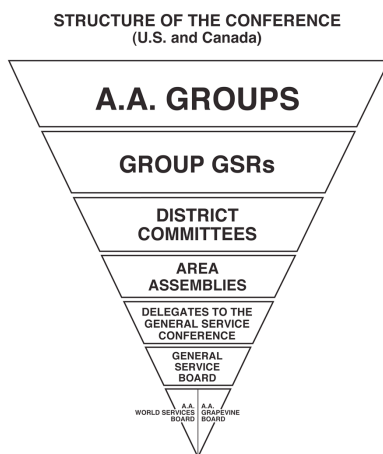


RYE, NEW YORK

We arrived on Thursday, April 15 to an array of blossoming trees, bright green tender leaves, and brilliant flowerbeds. Mostly sunny, with scattered showers throughout the ten days in Rye. Because reasonable hotel rates for the conference were unobtainable in Manhattan at the time they were negotiated, the conference was held in Rye, about 30 miles northeast of New York City, near Long Island Sound. If there were problems with the hotel, I wasn't aware of them...it was a pleasant, quiet venue.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE



On page S18 of your Service Manual is the “upside down” triangle that represents the structural authority of our world services. As Bill said in Concept I: ***“The AA Groups hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services...”*** In Concept II Bill made it clear that the groups ***“delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference...the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole Society.”***

When Bill realized that he and Dr. Bob would not be around forever to bridge the gap between the fellowship and the trustees, he struggled with and was able to craft a system



that could help us maintain our communication and effectiveness...If, and only if, we were always and forever prepared to trust the process, each other, and our group conscience...never blindly, always ready to risk and explore and question....

ADVISORY BODY

So, the Conference is an advisory body and is tasked with offering advice on matters brought to it by the trustees ... who have gotten the ideas for topics for consideration from members of the fellowship, from areas, districts, standing committees, intergroups, GSO staff members, individual delegates and others.

The Conference offers advisory actions and other considerations to the General Service Board and for sixty years the Board has never refused to act on those actions....

INFORMED GROUP

As I traveled to New York the week before the Conference began, I had a profound sense of the process that had brought me there...partly I was struck by the imperfection of the process... the fact that so few of the more than 1800 groups in our Area are represented by General Service Representatives (GSRs) and, when GSRs do attend District meetings they often don't attend Area meetings or participate in Area service...and when a group does have a GSR, the members often begrudge time or interest in what is going on in AA outside the walls of its own meetings. And that

means that the number of people who actually participated in the process of selecting a General Service Conference delegate is, usually, a very, very small percentage of the estimated 48,000 AA members in Area 09, Mid-Southern California Area. None of us who made ourselves available to serve as delegate last October received the needed 2/3 majority and I was randomly selected out of the hat after several ballots.

So, I thought to myself, what am I doing here? Am I really the best person to be serving as a delegate to the Conference that is the *“actual voice and effective conscience for our whole society”*? If each delegate does not ask him or herself a form of this question at some point in the first year, I would be very surprised.

But delegates don't have time to ponder whether they should or should not be serving, either philosophically or practically. Diving in and doing one's best is all we can do.

And, by the end of the Conference, I came to another discovery, along with a deeper respect for Bill's vision and confidence: Although the delegates who attend the Conference are not randomly picked from the fellowship as a whole...with one important difference: *Each delegate from each area is an informed member of AA.* I saw in the assembly of “us” from all over the United States and Canada (and that included the trustees, directors and GSO staff as well) a cross section of recovering alcoholics...each passionate about the future health of the Fellowship, each humbled by the wisdom and necessity to trust each other, to trust the process, and to trust the structure.

It's messy, and it will never be “fixed” ...because the “messiness” of it is exactly what keeps it strong, I believe. The Conference is the most re-

markable of beings: An informed group!

FIELD TRIPS

On Friday and Saturday morning before the planned events begin and on Saturday afternoon after the conference is over there are opportunities for some to take some side trips.

On Friday morning several the Pacific Region delegates caught the train into the City to visit GSO and the Grapevine/La Viña offices at 475 Riverside Drive.



