

MSCA AREA 09
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE TOPIC SUMMARIES

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COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Conference Committee: II Cooperation with the Professional Community – ITEM A.

Agenda Topic	Discuss suggestion to revise text in the section <i>Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities</i> in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” to reflect current A.A. experience.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposed update originates from a 2012 meeting of the Trustee’s Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community in which it was recommended that this pamphlet be updated to better reflect the current AA experience. The proposed changes include adding the website information in ‘How to Contact AA’ and eliminating the words “write at” and “phone”, as that is now commonly understood when you see an address and/or phone number.</p> <p>The other proposed change is with regards to the portion addressing ‘court cards’ or ‘attendance slips’ from outside agencies. As every group is autonomous and there are obviously many regional and circumstantial differences, the pamphlet addresses these issues in very broad terms. However, when originally written, the courts supplied the attendance slips to AA along with a return envelope. This no longer being the norm that portion of the pamphlet would be changed to read that “the referred person supplies the slip and reports back to the court as proof of attendance.”</p>
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	Does your group feel that the proposed changes better reflect current AA experience? Use your own experiences with this pamphlet to determine if this changed is needed and appropriate

CORRECTIONS**Conference Committee: III Corrections – Item A.**

Agenda Topic	Pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals”: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review draft replacement for the section “A.A. in correctional facilities” and two additional revisions. Discuss a review of the entire pamphlet”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2012 Conference Corrections requested that the section in this pamphlet headed, “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” be deleted and replaced with a section with more pertinent information that does not require updating as much as statistical information. The statistical information currently in the pamphlet was collected from a questionnaire distributed to corrections professionals in 1974. In response to this request, in September 2012, a sub-committee of the Trustees’ Corrections Committee suggested additional changes regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The placement of the conference-approved paragraph regarding the purpose of A.A. • removal of references to the outdated questionnaire • Rewrite, and make generic, the sharing from corrections professionals on the value of A.A. <p>In October 2012, the Trustees’ Corrections Committee, in response to a request from an Area Delegate, suggested that the 2013 Conference Corrections Committee might consider sending the pamphlet back to the Trustees’ Committee for a complete review, rather than reviewing section by section.</p>
What do you	The deletion of the word telephone in the section “ <i>What corrections professionals</i>

<p>want to tell our Delegate?</p>	<p><i>may want to know about A.A.</i>" presents this question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the information supplied in the pamphlet provide the best way for corrections professional to contact those A.A.'s involved in Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), local Corrections Committees or Hospitals & Institutions Committees? <p>Is the proposed text in the section "<i>A.A. in Correctional Facilities</i>" meaningful to a corrections professional?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it written in language that would be helpful and useful to a professional who is not an alcoholic and has no first-hand experience with Alcoholics Anonymous? • Were the deleted statistics useful to a corrections professional, and should they be updated instead of deleted? • Should there be more information in the pamphlet regarding the benefits to the facility when inmates participate in A.A.? <p>Is the proposed text in the section "<i>Re-entry and Parole</i>" meaningful to a corrections professional?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposed change highlight strongly enough the benefit to the facility when inmates go directly to A.A. upon release/re-entry? <p>Regarding the proposed review of the entire pamphlet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the pamphlet provide continuity and flow, making it easier for a busy corrections professional to make time to read it? <p>Would it be helpful if the pamphlet created an opportunity for dialogue between A.A. and the corrections professional, (at the G.S.O. or local level) such as providing a brief questionnaire that the professional could fill out return (postage paid)</p>
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Conference Committee: III Corrections – Item C.

