

# 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

*Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility  
in the Digital Age*

April 22 – April 28, 2012  
Rye, NY



**Rye Town Hilton Hotel**  
**Rye, NY**

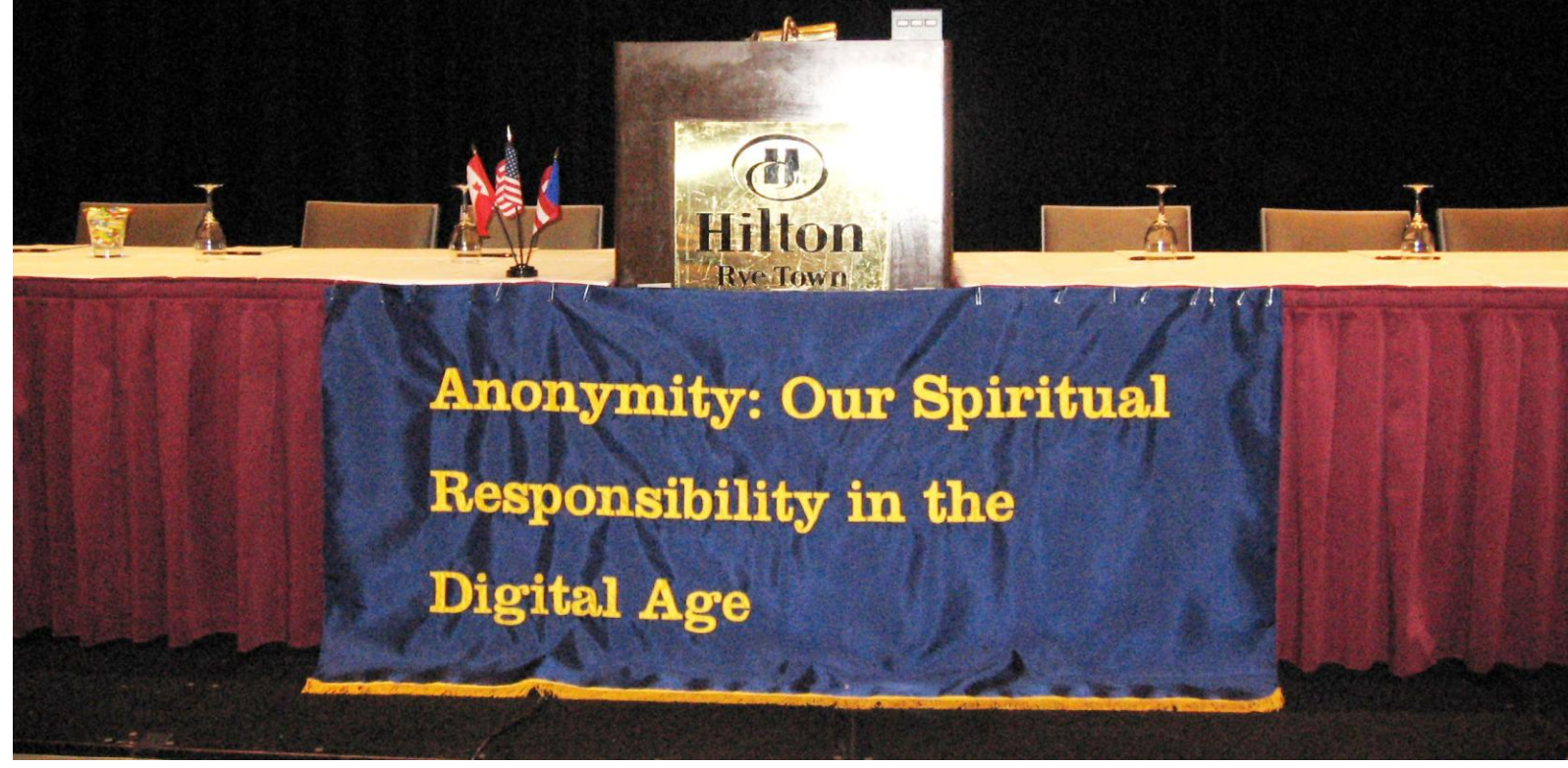


It is actually a very nice hotel...



... not that we got to see it very much!

# 62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL General Service Conference



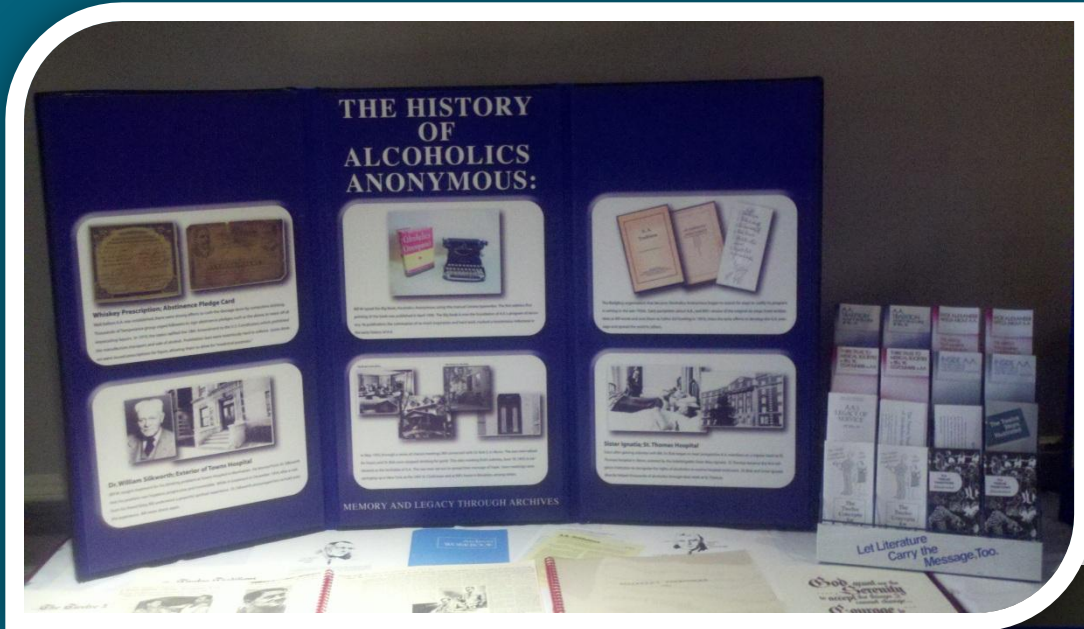
**This is what we were here to do!**





**This is where is all happens!**





Literature and Archives displays outside the general assembly room



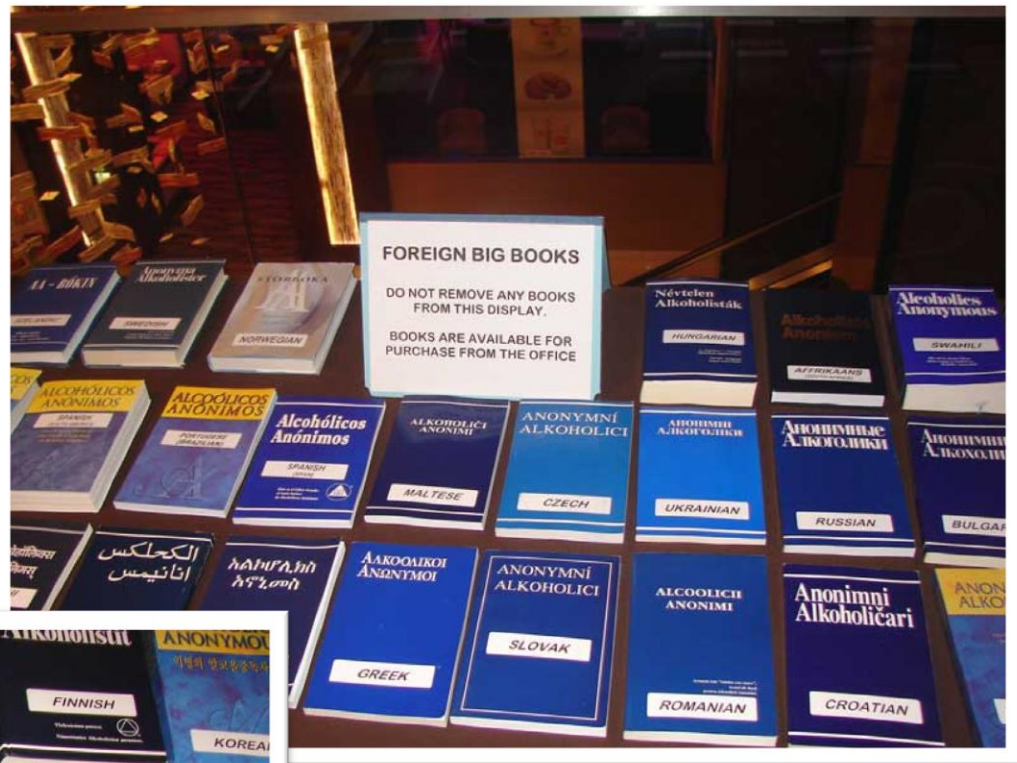
Of course our beloved Grapevine was well-represented too...