Your GSO General Manager at work

We attended the regularly scheduled 11 a.m. GSO A.A. meeting, which is held in a larger conference room because of the size of the crowd during conference week, but which is usually held in the GSO conference room on the 11th floor where GSO is located.



It has become a custom on Saturday morning for our Pacific Regional Trustee to arrange for a tour of some of AAs important historic sites in and around New York City. However, as we were not in the city and the time was limited, our trustee, Madeleine P. (fondly called “Mama Bear” by the Pacific Region delegates) arranged for a visit to the Rockefeller Estate...home of the Rockefeller family that played

such an important and influential role in our AA history....and while we were in the neighborhood, we visited the Sleepy Hollow cemetery (which, as far as I know, has no connection to A.A.).

STEPPING STONES

On the Saturday afternoon following the end of the Conference, a trip to Bill and Lois’ home, *Stepping Stones*, was arranged and most of the delegates who didn’t have an early plane, took the opportunity to visit this beautiful, meaningful and historic site. The plan for future Conference weeks is to alternate trips to GSO and Stepping Stones. As the 2011 Conference will be held in New York City at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, it will be a subway ride away from “our” office.

REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Although it is not officially a part of the Conference, the Remote Communities Workshop has been taking place prior to the beginning of the Conference since 1998 and is open to all Delegates.

The seeds for this workshop were planted at the 50th Anniversary of AA in Toronto in 1995—a handful of Canadian delegates met to discuss the problem of carrying the message to remote Canadian communities and soon started meeting in various locations. The Alaskan delegate was asked to join in 1996 and by 1998 there was a Remote Communities meeting taking place prior to each conference and was open to all delegates. There is a publication called “Remote Communities Communicator”, published since 1999, which is a forum for sharing ideas on overcoming barriers of culture, language and geography.

There is a continuing discussion about what defines a “remote community”: Do you need all three—culture, language and geography—to be remote? This year’s committee hoped to stay away from that discussion and focused on the issue, as far as possible, as expressed in the over-

view to the 19th World Services Meeting: *“In order for the message of A.A. to exist, without borders, languages, race or religion, it must not be perceived as a threat to an individual’s cultural identity and should focus on the alcoholic’s powerlessness over alcohol.”* And to that some areas add the very real challenge of *geographical remoteness*.

The Geography presentation described some of the challenges of communicating in an area comprised of eight islands and separated from the next area by 2800 miles of ocean: Hawaii.

The Language presenter discussed various language-based problems, but noted progress as evidenced by one Spanish-language district: Utah.

The challenge of cultural differences in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Labrador was described by their delegate, who reported that their area has adopted the definition including all three challenges (language, culture and geography). Focus is currently on translation of all A.A. literature into the various Innu and Inuit dialects within their remote Labrador region. Telephone conferencing has been very effective and rewarding. There is much work to do.

DELEGATE ORIENTATION

“Eat, sleep, drink water, walk...”; “Remember, everyone comes from his own experience!”; “When you wonder why you’re here, re-read Dr. Bob’s reasons for going to meetings.”; “Participate, but don’t repeat if it’s been said before.”; “Adhere to Conference procedure (read and understand it).”; “You have a responsibility to share something that needs to be said!”; “When you ‘hit the wall’ talk it out, get help.”; “Never take yourself too seriously.”; “Trust the committee process.”; “I’m here because my sister was killed by a drunk driver a few weeks ago and the drunk driver will need meetings in prison.”; “I came informed, but not instructed.”; “Nothing is done that cannot be undone.”; “You’re just the string between the can at the conference and the can

at the area assembly.”; **“Do your best; you can’t break A.A.”**

OPENING SESSION

The Conference officially began Sunday morning with a welcome from GSB Chair, Ward E., opening words from John H, Eastern Massachusetts, Roll Call by GSO general manager, Phyllis H., a spiritual and unifying greeting from the delegate chairperson, Lowell L., and a Keynote address by trustee, Bill C.



First votes: To accept Alternate Delegate (Area 33) to replace her delegate who had resigned and to allow observers from the Venezuelan GSB.