Agenda Topic	Discuss how we engage AA members in corrections service.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At their February 2013 meeting, the trustee's Committee on Corrections considered a report that noted the importance of strategic planning regarding resources and practices in support of corrections Twelfth Step work.</p> <p>The committee agreed to forward to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections two discussion topics, including one on how we engage A.A. members in corrections service, with the hope that local service committees will consider this topic during the many pre-conference meetings in the United States and Canada.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This topic will give the Delegates serving on the Conference Committee on Corrections an opportunity to come to the Conference having had the benefit of hearing these discussions. 2. The background for this item includes information that is offered from the Corrections Desk of the General Service Office in response to queries, and

	<p>may not be as familiar to A.A. members. The background is intended to foster a wider discussion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some A.A. members involved with Corrections may think this a waste of time and should be left in the Corrections Committees.
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	<p>The Corrections Correspondence Service should be one of the tools our groups should be more involved with.</p> <p>Our trusted servants should inspire more A.A. members to get involved with Corrections Service. Very seldom is the need actually heard in meetings. In order to engage our members in corrections service, let's inspire them to get engaged.</p>

FINANCE

Conference Committee: IV Finance — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference																																																																																																								
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Periodically, the Fellowship and the General Service Conference are asked to review the suggested amount each Delegate Area is voluntary requested to remit in order to help offset the cost of holding the General Service Conference.</p> <p>A History of Conference Area Delegate Fees:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Year</th> <th style="text-align: left;">From</th> <th style="text-align: left;">To</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1960</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1974</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$150</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1978</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$200</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1984</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$300</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1989</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1997</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$600</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$800</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1,200</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1,600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Conference Costs:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 150px;"></th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 80px;">2008</th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 80px;">2009</th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 80px;">2010</th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 80px;">2011</th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 80px;">2012</th> <th style="text-align: right; width: 80px;">Est. Budget</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Expense</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$737,275</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$788,932</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$858,893</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$803,985</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$709,868</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$923,495</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area Fees Including</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional Contrib.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-\$216,795</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-\$199,199</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-\$230,904</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-243,804</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-\$228,168</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$258,800</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net Direct Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$520,480</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$589,733</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$427,989</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$560,381</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$560,381</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$664,695</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Held In:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NYC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NYC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Westchester</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NYC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Westchester</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NYC</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note</p>	Year	From	To	1960	-	\$150	1974	\$150	\$200	1978	\$200	\$300	1984	\$300	\$400	1989	\$400	\$600	1997	\$600	\$800	2005	\$800	\$1,200	2012	\$1,200	\$1,600		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Est. Budget	2013							Direct Expense	\$737,275	\$788,932	\$858,893	\$803,985	\$709,868		\$923,495							Area Fees Including							Additional Contrib.	-\$216,795	-\$199,199	-\$230,904	-243,804	-\$228,168	-	\$258,800							Net Direct Costs	\$520,480	\$589,733	\$427,989	\$560,381	\$560,381		\$664,695							Held In:	NYC	NYC	Westchester	NYC	Westchester		NYC						
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	<p>Cost Per Delegate in 2013, given 95 Delegate Areas: \$9,721 Versus Actual average contribution per Delegate Area: \$2,724</p>
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	<p>In holding ourselves to the principle of self-support, contributions to G.S.O. are intended to pay for all expenses incurred by the General Service Office. Given the budgeted shortfall of \$664,695 in 2013 for General Conference expenses, we, as a Fellowship, are presented with some questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the expense of the General Service Conference solely an expense of the General Service Office? If it is, Delegate Areas should not be asked to contribute additional money, (out of Group contributions made to the Area) to assist in defraying the cost of the annual General Service Conference. The cost should be borne solely out of contributions to the General Service Office. • If the expense of the annual General Service Conference is not an expense of the General Service Office, should All 95 Delegate Areas be responsible for contributing their fair share of the Conference cost, calculated by dividing the direct expense of the previous year's Conference by the number of Delegate Areas, (currently 95). • Is the current policy of suggesting voluntary contributions from the Delegate Areas to offset the General Service Office expense fair and equitable?

