Step work that some online groups carry out beyond the meetings.
- The committee considered the General Service Conference *Final Report* and suggested that the Publishing Department consider using a larger font to make the *Final Report* more accessible; and requested that a report from the Publishing Department on the feasibility of producing a large-print format of the General Service Conference *Final Report* including cost estimates be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee considered the General Service Conference *Final Report* and suggested that several items of interest be highlighted on the front cover including: “Advisory Actions,” “Area Highlights,” and “Presentations.”

### ***Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities***

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee supported the trustees’ committee’s request for the A.A.W.S. Board to consider posting contents of A.A. literature items produced in audio formats on G.S.O.’s website, aa.org.
- The committee expressed appreciation for the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department’s consideration to publish a service piece of the Twelve Concepts for World Service for ASL signing purposes.
- The committee supported the efforts of the A.A.W.S. Board to explore ways to provide electronic versions of the Workbooks and other material in the Kits to committee chairs as an alternative to

automatically mailing hard copies and noted the following:

- The committee strongly encouraged that postal mailing of printed Workbooks and other material in the Kits be the primary means of delivery.
- The committee noted that the “opt-in” measure in the welcome letter to new chairs did not reflect the intent of the 2014 Conference Committee’s Consideration and resulted in incomplete data. They suggested that a survey be taken of new chairs from the “exploratory period” who did not respond to their welcome letter to attempt to better understand the effectiveness of the electronic service material and the exploratory approach in general.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded suggestions for updates to the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded suggestions for updates to the trustees’ committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- The committee requested the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider how to better realize the commitment to make A.A. more readily available to all and suggested:
  - Focusing on the concept of overcoming barriers in accessing, receiving, and carrying the A.A. message, rather than the limiting concept of identifying “special needs” and to consider how this change might be reflected in the trustees’ committee scope.
  - Changing all references to “Special Needs-Accessibilities” to “Accessibilities,” including the trustees’ and Conference Committee names.
  - Revising the Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook with a particular focus on emphasizing solutions to overcoming barriers.
  - Reorganizing the Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook to include the following sections: 1) Accessing the A.A. Message 2) Receiving the A.A. Message 3) Carrying the A.A. Message. Each section might include shared experience for overcoming barriers.

## ***Trustees***

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the Northeast and Southwest regional trustees and the trustee-at-large/Canada.

- Reflecting on the importance of Concept XI, the committee encouraged the General Service Board and A.A. Fellowship to identify, attract and recruit in a timely manner, a diverse, competent and qualified pool of candidates to serve as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, Class B (alcoholic) trustees, nontrustee directors and appointed committee members on trustees' committees.

## **FLOOR ACTIONS**

### Floor Action #1

During reprints of Conference-approved literature and service materials, consider adding "aa.org" wherever the General Service Office contact information, such as and/or phone number are listed.

Motion was withdrawn.

### Floor Action #2

That Section 12 of the Bylaws of the General Service Board be amended to state "The number of member trustees constituting the entire membership shall be twenty-one, except as otherwise provided herein."

Motion was withdrawn.

### Floor Action #3

That the following text be added in Chapter Six of the Service Manual as the final bullet point under duties:

"The outgoing delegate provides G.S.O. with contact information for all incoming area officers and committee chairs."

Motion failed. Voted for.

### Floor Action #4

Produce a book combining the Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Motion failed. Voted against.

### Floor Action #5

Beginning with the 2016 General Service Conference, all general session voting will be done electronically.

Motion withdrawn

### Floor Action #6

Rescind the previous advisory action that reads:

The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describes the process and costs including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

And replaced with:

With a target date of 2018, the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions and Finance that describes the process and costs including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

Motion failed. Yes – 53, No – 78. Voted against.

**Chairperson's Report** – Kris C.

No written report

**Alternate Chair/Dark District Report** – Katherine H.

No written report

**Archive Report** – Brent H.

No written report

**CPC Report** – Bart V.

No written report

**Corrections Report** – Tara H.

No written report

**PI Report** – Mike G.

No written report

**Special Needs Report** – Wendy B.

No written report

**Treatment Report** – Sean M.

No written report

**Grapevine Report** – Randy R.

No written report

**Alternate Delegate/Literature Report** – Barb W.

Literature Committee Report – May 16, 2015

The committee discussed some of the duties of the Literature Committee, including keeping the fellowship informed of literature published by the AAWS, new titles available in digital format, upcoming changes to existing literature and new, developing literature.