After going over the mechanics of the conference by Phyllis H. and review of the agenda manual by Conference Coordinator/Secretary, Adrienne B., we met separately for lunch by regions.

PRAASA 2014 – SAN DIEGO

Following presentations by Utah and San Diego/Imperial delegates, the Pacific Regional delegates voted to select San Diego as the site for the 2014 Pacific Regional A.A. Service Assembly (Town and Country Hotel).

We reminded each other about the **Regional Forum in Torrance** in August 2010 and everyone promised to be there. We were also reminded that there will be a **Local Forum in Woodland Hills** in the summer of 2011 (more info later).

OPENING BANQUET

I was delighted to find myself sitting beside one of our new Class A Trustees, Dr. Frances B, Dean of the Stony Brook School of Social Welfare as well as the dean of the Black Alcoholism and Addictions Institute. She will bring her vast and amazing expertise to us, as well as a personal devotion to our fellowship. Over the week of the Conference I witnessed a transformation in Frances, who said, near the end of the week, *“This is the first time I have ever seen true democracy at work!”*

Following the banquet, Tom Z (Chairperson of the Agenda Committee) chaired the A.A. meeting. He introduced the Leader, Quinn G (Alt. Chairperson of the Agenda Committee), who introduced each of the speakers: JoAnne T , NW Ontario; Barbara S, N Indiana; Jim M, GSO staff; Conley B, trustee, and Nancy H, Grapevine director. In addition, Jim E (Class A trustee emeritus) gave a moving tribute to his friend Michael A who died earlier this year.

PRESENTATIONS

Throughout the week presentations on topics selected by the 2009 Conference were offered by delegates selected by the conference coordinator:

A. Practicing These Principles in All Our “Service” Affairs

1. What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?

2. Love and Tolerance is Our Code
3. Setting an Example—Attraction to Service

B. Unity Through Inventory

1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First
2. This We Owe to A.A.s Future
3. What happens After Inventory?

C. General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process

1. How It Works
2. Collective Participation
3. Communication—The Key to an Informed Decision

ARCHIVIST PRESENTATION

In addition to these presentations, Michelle M (nonalcoholic), **GSO’s Ar-**

chivist reflected on the importance of our history and noted that there are few organizations that revere their history as deeply as A.A. does. In honor of the theme of Unity, she projected a photo of Bill and Lois on a large screen and played an archival recording of Bill speaking in San Diego in which he said, in part: *“...unless we are bound together as one there can be little recovery for those hundreds of thousands yet to turn to us.”*

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the first three days, each Regional Trustee introduces the delegates from his/her Region and each delegate gives a (no more than) two-minute presentation on the current highlights of the area. Not a single delegate went over the two-minute limit!! These reports will all be printed in the Final Conference Report.

WORKSHOP

A presentation and workshop was held on the topic selected by the 2009 Conference: **“Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process”**

ARCHIVES & AGENDA COMMITTEES

Each delegate serves as a member of one Conference Committee for his or her two-year term. I was assigned to the Agenda committee and also to a secondary committee, the Conference Committee on Archives.

I met a total of three sessions with the Agenda Committee where we deliberated and addressed the assignments of recommending a Conference Theme, Presentation topics, and Workshop topics for the 2011 Conference, in addition to review of the Conference evaluation form for possible suggestions.

The Archives committee met in one lunch meeting together with the Trustees Committee on Archives, at which the topics of the Archives Workbook, virtual tour of the GSO Archives, and online exhibits of material from the GSO archives were dis-

cussed. I was elected chair of the Conference Committee on Archives for 2011.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees met beginning on Sunday morning and continued through Wednesday evening, interrupted now and then by the need to eat, sleep, and take care of various other personal and conference needs.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough the respect and admiration I have for all the work that all delegates have devoted in the conference committee process. In many instances the trustees' committees have prepared the way with detailed and intensive study and research that informs the conference committees in their work. When a recommendation or consideration comes to the floor of the conference, you can be sure that many informed minds have attended to the development of each one. Although we may not always achieve the wisdom we would aspire to, we sincerely have tried to reach an informed and reasonable recommendation.