GRAPEVINE / LA VINA

Conference Committee: V. Grapevine – Item A

Agenda Topic	Review Audio Strategy status report
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2012 A.A. Grapevine Committee has requested that a <u>Status and Financial</u> report be submitted to the 2013 Conference Committee as background. At the beginning of the year 2013 A.A. Grapevine created a web page, in house with AAGV Inc. web developers. For the purpose of collecting audio stories from the Fellowship. There are two way for submission 1) Members call a voicemail service which AAGV pays \$11.99/month and 2) Members record their own .WAV file with their digital media device and e-mails it to Grapevine.</p> <p>Our belief is that the audio stories strategy should be maintained. Digital Media distribution continues to grow at an ever increasing rate. It appears to be the “.WAV of the future”. When one member hears another’s story. The way it is phrased, the context in which it was spoken, and the sound of ones voice. It can only add strength, to the “one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic” experience. Second, the voicemail service is vital to the spirit of inclusion. There will be members who do not have access to and/or knowledge of digital media devices. This service may be the only means of creating a .WAV file, for sharing with the Grapevine audio strategy. Also the voice center plan should be of the Toll Free type. To further encourage membership participation in sharing their story. The pricing of distributed files should be off-setting by the costs incurred during</p>

	<p>recordings. The larger/longer the file, the more that story/file may cost.</p> <p>Now that a dynamic has been created for an audio repository within Grapevine. The next step would be to edit and prepare these files for distribution back to the fellowship. This process is vital for maintaining our Traditions of non-affiliation, anonymity, and attraction. Furthermore, in the essence of self-supporting. Our groups believe that Grapevine should edit these files internally. That, while JMM (John Marshall Media) is currently in use for audio productions. A \$500 per finished hour of audio is a high price to pay. Adobe software products are widely used, user friendly, and of professional quality. It would allow for internal editing. Also in comparison, it is suspected that a \$349 Adobe's "Audition" license fee. Is more cost effective then a hired freelancer and/or JMM.</p> <p>Finally, how do you get these incredible stories, on audio files, back out to the Fellowship? If you think of a member using a desktop, laptop, or notebook with internet access. The answer is simple. Go to www.aagrapevine.org There, if created by Grapevine, you would find a web page with a list of these story files. They could be individually priced to off-set costs. For example if one story is 30 min. long and another 1 hour at \$.06 a minute (the stated toll free fee paid by GV)+a % of editing fees. That story would cost \$1.80 and \$3.60 respectively a % of editing fees. Each stories price could be tailored to its cost. No profits, no losses, and fully self supporting. Now lets say a newcomer has a Smart Phone, an I-phone, a Tablet, or maybe a Kindle. Where would his sponsor suggest he go? One option could be to affiliate ourselves with Amazons "Audible" app or Barns and Nobles "Overdrive" app. While both of these business enterprises are industry leaders. And would create an easier, softer way to achieve our audio strategy goals. We feel we would be break the Sixth and Seventh Traditions- An AA Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise. We are self-supporting thru our own contributions. Would it not be better for Grapevine to develop its own "AA Grapevine" app? One that could be downloaded to any smart phone, tablet, or e-reader. Would it not be awesome for a sponsor to say "Yep, We have an app for that!" Go to the AA Grapevine.org, or the I-store, or Google Play and download the "AA Grapevine" app. There you can listen to other member's stories, just as they spoke it. It may help you in your recovery. Development and maintenance costs of the app. Can be off-set by the cost of downloading the app to your device.</p>
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	<p>In conclusion, we feel the audio file strategy for Grapevine stories should continue to be pursued. A toll free voice service established for gathering stories. That editing be conducted in house to maintain our Traditions. Furthermore, an app be developed for smart phones, tablets, and e-readers, for distribution. As to further maintain our Traditions. If Grapevine can develop a web page in house to collect member's stories. Then why should it not also develop an editing process and distribution process in house too. Finally, that www.aagrapevine.org can, if not already, provided an outlet for desktop and laptop distribution of these files</p>

