

# 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Committees

## *Delegate Report*

### *Conference Advisory Actions*

#### SETA Area 67

**Disclosures:** The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries are carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members in SETA can fully participate. Please do not consider them opinions of the SETA delegate. Only the section on "What the delegate needs to know" is personally from our delegate.

**Confidential:** This includes background for the 64th General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document; Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## I. AGENDA

### Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item A**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review suggestions for the theme of the 2015 General Service Conference</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | Every year the G.S.C. selects the next conferences theme; there are themes for 2015 Conference in Background Doc #1. Doc. #2 is the list of past Conference themes. Delegates select these at the G.S.C. |
| What does Delegate need to know?             | <b>This agenda topic was not assigned to a Roundtable Discussion Group at the April Area Assembly.</b>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference be: “Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future”                                     |

### Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item B**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2015 General Service Conference.</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | Presentations and Discussions for the 2015 GSC are presented in Background Doc #1 are listed and the attending members of 2014 GSC will decide which topics and discussions will be for the 2015 GSC. Doc# 2 is the list of past presentations and discussions from 1985 to 2014.   |
| What does Delegate need to know?             | <b>This agenda topic was not assigned to a Roundtable Discussion Group at the April Area Assembly.</b>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2015 General Service Conference: “Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion</li> <li>b. Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group</li> <li>c. Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology</li> <li>d. Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead</li> </ul> |

## II. COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

### Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider changes to the section, “Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities” in the pamphlet, “If You Are a Professional...”</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>Trustees’ Committee agreed to forward the following changes to the 2014 conference, from the November 3, 2013 meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On Page 5 under the heading, Proof of attendance at meeting, bullet one: change “<b>have the A.A. group secretary sign</b>” to “<b>have an A.A. member sign</b>”.</li> <li>2. On page 5, under How to Make Referrals to A.A. (Proposed changes are in <b>Bold Text</b>):<br/> <u>Currently reads</u>: “Alcoholics Anonymous is listed in most telephone directories. (Some professionals call A.A. while the person is in the office, thus giving the individual an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.) Or, you can contact the General Service of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information.”<br/><br/> <u>Revise to read</u>: “Alcoholics Anonymous <b>can be found on the Internet and</b> in most telephone directories. (Some professionals call A.A. while the person is in the office, thus giving the individual an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.) Or, you can contact the contact the General Service of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. <b>G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a> can aid in finding local resources.</b></li> </ol> <p>The CPC Subcommittee also agreed to forward the following changes from the same section to the 2014 Conference, on February 3, 2013 (Proposed changes are in <b>Bold Text</b>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <u>Currently reads</u>: Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities<br/> Today numerous A.A. members come to us from court programs and treatment facilities. Some arrive</li> </ol> |

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|                         | <p>voluntarily, others do not. A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern. Sometimes a court asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court together with a self-addressed court envelope. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance.</li> <li>• Other groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group’s involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.</li> </ul> <p><u>Revise to read:</u> Referrals From <b>Judicial, Healthcare, or Other Professionals</b><br/> Today numerous A.A. members come to us from <b>judicial programs, healthcare, or other professionals</b>. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not. A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern. Sometimes a court asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, <b>have an A.A. member sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible to return the proof of attendance.</b></li> <li>• Other groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group’s involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.</li> </ul>  |
| Delegate needs to know? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee agree with the suggested revisions? Why or Why not?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee have other ideas for modifying this pamphlet?</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>  | <p>It was recommended that: The statement in the section <i>Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities to A.A.</i> on page 4 in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” be revised to read:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Referrals From Judicial, Health Care, or Other Professionals</b></p> <p>Today numerous A.A. members come to us from <b>judicial, health care, or other professionals</b>. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.</p> <p>A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern.</p> <p>Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a <b>referral source</b> asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Groups</b> cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group’s involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.</li> <li>• Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have <b>an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance.</b></li> </ul> <p>It was recommended that: The statement in the section <i>How to Make Referrals to A.A.</i> on page 5 in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” be revised to read:</p> <p><b><i>Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a> and in most telephone directories by looking for ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’ or ‘A.A.’ (Some professionals ask the person they are referring to call the local A.A. number while still in the office, thus offering an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G.S.O.’s A.A. website <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a> can aid in finding local resources.</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">P.O. Box 459<br/> Grand Central Station<br/> New York, NY 10163<br/> (212) 870-3400<br/> <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a></p> |

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider changes to the pamphlet "AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional."</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | Trustees suggest deleting the following text: <b>"I can't stand the smoking. There are nonsmoking meetings available. Check the local meeting book for them or contact the local A.A. central office which is listed in your telephone directory."</b>  |
| What the Delegate needs to know?             | 1. Does your group, district or committee agree with the suggestion to delete this text?<br>Why or Why not?   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: On page 6 in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" the following text be deleted:<br><br><i>"I can't stand the smoking."</i><br><br><i>There are nonsmoking meetings available. Check the local meeting book for them or contact the local A.A. central office which is listed in your telephone directory.</i> |

**III. CORRECTIONS**

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider request for revisions to the section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" to be consistent with similar text in CPC literature.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | A Panel 63 delegate requested that the pamphlet be revised to be consistent with the updated language in CPC literature. At the July Trustees' Committee on Corrections board meeting, they agreed to forward to the Conference Committee on Corrections.<br><br><u>Here is the proposed change:</u> ( <b>Bolded text</b> is new language and <del>strike through</del> indicates deletions from the original)<br><br><u>What A.A. does NOT do:</u><br>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" of social agencies ( <b>although A.A. members, groups, and service offices frequently cooperate with them</b> ), follow up to try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide <del>drugs</del> <b>detox, rehabilitation</b> or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services <b>or host/sponsor retreats</b> ; 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. |
| What Delegate needs to know?                 | 1. Does your group, district or committee agree the pamphlet should be changed as recommended?<br>Why or why not?  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: The section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals," be revised to read (additional text in <b>bold</b> ):<br><br><b><i>What A.A. does NOT do</i></b><br><br>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" of social agencies ( <b>although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them</b> ); follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide <b>detox, rehabilitation</b> or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services <b>or host/sponsor retreats</b> ; 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.  |

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item B**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider the development of a new video to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" (DV-08).</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | The video is over 25 years old. The estimated cost to replace the video is \$70,000. The Trustees' Committee on Corrections felt it was warranted and forwarded the request to the Conference Committee on Corrections.<br><u>The following is a list of their suggestions:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect diversity of age, race, gender,</li> <li>Include a variety of correctional facilities,</li> <li>Provide inmate sharing consistent with A.A.'s singleness of purpose,</li> <li>Include inmate sharing on the 12 steps and A.A. literature,</li> <li>Include references to Corrections Correspondence Service [CCS] and Prerelease,</li> <li>Provide information about A. A. as a source of hope for incarcerated alcoholics,</li> <li>Revise, update service piece that is included with the video.</li> </ol> <p>The committee also acknowledged the main purpose of the video is to carry the message of Hope into those that are incarcerated. <b>Proposed draft video will be seen by Conference Corrections committee only.</b></p> |
| What the Delegate needs to know?             | 1. Does your group, district or committee agree that a new video is needed? Why or Why not?  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: A new video be developed to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.   |

**IV FINANCE**

Conference Committee: **Finance**

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| <b>Advisory Action</b><br>From the Trustees | It was recommended that: Because all Conference members are considered equal, all members should have equal access to Conference material and that a plan be created by the General Service Office to translate Conference Material (background material, Conference Manual etc.) into French and Spanish for use during the Conference, with a report being presented to the 2015 General Service Conference. This plan may include coordinating the use of the volunteer network throughout the Fellowship, hiring professional translators or any other facilities that the office deems necessary. The report should include costs and any other considerations deemed necessary to allow timely translations to occur. |
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Conference Committee: **Finance — Item A**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | The 2012 Conference recommended the Finance Committee review the delegate fee annually.<br>A few samples of the delegate fee over the years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$150 in 1969,</li> <li>\$200 in 1974,</li> <li>600 in 1989,</li> <li>800 in 1997,</li> <li>\$1,200 in 2005, and</li> <li>\$1,600 in 2012</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2013 when the conference was in NYC. The direct expense was \$903,211. Delegate fees and additional contributions totaled \$288,731, leaving a net direct cost of \$614,480.</li> <li>The 2014 Conference will be outside NYC. Estimated direct expense is \$740,500; the net direct cost is estimated at \$471,700.</li> </ol> <p>* The net direct cost is paid by the GSO. Groups make 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions to the GSO.</p> |
| What the Delegate needs to know?             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does your group, district or committee feel that the current mandatory delegate fee of \$1,600.00 that an area must pay to offset some of the full expense for a delegate to attend the General Service Conference is sufficient? Why or why not?</li> <li>If not, what is an appropriate delegate fee amount?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>   |