CONFERENCE COMPOSITION

The voting members of the Conference are 93 delegates, 24 trustees, AAWS & GV directors, and 14 GSO and GV staff. One of the trustees had a previous, unchangeable commitment and so there were 130 voting members at this conference, rather than 131.

REGIONAL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

PACIFIC REGION: There were 14 candidates (Oregon did not have a candidate this year) and thanks to Pete B, Bruce H and Nick M for making themselves available to stand for candidate from our area. Pete B was our nominee. Thirty voters sat in a roped off portion of the conference floor while all the other members observed. The thirty voters are seven members from the Trustees' Nominating Committee, eight members from the Conference Committee on

Trustees, and fifteen delegates from the Pacific Region.

Rod B. was elected by a large majority on the third ballot. He is a past delegate from Utah, is active in his home group, and has also been a professional in the drug and alcohol field for over twenty years. Rod is Navajo and is the first Native American to serve as a Trustee for Alcoholics Anonymous. He has started his four-year term at the close of this conference.

For those of you who have not had a chance to meet Rod yet, and if you should miss him at the international Convention in San Antonio, he will be here in Torrance for the Pacific Regional Forum in August. Let's make sure he gets an especially warm welcome.

EASTERN CANADA: Donald C. of Terrebonne, Quebec was elected on the fifth ballot.

GENERAL SESSION BEGINS

Committee reports, recommendations and additional considerations began on Wednesday afternoon. Each recommendation was heard and considered by the conference members one by one as it was presented. At various times during the Conference, Floor Actions were introduced. We had perhaps a record number of Floor Actions (17), and I have covered them along with the actions of each committee, although they were not introduced until after all of the recommendations and considerations had been finished on Friday afternoon. Some of the Floor Actions were, after deliberation and discussion, withdrawn, merged, or voted down and some were incorporated into the final recommendations of the committee, as noted.

TREATMENT FACILITIES/ SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITIES

Committee Considerations

- In the proposed introduction to a Special Needs recovery pamphlet entitled "*Do you Have a Drink-*

ing Problem?" other language be considered that is more special needs focused.

- In the development of all pamphlets that the use of language inclusive of a wide variety of special needs be continued.

- A shorter name. They discussed changing the name to "Treatment Committee" but took no action and requested that the trustees' committee forward a report to the 2011 conference committee on the impact of such a change on titles and content of literature and the focus of committee work.

- Sample Bridging the Gap forms: they suggested that sample forms be included in the Treatment Facilities Workbook, taking into consideration examples from local communities.

- After review of the **Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook**, they suggested the following:

- The DVD *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be added in a hole-punched vinyl sleeve instead of the current box.

- The Young People's videos be included in the Kit.

- Suggestions for use of the two DVDs and the AA Grapevine be included in the Kit.

- Changes be made in the Workbook to reflect that the AA message is carried to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, including outpatient settings.

- Suggested that the *Special Needs Kit and Workbook* be incorporated in a three-ring binder to achieve parity with other Service kits, and that it includes shared experience with carrying the message to those with less visible challenges, such as illiteracy, autism, etc. to be gathered and added when feasible..

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Committee Considerations

The committee reviewed with appreciation the CPC Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

- The Trustees Committee gather sharing from the Fellowship

on whether there is a need for a sample format for 1-to-1 CPC contact with professional for inclusion in the Workbook.

- Include suggestions to show AA videos on page 14 of the Workbook
- Include shared experience from Class A Trustees in the Workbook.
- Continue emphasizing use of Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.
- Include a sample letter reemphasizing value of the three AA magazines and how the recipient may subscribe.
- Request creation of a process for how professionals attending national CPC exhibits can request follow up contact with local CPC committees.
- Consider consolidation of appropriate material and pamphlets on digital media for distribution to professionals.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

The Policy/Admissions Committee considers, strangely enough, matters of Conference policy and Admitting voting or non-voting members or observers to the Conference. The first two recommendations had been voted on and passed earlier and were:

- A. The recommendations that had been voted on earlier were the admission of the Alt. Delegate from Area 33 to replace the Delegate who had resigned (**approved unanimously**) and
- B. Invitations for two observers from the General Service Board of Venezuela (**approved unanimously**).