# The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous...

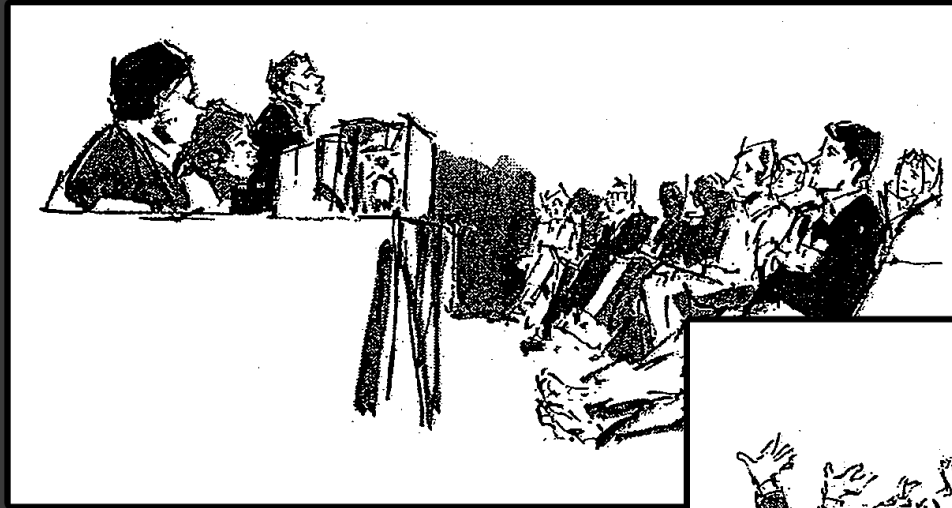
Now available in 64  
languages...



... and soon in Bambara  
(Mali), K'iche'  
(Guatemala & Belize)  
and Haitian Creole!



# HOW THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OPERATES



- *The Purpose of Conference debate is to reach a group conscience – there are no winners or losers*



# Summary of Conference Procedures

Conference  
Quorum

Committee  
System

Substantial  
Unanimity

Minority Opinion

General Rules  
of Debate and  
Voting

Tabling a Motion

Calling the  
Question

Reconsideration

Floor Actions



# Who Makes Up The Conference?

This year there were 132 voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A.'s World Services and of the Steps and Traditions. They are comprised as follows:

**70.5%**

## 93 Delegates

Represent A.A. groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for A.A.'s World Services. Traditionally, Delegates constitute at least two-thirds of the voting membership.

**18.9%**

## 25 Trustees, A.A.W.S. Directors, GV Directors

Responsible for policy and implementation.

**10.6%**

## 14 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff

Carry out policies of and report to General Service Board and Conference.



***Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.***

# STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)





# Area of U.S. & Canada

This map shows the general outline of the United States and Canada, with each state or province labeled with its name and area in square miles.

The map displays the following areas (in square miles):

- Alaska: 2
- Yukon: 79
- Northwest Territories: 78
- Nunavut: 90
- British Columbia: 79
- Alberta: 78
- Saskatchewan: 91
- Manitoba: 80
- Ontario: 85
- Quebec: 89
- Labrador: 82
- Newfoundland: 82
- New Brunswick (81)
- P.E.I. (31)
- Nova Scotia: 81
- Washington: 72
- Oregon: 58
- Idaho: 18
- Montana: 40
- North Dakota: 52
- Minnesota: 35
- Wisconsin: 74
- Michigan: 34
- Illinois: 21
- Indiana: 23
- Ohio: 26
- Kentucky: 26
- Tennessee: 64
- Georgia: 16
- Florida: 14
- Louisiana: 27
- Mississippi: 1
- Alabama: 1
- Arkansas: 4
- Oklahoma: 57
- Kansas: 25
- Nebraska: 41
- Wyoming: 76
- South Dakota: 63
- North Carolina: 51
- South Carolina: 62
- Virginia: 73
- West Virginia: 31
- Pennsylvania: 60
- New Jersey: 45
- New York: 47
- Massachusetts: 43
- Rhode Island (61)
- Connecticut: 44
- Delaware (12)
- Maryland (29)
- D.C. (13)
- California: 6
- Nevada: 42
- Utah: 69
- Colorado: 10
- Arizona: 3
- New Mexico: 46
- Texas: 68
- Hawaii: (17)
- Bahamas: (15)
- Puerto Rico: (77)

Legend:

- U.S. (Yellow)
- Canada (Light Green)

Puerto Rico (77)  
U.S.V.I. (15)  
Antigua (15)

# EVOLUTION OF A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION

1	An Idea suggestion, question, concern or subject comes from A.A. members, G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s Area Committee members, Delegates, Trustees or G.SO./GV Staff, and may be shared or discussed at the group, district and Area Assembly and send to the...	Conference Coordinator G.S.O.
2	The Idea is reviewed by the G.S.O./GV Staff and forwarded to...	Appropriate Trustees Committee
3	Which them may refer the matter to the...	Appropriate Conference Committee
4	Which meets during the General Service Conference week and makes recommendations that are presented in the Committee Reports to the ...	General Service Conference
5	If a Conference Committee recommendation is approved, after full floor discussion, it becomes a Conference Advisory Action, which becomes binding when approved by the...	General Service Board

*"Were it not for Committees it is doubtful that any Conference could get over a fraction of the ground it now covers. As the Conference has grown in size and influence the Committees' importance has grown even more"... from the A.A. Service Manual*



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# Agenda Committee

Advisory Action...

The committee recommended that the theme for the 2013 General Service Conference be:

***“The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory -  
Our Solution in Action”***

*Approved unanimously*



# Agenda Committee

Advisory Action...

The committee recommended the following presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference:

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a) The Triangle - More Than a Shape
- b) The G.S.C. Inventory - Why is it Necessary?
- c) Self-Support - What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?
- d) Primary Purpose - Carrying the A.A. Message

*Approved unanimously*





# Agenda Committee

## Advisory Action...

The committee recommended that the inventory questions listed in the "INVENTORY PLAN," which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C., be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences.

Approved by substantial unanimity (1 opposed)

[illegible]

# Agenda Committee

## Additional Considerations...

- The committee considered the request from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling for the 2013 Conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C.
- The committee also noted that for the General Service Conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015, there will be no solicitation for Workshop topics since the Conference Plan specifies that the time allotted for Conference Workshops during Conference week will be replaced with Inventory Group meetings to discuss Inventory questions.
- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and suggested that the Pre-Conference section of the Evaluation be separated from the Sunday section of the form.

The committee elected Lynda R., delegate for Area 26, Kentucky, chairperson, and Dave M., delegate for Area 03, Arizona, alternate chairperson.

# Questions?



# Archives Committee

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# Archives Committee

**No recommendations.**

## Additional Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the request for changes to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Archives Committee and took no action. It was the sense of the committee that the requested changes were not necessary.
- The committee reviewed the changes to the Archives Workbook and suggested one minor editorial change in the "Shared Experiences" section.



# Archives Committee

## Additional Consideration:

- The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop a new section in the Archives Workbook on digitizing archival collections intended to provide guidance to local archivists and archives committees responsible for maintaining Area or District archival collections.



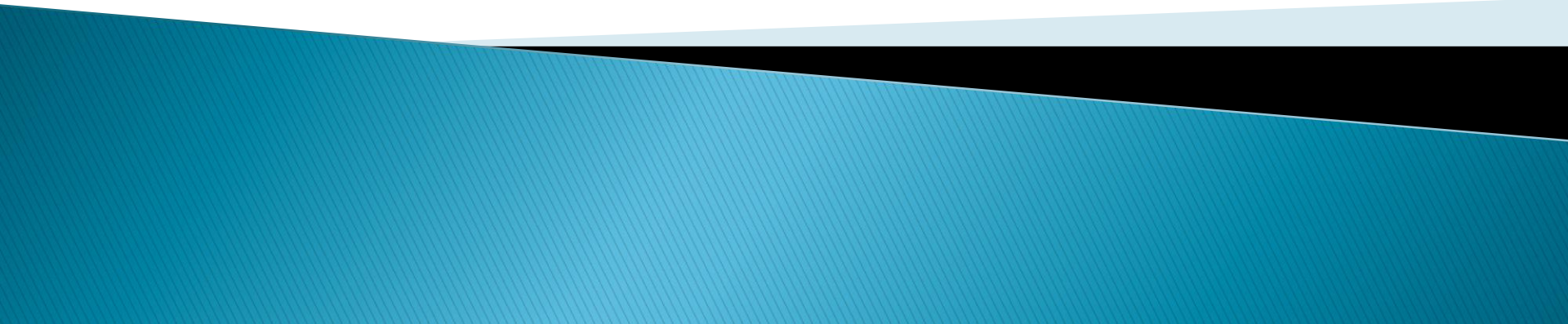


## Archives Committee

The committee elected Brian M., delegate for Area 18, Idaho, chairperson, and, Gary B., delegate for Area 23, Southern Indiana, alternate chairperson.