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item B**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review Self-Support Packet.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>The packet consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F-42 Self –Support Green Card</li> <li>• F-3 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix</li> <li>• F-96 The AA Group Treasurer</li> <li>• MG-15 A.A. Guidelines on Finance</li> <li>• Services Provided by GSO/AAWS Flyer.</li> <li>• Historical Background of the Self-Support Flyer</li> </ul> <p>Note: Suggested by the 2013 Conference Committee to add “Gratitude expressed through contributions reaches the still-suffering alcoholic.” This will be implemented on the next reprint of the F-42 Green Card.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the packet an effective tool to convey the message of Self-Support to the groups and members of the fellowship?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee have suggestions to add new items to the contents of the packets?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>   |

**V. GRAPEVINE**

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item A**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review Audio Strategy status update.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In <u>2011</u>, a Conference Advisory Action permitted the A.A. Grapevine to “utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products.”</p> <p>A part of that undertaking was the institution of an Audio Strategy, which allows members to verbally tell their stories over the phone directly to a Grapevine recording device, just as if they were at a meeting. This feature was implemented in January of <u>2013</u> and is now operational. Go to the <a href="http://AAGrapevine.org">AAGrapevine.org</a> website for instructions. These stories can then be used in Audio books, played back over the web, and an archive of audio members stories can be built up, which is similar to the archive of written members’ stories.</p> <p>Since January of <u>2013</u>, 87 audio stories have been collected, and of these, 50 have been found to be useable and have been archived for future use. The cost of this project has been <u>\$32 dollars per month</u>, and the <u>future plans are to offer these stories for sale through third-party vendors both singly \$1.30 to \$1.75 and \$9.99 for a compilation.</u></p> <p>Nine of the stories have been published on the AA Grapevine website as of 1-13-2014, and are available for free, as examples for others who wish to record their stories. This Agenda topic is a report back from the AA Grapevine to the Conference about the status of the project to date.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee agree with the current direction and future plans AA Grapevine is taking with the audio strategy? Why or Why not?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee have any new suggestions for the Audio Strategy?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>No recommendations</b>  |

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item B**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review AA Grapevine Board proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine to significantly reduce the La Viña deficit.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In 2010, the General Service Conference passed the following advisory action: "that the La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner: Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year, first year beginning in 2011, followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012.</p> <p>The results of this review and assessment were brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine; they further requested by "<i>Additional Consideration</i>" to submit the proposal to the 2014 Conference Grapevine Committee. Some of the results over the last two years (2011-2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subscriptions have increased from 8,563 (Jan, 2011) to 9,296 (Dec, 2012), an increase of 8.56%.</li> <li>• Submissions from members have increased from 204 in 2010 to 548 in 2012.</li> <li>• Net loss for 2010- \$75,480; for 2011- \$69,723; and for 2012- \$115,819.</li> </ul> <p>The financial status of the La Viña has been of some concern for quite a few years, and this year the Grapevine Board was asked to bring a proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine on how to "significantly reduce the La Viña deficit."</p> <p><u>The 2014 Grapevine Board report is as follows:</u> "Following the GV Board's comprehensive evaluation of several scenarios to significantly reduce the La Viña deficit, which included decreased frequency, fewer pages, changing paper stock or paper quality, alternate binding, black and white only, volunteer staffing, publication in Grapevine, etc., the AAGV Board concluded, that "none of these changes deliver a significant cost reduction." They also concluded that any of these scenarios could reduce the existing subscriber base.</p> <p>It has been determined that La Viña is published as cost-effectively as possible, given existing parameters and conditions. The GVB suggests that a new business plan is required in view of the existing structure restrictions."</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee feel La Viña is a valuable tool to reach the Alcoholic who still suffers?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee understand that the 2001 General Service Conference recommended that the AA Grapevine continue to publish La Viña Magazine as a service to the fellowship, with financial support from the General Service Board (The AA Service Manual chapter 12, La Viña section)? <i>Note: This is different from the Grapevine Magazine which is supported by paid subscriptions.</i></li> <li>3. Should La Viña continue to be published with spiritual parity to the AA Grapevine as described above? Why/Why not?</li> <li>4. Should La Viña continue to be published as a service to the Fellowship? Why or Why not?</li> <li>5. Does your group, district or committee have suggestions on how to increase subscriptions or reduce the deficit?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>No recommendations</b>   |

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item C**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review report from AA. Grapevine Board on feasibility of producing one book in American Sign Language (ASL).</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>This topic is from the 2013 Conference GV committee as an "Additional Consideration." Resulting in a proposal to produce a video production of "The Best Of Bill" (5 essays) in American Sign Language. The video will consist of a signer signing the essays on camera in ASL, with pre-recorded narrators reading the essays. Closed captions or subtitles will be included. Total estimated costs: \$20,900 to \$23,050, price range reflects voice options and downloadable vs. DVD. With the exception of this additional consideration, Grapevine has not received any requests for ASL format over the last five years.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does your group, district or committee feel about AA Grapevine moving forward to produce this ASL video? Is there a need for this service? Why or Why not?</li> </ol>   |
|  | <b>No recommendations</b>   |

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item D**

| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2015 and later.</b>  |
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| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In 1992 and again in 2002 the Conference passed Advisory Actions requiring the Grapevine to bring a list of any proposed new items, so that the Conference could review and perhaps provide some guidance. This year, the Grapevine is proposing four new books, and it is planned that these books would be published in both print and eBook versions. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 12 Traditions - Our Experience (working title), members share their experience with each of our 12 Traditions.</li> <li>2. Cartoon Book II - (working title), a collection of cartoons by AA Members.</li> <li>3. Special Needs - (working title), Stories by members who are wheelchair-bound, blind, deaf, ill or with other special needs. How AA reaches out to everyone.</li> <li>4. People of Color - (working title), AA members of color share their own stories of getting sober. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft Cover 180 page estimated cost to produce: \$25,000.00 per book</li> <li>• Projected Selling price: \$10.99</li> <li>• eBook estimated cost to produce: \$2000.00 per book</li> <li>• Projected Selling price: \$9.99</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Looking to produce a soft cover and eBook for each proposed title.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does your group, district or committee think about the proposed publications?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee have any additional ideas for future Grapevine books?</li> </ol>   |
|  | <b>No recommendations</b>  |

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item E**

| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine.</b>   |
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| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In the background material there are two letters from two Areas, Iowa Area 24 and NE Texas Area 65, requesting to <u>discontinue including the section “Alcoholism at Large” in the AA Grapevine and La Viña magazines.</u> This section in the Grapevine and La Viña magazine offers information that may further readers’ understanding of the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1974 it was recommended that: The “About Alcoholism” section in the “Gray Pages” of the Grapevine be continued, in order to report developments in the field of alcoholism, even though they may be contrary to AA philosophy.”</li> <li>• In 1977 it was recommended that the Grapevine “continue to publish the “About Alcoholism” section along with the disclaimer.”</li> <li>• As well as in 1983 it was recommended that the Grapevine continue to publish along with a disclaimer.</li> <li>• In 1991 it was recommended that the Grapevine discontinue publishing the “About Alcoholism” section.</li> <li>• In 2007, per an Advisory Action voted and approved by the Conference, a section on the medical, legal and social aspect of alcoholism with an appropriate disclaimer was developed and is currently published in each issue of the Grapevine and La Vina magazines. This section is called “<u>Alcoholism at Large</u>”.</li> </ul> <p>The two Areas cite that this section is an outside issue, is violating traditions and Grapevines guidelines, thus causing subscriptions to decline.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee think the section “Alcoholism at Large” violates any of our traditions? If so, what traditions and why?</li> <li>2. Does you group, district or committee think that the AA Grapevine should discontinue publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section as a part of the Grapevine and La Vina magazines? Why or Why not?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>No Recommendations</b>  |



Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item F**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider a request "to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the AA Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the AA Grapevine and La Viña magazines."</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>At the 2010 General Service Conference an <u>Advisory Action</u> concerning the La Viña was passed, which read in part "It is recommended that: La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A. A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner: Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black and white, 68 page issue..."</p> <p>At the 2013 General Conference <u>two Additional Committee Considerations</u> were accepted by the Grapevine Committee concerning the La Viña. They read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "The committee requested that the GV board submit a proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine that would significantly reduce the La Viña deficit."<br/><i>And</i></li> <li>2. "The committee considered discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e., 68pages, perfect bound) and "Took no Action".</li> </ol> <p>The committee felt it needed more background regarding La Viña's financial history and information regarding what a new format would be.</p> <p>The <u>Advisory Action</u> passed in 2010, is a policy decision by the Conference to require a specific format for the La Viña, and the <u>Additional Committee Consideration</u> published in the Conference Report in 2013 seem be contradictory.</p> <p>Area 29 brought forward this agenda item for consideration, and the Trustees Conference Committee forwarded this to the Conference Committee on the Grapevine for the 2014 Conference.</p> <p>This Agenda Item would reaffirm the right of the AA Grapevine Board to make the formatting decisions concerning the La Viña (which they have for the Grapevine).</p> <p><i>Note: See Grapevine Agenda Item B, for more information on La Viña.</i></p> |
| What does Delegate need to know?             | 1. Does your group, district or committee feel the AA Grapevine Board should determine the format of La Viña, or should format decisions be made by the General Service Conference? Why or Why not?  |
|  | <b>No Recommendations</b>  |

**VI. LITERATURE**

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item A**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review the draft revised pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service."</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>This pamphlet has been basically the same since 1978, with only a few minor changes, such as adding a reference to AA's website. In January of 2012 the trustee's Committee on Literature agreed to request the General Service Conference to consider revising the entire pamphlet, and it became an agenda item at the 2012 General Service Conference.</p> <p>The 2012 GSC agreed with this and it became "Advisory Action" number 17, that the "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. The Trustees Committee on Literature has completed a draft pamphlet with the proposed revisions, and it will be presented to the Conference Literature Committee in April 2014. Because of copyright restrictions, <b>the new draft will only be available to the members of the Conference Literature Committee</b> prior to taking action.</p> |
| What the Delegate needs to know?             | <b>This agenda topic was not assigned to a Roundtable Discussion Group at the April Area Assembly.</b>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: The revised pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be approved.  |

Conference Committee: **Literature— Item B**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review revised draft of the proposed pamphlet on spirituality.</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In <u>2010</u>, the Conference Literature Committee reported out no recommendations concerning this or similar topics.</p> <p>A floor action was then made by the Delegate from Area 06, which was passed by the entire body with substantial unanimity, and which resulted in the following advisory action: “The trustees Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from the atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.”</p> <p>In <u>2013</u>, a draft was brought to the Conference Literature Committee, the final report and a draft of the proposed pamphlet. <u>The committee recommended that it be accepted and published; however it failed on the floor.</u> The draft was then recommitted back to the Trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion; in July of 2013 the Trustees’ Literature Committee forwarded the revised draft to the Publishing Department with suggestions on size, content and format.</p> <p>In February of 2014, the Trustees’ Literature Committee again reviewed the changed draft pamphlet and agreed to forward it to the 2014 General Service Conference on Literature. <b>The draft is available only to members of the Conference Literature Committee.</b> They may recommend the document to the entire Conference Body, or they may decide that it needs more work and/or revision, and send it back to the trustees ‘Literature Committee.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does you group, district or committee feel that this pamphlet is necessary?</li> <li>2. Is it important to your group, district or committee that a pamphlet on spirituality include many experiences like Native American, Jewish, Muslim, Atheist, Agnostic...etc.? Why or Why not?</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: The pamphlet on spirituality with the title “Many Paths to Spirituality” be approved.  |

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item C**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Discuss suggested change to the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated."</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>This topic came as a personal request by the Delegate from Area 87, Southwest Quebec, arising from discussion surrounding the procedure about possible changes to the 11th Tradition from the PI Committee 2013 Agenda Topic.</p> <p>The delegate is requesting to make the wording in the pamphlet consistent with the wording on page S106 of the AA Service Manual. <u>Resolution:</u> It was resolved by the 1976 General Service Conference that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the “<b>responding</b>” groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed.</p> <p><u>The proposal is for a one-word addition to “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated” pamphlet. The current wording is below, with the proposed change in <b>bold italics</b>:</u><br/> “...like the Twelve Steps and The Twelve Traditions-be changed only by “written consent of three-quarters of all <b>responding</b> A.A. groups in the World!”.</p> <p>It is suggested to add “<b>responding</b>” to the last sentence of the first paragraph of Concept 12 in the pamphlet “Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated” . (Page 8)</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does your group, district or committee feel about this proposal?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee feel the additional word changes the intent or is this simply clarification of the process?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>   |

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item D**

| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Discuss suggested changes to the pamphlet “Questions &amp; Answers on Sponsorship.”</b>   |
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| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In 2013 there were multiple Area, District and Member requests for changes to the pamphlet, “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” Due to the scope of the suggestions, in July 2013 Trustees’ Committee on Literature Chair appointed a sub-committee to review suggestions. They thoroughly reviewed and discussed the multiple requests for changes to the pamphlet and made their final recommendations at the February 1, 2014 Trustees’ meeting.</p> <p>The Trustees’ Committee on Literature Subcommittee put forth the following <u>four</u> suggested changes to the pamphlet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>In the section titled "What does a sponsor do and not do?" on page 13-15 change:</u><br/> <u>From:</u> "Suggests keeping an open mind about AA if the newcomer isn't sure at first whether he or she is an alcoholic."<br/> <u>To:</u> "Talk about your alcoholism, and in doing so, the member can decide, whether he or she is, in fact, alcoholic."</li> <li>2. <u>In section titled "What does a sponsor do and not do?" on page 13-15 change:</u><br/> <u>From:</u> "Goes over the meaning of the Twelve Steps, and emphasizes their importance."<br/> <u>To:</u> "Takes the newcomer through the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, and emphasizes the importance of applying these to all of one's affairs."</li> <li>3. <u>In the section titled "What does a sponsor do and not do?" on page 13-15 change:</u><br/> <u>From:</u> "Never takes the newcomer's inventory except when asked."<br/> <u>To:</u> "The sponsor may reflect back to the newcomer how that newcomer's actions might affect those around them-or themselves-when warranted."</li> </ol>   |
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <u>In the section titled, "When newcomers resist 'the spiritual' side of the program, what can sponsors do?"</u><br/> <b>Change:</b><br/> <u>From:</u> First of all, we can relax and remember that sponsorship does not mean forcing any specific interpretation of A.A. upon newcomers. Most men and women who have been in A.A. for more than a few months recognize that its program is based on spiritual principles. At the same time, they appreciate that alcoholics have been able to achieve and maintain sobriety without any belief in a personal Higher Power.<br/><br/>                     Perhaps the sponsor might point out the distinction between the words "spiritual" and "religious."<br/>                     As our Preamble says, A.A. is not allied with any sect or denomination, and no sort of religious belief is required for membership - only "a desire to stop drinking." On the other hand, the help offered by our program is certainly neither material nor physical; we do not offer money or medicine - only ideas and the A.A. love of one alcoholic for another. In this sense, the entire program, rather than just a "side" of it, may be called "spiritual," and almost any newcomer can appreciate a concept so broadly defined. (A.A.W.S. copyright 1976 and 1983, printed in September 2011)<br/><br/> <u>To:</u> First of all, we can refer the newcomers to the chapter "We Agnostics" in the book Alcoholics Anonymous since it addresses this situation. Remind the newcomer that half of those who come to A.A. think they are atheists or agnostics. Initially, almost all have some kind of problem with the "spiritual" concept. Many of us had honest doubts and prejudice. However, most men and women who have been in A.A. for more than a few months recognize that its program is based on spiritual principles.<br/><br/>                     The sponsor can point out that we were faced with a dilemma; the only possible solution to our problem lay in the seeking of a power greater than ourselves. As soon as we lay aside prejudice and develop even a willingness to believe in such a power we commenced to get results. The key for the newcomer is to develop an open mind.<br/><br/>                     Perhaps the sponsor might point out the distinction between the words "spiritual" and "religious." As our Preamble says, A.A. is not allied with any sect or denomination, and no sort of religious belief is required for membership - only "a desire to stop drinking." On the other hand, the help offered by our program is certainly neither material nor physical; we do not offer money or medicine - only ideas and the A.A. love of one alcoholic for another. In this sense, the entire program, rather than just a "side" of it, may be called "spiritual," and almost any newcomer can appreciate a concept so broadly defined.</li> </ol> |
| What the Delegate needs to know?             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee think these revisions for this pamphlet are necessary?</li> <li>2. What other suggestions Does your group, district or committee feel might be needed? Why or why not?</li> </ol>   |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>  |