Further recommendations were:

- C. Recommended dates for the 2013 Conference be April 21-27 (**approved unanimously**).
- D. Recommended (**approved 110/12**) that the General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a plan (including cost) for such an inventory be developed and presented to the Conference Policy/Admissions Commit-

tee in 2011. The composition of the committee is to be [roughly] proportional to the composition of the conference with 2/3 delegates and 1/3 trustees, directors and staff. The delegate from our Region, selected from the hat on Friday, is the Area 08 Delegate, Joel C. He will be serving with 16 other committee members who will draft the plan. As far as I know, this is the first time the Conference has made the decision to take its own inventory.

E. The committee recommended (**not approved 12/110**) a procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals, but the recommendation was not approved. HOWEVER there was a Floor Action that this recommendation be recommitted (**approved 108/11**) to the General Service Board and forward a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

LITERATURE

The Conference Literature committee had its hands full...as always. Literature is always of great interest to the Fellowship and these consideration and recommendations will be no exception, I'm certain.

A. The committee recommended (approved 99/22) the revised pamphlet, "*The AA Member—Medications and Other Drugs*" be approved... HOWEVER, a Floor Action that was addressed at the end of the conference **reversed (107/17)** that decision and ***the pamphlet will be returned to the Trustees' Committee on Literature for additional discussion and they will report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.***

B. The committee recommended (**approved 121/3**) the heavily revised pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" (with the deletion of proposed change on p. 13 concerning opposite sex sponsors for gay members).

C. The committee recommended (**approved 93/32**) that the trustees' Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists

and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

D. The committee recommended (**approved unanimously**) that the sentence on page 22 of the pamphlet, "*Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.*" concerning closed meetings be replaced with: "*A closed meeting is for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking. Closed meetings give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics.*"

E. Concerning the pamphlet "*A.A. and the Armed Services*" the committee recommended (**approved unanimously**) that the pamphlet be updated to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section that focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that the Trustees' committee on Literature bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

F. The committee recommended (**approved 114/15**) that the Trustees' Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* (with an eye to "light editing revisions") and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

Additional Considerations:

- The committee expressed appreciation for a request to define the editorial responsibility of GSO's Publications Department and **took no action**.
- 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 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 pioneer women in A.A.

GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA

A. After thoughtful and lengthy discussion, the Committee recommended (approved 105/23) that La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning by publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue for a one-year trial period followed by a year of review and assessment and the results brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine. Content and substance will be of primary importance and an announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting. (Note: A cost of \$21,400 is associated with this recommendation, which includes translation of Grapevine articles to supplement the expected volume of Spanish language article submissions; if more articles are submitted in Spanish, the cost will be reduced.)

B. The committee recommended (approved 115/5) to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board that, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference committee on the AA Grapevine:

***What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?**

***How do you use the Grapevine magazine?**

***What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?**

***What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?**

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

(Further note: This questionnaire will be posted on our MSCA website for download; please make copies. The address for return is on the questionnaire or you may give them to me and I will forward them to the Grapevine Board).

Additional Considerations

- After review of the AA Grapevine Board's *History of Advisory Actions Report* pertaining to the relationship between the AA Grapevine Board, AA Grapevine office, and the Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine, the conference committee encourages this ongoing partnership, the continuation of quarterly Conference Committee calls with the Board and office, and all of the Board's recommendations in the report, especially the Board's recommendation for an annual report to the Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine.

- AA Grapevine Workbook: Committee reviewed the contents and suggested 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 AA Grapevine.

- The committee discussed at length and agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion to 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 of stories about handling the rough patches in sobriety.

CORRECTIONS

A. The committee recommended (approved 123/0) that the pamphlet *"Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities"* be revised so that the sentence "Obey the rules of the facil-

ity you are visiting" is replaced with the following text:

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

B. The committee recommended (approved 124/0) that the pamphlet *"A.A. in Correctional Facilities"* be revised so that the last sentence on page 4 under the heading "Policy Meetings" will now read:

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

C. The committee recommended (approved 123/0) that the pamphlet *"A Message to Corrections Professionals"* be revised so that the following two sentences are added to the end of the first paragraph under "Inmate Groups":

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

Additional Considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet *"It Sure Beats Sitting a Cell,"* and expressed its sincere thanks for all the work already done on the revision. The committee further 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 aspect other than photos (i.e., graphics, illustrations, etc.)

