

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

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

Conference Agenda Committee

- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form with appreciation and made the following suggestions:
 - Continue the daily color coding of the Evaluation Form.
 - Add the date to each page
 - Bold Presentation Topics and Report Headings

Conference Committee on Archives

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and accepted the revisions, including a minor change to the Photocopying Policy and new language to the section "What to Collect?," intended to provide more detailed information on the development of collection procedures for local use.
- The committee requested that the section "Role of the Archives Committee" in the Archives Workbook be revised to include:
 - Suggested archives committees activities, to encourage interest in, and understanding of, the role and benefit of archives committees at the local level, for example: archives workshops, traveling exhibits, presentations and seeking out historical material from longtime A.A. members.
 - Information for archives committees on how to implement, establish and support local archives.
- The committee accepted the report from the trustees' Archives Committee on the Feasibility of Developing a Self-guided Tour of G.S.O.'s Archives. The report included information from the archivist on the new Digital Archives Exhibit, which will be launched on the Archives portal of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

- The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities gather sharing from the Fellowship on the need to develop a sample format for one-on-one C.P.C. contact with professionals for inclusion in the C.P.C. Workbook.
 - The first bullet on page 14 in the C.P.C. Workbook, be revised to read: "Consider showing videos such as the C.P.C. video 'A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community', 'Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous', 'A.A. Videos for Young People,' at this point, or other videos appropriate for the audience."
 - The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a service piece with Class A trustees' shared experiences emphasizing the value found in the continued use of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.
 - The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a sample letter which reinforces the value to professionals of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne as well as providing information on how the recipient may subscribe to the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.
- The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider creating a process by which professionals attending national C.P.C. exhibits can request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.
 - The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider adding to the "About A.A." postal card a question to allow professionals to request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.
 - The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities discuss developing a method by which appropriate C.P.C. pamphlets and other materials may be consolidated on cost effective digital media such as CD and DVD in order to be distributed to professionals.

Conference Committee on Corrections

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." The committee expressed its sincere thanks for the work already done on this revision, and encouraged the trustees' committee to consider the following criteria when updating photos, as per the 2009 Advisory Action:

- photos reflecting the principle of attraction
 - photos that convey the varieties of age, ethnicity, gender, culture and beliefs that our Fellowship so richly enjoys.
 - visual aspects other than photos (i.e., graphics, illustrations, etc.)
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents and requested that the staff member continue to gather sharing on local solutions A.A. members may use to resolve perceived differences between facility rules/regulations and what A.A. is and is not.
 - The committee reviewed changes to the Corrections Workbook and Corrections Guidelines forwarded by the trustees' Committee on Corrections and requested that applicable changes reflect updated language in Conference-approved literature.
 - The committee discussed discrepancies in the contents of the French language Corrections Workbook and suggested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections undertake an inventory of the contents of the Corrections Workbook in all three languages, and take appropriate steps to ensure consistency of content in these publications.

The committee also suggested that "missing" sections be translated as soon as possible and be made available as addendums until current inventory is depleted.

- The committee discussed at length the importance of having the Composition, Scope and Procedure for a particular Conference committee available in French or Spanish for any Conference committee member whose native language is not English.

Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee reviewed and discussed input from the Fellowship concerning the 2009 Conference Advisory Action that the Trustees' Finance Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following: (1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit? (2) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions? The committee recognized that the majority of the sharing of the Fellowship was not in favor of a limit. The committee does not recommend that a specific limit should be placed on the use of literature profits to fund services. From all input gathered, the committee found that the Fellowship agrees with the Trustee's policy on self support which was affirmed at the 2009 Conference:

Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous

The A.A. spiritual principle of self-support enables us to pursue our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic with a shared sense of responsibility for our lifesaving work and without interference or financial dependence on outsiders. From our Fellowship's earliest days, the expenses of the General Service Office, and the world services provided by it, have exceeded the amount derived from contributions of AA groups and members. As a result, providing these needed services has necessarily been supported in part by income from the sale of AA literature. It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a prudent reserve fund. We hope that the day will come when AA groups and members, through their contributions, will be able to fund fully the services provided by the General Service Office. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a prudent reserve fund.