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item E**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Discuss suggested changes to Living Sober.</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | A new edition of the book "Living Sober" was approved by an Advisory Action at the 2012 General Service Conference. The book was published later in the year and continues to be available. In October 2013 a suggestion was sent to GSO staff on the Literature Committee from a GSR in Area 27. They requested that this item be placed on the 2014 Conference agenda "that would remove the following sentence from page 5 of the new edition of "Living Sober": " <b>Many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug alcohol: like addicts of any sort who want to maintain recovery, we have to keep away from the first dose of the drug we have become addicted to.</b> " November 2013 the Trustees' Committee on Literature agreed to forward this topic to the 2014 Conference Literature Committee. They agreed this sentence may add to confusion regarding AA's Singleness of Purpose. |
| What does Delegate need to know?             | 1. Does your group, district or committee think that this sentence should be removed from the new edition of "Living Sober"? Why or Why Not?  |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>   |

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item F**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial AA. Service mark on Conference-approved literature.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>This topic was sent by Area 64 in Jan. 2013, requesting the Conference Trustees' Literature Committee reconsider A.A.W.S. using the "The Circle and Triangle" logo. The trustees Conference Committee forwarded this item to A.A.W. S. and at their Nov. 2013 meeting they agreed to forward to the Trustees' Literature Committee. They requested that the committee consider granting the approval to use the logo with the words recovery/ unity/ service as an unofficial mark on A.A. literature, where the publishing dept. deems appropriate.</p> <p>Historically, the triangle in the circle symbol holds a significant emotional and spiritual value to many AA's. It was registered in 1955 after being accepted by the GS Conference. By 1986, many outside entities were using the symbol. In an effort to honor the 6th Tradition, AAWS began efforts to halt the use of the symbol by outside entities. The resulting conflicts were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some wanted the symbol on medallions/chips;</li> <li>• others did not want the symbol to be associated with outside entities as they felt that such use was not in keeping with our primary purpose of carrying the message;</li> <li>• the use of the logo outside of AA would be confusing to the fellowship, newcomers and the public, in terms of what is and isn't Conference-approved literature;</li> <li>• no guarantees that replicas and potential confusion will not continue to occur. Publishers who so choose, could duplicate the words and symbol on their non-AA publications.</li> </ul> <p>By 1992 and 1993, the GS Conference began to examine the dilemma. In 1993 the AAWS Board decided it would no longer oppose use of the symbol on medallions, jewelry, or other items and would continue to oppose unauthorized use of other service trademarks. After some litigation, it was decided not to pursue protection of the symbol and the registered trademark was allowed to lapse. Hence, the official use of the symbol has been eliminated. Further background information includes a detailed history of our evolving use of the logo. <i>Copyrights and other trademarks, however, continue to be actively monitored by both the AAWS and the Grapevine.</i></p> <p>In a letter of Feb 4, 2014, the GSO General Manager shares some of the considerations and questions that have arisen in relation to the concept of resuming use of the Logo. Discussions have been broad with staff and directors, and include legal counsel. The following is a snapshot of points of that discussion: We have been advised that use of the symbol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would not pose any legal concerns,</li> <li>• Would necessitate a need to determine when/where and which design would be used,</li> <li>• Might be limited to Conference approved literature (AAWS publications), and must/should be considered as a symbol, not a trademark or as endorsement of Conference-approved literature,</li> <li>• Other publishers can continue to use the symbol on their publications, and</li> <li>• The revised policy would need to be clearly communicated to the Fellowship: that the symbol, if used, represents only its "<b>historical value</b>", to remind us of our three legacies.</li> </ul> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is your group, district or committee interested in A.A. bringing back the 'Circle and Triangle' logo with the words recovery/unity/service? Why or Why not?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee understand and agree with why AA discontinued protecting the 'Circle and Triangle' symbol as one of our registered marks in 1993? Why or Why not?</li> <li>3. If the symbol is used as an unofficial AA service mark while being widely used for non-AA purposes, does your group, district or committee feel that this will cause the mark to lose its meaning and significance?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>  |

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item G**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider a request to create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p><u>1986/87</u> Advisory Actions defined “Double-Trouble” as follows. Double-trouble: alcoholic and mental illness such as schizophrenia. Double-Trouble groups are defined as groups with outside affiliations. During the mid-late 1980s the Conference advised and reaffirmed that Double-Trouble Groups not be listed in the AA Directories.</p> <p>In <u>2007</u> The Trustees Committee on Literature took no action on the request from CNCA 06 to create a pamphlet specifically for the alcoholic who suffers from grave emotional and mental disorders such as serious depressive disorder, bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia. The committee suggested that the Publications Department take into consideration the thoughtful concerns expressed in the correspondence when revising the pamphlet “The A.A. Member - Medication &amp; Other Drugs.”</p> <p>In <u>2012</u>, the General Service Conference did not approve a suggestion to develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.</p> <p>In November <u>2013</u>, BC Yukon Area submitted a proposal to produce a pamphlet for the alcoholic who suffers from mental illness for consideration at the 64th General Service Conference. From request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If passed, alcoholics suffering from mental illness may be able to read and identify with sober alcoholics who have been able to overcome barriers that mental illness often brings to recovery from alcoholism.</li> <li>• If passed, alcoholics who do not suffer from mental illness may be able to read about barriers that may exist for the mentally ill alcoholic.</li> <li>• An introduction written by a qualified professional may reduce prejudice that can be experienced by mentally ill alcoholics.</li> </ul> <p><u>A background attachment cites the following non-AA support groups:</u> Dual Recovery Anonymous, ERG: Everyone’s Recovery Groups, Double Trouble in Recovery, Dual Disorders Anonymous, Dual Diagnosis Anonymous, Schizophrenics Anonymous, Depressive Manic Depressive Association.</p> <p>The final document contains excerpts from “The A.A. Member-Medication &amp; Other Drugs” pamphlet (some of which also appears in <i>Living Sober</i>): It contains specific suggestions about medications, including how one may interact with one’s doctor. It describes “well-meaning A.A. friends” discouraging schizophrenics, manic-depressives, epileptics, and others from taking required medication.</p> <p>It also acknowledges A.A.s who have discovered the alcoholic’s tendency to misuse. “It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become re-addicted to any drug, it’s equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems.” .</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Should AA develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness? Why or Why Not?</li> <li>2. How does your group, district or committee feel about the ideas, reasons, and suggested content mentioned in the proposal?</li> <li>3. Does your group, district or committee feel that the existing pamphlets “The AA Member-Medications &amp; Other Drugs”, “AA for the alcoholic with special needs – the story about Robert” and “Living Sober” sufficiently address the issue of the alcoholic who suffers from mental illness? Why or Why not?</li> </ol>   |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>   |