Agenda Topic	<p>La Viña Magazine</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page magazine. 2. Consider discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e. 68 pages, perfect bound).
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The La Viña Magazine continuous with the increased deficit due to the cost of Editorial Work, Printing, Art, Travel through the U.S. / CANADA wage adjustment in benefits related to employees, Pension assumed expenses , and low subscription participation.</p> <p>Total sales in 2010 \$75,480, in 2011, \$69,723, and \$115,819 in 2012.</p> <p>The Ad Hoc Committee that was appointed by the GSB thoroughly reviewed the financial state of La Vina since its inception and recommended that the advisory Action of 2010 be rescinded regarding La Viña. The committee also unanimously agreed on the importance of the message of La Viña and recommended we continue printing as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1] That we publish a magazine in English / Spanish 68 pages keeping La Viña name in the Spanish section 2] White / Black design and published 4/6 times per year 32/48 pages long. 3] That it be produced by Spanish Speaking members in USA / CANADA similar to The AA Vigne Canada. <p>* In the last example; that it be published by a volunteer group like La Vigne of Canada.</p> <p>In 2012 we had an Increase of 8.56% Subscriptions 733 more than in 2011, 548 were drafted stories 380 more than in 2011 and we had Writing Workshops throughout U.S. / CANADA. Total Entries for La Viña Magazine was \$95,558 up 2010, \$106,563 in 2011 and \$ 107,270 In 2012.</p>
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	Does your group approve of the possibility of this change?

LITERATURE

Conference Committee: VI Literature – Item A

Agenda Topic	Review the revised draft pamphlet “Circle of Love and Service.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The trustees' Committee on Literature agreed to request that the Conference consider revising the entire pamphlet. The pamphlet has only undergone minor changes since 1980. [Ex. Adding www.alcoholics-anonymous.org] At the 2012 GSC, it was recommended to be revised and the trustees' Committee on Literature was asked to prepare a draft pamphlet for the 2013 Conference Literature Committee.</p> <p>Revision will keep the overall concept of “Circles of Love” and the flow of actions be re-do the graphics, update the language. Close attention being paid to removing the judgmental language. Back page completely redone due to contradictory wording. [Are we helping one or millions?]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -add page reference numbers -add address to contact AA. <p>Not until the pamphlet comes out of the committee process to the floor of the Conference itself. Whether this year or in the future, that the item is viewed by anyone other than members of the Conference or trustees' Committee.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Costs not mentioned. Does your group approve of the possibility of this change?

Conference Committee: VI – Literature – Item B

Agenda Topic	Review final report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality, along with the draft pamphlet
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2010 the GSC recommended 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.</p> <p>The trustees Committee on Literature requested stories from the fellowship that reflected a wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members. They also forwarded a progress report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality for consideration.</p> <p>Members of the 2011 GSC recommended that the trustees Literature Committee continue to develop this literature. The Literature Committee asked that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.</p> <p>January 2012 Meeting the trustees forwarded to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the development of this literature. The report included 23 stories that the sub-committee had chosen out of 200 for a possible inclusion in a new pamphlet.</p> <p>By their October, 2012 meeting, the committee requested that a draft pamphlet be</p>

	prepared by the Publications Department as a background for their February 2013 meeting and at this meeting the trustees forwarded the draft pamphlet, and final report on its development, to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your Group have any feedback on the final report? Note: The draft pamphlet is provided only to the General Service Conference Committee on Literature.