# Questions?

# **Cooperation With the Professional Community**



# C.P.C. Committee

## Advisory Action...

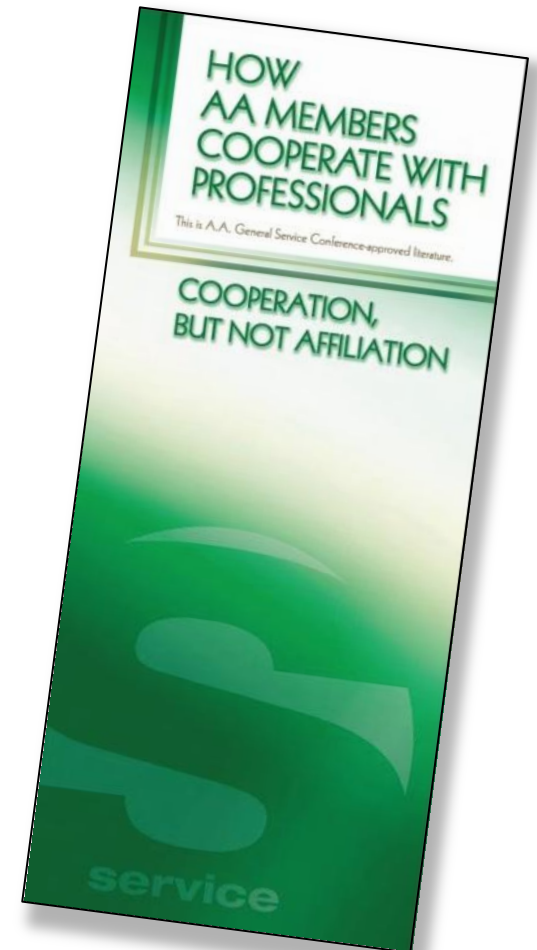
The committee recommended that the current statement regarding "Singleness of Purpose" in C.P.C. literature which reads:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings"

be revised to read as follows:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. **Nonalcoholics** may attend open A.A. meetings **as observers**, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed AA. meetings."

*Passed by substantial unanimity*





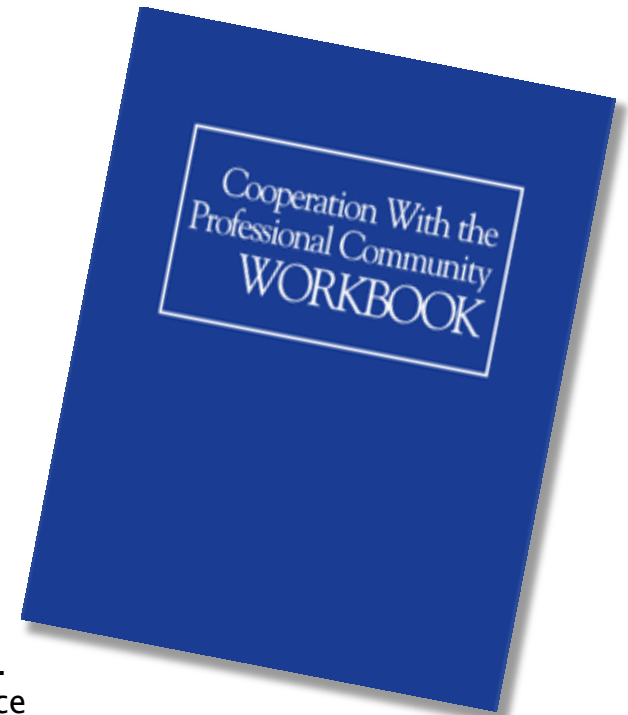
## Advisory Action...

In the process of reviewing the C.P.C. Workbook and Kit, the committee noted that the text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer was revised by a 2010 Conference Advisory Action and a revision of the C.P.C. service piece "Information on A.A." to include the text from "A.A. at a Glance" was initiated by an Additional committee consideration from the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information. In an effort to provide consistent information in C.P.C. literature the committee recommended that the text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section in the C.P.C. pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community", "If You Are A Professional" and "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous" be replaced with the text in the section "What A.A. Does Not Do" in the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer and the entire section read 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 services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources... provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

## C.P.C. Committee



*Passed by substantial unanimity*

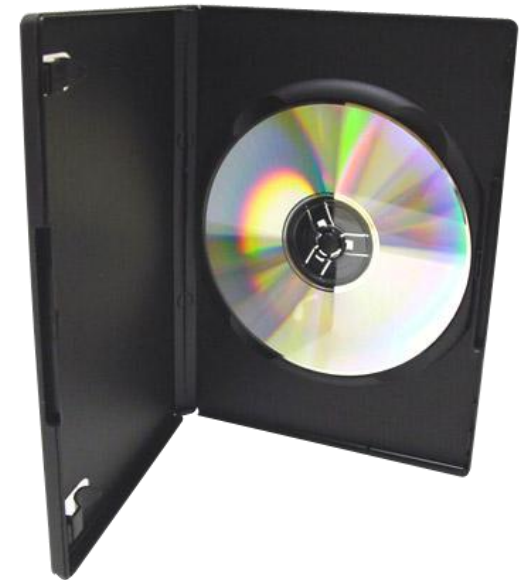
# C.P.C. Committee

## Additional Committee Consideration:

- The committee discussed the report on replacing the current "A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community" DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material and reviewed the draft product of the replacement DVD.

The committee accepted the report with appreciation and felt that a new compilation DVD was not needed for some of the following reasons:

- a) The list of suggested existing materials seemed limited and was already available on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site.
- b) When communicating with professionals, it is often most helpful to have material that is specific to a particular profession.
- c) In the contemporary, ever-changing digital age, the DVD format might not be appropriate for the distribution of information about Alcoholics Anonymous.



# C.P.C. Committee

## Additional Committee Consideration:

- The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. Board has oversight of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site Redesign Committee and requested that A.A.W.S. consider dedicating a portion of the Web Site to making A.A. resources easily accessible to targeted professional populations and C.P.C. Committees.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



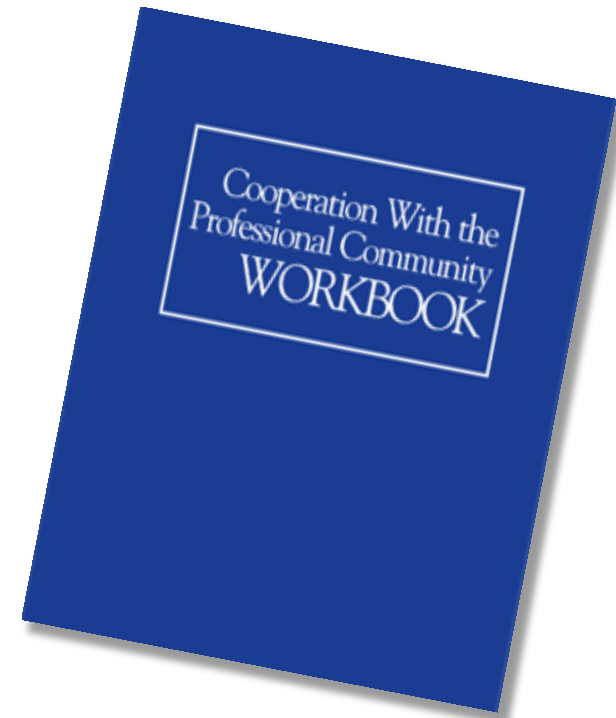


# C.P.C. Committee

## Additional Committee Consideration:

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

- a) The sentence on page 15, which reads: "Open: Guests are welcome; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting" be changed to read "Open: Guests are welcome as observers; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting."
- b) The revised text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section in the C.P.C. pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community", "If You Are A Professional" and "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous" replace the current text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section on page 29 of the C.P.C. Workbook.



# C.P.C. Committee

The committee elected Pam J., delegate for Area 68, Southwest Texas, chairperson, and Kenny K., delegate for Area 34, Western Michigan, alternate chairperson.

# Questions?



# Corrections

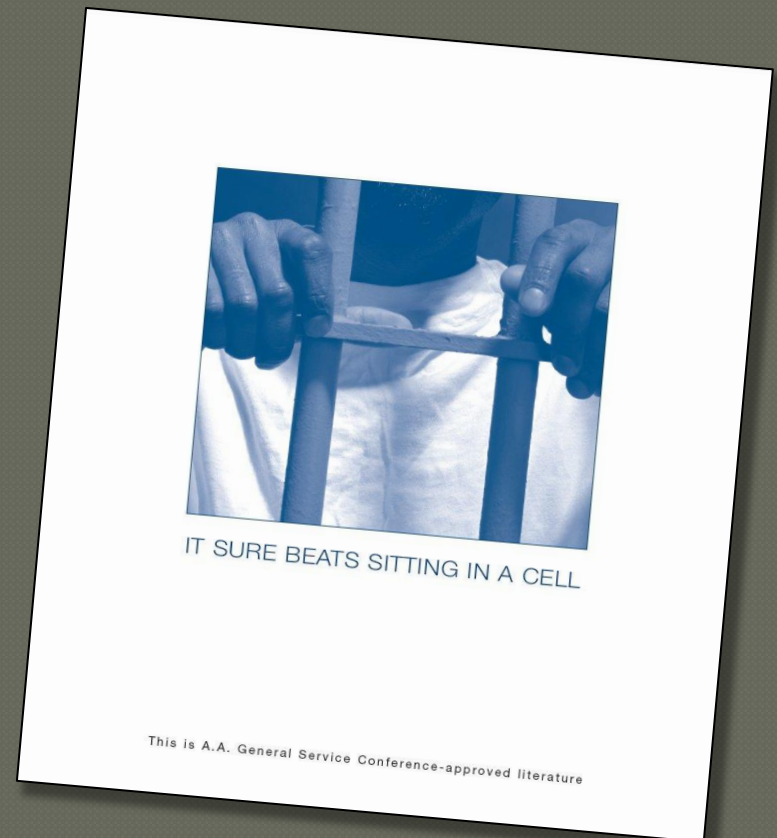


# Committee on Corrections

## Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the revised draft pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be approved.