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item H**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider a request to add, "Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the Primary Purpose (Blue) card.</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>This 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Agenda item was submitted by Area 67.</p> <p>A similar agenda item was submitted by Area 64 to the 2013 63rd General Service Conference. The reason for Area 64’s submission was to make the “open meeting” definition uniform in all A.A. literature. The Literature Conference Committee discussed the agenda item and recommended that <b><i>"Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers"</i></b> be added to the “open meeting” side of the Primary Purpose (Blue) Card (F-17) in all three languages, when the inventory of the English version is depleted.</p> <p>The 63<sup>rd</sup> GS Conference discussion of this recommendation ended with a split vote count: 61 members for the change and 63 members against it. A large portion of the discussion centered on 1) who is able to attend and share at an open A.A. meeting and 2) our singleness of purpose.</p> |

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|                                      | <p>Discussions regarding our singleness of purpose sometimes reflect that A.A. members are divided about our common purpose. Tradition One reminds us that "our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity". A.A. members sometime share that it does not matter what your problem is, that a drug is a drug whether it is alcohol, or a problem other than alcohol. Singleness of Purpose and who can attend and share at open A.A. meetings is an issue that may be challenging the foundation of unity outlined in our First Tradition.</p> <p>According to A.A.'s Fifth Tradition, "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." This does not mean that people who take part in A.A. meetings don't have other problems, including addiction to drugs. Rather, it reflects the understanding that it is through a singleness of purpose that A.A. can best accomplish the mission for which it was established.</p> <p>The use of a tool, like the Primary Purpose (Blue) Card F-17, at our open A.A. meetings may help our fellowship to present the same message regarding our singleness of purpose.</p> <p>Notice that the wording on the 2014 proposed agenda item "<i>Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers</i>" is slightly different than the text proposed at the 2013 GSC.</p> <p><u>The proposed change:</u></p> <p>"This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here – especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol. <i><u>Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers</u></i>"</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee agree with adding the suggested language to the end of the current statement on the Primary Purpose (Blue) card? Why or Why Not?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee feel that discussion of outside issues is affecting A.A. unity? Why or Why not?</li> </ol>  |
|                                      | <b>Did Not Pass</b>  |

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I**

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| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Approve a correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices in the Preface of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In November of 2013, the GSO Archivist informed the Publishing Director of AAWS of the need to make a correction to the text in the next reprint of the 4th Edition of the A.A. "Big Book" for accuracy. This topic was forwarded to the Trustees' Literature Committee and at the Feb. 2014 board meeting they agreed to forward it to the 2014 GS Conference Committee on Literature.</p> <p>There is now an A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of AA Literature that states: "No editorial change will be made to the first 164 pages, the Preface, the Forewords, The Doctors Opinion, Dr Bob's Nightmare and the Appendices will be made without prior Conference approval of such changes."</p> <p>The <b>current text</b> in the Fourth Edition of the A.A. "Big Book" on page xi, third paragraph first sentence reads: "The second edition added the appendices, the Twelve Traditions, and the directions for getting in touch with A.A."</p> <p>The <b>correction for the next printing</b> of the Fourth Edition would read: "The second printing of the first edition added the appendix Spiritual Experience"; in the second edition, the appendices on A.A. Tradition, the 'medical view' and 'religious view' of A.A., the Lasker Award and the information on how to contact A.A. were added, and the appendix on the Alcoholic Foundation was discontinued."<br/><i>Background material can be obtained from your District Committee member.</i></p> |
| What the Delegate needs to know?             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee feel this correction to the Preface of Fourth Edition A.A. Big Book needs to be implemented? Why or why not?</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | <p>It was recommended that: A correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices on page XI in the Preface of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> be replaced with:</p> <p>"The second printing of the first edition added the appendix 'Spiritual Experience', in the second edition, the appendices on A.A. Tradition, the 'medical view' and 'religious view' of A.A., the Lasker Award and information on how to contact A.A. were added, and the appendix on the Alcoholic Foundation was discontinued."</p>  |

Conference Committee: **Literature** —

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| <p><b>Advisory Action</b><br/>From the<br/>Committee:</p> | <p>The Conference recommended that the following recommendation be returned to the A.A.W.S. Board for review and brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on Literature with full background:</p> <p>The committee recommended that “The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature” be further clarified regarding “...needed editorial changes” as noted below by asterisk and bolded text:</p> <p>“Unless otherwise specified in the Advisory Action of the Conference approving a new or amended piece of literature, A.A. World Services, Inc. will have the full authority, without need of further Conference action to (a) select the format or formats in which the approved literature will be produced, (b) make, from time to time, needed editorial changes*; provided, however, that no editorial change will be made to the Big Book’s Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ the first 164 pages (Chapters 1-11), ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ or the Appendices without prior Conference approval of such change, and (c) translate the approved literature into any language, and in connection therewith to modify or replace illustrations, photos, and other visual art in a manner reasonably designed to conform them to the culture of the expected readership.”</p> <p><b>Editorial changes to be limited to factual, statistical, capitalization, punctuation and spelling; that any other changes made to the substance of the Conference-approved literature shall be through the Conference process.”</b></p> |
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**VII. POLICY & ADMISSIONS**

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions** — **Item B**

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| <p>Agenda Topic</p>   | <p><b>Review dates for the 2017 General Service Conference.</b></p>  |
| <p>Historical Context;<br/>Why is it on the<br/>Agenda?</p> | <p>General Service Conference dates are selected 3 years in advance, considering major holidays.<br/><i>Limited background material can be obtained from your District Committee member.</i></p> |
| <p>What does Delegate<br/>need to know?</p>                 | <p><b>This agenda topic was not assigned to a Roundtable Discussion Group at the April Area Assembly.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Advisory Action</b></p>                               | <p>It was recommended that: The 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference be held April 23-29, 2017, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.</p> |

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions** — **Item C**

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| <p>Agenda Topic</p>   | <p><b>Consider a request that an anonymous electronic voting system be utilized at the General Service Conference on all nonelection votes for a trial period.</b></p>  |
| <p>Historical Context;<br/>Why is it on the<br/>Agenda?</p> | <p>This initial request came from the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions in April 2001. The report from 2001 asked the Trustees to explore the financial, practical and spiritual implications of using an electronic voting system. After review in 2002 a recommendation from the Conference P.I. committee asked for a 2-year trial and evaluation of the system. <i>However, this did not become an “Advisory Action”.</i></p> <p>In Feb. 2013 the Trustees’ conference committee reviewed and agreed to forward to A.A.W.S. a request to consider using an electronic voting system in all non-election votes. They discussed it in September and agreed to take 2 actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the trustees conference committee with information on using an entirely electronic system; with concern about change to anonymous voting and need to consult with the conference should it be beneficial.</li> <li>2. Pass on to the Trustees’ conference committee information and notification that this system will continue to be reviewed by GSO for possible use at 2014 GS conference.</li> </ol> <p>At the Nov. 2013 meeting they agreed to forward the request to consider the system. There is a report that includes information on the cost to institute this practice i.e.: Rental = \$750 per day not including shipping of \$130. Purchase = \$8,700 including software, hardware, laptop, and training.</p> <p>There are 2 reports from 2002 and 2013 that detail advantages, addressing concerns on the spiritual value of electronic voting. The following is a summary of those reports:</p> |

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|                                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some members sit in front so as not to be influenced by others.</li> <li>2. It would ease the job of the Conference coordinator and would be faster, allowing more time for discussions on topics, possibly saving 4 hours.</li> <li>3. It would enhance anonymity/confidentiality of the voter and encourage focus on principles and participation.</li> <li>4. Alleviate the need for a head count on close votes and would assist in the 2/3 number count.</li> </ol> <p>There was no mention of any negatives other than the cost for the system.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Past Delegates: do you think an electronic voting system would improve the conference?</li> <li>2. Past Delegates: how do you feel about the anonymity/confidentiality concern?</li> <li>3. Past Delegates: do you like the idea of an audit trail? Why or why not?</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>               | <p>It was recommended that: During a two-year trial period the General Service Conference include one day of electronic voting on all nonelection votes, on the Thursday of the 2015 General Service Conference and on the Friday of the 2016 General Service Conference, and that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference provide a report from data gathered from the 2015 and 2016 General Service Conferences, evaluating electronic voting to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration.</p>  |