Conference Committee: VI – LITERATURE – ITEM C

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to replace language in the second paragraph of the dust jacket of the 4th Edition of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Current request: The following is research in response to Area 26's request to add the following language from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the Big Book to the current Fourth Addition Big Book dust jacket copy:</p> <p>Third Edition – “But the basic text (Pages 1 through 164) remains unchanged.</p> <p>History: When the Fourth Edition was introduced in October 2001 the relevant dust jacket copy read as follows:</p> <p>October 2001 Fourth Edition – “The basic text, pages 1-164, which had been the foundation of recovery for so many alcoholics remained, and still remains unchanged”.</p> <p>At their January 2012 meeting, the trustees Committee on Literature discussed and agreed to forward to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature a request that text from the dust jacket of The Third Edition of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, be added to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book. The 2012 GSC Committee on Literature discussed the forwarded request and took no action.</p> <p>At their October 2012 meeting, the trustees Committee on Literature reviewed a 2nd request and agreed to forward it to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.</p> <p>Pro: Some members feel the book, 'Alcoholics Anonymous', was written to ensure that our message would not become garbled, and this paragraph would clearly state where, in the first 164 pages of the book, to find the solution. It is important since it is the first thing read, for the dust jacket to point exactly to where our message can be found.</p> <p>Con: The current language states that not only the first 164 pages have not been changed, but also the Preface, Forwards, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices as well. It is vital that the book remain historically chronological as well as direct the reader to understand the importance in maintaining the integrity of the book.</p>
What does the	Does your group approve of the possibility of this change?

Delegate need to know?	
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Conference Committee: VI – Literature – Item D

Agenda Topic	Consider a suggestion to add “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the <i>open</i> meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposal comes from two members from Area 64. The reason for the suggested change is to make the open meeting description “Uniform” in all A.A. Literature. The ‘blue’ card currently states A.A.’s primary purpose (for both open and closed meetings) for those groups who wish to read it at meetings. (F-17)</p> <p>Primary Purpose Card currently reads;</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.”</p> <p>The suggested change would read;</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. “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers”</p> <p>Pro: This would now be uniform in A.A. literature.</p> <p>Pro: It may help make clearer what the non-alcoholic’s role is in the meeting.</p> <p>Con: Some may feel that this is redundant since the statement already implies that all are welcome.</p> <p>Con: Some may feel that this is a directive, and although may be true, is better left unread at a meeting.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that this is a good idea? What kind of pros and cons has your group come up with?

Conference Committee: VI – Literature Item E

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to add an index to the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion was made by a home group member and supported by District 17 South Piedmont and approved by the Area Literature Committee and the Virginia Area Assembly. • Index could include key phrases, prayers, where to the steps etc... The purpose is not to facilitate a quick fix but to make the study of, and reference to, our basic text more user friendly. • Some of our books such as <u>AA Comes of Age</u> and <u>As Bill Sees It</u> already

	include an index.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Indexing the Big Book could provide useful guidance for the study of our basic text, could also potentially encourage the readers to use the Big Books as cliff notes or highlights and miss important information between indexed items

Conference Committee: **VI - Literature Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to add the subtitle “None Left Behind” to the newly revised “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding the verbiage could attract or identify with this population. San Diego County is home to the largest concentration of military activity in the world, 137,000 active duty personnel, 250,000 veteran residents and largest discharged Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom veteran population in the nation with 34,000 recent discharged warriors. San Diego's largest problem currently is "Homeless Veterans". Estimates from 2011 report that on average 100 veterans per week are booked into county jails with that number rising. The most common charges being DUI, Domestic Violence, Assaults and Weapons possession with most of the offenses committed "Under the Influence". The exact origination and affiliations of the phrase "None Left Behind" is not really traceable because history shows it to be more of a philosophy or concept which developed pre-Greek and actually was integrated throughout early civilization into many different societies, spiritual traditions, religions, governments and organizations. Alexander the Great adopted the concept and its principals for military fighting men and is utilized by many today.
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	Adding requested verbiage has the possibility of reaching out to the Armed Services group giving them the ability to relate/identify. Is there an affiliation controversy by using slogan heavily used by the Armed Services?