*Passed unanimously*



## Advisory Action

# Committee on Corrections

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" be revised with the following changes:

1. Replace the first paragraph under the section "Release and paroles" with the following paragraph from page six of the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities":

One point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are incarcerated. The answer is that the A.A. program is far more than staying away from alcohol. A.A. has been called a way of life, and its success in groups that meet in custody and shows that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life, both in prison and after release.

2. Change the title of the section currently called "Release and paroles" to "Re-entry and Parole."
3. The current statement regarding "Singleness of Purpose" in the last paragraph be revised with wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" on page 13, to read as follows (changes in bold):

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. **Nonalcoholics** may attend *open* A.A. meetings **as observers**, but only those with a drinking problem may attend *closed* A.A. meetings.

Question called. vote: 60 in favor, 67 opposed. Minority opinion expressed and motion to reconsider passed. Motion to amend, striking part 3, failed. Friendly amendments accepted, question called, passed by substantial unanimity.

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature

## A Message to Corrections Professionals

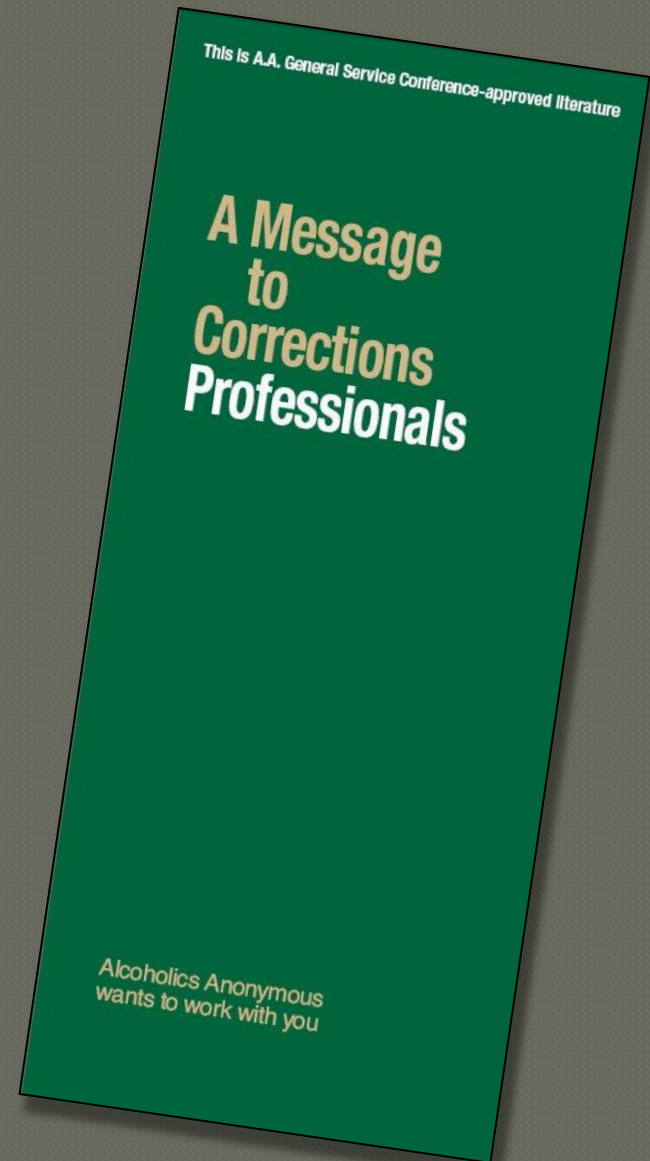
Alcoholics Anonymous  
wants to work with you

# Committee on Corrections

## Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" be deleted and asked that a draft replacement section be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections.

Passed by substantial unanimity





# Committee on Corrections

The committee recommended that the video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," be remade in order to accurately reflect current-day life in correctional facilities, while retaining the original message and intent consistent with A.A. Traditions, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.

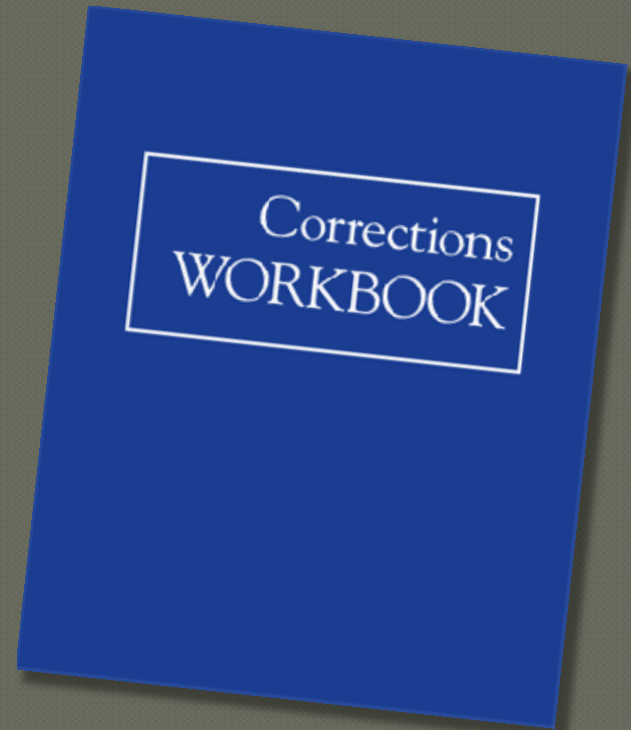
*Failed by substantial unanimity*



# Committee on Corrections

## Additional Consideration:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the work of the trustees Committee on Corrections with regards to the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and forwarded a list of suggested changes in the Workbook to the Publications Department.



## Committee on Corrections

The committee elected Janet S.-C., delegate for Southern New Jersey, Area 45, chairperson, and Brian M., delegate for Idaho, Area 18, alternate chairperson.

# Questions?



# Finance

# Finance Committee

## Advisory Action

The committee considered a suggestion to increase the Conference delegate contribution and recommended that the annual delegate's contribution, be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600.

*Approved by substantial unanimity.*



## Finance Committee

The committee reviewed the current \$3,000 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and recommended that the annual limit on contributions be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

*Failed, 49 in favor, 68 opposed*

The committee reviewed the current \$3,000 dollar limit one time bequests and recommended that the limit on one-time bequests be increased from \$3,000 to \$25,000.

*Failed by substantial unanimity*

### Floor Action #2: - **Advisory Action**

I move that the limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Submitted by:

Lela M.

Panel 62, Area 07



*Motion to decline to consider failed (47 in favor, 71 opposed).*

*Passed by substantial unanimity (84 in favor, 42 opposed).*



## Finance Committee

The Conference Finance Committee reviewed the background presented and past Conference actions and recommended that La Viña become self-supporting within three years beginning January 1, 2013. If La Viña has not become self-supporting by December 31, 2015, General Service Board funding will cease.

*Failed by substantial unanimity*



### Floor Action #4:

GSC recommends that the General Service Board form a subcommittee comprised of all stakeholders to develop a plan to address publication, distribution and finances of La Viña with the objective of self-support by 12/31/15. Submitted by:

Rod B.  
Pacific Regional Trustee

*Motion to decline to consider failed (78 in favor, 45 opposed - less than 2/3). Floor Action discussed. Question called. Failed by substantial unanimity*

## Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that a review of the delegate's fee be a standing item on the Conference Finance Committee agenda.
- The committee reviewed a proposed Self-Support Kit and agreed that the F-19 Self-Support Packet is sufficient service material and suggested adding "Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S." (SMF-176) to the Self-Support Packet.
- The committee reviewed and acknowledged the 21 Self-Support Talking Points presented in the background for use by the Fellowship and offers one additional point to be included: "What is the value of your sobriety?" The committee also suggested that they be added to the Finance Section of the Website.