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item D**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Reconsider the 2008 Conference Advisory Action regarding responsibility for site selection of the General Service Conference.</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>This request came from the 2013 Conference Committee on Finance as an Additional Committee Consideration. Presently the policy states the site selection for the GS Conference is the responsibility of General Service Office management, with approval by the General Service Board. At the Feb. 2014 Board meeting the trustees discussed and reviewed material related to the topic and requested it be forwarded to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions for consideration. In the background material there are memos and a list of past advisory actions related to the GSC site selection. Some of the concerns included: the cost difference incurred hosting in NYC versus in a more rural city. Also the spiritual value of being close to amenities and General Service Office. There were issues about the process of making bids and contracts in a timely and efficient manner. In 2009 due to cost savings measures the GSB recommended the GSC be in Rye New York in 2010. They have explored options in the Tri-city NY area. There is an outline for the process for site selection. Other factors to consider are the Non- Profit requirements for annual meetings and the Current Conference Charter. At this moment we have contracts for 2015-16 for the Crowne Plaza in NYC. <i>Background material can be obtained from your District Committee member.</i></p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Past Delegates do you feel the current policy for site selection for the Conference is adequate? Why or why not?</li> <li>2. Past Delegates what other policy ideas do you have?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>  |



## VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

### Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Agenda Topic                                    | <b>Consider that the 2014 AA Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 AA Membership Survey.</b>  |
| Historical Context;<br>Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>The Trustees' PI Committee assigned a subcommittee who recommended the 2014 survey be conducted and developed suggestions for increased awareness of the survey results pamphlet and input for improvement to the methodology and questionnaire content.</p> <p>The subcommittee asked the staff secretary to research the following questions, and received the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>How might we better alert the fellowship in general and local P.I. Committees in particular, of the existence of the pamphlet?</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. By sending a copy of the pamphlet to Intergroup Offices that do <u>not</u> have a P.I. committee;</li> <li>b. By sending a copy of the pamphlet to DCMs for districts that do <u>not</u> have a P.I. committee;</li> <li>c. By sending a "digital copy" - an email with a link to the new pamphlet on <u>AA.org</u> , to all parties listed above, as well as to all CPC chairs - both District and Intergroup.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <u>What improvements can be made to clarify and simplify the following?</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pre-survey informational communication with fellowship</li> <li>b. Instructions to members completing the survey</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <u>How might we gather input from professionals about information they would like to see?</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The staff member on the C.P.C. assignment suggested we first tap into our in-house resources: Class A trustees! We might also wish to contact past Class A trustees in fields that are currently not represented on our boards (clergy, corrections).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
|   | <p><b><u>The subcommittee recommends the following changes to the survey questionnaire:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace “Married” with ”Married/Life partner” - question #3a</li> <li>• Replace “Counseling agency” with “Mental health professional” - question #11e</li> <li>• Replace “Court Order” with “Judicial system” question #11f</li> <li>• Replace “Health professional” with “Medical professional” - question #11g</li> <li>• Add “related to your drinking” to questions about receiving treatment or counseling before/after coming to A.A. - questions #13a/14a</li> <li>• Replace “did a health professional ever refer you to A.A.” with “did a medical or mental health professional ever refer you to A.A.” - question #15</li> <li>• Add: “Are you aware that A.A. publishes the <i>Grapevine</i>, recognized as the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous?” Yes or No. (New question)</li> <li>• Add: “Are you aware of the services provided by the General Service Offices in New York?” Yes or No. (New question)</li> </ul> <p>The committee also discussed the use of online methods for conducting the membership survey, and agreed that while the 2014 survey should follow traditional paper methods, the next survey taken after 2014 might be offered both on paper and digitally, as part of a transitional effort.</p> <p>(The 2011 survey results are available: <a href="http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf">http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf</a>)</p>  |
| What does Delegate need to know?                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does your group, district or committee think about the purpose and usefulness of the A.A. Membership Survey?</li> <li>2. Can your group, district or committee suggest improvements for content, execution and communication?</li> <li>3. Does your group, district or committee agree with the suggested changes?</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                          | <p>It was recommended that: The 2014 A.A. Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:</p> <p><b>Item 3a</b> be changed from “Married” to “Married or Life partner.”</p> <p><b>Item 11e</b> be changed from “Counseling agency” to “Counselor or mental health professional.”</p> <p><b>Item 11f</b> be changed from “Court order” to “Judicial system.”</p> <p><b>Item 11g</b> be changed from “Health professional” to “Medical professional.”</p> <p><b>Item 13a</b> be changed to “Before coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) <b>related to your drinking?</b> (If yes, answer question 13b)”<br/>{additional text in bold}</p> <p><b>Item 14a</b> be changed to “After coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) <b>related to your drinking?</b> (If yes, answer question 14b)”<br/>[Note: additional text in bold]</p> <p><b>Item 15</b> be changed from “Did a health professional ever refer you to A.A.?” to “Did a counselor, medical or mental health professional ever refer you to A.A.?”</p>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                          | It was recommended that: The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.  |

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D3**

| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider production of new video Public Service Announcement (P.S.A.)</b>  |
|--|---|
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>The Trustees' P.I. Committee's Subcommittee recommends that a new Public Service Announcement be produced in 2014, at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.</p> <p><u>Proposal for new video P.S.A:</u> The P.S.A. subcommittee believes that there is a need for a new A.A. video P.S.A. to be produced in 2014, and suggests that a new video P.S.A. be created using the same criteria utilized to judge the viability of existing P.S.A.s, listed here in the subcommittee report.</p> <p>For the purposes of testing P.S.A.s for continued use, certain criteria were utilized, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compliance with recommendations growing out of the subcommittee drafting a Comprehensive Media Plan;</li> <li>2. Compliance with the recently enacted policy with regard to full-faces in such material;</li> <li>3. Compliance with the desired use of the "blue people" on the A.A. website to offer some range of acknowledgement of "special needs" individuals; and</li> <li>4. Compliance with technological requirements, most notably HDTV.</li> </ol>  |
|  | <p>The Subcommittee also recommends retiring <u>Living in Chaos</u> and <u>We Know What It's Like</u>, because these P.S.As are so far out of sync with the listed criteria (above) that they should be retired now.</p> <p><u>It is recommended the new P.S.A. employ the following approaches:</u></p> <p><u>Theme:</u> "If alcohol is a problem for you, contact A.A. It works." Since we are attempting to reach "potential members", this is the theme from earlier considerations of the Media Plan Committee.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Utilize the most potent approach to reach the potential member- storytelling. As detailed earlier in this report, member experiences would be empathized through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "What I was like" (drinking problem)</li> <li>• "What happened" (bottom, arrival at A.A.)</li> <li>• "What I am like now" (sober, happy, free)</li> </ul> <p><u>Vehicles:</u> Use generic images of drinking, surrender and freedom, with varying voices (old, young, male, female, etc.). Other approaches, such as animation (perhaps using a variation on the "blue people" from the website logo), would be considered. Material might come from A.A. Grapevine efforts (text and/or audio), member communications, etc. Voices might be those existing in Grapevine archives, member contributions and/or voice actors.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee agree with the subcommittee recommendations? Why/Why not?</li> <li>2. What messages ought to be conveyed in a new P.S.A.?</li> <li>3. Does your group, district or committee have alternative ideas for theme, content, and vehicles?</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: The video public service announcements "Living in Chaos" and "We Know What It's Like" be discontinued.   |