POLICY / ADMISSIONSConference Committee: **VII – Policy/Admissions – Item E.**

Agenda Topic	Consider changing the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda items from January 15th to December 15th.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Trustees Conference Committee is requesting a date change for submission of agenda items, in order to provide more time for the lengthy process of preparing for the GSB meeting (This date cannot be changed). This, in turn, would provide more time to get the final version (800-1500 pages) to the delegate by Feb. 15. It is on the agenda because there have been years when the way the dates fell, there was very little time to prepare the agenda items for the GSB meeting. They also claim that this would provide more time to get the completed documents to the delegates by the Feb 15 deadline. The year 2010 is a prime example, when there was but a three day turnaround between completion of the documents (hard copies and DVD's) and the due date for receipt by the Delegates.</p> <p>Pros - 1. This would obviously benefit the trustees, in providing them more time for review and preparation.</p>

	Cons - 1. This would shorten the time for getting the proposed agendas back from the groups. 2. This would shorten the time for the delegate to review the group's responses.
What does the Delegate need to know?	This would benefit the preparation time for the GSB meeting, but unless some of the prep work for mailing can also be done prior to the GSB meeting, there would be no benefit to the mailing deadline since the GSB meeting time is etched in stone. This could only be achieved by changing the deadline for the delegates to receive the documents. This, in turn, would present a whole new set of problems in getting the information out to the members for review and then returned to the Delegate. \

Conference Committee: VII – Policy/Admissions – Item G.

Agenda Topic	Discuss the concept of combining the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy/Admission Committees
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>On Feb 4, 2013, the General Service Board forwarded the recommendation from the Trustee's Conference Committee that the two committees listed above be consolidated. The original Agenda Committee was established at the First General Service Conference in 1951. The Admissions committee was established in 1955 and they were combined in 1967 at the 17th General Service Conference under the new name Conference Agenda Admissions Committee.</p> <p>The current stated function of the Policy/Admissions Committee is that it is 'responsible for reviewing all requests for admissions to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.' The stated function, among others, of the Agenda Committee is to 'consider ideas submitted for presentation/discussion topics during the next Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.'</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the consolidation of these committees would be an advantage to our fellowship? Why or why not? Are there other alternatives to be considered with regard to this change?

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Conference Committee VIII – Public Information – Item B.3

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s): B.3 – Consider production of new video P.S.A.s
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>To make sure all P.S.A.'s stay relevant and useful.</p> <p>Sub committee recommends one or more video P.S.A.'s be produced in year 2013. Keep the PSA's fresh and new.</p> <p>Cost effective to produce two or three at a time would cost the same as one. Ensure future PSA's tie in with AA.org.</p> <p>Research will be needed and evaluated to recommend which PSA's need to be redone.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	PSA's can be viewed on GSO's AA Web site. www.aa.org . Does your group feel that this is a good idea? What kind of pros and cons has your group come up with?

Conference Committee VIII – Public Information – Item C

Agenda Topic	Discuss Fellowship sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2012 Conference Committee on Public Information requested input with regards to the Short Form of Tradition 11, based on the new needs of the fellowship regarding anonymity in the digital age. Should the verbiage be changed, updated or broadened to clarify AA's tradition of anonymity in all forms of public communication in all media?</p> <p>Pros – Bill W never intended the program of AA to be rigid or static; the Traditions are based on experience and experience has changed. The Short Form of Tradition 11 is all that many in the fellowship hear, and is the spirit and intent of the tradition clear to all, newcomers and visitors alike? Or is specific and some consider archaic wording not keeping pace with the changing technologies and media?</p> <p>Cons – Would changing the wording truly change behavior with regards to anonymity, or is that more of a home group/education/sponsorship issue? Since their inception in 1955, no changes have been made to the Traditions. With no mechanism in place to affect such a change, would the cost and effort involved better serve the suffering alcoholic in other ways?</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is this a realistic and necessary change – why or why not? Does the Short Form of Tradition 11 fully encompass the issue of anonymity in the digital age? What, if any, changes does your group advise?