## Finance Committee



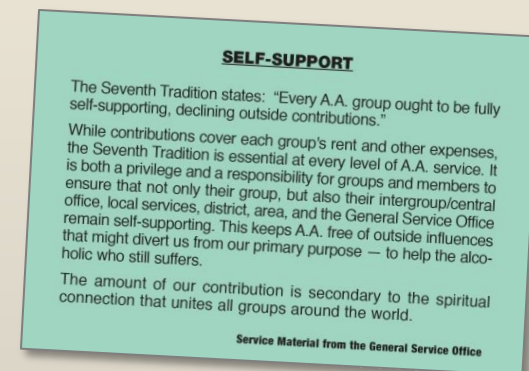
## Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested the following statements be added to the back of the F-42 Self-Support green card:

### What is the value of your sobriety?

- Less Than 44% of groups contribute to the General Service Board.
  - Costs of Services provided by G.S.O. are \$6.32 per member per year.
  - Sales of A.A. literature counts for 56% of our income.
  - You can easily contribute regularly online at AA.org.
  - Give till it feels good.
- 
- The committee reviewed the information presented concerning financial projections for 2013 and 2014 and trusts that the Corporate Boards and the trustees' Finance Committee will deal with the financial issues in an appropriate manner.

## Finance Committee



### Additional Consideration:

## Finance Committee

The committee also expressed that increasing the awareness of the need for Fellowship contributions is the more spiritual way to address the funding issue.

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The committee elected Jeff S., Area 92, Washington East, Chairperson; and Cynthia F., Area 62, South Carolina, alternate Chairperson.

# Questions?



GRAPEVINE

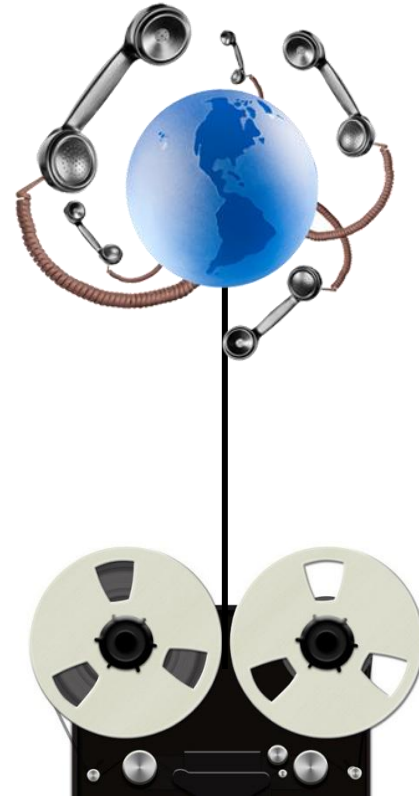
# Grapevine Committee

## Advisory Action:

The committee recommended AA Grapevine, Inc. move forward with an audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on 3rd party recording technology.

- ◉ The stories will be subject to the same editorial process as print stories.
- ◉ The Audio endeavor will, at a minimum, breakeven financially.
- ◉ The committee requests that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time.
- ◉ The committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background.

Question called. 88 in favor, 24 opposed (substantial unanimity). Minority opinion expressed and motion to reconsider failed. Motion passed by substantial unanimity



# Grapevine Committee

## Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., carry out the "Sunset" proposal for Grapevine items. The "Sunset" proposal is a plan to phase out older or slow-moving Grapevine items and archive them digitally or make them available in another format.

## *Passed unanimously*

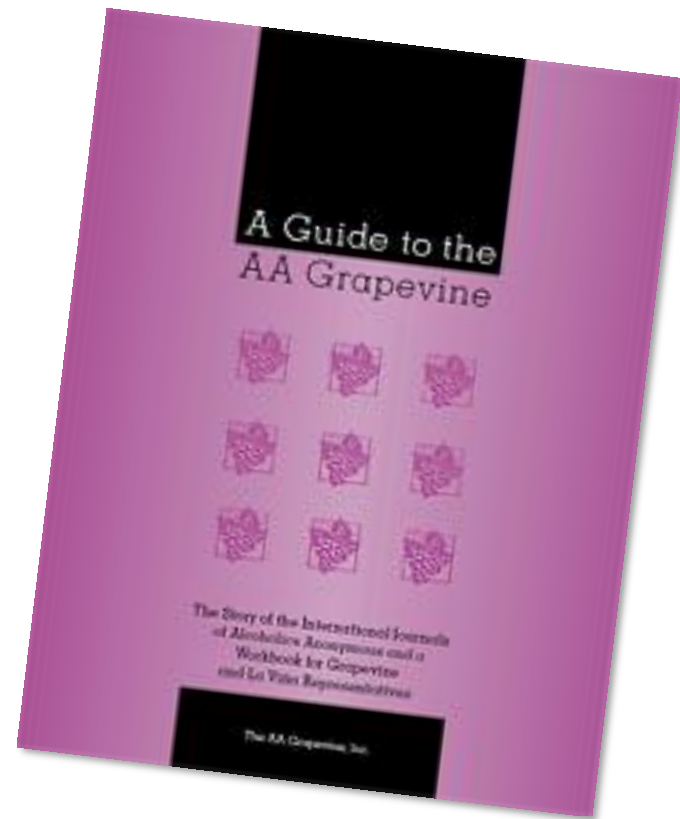


# Grapevine Committee

## Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee agreed with the proposal to update, proofread, and digitize the Grapevine Workbook. The revised workbook will be available on the Grapevine website for downloading. The workbook will no longer be printed.

Note: The cost of this project is estimated to be \$5,000.





## Additional Considerations:

# Grapevine Committee

The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2013 or later:

1. ***Attitude of Gratitude*** (working title) - A collection of stories on the topic of gratitude previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
2. ***Voices of Long Term Sobriety II*** (working title) - A collection of stories by members with 30+ years of sobriety previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
3. ***Women's Stories in AA*** (working title) - Stories from women members on every topic including a special section from AA's women pioneers previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
4. ***GLBT in AA*** - We are all the same or Sober & Out (working title) - A collection of stories from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender AA community previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
5. ***Relationships in Sobriety*** (working title) - A collection of stories on the topic of relationships previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
6. ***Having Fun in Sobriety*** (working title) - Now that you're sober you discover that you haven't the foggiest notion on how to have fun. What now? Stories from members having fun in sobriety from stories previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
7. ***Daily Grapevine*** - 365 inspirational passages as originally published in GV's thought of the day in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
8. ***Mid Sobriety Crisis*** (working title) - Not a beginner anymore and not an old-timer? This collection of stories comes from members in the middle years (10-29) who are working the program and trudging the road to happy destiny previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
9. ***The Best of La Viña II*** - Collection of Spanish language original stories (not translations) previously published in La Viña magazine.
10. ***AA Inside the Walls*** (working title) - A collection of stories from those behind bars and/or from those carrying the message to these institutions previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

# Grapevine Committee

## Additional Considerations:

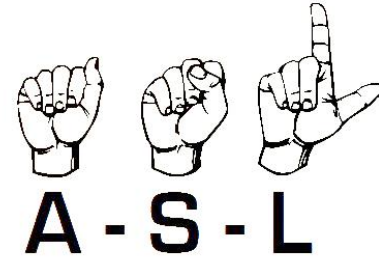
- ◉ The committee considered incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position "Grapevine Representative" in the service responsibilities and duties of the "General Service Representative" and took no action.
- ◉ The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board incorporate into all appropriate literature the 1962 Advisory Action that: "retiring delegates become Grapevine Representatives (GvRs) in their areas, with the objective of a GvR in each group."
- ◉ The committee requested that groups that do not have a GvR or RLV consider incorporating these duties into the duties of the GSR.



# Grapevine Committee

## Additional Considerations:

- ◉ The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board look into the feasibility of producing one book in ASL format.
- ◉ The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background, on the cost of reformatting Grapevine magazine from its current design to black/white interior, non-glossy, minimal photos and increase the font size.



# Grapevine Committee

The committee elected Bob C., delegate for Maryland, Area 29, chairperson, and Tom M., delegate for San Diego/Imperial, Area 08, alternate chair.

# Questions?



# International Conventions/Regional Forums

## International Conventions/Regional Forums

No recommendations.

### Additional Considerations:

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2025 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.



# International Conventions/Regional Forums

## Additional Considerations:

- **The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and shared some experiences that have helped increase member participation in recent Regional Forums in their regions. These included:**
  - Delegate and Area officers' participation helped increase interest in Regional Forums.
  - Online Regional Forum registration/information on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) is convenient and easily accessible.
  - One Area started workshops on Regional Forums at local service events to provide information and create enthusiasm.
  - One host committee extended committee membership to other Areas in the region and to members from different cities throughout their own Areas.
  - One committee member suggested including an article in the Grapevine with the Regional Forum schedule or from a member about their Regional Forum experience.
  - It helps to let members know you don't have to be in General Service to attend and enjoy a Regional Forum.
  - One Area took ownership of their Regional Forum hospitality committee to create enthusiasm and generate greater participation.
  - Talk and continue to talk about Regional Forums and explain what Regional Forums are all about.
  - When there are travel challenges look for creative/alternative ways to travel.
  - Suggest combining a trip to a Regional Forum with your vacation plans.

## International Conventions/Regional Forums

The committee elected Mike H., delegate for Area 25, Kansas, chairperson, and Marty L., delegate for Area 74, N. Wisconsin/Upper Penn. Michigan, alternate chair.

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Questions?