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider revisions to the Anonymity Card (F-20)</b>   |
|--|--|
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>In December 2012, District 22 Area 30 sent a letter to the Conference, requesting a "service piece" extracting language from the pamphlets "The AA Group" and "Understanding Anonymity" to emphasize current media where anonymity may be broken. This Service piece would be printed on a card that could be easily updated, and incorporated into the reading material as part of a meeting format. They felt it was too costly to either produce a new pamphlet or to suggest an unnecessary change to the 11th Tradition.</p>   |
|  | <p>In July 2013 the Trustees' P.I. Committee requested the staff secretary bring a proposal for a "service piece" highlighting anonymity in current media based on shared experience from existing A.A. literature. The Trustees' P.I. Committee suggested revising the current Anonymity Card (F-20) to broaden the purpose of Anonymity; also it could be used at A.A. meetings.</p> <p><u>The Proposed Draft: (Changes are in <i>italics and bolded</i>):</u></p> <p>A.A. ANONYMITY (Announcement for reading at A.A. meetings)</p> <p>There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."</p> |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | <p><i>In 2013 the General Service Conference affirmed that anonymity breaks on the internet, social media and all other forms of public communications are contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level. When we break our anonymity at the public level, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others, and adversely affect A.A. as a whole.</i></p> <p><i>In keeping with this spiritual principle, A.A. speakers and A.A. members <b>ought</b> not be photographed, video <b>recorded</b> or identified by full name on audio <b>recordings</b>, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, <b>including online resources accessible by the public.</b></i></p> <p>The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that “A.A. principles come before personalities.”</p> |
| What does Delegate need to know? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee know about and use the Anonymity Card? Why or Why not?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee like the revisions? Why or Why not?</li> </ol>  |
|                                  | <b>Did Not Pass</b>  |

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item F**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Review progress report on development of a brief video on anonymity.</b>   |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>The <i>Annual Anonymity Letter Subcommittee Report</i> included the following suggestion: Trustees’ Committee on P.I. consider developing a brief one to three-minute video to include in the Annual Anonymity Letter to the media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Primary purpose:</u> To create a video that can be linked to in the email GSO sends to thousands of media professionals and outlets each year asking for their cooperation.</li> <li>• <u>Secondary purpose:</u> To provide information about what anonymity means to A.A. in video format and that could be easily accessed online by the general public.</li> </ul> <p><u>Proposed content:</u> The video proposed will be approximately one minute long, and will cover the three reasons anonymity is, as Bill W. said, "the key to long-time survival" for the A.A. Fellowship, according to existing A.A. literature:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. We have learned from our own experience that the active alcoholic will shun any source of help which might reveal his or her identity.</li> <li>b. Past events indicate that those alcoholics who seek public recognition as A.A. members may drink again.</li> <li>c. Public attention and publicity for individual members of A.A. would invite self-serving competition and conflict over differing personal views. (From M-22 "What Does Anonymity Mean to A.A.?" )</li> </ol> |
|  | The video would also emphasize our gratitude to friends in the press for their longstanding cooperation in observing our anonymity Traditions. These points would be addressed in an interview-style approach using Class A trustees, similar to our existing videos for medical, legal and employment/HR professionals (available for viewing on AA.org). Consideration might also be given to using Class B trustees, while preserving their anonymity on screen.   |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does your group, district or committee think of this idea?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee feel it’s important to have more information on A.A. Anonymity on our web site? Why or why not?</li> <li>3. Does your group, district or committee think that including a video about anonymity in the annual letter to the media will increase effectiveness of this communication? Why or Why not?</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                       | It was recommended that: A new public service announcement be produced in 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.  |

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item G**

| Agenda Topic  | <b>Discuss how delegates might stimulate local discussions in light of ongoing anonymity concerns.</b>  |
|---|---|
| <p>Historical Context;<br/>Why is it on the<br/>Agenda?</p> | <p>Anonymity has been a topic for concern and discussion at many recent General Service Conferences. Included in the background material are 2 memos:</p> <p><u>Memo 1: Anonymity and the upcoming 2015 International Convention</u><br/>Memo addressed concerns of potential anonymity breaks in regards to the upcoming convention and included ideas for educating members/attendees and bringing more awareness about our tradition of Anonymity. The memo noted that “anonymity is chiefly the responsibility of our members, and the bulk of our effort should be on helping convention attendees be well-informed on this issue.”</p> <p>Suggestions for improving communications with convention attendees and media professionals regarding anonymity at the 2015 International Convention are as follows:</p> <p><u>Communicating with members/registrants/attendees:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Because of the ease of taking and posting videos via personal devices, any suggestions provided to attendees in the past about photography and posting photos online might be reviewed to include suggestions regarding video as well. This review might include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Print communications</u> - Information about photographs has been included in individual mailings and convention programs in the past.</li> <li>• <u>Digital communications</u> - Information about the convention is made available via AA.org and shared with attendees.</li> <li>• <u>Announcements read at meetings</u> - An "Anonymity Statement" is usually read at the beginning of each meeting during the convention.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Consideration is being given to sharing the 2013 Advisory Action affirming "that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: '...at the level of press, radio and films.'"</li> <li>c. In addition to the verbal announcements during meetings, visual reminders (signage, displays, etc.) about anonymity are being planned.</li> <li>d. An additional "email blast" regarding anonymity just prior to the convention to all who have registered, is being considered. (When you're packing, don't forget to pack Tradition Eleven!)</li> <li>e. In 2010 it was recommended that the delegate stimulate further interest in this topic in their areas, particularly before the upcoming 2010 International convention.</li> </ol> <p><u>Memo 2.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Resources on Anonymity</u><br/>This memo suggested specific A.A.W.S. and Grapevine literature that include shared experience on Anonymity. Such as materials like: “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions”; “A.A. Comes of Age”; “A.A. Guidelines on –Internet or Anonymity”; and pamphlets like the “AA Group” can be valuable tools.</li> </ol> <p>These and other items are currently available in our A.A. literature and may be helpful to the delegates in guiding discussions in light of ongoing anonymity concerns at all levels of A.A.; including local and area events.</p> |
| <p>What does the<br/>Delegate need to<br/>know?</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee agree that anonymity is chiefly the responsibility of our members? Why or Why not?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee agree with the 2013 Advisory Action affirming "that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads:'...at the level of press, radio and films.'" Why or Why not?</li> <li>3. Does your group, district or committee have suggestions on ways to help A.A. members understand the importance of anonymity at the public level?</li> <li>4. Does your group, district or committee have suggestions on how to help A.A. members understand the impact of anonymity breaks on A.A. as a whole?</li> </ol>   |

## IX. REPORT & CHARTER

### Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item B**

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|--|---|
| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Consider request to modify Article III of the Current Conference Charter.</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>A request came from a group in Area 30, Eastern Massachusetts to modify Article III from of the Current Charter.</p> <p><u>It currently reads, and the suggested addition is in <i>Bold italics</i>:</u> “But no change in Article XII of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of AA or in the Twelve Steps of AA may be made with less than written consent of three-quarters of the AA groups <i>who have been notified</i>, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference.”</p> <p><u>It is the opinion of Area 30, that <i>as an example</i>,</u> “Under the current Charter, it is entirely conceivable that, should a proposal to change the Traditions, Steps or Article XII be made; if proper notice was sent to all of the registered A.A. groups around the world: and if after the allotted six month time frame, only 100 groups responded, and if out of those 100 groups, 75 voted in favor of an amendment, then the founding basis of our entire Program and/or Fellowship could be changed based on the consent of only 75 groups.”</p> <p>The Background contains the summary of a group discussion that found that the word “respond” in the 1955 Resolution creates a fatal flaw within the mechanism, and is not in the spirit of the 1st Tradition. They feel the proposed additional language in Article 3 would clarify the process.</p> |
| What does Delegate need to know?             | Does your group, district or committee agree with the proposed change of Article III in the Current Conference Charter? Why or why not?   |
|  | <b>No Action Taken</b>  |

### Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item C**

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|--|---|
| Agenda Topic                                 | <b>Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Easter U.S. and Western U.S.)</b>  |
| Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? | <p>The background information contains the “History &amp; Actions” of the Regional Directories from 1979 to last year (2013). When they are produced there are 3 directories that get printed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eastern U.S. A.A. Directory</li> <li>2. Western U.S. A.A. Directory</li> <li>3. Canada A.A. Directory</li> </ol> <p>However, in 2013 Phyllis H., General Manager wrote a memorandum informing the fellowship that the publication of Regional Directories <u>would not take place in 2013</u>. “I’m writing today to inform you that for the year 2013, we will not be publishing print versions of the A.A. Regional Directories. This is part of the ongoing effort to lessen significant expenses in printing and postage as part of our cost-savings measures at G.S.O. While new print directories will not be available this year, we know that the ones currently in circulation will continue to be of limited use. In addition, in this rapidly-evolving digital environment, Areas, Districts, and Intergroup/Central Offices, are far more easily accessible than ever before. The up-to-date contact information that they can provide for local A.A. is more accurate than the A.A. Directories, which are out of date the moment they come off press.”</p> <p>The 2013 Conference Committee on Report &amp; Charter reviewed their standing agenda item to discuss the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.) and submitted the following:</p> <p><u>Additional Committee Consideration:</u> “In light of the recent decision not to publish regional directories this year, the committee asked the staff secretary to communicate their concerns to the A.A.W.S. Board about the still existing, albeit, decreasing, need for print resources by A.A. members in rural and remote areas, and those members who may travel frequently.” The 2014-2015 Directories are planned to be printed in 2014.</p> |
| What does the Delegate need to know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does your group, district or committee feel that the Directories are an important service to the fellowship?</li> <li>2. Does your group, district or committee agree with the General Manager’s decision to not print the directories last year? Why or Why not?</li> <li>3. Does your group, district or committee believe a need exists for the printed directories for A.A. members in rural and remote areas, and those members who may travel frequently? Why or why not?</li> </ol>  |
|  | <b>Took No Action</b>   |

## X. TREATMENT & SPECIAL NEEDS-ACCESSIBILITIES

### Conference Committee: **Treatment/Special Needs -Accessibilities — Item A**

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|--|--|
| Agenda Topic                                       | <b>Consider proposal to revise the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity.</b>   |
| Historical Context;<br>Why is it on the<br>Agenda? | In 2013-14, three Areas: 08, 64 and 20, requested to have a pamphlet that is sufficiently broad in its definition of "bridge" that can be used by any BTG committee regardless of whether the majority source of the bridging the gap activity is "Treatment", "Corrections", or some combination of institutions.<br><br>The Trustees' Committee agreed to forward to the 2014 General Service Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities, the proposal to consider the revising the pamphlet.<br><br><u>Historical information:</u><br><br><b>1992</b> - The Trustees' Treatment Facilities committee in November 1992 considered broadening the scope of the "Bridging the Gap" pamphlet to include A.A. contacts for correctional facilities, the professional community and prospective members in institutions. The consensus was that the focus of the pamphlet remains solely for A.A. contacts for treatment facilities.<br><br><b>2008</b> - The Trustees' Treatment Facilities committee in February 2008 discussed and agreed to forward to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities a request "that the pamphlet, Bridging the Gap (P- 49), be rewritten to reflect that we also use this program in Corrections service work." The 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment facilities discussed the request and took no action. |
| Historical Context,<br>continued                   | <b>2009</b> - The trustees' Treatment Facilities committee in April 2009 discussed an area proposal, "that the 59 <sup>th</sup> General Service Conference revisit the Bridging the Gap pamphlet, specifically that the pamphlet be revised to be more generic to include Corrections, Treatment Facilities, and Institutions" and took no action.   |
| What does Delegate<br>need to know?                | Does your group, district or committee agree with the proposal to consider revising the pamphlet, "Bridging the Gap" to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity? Why/Why not?  |
|  | <b>No Recommendations</b>  |

## XI. TRUSTEES

### Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Agenda Topic           | <b>Review resumes of candidates for:</b><br><b>1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee;</b><br><b>2. Pacific Region Trustee</b>                         |
| <b>Advisory Action</b> | It was recommended that: The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014: |

#### Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE  
 Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.  
 Corliss R. Burke, B.Ed.  
 John Fromson, M.D.  
 Michele Grinberg, J.D.  
 Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle  
 David M. Morris, C.P.A.

#### Class B Trustees (See note below)

Richard Boisvert  
 Joel Castellaw  
 Joe Downey  
 William Farnsworth  
 Nancy Haynes  
 Barbara Kelly  
 J. Gary Lutz  
 William Noonan  
 Chet Parker  
 Clayton Vandivort  
 Andrew Ware  
 Robert Wilcox  
 Albin Zezula

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

**Trustees— Item B**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Agenda Topic           | <b>Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.</b>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b> | It was recommended that: The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014: |

**Officers of the General Service Board**

|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chairperson             | Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE |
| First Vice-Chairperson  | Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle     |
| Second Vice-Chairperson | Nancy Haynes               |
| Treasurer               | David M. Morris, C.P.A.    |
| Secretary               | Albin Zezula               |

Conference Committee: **Trustees**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Agenda Topic           | <b>Review appointment of officers.</b>  |
| <b>Advisory Action</b> | It was recommended that: The 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 May 2014: |

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Assistant Treasurer | Donald W. Meurer |
| Assistant Secretary | Julio Espaillat  |

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

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item C**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Agenda Topic           | <b>Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.</b>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b> | It was recommended that: The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2014: |

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Carole Boerner   | J. Gary Lutz   |
| Beau Bush        | David Noll     |
| Joe Downey       | William Noonan |
| Julio Espaillat  | Chet Parker    |
| Phyllis Halliday |                |

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item D**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Agenda Topic           | <b>Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.</b>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b> | It was recommended that: The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2014: |

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Linda Bergeron     | Paz Preciado |
| Ami Brophy         | Andrew Ware  |
| William Farnsworth | Albin Zezula |
| Nancy Haynes       |              |
| Ed Martin          |              |

## XII ARCHIVES

### Conference Committee: **Archives — Item A**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Agenda Topic                                       | <b>Review revised draft video Markings on the Journey</b>  |
| Historical Context;<br>Why is it on the<br>Agenda? | As result as “Advisory Action” at the 2013 GS conference the Archives video “Markings on the Journey” will be revised and updated with the proposed changes (estimated cost \$5,000) and brought back to the 2014 Conference Archives Committee. In July 2013 the Trustees Archives Committee reviewed a progress report on the production of the video as recommended by 2013 General Service Conference. And in November they reviewed and agreed to forward the revised draft video to the 2014 Conference Committee on Archives for Approval Final draft of video project is sent to members of the Conference Archives Committee only. They deliberate during the Conference committee and, make recommendation to the full Conference. The draft of the video would then be viewed and discussed by the entire Conference. |
| What does Delegate<br>need to know?                | <b>This agenda topic was not assigned to a Roundtable Discussion Group at the April Area Assembly.</b>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                             | It was recommended that: The video <i>Markings on the Journey</i> be approved.   |

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

## XIII. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS & REGIONAL FORUMS

### Conference Committee: **Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Agenda Topic                                       | <b>Discuss anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2015 International Convention.</b>   |
| Historical Context;<br>Why is it on the<br>Agenda? | An anonymity-protected photograph for the flag ceremony has been taken at each International Convention beginning in 1950. Beginning in 1994 this Committee has been bringing it forward as an agenda topic. It was approved in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009. |
| What does Delegate<br>need to know?                | Does your group, district or committee have any comments or concerns about this photo being taken?   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                             | It was recommended that: An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2015 International Convention.   |

### Conference Committee: **Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Agenda Topic                                       | <b>Consider a broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected delayed Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.</b>   |
| Historical Context;<br>Why is it on the<br>Agenda? | Starting in 2005, this broadcast was shared with General Service Areas in U. S. and Canada as well as the overseas General Service Offices. The General Service Conference approved a similar recommendation from this Committee in 2009. This is a delayed-closed broadcast of the Flag Ceremony from the 2015 International Convention. Access is available through G.S.O.’s A.A. website. The broadcast will be available during 3 days of the Convention and will be broadcast in English, Spanish and French. This broadcast would be edited for the protection of member- anonymity, and encrypted so the broadcast could not be copied. In 2010 it was viewed 13,790 times. |
| What does the<br>Delegate need to<br>know?         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does your group, district or committee feel about this topic?</li> <li>2. Would your group, district or committee want to view the broadcasted version of the ceremony?</li> <li>3. Does your group, district or committee have any concerns about Traditions violations?</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Advisory Action</b>                             | It was recommended that: An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved   |

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