Conference Committee: VIII Public Information — Item D

Agenda Topic	<p>Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on establishing a Public Information Social Media Page.</p>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Committee considered favorably the suggestion from the trustees' Public Information Committee that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. Before proceeding, however, the committee requested that the General Service Board explore all aspects of this social media page and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information an implementation plan that addresses the implications of such a page, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance.</p> <p>The subcommittee discussed at length what aspects of a Public Information presence on Facebook must be fully explored. The primary considerations were determined to be anonymity and affiliation.</p> <p>To Develop an informed group conscience, the committee sought input from an A.A. member with professional expertise with online communications including Facebook and other social media/networking sites.</p> <p>The committee learned that Facebook is an interactive social networking Web site and it is problematic for organizations to establish a page on Facebook that has no interactivity.</p> <p>While there may currently be controls that AA could put in place to maintain the anonymity of individuals who interacted with an AA on Facebook, policies on Facebook make it clear that these controls can be removed at any time....but Facebook often changes their policies to adapt to the fast evolving nature of the platform.</p> <p>Pro: Facebook has 2.5 million websites integrated with Facebook....955 million active users all over the world; 181 million in US and Canada...the Fellowship could have the ability to reach out to a broader audience to reach the still suffering alcoholic.</p> <p>Con: Facebook is a business and one way that it makes a profit is by sharing its user's information. It has a history of significantly changing its policies about sharing user's information without any advance notice.</p> <p>Pro: Facebook will allow A.A. to connect with members, provide a new place for 12th step work, and become a new channel for publishing content.</p> <p>Con: In order for Facebook to be successful and comply with anonymity and affiliation, special workers would need to be employed full time and forever to manage the community by responding to comments, deleting offensive posts, and fielding 12 step/PI and other request.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Ways that a Facebook presence could be established now, while still adhering to our Traditions regarding anonymity and affiliation. Have the committee continue to explore a Facebook presence or another online medium for the future as technology advances.

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

Agenda Topic	Consider a request from A.A.W.S. for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A 2011 Conference Advisory Action: "...AA Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies... & commissioned online stores for the sale & distribution of magazines, books & products." And "The Committee requested that a status & financial report be submitted to the 2012 Grapevine Conference Committee".</p> <p>In 2009, the AAWS entered a contract with Amazon.com to make the Big Book & 12 & 12 available on Kindle. Shortly after, the contract was cancelled because AA did not have control over pricing consistency & advertising (or cross-selling).</p> <p>Continued requests for digital Big Book & other AA literature caused AA to create an online store to avoid 3rd party sellers. A business plan & budget of \$411,000 was established & in December of 2011 the App was released. But the App was less than ideal, and many users found it inferior to eReaders such as the iBooks, Kindle & Nook. There were also unexpected changes in technology, extensive development time & high costs to support these Apps. These areas were not fully anticipated when AAWS began the eBook project.</p> <p>In the summer of 2012, AAWS conducted an intensive review of its work on the eBooks project. One of the conclusions of this review was that creating & maintaining AAWS eReader Apps was not going to be sustainable in the long run, due to the changes in technology, extensive development time & high costs to support these Apps. Approximately \$248,000 of the budgeted \$411,000 was spent on the eBook effort to make it operational. AAWS states: "While we plan to discontinue production & support of Apps, the investment in the online store & eBooks digitization are ongoing benefits. The online store was designed to be expanded as a platform for selling bound books & other materials, & we hope to continue to offer eBooks through commissioned online stores. Since the launch of eBooks, we have sold 5,118 Big Books & 4,553 of the 12 & 12. Total sales income for both books was \$58,026." The AAWS Board concluded that continued development of eReader Apps was not a practical or a prudent use of GSO resources.</p> <p>AAWS determined that in order to make digital versions of AA literature available to the widest number of AA members & others interested, that selling through 3rd-party vendors would be required.</p> <p><u>Pro:</u> Making literature available helps to carry the message and hard copy publishing is becoming obsolete. We allow 3rd Party vendors to sell our hardbound literature, so we should also sell through 3rd Party digital vendors?</p> <p><u>Con:</u> AA would not be able to control the price of our literature & people might erroneously conclude that we are affiliated with 3rd Party vendor(s) or advertisers</p>

What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that this is a good idea? What kind of pros and cons has your group come up with?
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TRUSTEES