# Literature Committee

## Literature Committee

### Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" be approved.

Passed by substantial unanimity (2 opposed)

### Floor Action #6:

That the pamphlet "A.A. and The Armed Services" include the subtitle "none left behind."

Submitted by: Rod B.  
Pacific Regional Trustee

Motion to decline to consider failed (73 in favor, 45 opposed). Discussion opened. Failed by substantial unanimity.

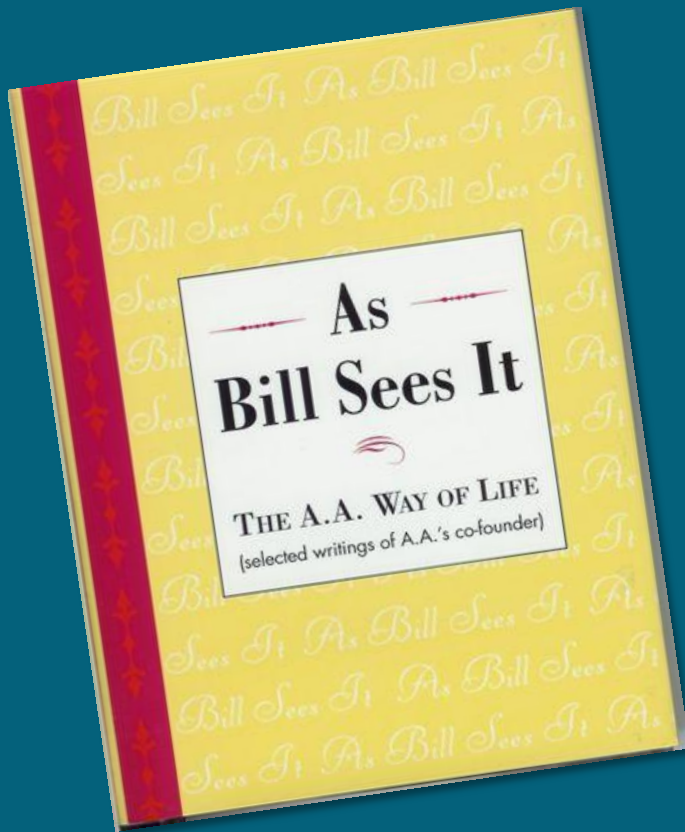


## Literature Committee

### Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be added to the book As Bill Sees It.

*Passed by substantial unanimity (4 opposed)*

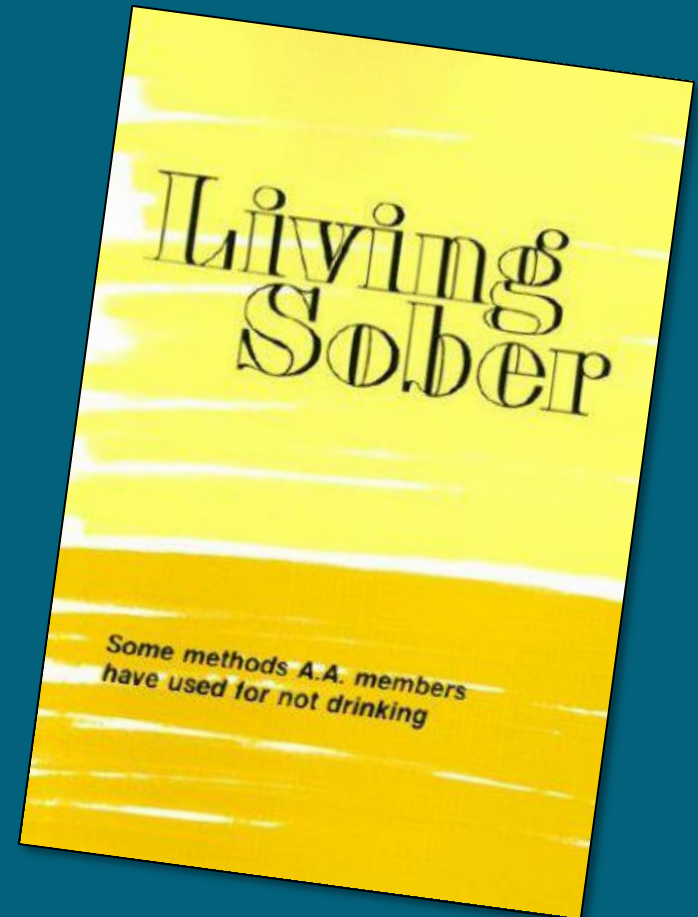


## Advisory Action:

## Literature Committee

The committee recommended that the final revision of the Living Sober booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved.

Motion to table failed, called question passed. 94 in favor, 31 against. Minority opinion shared. motion to reconsider. 70 in favor, 59 opposed, discussion reopened. Motion to table 72 in favor 55 opposed. Motion tabled until next day. Next day: Motion to amend to return last sentence in the first paragraph to the original version failed. Passed by substantial unanimity with minor edits



## Literature Committee



### Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be revised, and requested that the trustees' Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

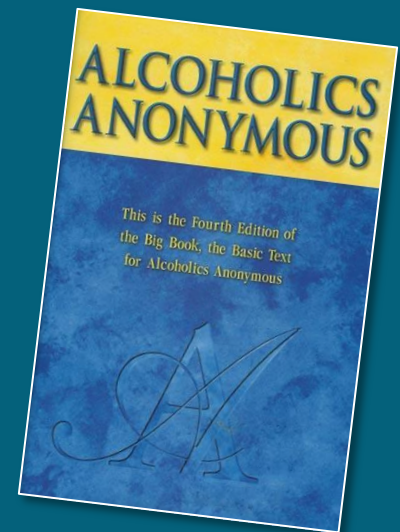
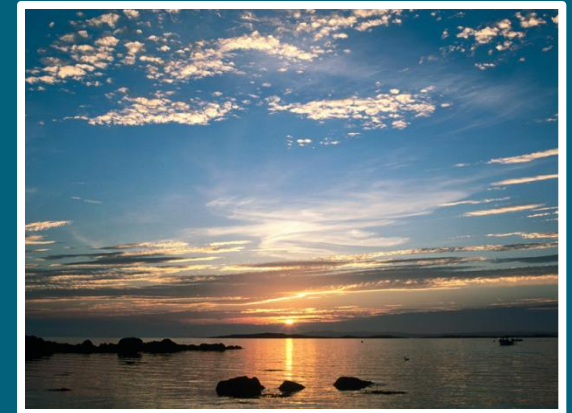
*Passed by substantial unanimity (2 opposed)*



## Literature Committee

### Additional Considerations:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the 'Big Book,' Alcoholics Anonymous, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and took no action.
- The committee considered a request to add the "A.A. Preamble" to the front inside pages of the 'Big Book,' Alcoholics Anonymous, and took no action.



## Literature Committee

The committee elected Walter S., delegate for Alberta/N.W. Territories, Area 78, chairperson, and Lela M., delegate for California Northern Interior, Area 07, alternate chair.

# Questions?

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# Policy/Admissions

## Advisory Actions

The committee recommended that Satander B. and Daler M. from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.

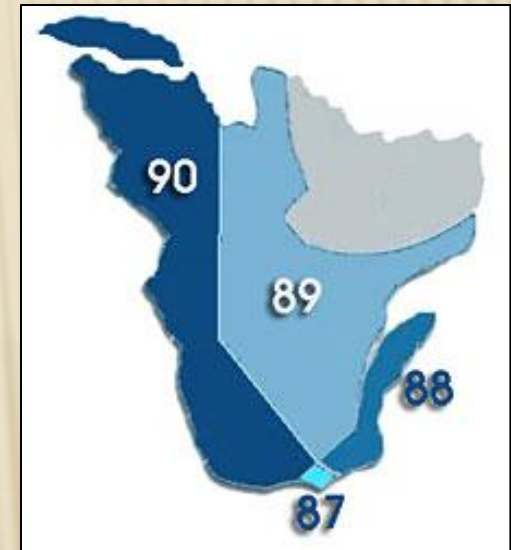
Approved unanimously



## Advisory Actions

The committee recommended that Roger B. alternate delegate, Area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, be seated as a Conference member at the 62nd General Service Conference because Estelle F., Panel 61 delegate for Area 89 is unable to attend.