• The committee reviewed with appreciation the trustees' progress report concerning signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents and requested that the staff member continue to gather sharing on local solutions AA members may use to resolve perceived differences between facility rules/ regulations and what AA is and is not.

(Note: This is an opportunity for those of us who are in H&I to gather information on this and send it to the Corrections Desk at GSO.)

• The committee requested that the Corrections Workbook and Guidelines be updated to reflect the changes made in the pamphlets concerning rules and regulations.

• The committee requested that the Corrections Workbooks in Spanish, French and English be reviewed for discrepancies and take appropriate steps to ensure consistency of content in these publications. In addition it was requested that any "missing" sections be translated as soon as possible and be made available as addendums until the current inventory is depleted.

• There was lengthy discussion (but no suggestion) of 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.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

A. The committee recommended (**approved 115/10**) that the 2010 public service announcement (PSA) "My World" developed by the trustees' P.I. Committee be approved. The conference members viewed the PSA several times prior to voting.

B. The committee recommended (**approved 127/2**) that "My World" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in additions to the work of local PI committees. It was noted that tracing and evaluation is extremely helpful in finding where PSAs have been sent and evaluating the monetary value of the time of day and frequency of the slots when they are played.

C. The committee recommended (approved 117/1) that the following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" under Facts About Anonymity on page 10 to read as follows:

"A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still-living A.A. members should be respected in obituaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice."

D. The committee recommended (approved 121/5) that the AA video for Young People titled "Animation" be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads, "For more information search 'Young People' at www.aa.org."

This is a very entertaining, funny, inspirational simplistically drawn video with a bear, a fish and other line drawings voiced by young recovered alcoholics. I did, solemnly, from the microphone, voice my concern about the use of "full faces" in this video, for which I got many smiles for the rest of the week.

E. The committee recommended (**approved 121/4**) that the term 'drying out' be replaced with "detox" and "rehabilitation" replace "sanitarium" in the "What A.A. Does and Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer so that the phrase reads "A.A. does not...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services..." and the entire section reads as follows:

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

F. After thorough and heartfelt sharing on the matter of showing the full faces of actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved videos, the committee concluded that more discussion and understanding of the Tradition of Anonymity is needed throughout the Fellowship. The committee recommended (**approved 111/15**) that the trustees' Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

Additional Considerations

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

• The committee reviewed the 2009 Annual Report from the trustees' PI Committee regarding GSO'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 (PSAs)**

- The Committee suggested that particular consideration be given to developing a more effective distribution of Spanish and French language PSAs 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 AA TV PSAs and agreed with the report of the trustees' PI committee that found them all to be relevant and helpful.

- The committee assessed the need for a new AA TV PSA and agreed with the report of the trustees' PI committee that none was needed at this time. However, the committee recognized the need to have a PSA tracked and distributed on a yearly basis.

- The committee requested that the trustees' PI committee consider developing a plan to redistribute and track an older AA TV PSA in the years when a new PSA is not being distributed.

- The committee suggested that the trustees' PI 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' PI 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 PI Committee.

- The committee requested that the trustees' PI 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 section "Some questions and answers about anonymity/personal anonymity" on page 7. The draft text will be brought back to the 2011 Conference PI committee.

- **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 GSO's A.A. Web site.

- **A.A. Videos for Young People**

- The committee expressed gratitude for the obvious time and commitment on the part of the trustees' PI committee to the A.A. Videos for Young People Project and agreed with the trustees' suggestions that

- Use and distribution of videos from the AA Videos for Young People Project, including those already approved by the Conference, will be at the discretion of the trustees' PI Committee.

- The trustees' PI committee may group similar items, steam individual or multiple items on GSO'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 AA Video for Young People Project. They suggested that the AA Videos for Young People Project submission form be listed periodically in the AA Grapevine, La Viña, and La Vigne.