- The committee believes that more effective communication to the Fellowship as a whole is key to achieving this ideal and the committee has made recommendations to that end.
- The committee discussed additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about Self-Support and forwards the following list of items to the 2011 Conference Finance Committee for further discussion:
 1. Birthday Plan
 2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet
 3. Box 459 or Grapevine Articles
 4. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit
 5. Report Costs of Services to Members
 6. Discuss Effects of Inflation
 7. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web Site

Conference Committee on Grapevine

- The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board's History of Advisory Actions Report pertaining to the relationship between the A.A. Grapevine Board, A.A. Grapevine office and the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine with appreciation and encourages this ongoing partnership and the continuation of the quarterly Conference Committee calls with the Board and office, along with all of the Board's recommendations in the Report, especially the Board's recommendation for an annual report to the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook and suggested that electronic updates be made to outdated material, while still preserving a digital version of the historic document, and these updates should be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

- The committee discussed at length and agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2011 or later:
 - Step by Step (working title): A collection of AA Grapevine stories on the Steps.
 - The Sponsorship Book (working title): A collection of stories on sponsorship.
 - Staying Sober Through Adversity (working title): A collection about handling the rough patches in sobriety.

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

- The committee heard reports on the upcoming International Convention:
 - Over 37,000 people have registered for the Convention so far. About half of those have pre-purchased the souvenir edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* and the Special Issue of the Grapevine magazine.
 - Preparations are in place for the anonymity-protected broadcast of the Friday night Flag Ceremony. Invitations have already been sent to many of the flag bearers who were selected at random from registered A.A. members from each country.
 - For the second time, registration for an International Convention was made available online. While paper communications continue in order to make sure everyone has access to International Convention information, a large percentage of our attendees registered and made housing reservations online.
 - Notices are being included in Convention materials and meeting formats to emphasize A.A.'s anonymity Traditions to attendees.
 - Efforts are being made to insure that attendees are prepared for the Convention experience, and understand the challenges of weather and of getting around very large facilities.
- The committee reviewed the report from trustees' Committee on the site-selection procedure for International Conventions, and expressed gratitude for the trustees' committees' willingness to continue to review and improve the process.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Forums and attract first-time attendees and suggested the following:
 - Create local flyers to carry the message about future Forums in the region.
 - Utilize electronic communication from the areas to the Fellowship.
 - Share about the Forum Orientation for first-time Forum attendees.
 - Encourage members to bring others, such as sponsees, along to Forums.
 - Coordinate fun "road trips" to Forums – "Fill the car; bring them all!"
 - Share the Forum experience with others and with enthusiasm.
 - Attraction, attraction, attraction!

Conference Literature Committee

- The committee considered a request to define the editorial responsibility of G.S.O.'s Publications Department and took no action. The committee expressed appreciation for the request, noting the concern for Conference-approved literature and for the Conference process, and agreed that current practices followed by G.S.O.'s Publications Department are appropriate.
- The committee considered a request that the video, "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised and updated and took no action. The committee noted that there was no widely expressed need for a new video and that the information in the video was still relevant and useful in describing the A.A. service structure.
- The committee considered a request to develop a book on the history of "early pioneer women in A.A." and took no action. The committee expressed appreciation for the request but considered that there was not a widely expressed need for a Conference-approved book on the history of early pioneer women in A.A.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

No Additional Committee Considerations

Conference Committee on Public Information

- The committee agreed to forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on the Agenda a request to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of "Anonymity in a Digital Age."

2009 Annual Web site Report

- The committee reviewed the 2009 Annual Report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, noted that the Web site seemed to be very well managed, and appreciated that numerous steps previously required to get an item placed on the Web site have been stream-lined.