*Passed unanimously*



The committee recommended that the 65th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2015 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

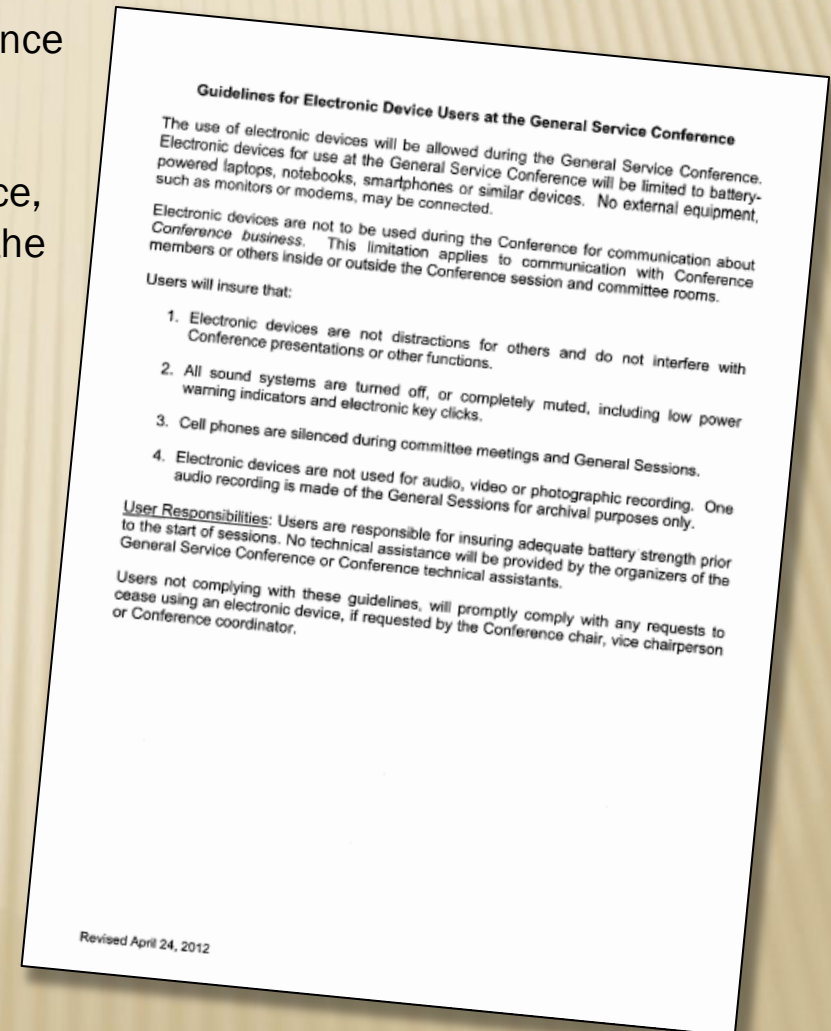
*Passed unanimously*



## Advisory Actions

The committee recommended that the use of electronic devices at the General Service Conference be approved in keeping with the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the Conference" as presented to the 2012 General Service Conference, superseding the 2004 Advisory Action regarding the use of personal computers at the Conference.

*Passed by substantial unanimity*



### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and took no action. They agreed that the policy approved by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the "Right of Appeal" as described in Concept V - the procedure allows for a "well-heard minority" to be a "chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority," and it makes the "best possible use of minority feeling and opinion."
- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference review the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting international observers admission to the General Service Conference, taking into account the concerns expressed by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, and provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee. The Conference committee agreed that their recommendation for approval of observers seems redundant, and this approval could appear to be a "rubber stamp" of the trustees' action, as cautioned against in Concept VII.

### Concept V

*Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.*



Additional Consideration:

- The committee requested that trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference review the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference" on an ongoing basis and forward any updates to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their review.

The committee elected Alan S., delegate for Area 46, New Mexico, chairperson, and Brian O., delegate from Area 31, Western Massachusetts, alternate chair.

# Questions?

# PUBLIC INFORMATION





### Advisory Action

The committee expressed appreciation for the fresh, bold design and recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey with minor editorial changes.

### Passed unanimously





### Advisory Actions

The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "*Tengo Esperanza*," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits.

### Passed unanimously

The committee recommended that the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "*Tengo Esperanza*," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2013 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

### Passed unanimously

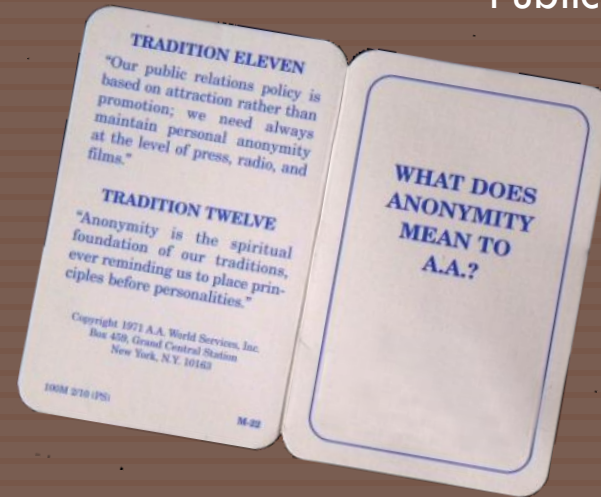


## Advisory Action

## Public Information

The Committee recommended that the revised "Anonymity Wallet Card" be approved.

Passed unanimously



### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the report of the Comprehensive Media Plan Subcommittee from the trustees' Public Information Committee, and expressed their support for the continued development of the media plan.
- Following lengthy and thoughtful discussion related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven, the committee concluded that the spirit and principle of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately in the Long Form of Tradition Eleven. Recognizing that suggested changes to Tradition Eleven have come to the Conference several times, the committee requested the trustees' Public Information Committee gather Area sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information.

## Additional Committee Considerations:

## Public Information

- 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.



- The committee reviewed the 2011 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and noted with appreciation the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the Web site.

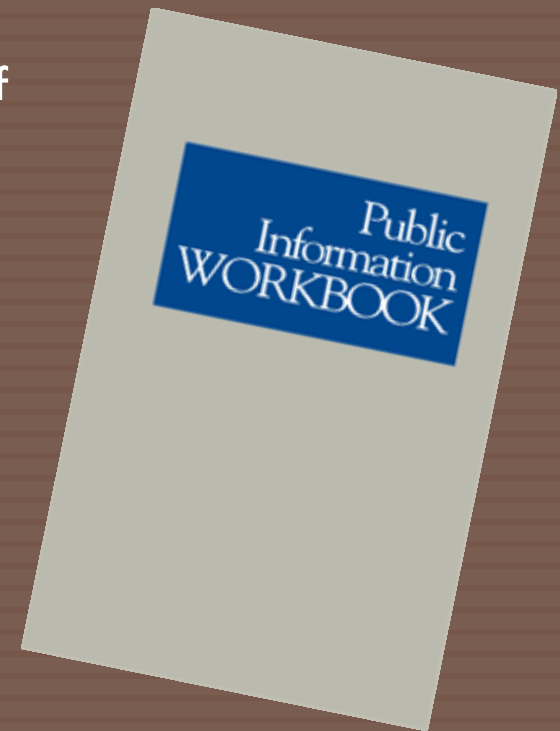
## Additional Considerations

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the "My World" public service announcement.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. TV public service announcements and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that found them all to be relevant and useful.
- The committee assessed the need for a new A.A. TV public service announcement and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that none was needed at this time.



## Additional Considerations

- The committee considered the proposed alternative packaging for the Public Information Kit and suggested that the Publications Department continue to explore options for alternative packaging that is durable, allows for organization and containment of the kit materials.





The committee elected Eden L., delegate for Area 02, Alaska, chairperson, and Chris D., delegate for Area 63, South Dakota, alternate chair.

# Questions?

# Report and Charter

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Advisory Actions:

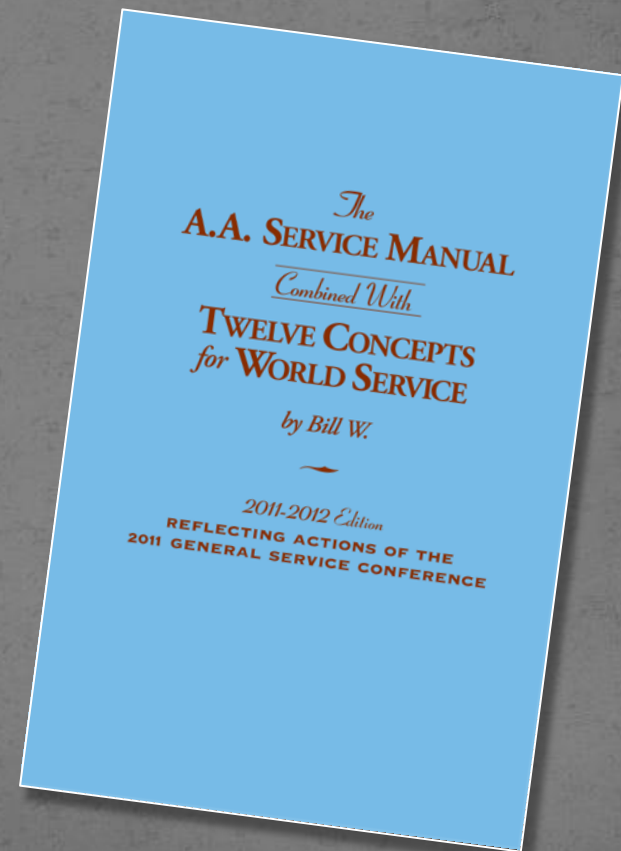
The committee recommended that all changes to The A.A. Service Manual be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

Passed by substantial unanimity

The committee recommended that the following term and definition be added to The A.A. Service Manual in Chapter One: Introduction to General Service in the section titled Glossary of General Service Terms:

"Rotation - the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership."