- **Public Information Kit:** The committee reviewed the contents of the PI Kit and Workbook and suggested that an issue of the AA Grapevine, La Viña, and La Vigne be added to the contents of the Kit.

REPORT AND CHARTER

This committee is responsible for The A.A. Service Manual, The Final Conference Report and the A.A. Directories and there is no corresponding Trustees' committee. Members of the Report and Charter Committee met five times (most of all committees this year) and made four recommendations:

A. The committee recommended (**approved 121/0**) that the General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees emeriti to the Service Manual.

B. The committee recommended (**approved 89/37**) that the Publications Department publish the Area Highlights in their entirety in the Final Conference Report and further recommended (approved 104/20) that the Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference Final Report. HOWEVER, there was a Floor Action proposed which rescinded that advisory action and replaced the recommended language with the following (**approved 127/3**):

"Recommended that the Publications Department work cooperatively with the Conference Committee on Report and Charter on the Final Report of the General Service Conference to ensure that all Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations are consistent in format, grammatically correct, and accurately reflect the actions of the General Service Conference."

C. The committee recommended (**did not approve 30/92**) that the A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S. and Eastern U.S.) be published annually and that GSO continue exploring other methods of providing the information in the directories.

D. The committee recommended (**did not approve 17/101**) that areas may choose to opt-out of the 30-day pending period to complete the processing of new groups.

Additional Considerations

- The committee reviewed reports and editorial updates from the Publications Department, the Grapevine Board, the A.A.W.S. Board, the General Service Board and suggested several revisions (which were not enumerated) and 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 Service Manual that lists annual changes to the Manual (currently on page S123 2009-2010 Edition) and the addition of the text **"(see Chapter Eleven)"** to the end of the paragraph one in Chapter One under the heading "Tools Available from G.S.O." (Currently on page S23 2009-2010 Edition)

- The Committee considered a request to (1) publish and distribute the Service Manual every other year and (2) publish the directories in the alternate years. The committee took **no action**.

- They considered a request to reprint the Service Manual only as necessary and consider publishing every three to five years and took **no action**.

- The committee considered a request to gather sharing form the Fellowship concerning the general nature of the Service Manual and took **no action**.

- And finally the committee considered a request to reposition the Additional Committee Considerations, Recommendations, and Floor Actions that Did Not Result in Advisory Actions following the Advisory Actions in the Conference Final Report and took **no action**.

AGENDA

A. Our committee recommended (**approved 127/0**) that the Theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be:

"We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future—Let it Begin with Us"

B. We recommended (approved 109/14) the following presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2011 General Service Conference

1) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age

- Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
- Carrying A.A.'s Message Online
- Grapevine—"A.A.'s Meeting in Print" and More...

2) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.

- Self-Support—Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
- Humility—Accepting the Group Conscience
- An Informed Group Conscience—Using the Three Legacies

3) Diversity in A.A.

- The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
- The Hand of A.A.—Inclusive Never Exclusive
- Tradition Five—Our Primary Purpose

4) Sponsorship

- Importance of a Home Group
- Leading by Example—Attraction Not Promotion
- Recovery, Unity, Service

B. Recommended (**approved 115/9**) that the Workshop Topic for the 2011 General Service Conference be ***"How to increase Participation in A.A.—Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs"***

Additional Consideration

The committee reviewed the 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.

TRUSTEES

A. The committee unanimously recommended (**approved unani-**
mously) the following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2010:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. B, FACHE
Frances L. B, Ph.D.
Corliss B
Ward B. E, D.D.
John F, M.D.
Michele G, J.D.
The Honorable Rogelio R. F

Class B Trustees

Rod B
Kenneth B
Conley F. B, Jr.
Donald C
Dorothy L. H
John K
Roberta L
Jo-Anne L
George G. M
Don M
Don M
Eleanor W. N
Victor P
Pamela R

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson: Ward B. E
1st Vice-Chair: Jo-Anne L
2nd Vice-Chair: Dorothy L. H
Treas: Terrance M. B, FACHE
Secretary: John K

The committee recommended (**approved unanimously**) the January 2010 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2010 in accordance with the 2007 GSB By-laws.