Public Service Announcements

- The committee suggested that particular consideration be given to developing a more effective distribution of Spanish and French language public service announcements to Spanish and French language stations, including exploring possible assignment of telecaster numbers to older public service announcements in Canada.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. TV public service announcements and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that found them all to be relevant and useful.
- The committee assessed the need for a new A.A. TV public service announcement and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that none was needed at this time. However, the committee recognized the need to have a public service announcement tracked and distributed on a yearly basis.

The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider developing a plan to redistribute and track an older A.A. T.V. public service announcement in the years when a new public service announcement is not being distributed.

Literature

- The committee suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee replace the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the service piece "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" with the revised "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of "A.A. at a Glance."

Anonymity

- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee develop draft text on the topic of anonymity in a digital age for the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" for review by the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee develop an answer to the question "What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?" for inclusion in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" as a new second question and answer in the section "Some questions and answers about anonymity/ personal anonymity" on page 7. The draft text will be brought back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee suggested that delegates utilize a variety of means, such as workshops, newsletters, panels, delegate reports, area websites, etc., to stimulate A.A. members' discussion on how to maintain anonymity on online media, such as social networking sites.
- The committee discussed the "A.A. Guideline on the Internet" and suggested that it be more prominently placed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

A.A. Videos for Young People Project

- The committee expressed gratitude for the obvious time and commitment on the part of the trustees' Public Information Committee to the A.A. Videos for Young People Project and agreed with the trustees' suggestions that:
 - Use and distribution of videos from the A.A. Videos for Young People Project, including those already approved by the Conference, will be at the discretion of the trustees' Public Information Committee.
 - The trustees' Public Information Committee may group similar items, stream individual or multiple items on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, create DVD compilations, and produce video loops for use at CPC events.
 - All video submissions that are not used in their entirety, with permission, will be kept on file at GSO and may be edited for inclusion in future young people's video projects.

- The committee enthusiastically encourages continuation of the A.A. Videos for Young People Project. They suggested that the A.A. Videos for Young People Project submission form be listed periodically in the A.A. *Grapevine*, *La Viña*, and *La Vigne*.

Public Information Kit

The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook and suggested that an issue of the A.A. *Grapevine*, *La Viña*, or *La Vigne* be added to the contents of the kit.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- The committee reviewed a report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual* 2010-2011 Edition, and suggested two changes to the process.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A. Grapevine Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the General Service Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publications Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and added additional updates.
- The committee agreed to add the sentence, “The Report and Charter Committee has reviewed and accepted these changes.” to the note on the bottom of the page in *The A.A. Service Manual* that lists annual changes to the Manual (currently on page S123, 2009-2010 Edition).
- The committee considered a request to (a) publish and distribute *The A.A. Service Manual* every other year and in years not produced, distribute a supplement of changes, and (b) publish the A.A. directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published and took no action. The committee noted the importance of publishing *The A.A. Service Manual* annually and that it be as current and accurate as possible.
- The committee considered a request that *The A.A. Service Manual* “be reprinted only as necessary and consider publishing every three to five years with changes being sent as inserts to existing manuals,” and took no action.

- The committee considered a request to gather sharing from the Fellowship concerning the general nature of *The A.A. Service Manual* and took no action. The committee agreed that there was no widely expressed need for this sharing.
- The committee agreed to add the text “(see Chapter Eleven)” in the paragraph under the heading *Tools Available from G.S.O.* in Chapter One in *The A.A. Service Manual* so that the sentence reads: “They are designed to show groups the kind of help that is offered to groups everywhere by G.S.O., and thus get more people interested in service activity (see Chapter Eleven).”
- The committee considered a request to place *Additional Committee Considerations, Recommendations That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* and *Floor Actions That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* following the Advisory Actions in the Conference *Final Report*, and took no action. The committee agreed that the current placement in the *Final Report* continues to work well.

Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

- The committee reviewed and accepted the progress report from the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities regarding the proposed Special Needs recovery pamphlet and requested that:
 - In the first paragraph, second sentence under the proposed introduction “Do You Have a Drinking Problem?” other language be considered that is more special needs focused.
 - In all aspects of pamphlet development, the use of language that is inclusive of a wide variety of special needs be continued.
- The committee considered a suggestion to change the name of “Treatment Facilities” Committee to “Treatment” Committee and took no action. The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities background which would include details regarding the impact of such a name change on, among other things: titles of relevant A.A. literature; contents of relevant A.A. literature; and the focus of A.A. service committee work.
- The committee considered two locally created Bridging the Gap forms (one for treatment clients and one for A.A. members willing to serve as temporary contacts) and requested that the trustees develop and include sample forms in the Treatment Facilities Workbook, taking into consideration exemplars from other local committees.
- Upon review of the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook, the committee suggested that the following changes/additions be made where fiscally feasible:
 - The DVD *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be added in a hole-punched vinyl sleeve instead of in the current jewel box casing.

- The Young People’s videos be included in the Kit as a suggested tool for use with young people in treatment.
 - That suggestions for use of the two DVDs and the A.A. Grapevine be included in the Kit.
 - That changes be made in the Treatment Facilities Workbook to reflect that the A.A. message is carried to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, including outpatient settings.
- Upon review of the Special Needs Kit and Workbook, the committee suggested that:
 - The Kit be incorporated in a three-ring binder instead of the current pocket folder to achieve parity with other service Kits.
 - Shared experience with carrying the A.A. message to those with less visible challenges such as illiteracy, autism, etc., be gathered and added to the Special Needs Workbook when feasible.

Conference Committee on Trustees

- The committee agreed to forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Report and Charter a request to clarify language and resolve inconsistencies in the *A.A. Service Manual* regarding nominating a regional trustee and a trustee-at-large candidate in the same year. They reviewed Conference Advisory Actions regarding this matter and suggested the following language which reflects the policy decisions in those actions.

On page S65 of the *2009-2010 Edition of the A.A. Service Manual* in the Regional Trustee Elections Procedures replace:

“2. Two Conference Actions should be kept in mind. In 1977, the Conference recommended that a delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference. And in 1983, it was recommended that 'no area shall submit an individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.' ”

With:

“2. Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference.”

On page S67 of the *2009-2010 Edition of the A.A. Service Manual* in the Trustees-at-Large Election Procedure replace:

“In the areas, the same procedure used in selecting a regional trustee candidate is followed. No area should submit the same name for regional and at-large trustee in the same year.”

With:

“Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference.”

NOTE: When these changes are made to *the A.A. Service Manual* the committee would ask that the trustees’ Committee on Nominating consider using similar language in Procedure No. 11 “Procedure For Electing Regional Trustee Candidates in the U.S. and Canada” and No. 12 “Procedures For Electing A Candidate For Trustee-At-Large-U.S. or Canada.”

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Pacific and Eastern Canada regional trustee.
- The committee reviewed their Composition, Scope and Procedure and updated the reference to “Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities” found in their Scope to “Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities.”
- At present, in two regions (Southeast and East Central) the elections of regional and at-large trustees occur in the same year. Since no area can submit the same person as candidate for regional and at-large trustee in the same year, the committee feels that A.A. members in the two regions do not have the same opportunity for participation in our service structure as they do in the other six regions. In six of the regions the same person has the opportunity to stand for both Regional and at-large trustee every four years. In the other two regions the same person has only the opportunity to stand for one of these two trustee positions every four years. Therefore, the committee requests that the trustees’ Committee on Nominating explore benefits and liabilities of allowing the same person to be submitted as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large at the same Conference.
- The committee discussed unplanned regional trustee vacancies that are left unfilled. The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Nominating explore the impact on the Boards (General Service Board, A.A. World Services Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board) if a change in regional trustee rotation were to occur, and to bring a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.
- The committee discussed unplanned Class A and General Service trustee vacancies that are left unfilled. The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Nominating explore the impact on the Boards (General Service Board, A.A. World Services Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board) when such vacancies occur and bring a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.

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