We talked about the value of pamphlets in general, as there had been a lot of discussion questioning the need for more pamphlets. Comments had been made that seeing diverse pamphlets on display, even if they are not picked up and actually read can help people feel welcome. Pamphlets are reviewed on line. Also, there were statistics given at the General Service Conference, specifically about the "A.A for the Woman" pamphlet regarding purchases & internet hits that clearly show there is demand for the pamphlet. It would be nice to have similar internet statistics for other pamphlets.

We reviewed 2 pamphlets for possible updates. We found both pamphlets to be very good and applicable, with perhaps a couple of updates as noted below

This is AA - An introduction to the AA Recovery Program

On page 7, second paragraph, third line: A.A is only in 150 countries?

On page 19, in the section "Where to find A.A." add [www.AA.org](http://www.AA.org) and local internet

Do you think you're Different

Since there are so many pamphlets for different groups, no updates are needed.

Kind Regards,  
Barb W.  
Literature Chair

### **Finance Committee Report** – Pete W.

Members present: Pete W., Ted B., Nancy G., George P. & Les M.

Members absent: Rebecca B.

The Committee met Saturday May 16 at 2:00pm, in Room 148 at the Fond du Lac Holiday Inn, during the Area 75 Conference. First order of business was to elect a chairman of the Finance Committee. Nancy G. nominated Pete W.; the nomination was seconded and unanimously approved as chair.

Next order of business was to review and approve the expenses year to date.

Discussion was then held concerning a couple of questions asked by the Conference Committee. The first question concerned who was responsible for paying for translators for the Conference. Consensus was that the Area would pay

for translators during the Assembly, and the Conference was responsible for the remainder. The Conference Advisory Committee may look at the issue also.

The second question regarding disposition of unused "Bill W. Fund" monies was referred to the Conference Advisory Committee.

Lastly, Ted B. presented the committee with some new PDF forms for Expense Reports, Proposals, & Contributions, to review for possible future use.

Adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter W., Area 75 Treasurer

### **Dist. 29 DCM Report**

District 29 Report for the Summer Assembly at the Area 75 Conference:

DCM: Connie S.

District 29 is in the southwest portion of Milwaukee County and is bounded to the east by 27<sup>th</sup> Street and to the north by W. Lincoln Avenue, to the south by the Racine-Milwaukee County Line and to the west by the Waukesha-Milwaukee County Line. Our district includes the Pass It On Club. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7pm at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 2840 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St., West Allis. Out of 52 groups in the district, 18 have GSRs. Typical District meeting attendance is right around 20. We still need to have Grapevine, Literature and Special Needs Chairs. We have a Round Robin meeting every other month on the second Sunday of that month at Emanuel United Church of Christ in Hales Corners which is hosted by one of the District groups. It is an open speaker meeting. Our next meeting will be on June 14 at 7pm.

We held a District Fun Day on May 2 which was a resounding success, both in terms of spreading the message and raising funds. Attendance was in excess of 60 people, and we had a number of recovery-related activities. The committee presented a skit about choosing a sponsor in a game based on the Dating Game, showed a movie with alcoholism and recovery as the subject, and had our Area Delegate, Drew A., speak on service. The latter was very well-received and we'd like to thank Drew for his informative talk. We'll definitely do this again next year.

We are still planning a District Golf event in Big Bend followed by awards, a speaker and dinner at the Pass It On Club on June 20.

**MAICO** –

No written report

**Winnebago Land Central Office** –

No written report

**Milwaukee Central Office** –

No written report

**Racine Area Central Office** –

No written report

**Conference Advisory Report** - Nancy H.

No written report

**2015 Conference Report** – Chris S.

No written report

**Spring 2016 Conference Report** – Judith H.

No written report

**Fall 2016 Conference Report** – Tom R.

No written report

**2017 Conference Report** – Fred K.

No written report

**New Business:**

Announcements:

Wicypaa Conference 23 will be held in Madison, Wi. Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Great Lakes Area Mini-Conference will be held Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church.

**Upcoming dates:**

Summer Service Assembly – June 21, 2015, at Madison Senior Center

International Convention – July 3 – 5, 2015, Atlanta, Georgia

Fall Service Assembly – Oct. 18, 2015, at Madison Senior Center

East Central Regional Forum – Nov. 13 – 15, 2015

Conference of Delegates Past & Present, Feb. 12-14, 2016, Milwaukee, Wi.

Area 75 Conference, Spring – May 20 – 22, 2016, Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc

Area 75 Conference, Fall – Oct 21 – 23, 2016, Holiday Inn, Sheboygan

Area 75 Conference, Oct. 27 – 29, 2017, Heidel House, Green Lake

Meeting closed with Responsibility Declaration at 10:35 AM.