Conference Committee: **XI – Trustees – Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Board's proposed plan regarding the slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 62nd General Service Conference supported a proposal brought forth from the Trustees of the General Service Board last year. This proposal was to develop a plan regarding the structure and practice of the General Service Board and the two operating corporations A.A. World Services, Inc and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. The proposed plan has been written and is being brought before this conference for review. The reason for the proposed plan is to address problems of communication, finance, cooperation, and election of Directors which has resulted in conflicts and inefficiencies that have affected the functioning of the General Service Board. This plan illustrates a desire of The General Service Board to move focus to matters of strategy and policy issues and less on operational concerns. The plan contains two components: 1) Changes in current practices and, 2) Changes in the composition of the corporate boards.</p> <p>The most notable change comes from 2) above, changes in the composition of the corporate boards. This includes electing the same people to serve on both boards of AAWS, Inc and AA Grapevine, Inc. This is known legally as an “interlocking directorate”. This provides that AAWS, Inc and AA Grapevine, Inc will still be separate corporations, but is a significant move towards consolidating the two entities. This will require a change in the by-laws of the two operating entities to allow for all the Directors to serve as Directors on both corporate boards as an interlocking directorate.</p> <p>Keeping in mind that this is only a review, the following Pros and Cons should be considered:</p> <p>Pro: This will allow the General Service Board to focus on policy and strategy. Pro: This will allow for increased collaboration and cooperation. Pro: This will address the General Service Board's concerns while still allowing the advantages of the separate service corporations to continue.</p> <p>Con: Some may feel that this will violate the traditional “Right of Participation” as outlined in Concept IV. Con: Some may feel that this will lend itself to an eventual merger of the two corporations. Con: Some may feel that this may lend to a consolidation of custodial authority. Con: In order to broaden the pool of potential Trustee candidates, it may be required that we open available positions to the broad fellowship.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How do your groups feel about this? Much discussion may be required on this topic.

ARCHIVES

Conference Committee: **XII – Archives – Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposal to publish a commemorative “75th Anniversary Edition” of the First Edition, First Printing of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> in April 2014.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>We have noticed a growing interest in the history of AA in the AA community. We will also have financial gains for the period from 2014 to 2015.</p> <p>The re-production of the big book Commemorating the 75th anniversary is attractive and will be valuable for archival files of the different areas, office districts and intergroups.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What if the book does not sell as was in the stipulated 15 months? An extension would be given if more time was needed.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS / REGIONAL FORUMS**Conference Committee: XIII – International Conventions/Regional Forums – Item B**

Agenda Topic	<p>Discuss inviting up to twenty-one non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2015 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.</p>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Trustees for the International Conference /Regional Forum have requested that expenses be paid for up to 21 non-A.A. Speakers to participate in the 2015 I.C. /R.F. The estimated costs (determined by their worldwide location) are between \$2,500 and \$3,500 per person; or \$52,500 and \$73,500 for all 21.</p> <p>There is historical precedent for providing these participants and funding their travel and expenses, other than a fee for speaking.</p> <p>Between 1990 and 2010 the number of speakers ranged between 17 and 33. In 2010 there were 22. All travel and expenses were paid by A.A.</p> <p>These speakers have come from all parts of the world. They have included doctors, lawyers, judges, psychiatrists, psychologists, ministers, community resource people, corrections and probation officers, counselors from the medical field, the military, business, etc.</p> <p>I do not have the data at present to indicate how much in the past, they have been reimbursed; but I will try to get it for you. However, the figures presented seem reasonable In today's market.</p> <p>Pros –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The attendees would gain up-to-date awareness of worldwide views and perceptions of A.A. As a whole. They would gain spiritual, mental, medical, legal and physical information as well. 2. They could bring this knowledge back to their home groups. 3. It appears, that in the past, we have had sufficient funds to provide these guest speakers. <p>Cons. - 1. On the con side, there is the expense. You may think of others.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	<p>Since A.A. has been providing these speakers for quite some time, it seems reasonable that we continue to do so unless some dire financial situation warrants our opting out.</p>