Assist. Treas: Donald M
Assist. Secty: Doug R
B. The committee recommended (**approved 125/1**) the slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services, Inc. in April 2010.

Andrea G. B
Joe D
Phyllis H
Roberta L
George G. M
William N
Victor P
Doug R

Pam R

C. The committee recommended (approved unanimously) that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2010:

Ginger R B
Frances L. B, Ph.D.
Robin B
Kenneth B
Nancy H
Dorothy L. H
Don M
Eleanor N
Albin Z

Additional Considerations

- 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. (Suggested language for clarification was included in the request and is lengthy.)
- The committee reviewed and approved as eligible for election all the candidates for Pacific and Eastern Canada regional trustee.
- The committee reviewed their Composition, Scope and Procedure and added "Special Needs/ Accessibilities" to the CPC/Treatment Facilities headings.
- The committee requests that the trustees' Committee on Nominating explore the 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 from the two Regions (Southeast and East Central) whose elections for both positions occur in the same year. It was felt that the members from these two Regions have less chance to serve than the other six regions.
- The committee discussed unplanned regional trustee vacancies that are left unfilled and requested that the trustees' committee on Nominating explore the impact of

changing the rotation in such a case and report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.

- And, in addition, the committee also asked for a similar report concerning unplanned Class A and General Service trustee vacancies that are left unfilled including the impact on the Boards when such vacancies occur and bring the report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Trustees.

FINANCE

A. The committee recommended changes to pp 12 and 13 in the pamphlet "*Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix*". The changes included a third pie chart to be filled in by each individual group and other text changes. Although the majority of the Conference members were in favor of the recommended changes the recommendation was **not approved (72/50)** for lack of a 2/3 majority and therefore the item is **re-committed** to the Trustees' Finance Committee and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Finance.

B. The committee recommended (approved 120/3) that the following be added to the pamphlet "*Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix*" where appropriate:

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

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

C. The committee recommended (**approved 123/1**) that the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading "How can groups participate?" in the pamphlet "*Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix*"; and the second sentence "(rent, refreshments, A.A. literature...) be changed to read "(for example: rent, refreshments, A.A. and Grapevine literature,...)"

D. The committee recommended (approved 112/16) that the trustees'

Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

Additional Considerations

- 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:
 - If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit?
 - 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 Trustees' policy on self support which was affirmed at the 2009 Conference and which reads:

"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 A.A. groups and members. As a result, providing these needed services has necessarily been supported in part by income from the sale of A.A. 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 A.A. 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 Committee on Finance for further discussion;

- ❖ *Birthday Plan*
- ❖ *Seventh Tradition Pamphlet*
- ❖ *Box 4-5-9 or Grapevine articles*
- ❖ *Finance Workbook Tool Kit*
- ❖ *Report Costs of Services to Members*
- ❖ *Discuss Effects of Inflation*
- ❖ *Add Additional Financial Information to the Web site.*

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/ REGIONAL FORUMS

Committee Considerations:

- * The committee heard reports on the upcoming International Convention in San Antonio

- * 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*.

- *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, 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 suggest 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.

- Share the Forum experience with others and with enthusiasm.

- Attraction, attraction, attraction!

ARCHIVES

The second committee I serve on is the Conference Committee on Archives.

Our Area Archives committee met in January and thoroughly reviewed the Archives Workbook. As a result of that meeting, we made recommendations that the Workbook could be more effective and helpful to Area, District and Group archives and noted a number of typographical errors.

Committee Considerations

- 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, travelling exhibits, presentations and seeking out historical material from longtime A.A. members. (*Note: This was a direct result of our suggestions.*)

- * 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 GSO Archives. The report included information from the archivist on the new Digital Archives Exhibit, which will be launched on the Archives portal of aa.org soon. The first Exhibit displays and gives information about some of the Awards that have been bestowed upon Alcoholics Anonymous over the years. We saw a prototype and were enthusiastic about the project, which will continue to add items, but will not take anything down.

RATIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Service Board met at noon on Saturday, April 24th, 2010 and ratified all of the recommendations passed by the 60th General Service Conference.