Passed by substantial unanimity

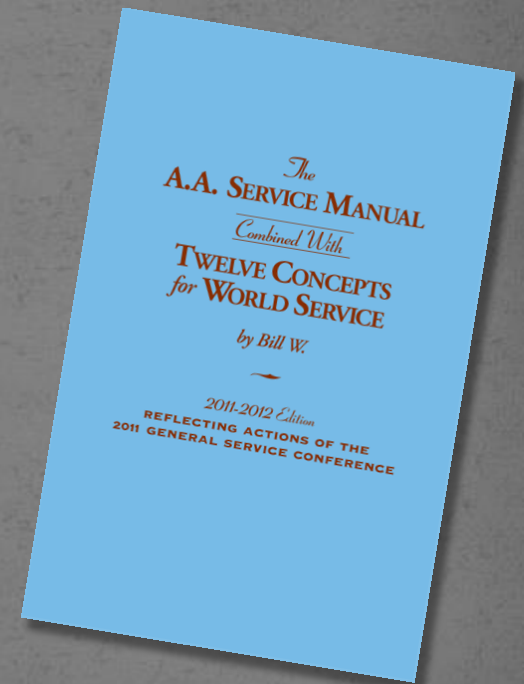
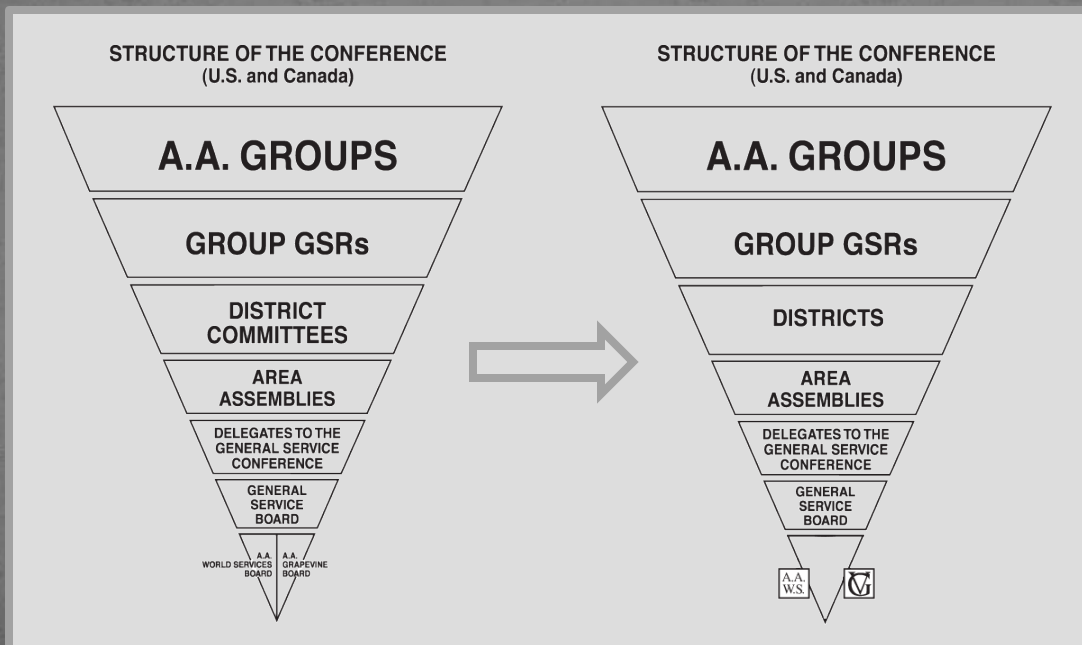


## Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the current illustration on page S16 be modified in the following manner:

Replacing the bottom section of the illustration that deals with the General Service Board and its two operating corporations with the corresponding section from a previous version, minus the table-and-chair graphic. Changing "District Committees" to "Districts."

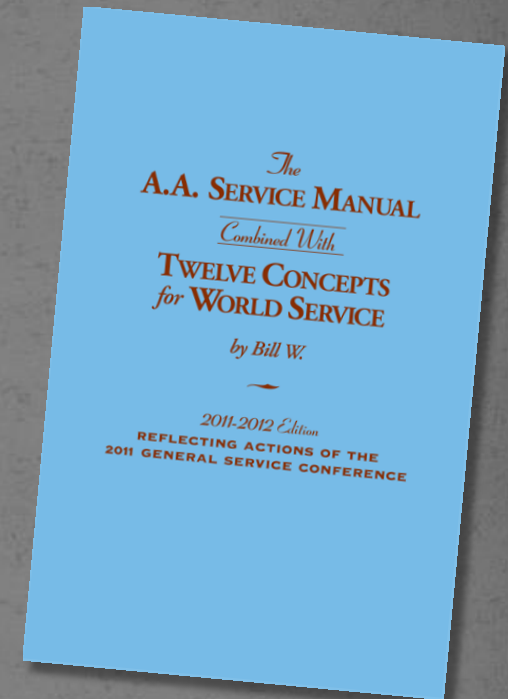
Passed by substantial unanimity





### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of The A.A. Service Manual 2012-2013 Edition, and the 2012 General Service Conference Final Report.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A. Grapevine Board for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions.



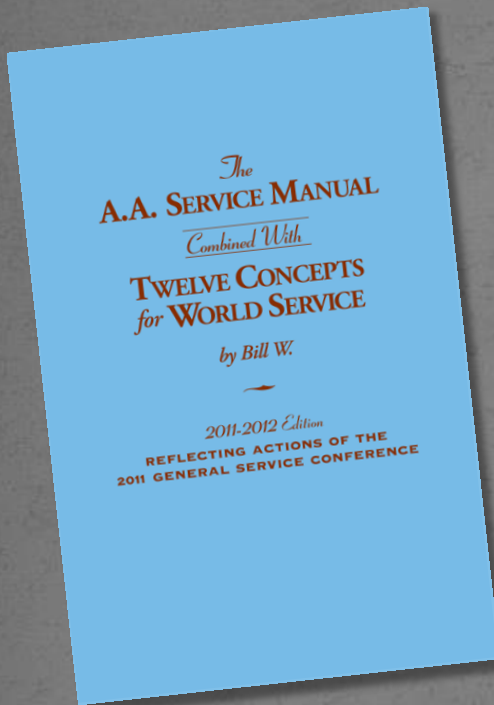


## Report and Charter

### Additional Committee Considerations:

- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the General Service Board for The A.A. Service Manual.

Note: The committee agreed to ask the General Service Board to reconsider two changes that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.

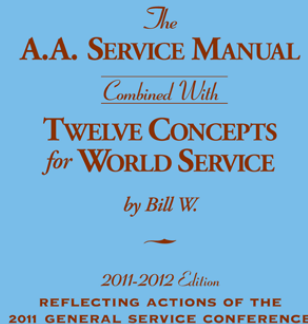


### Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial updates for The A.A. Service Manual and forwarded them to the Publications Department.

The committee considered a suggestion for revising text on "Conference Panels", on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term "panels", and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

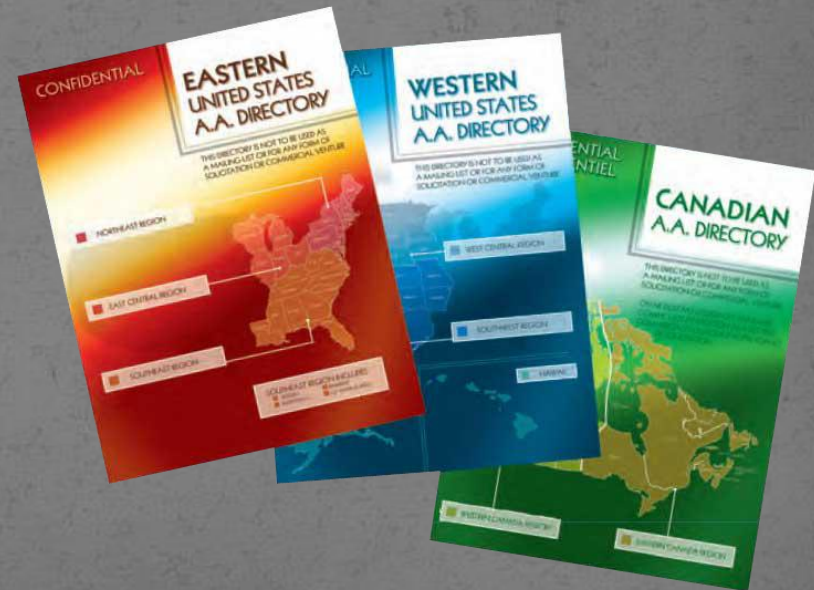
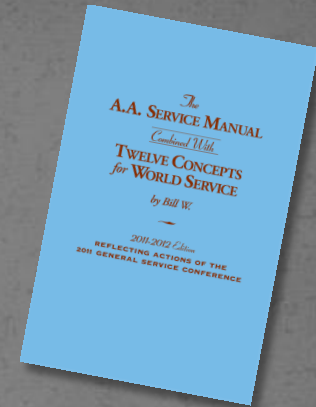
The committee considered a request to add a section on the "spirit of rotation" and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.





### Additional Committee Considerations:

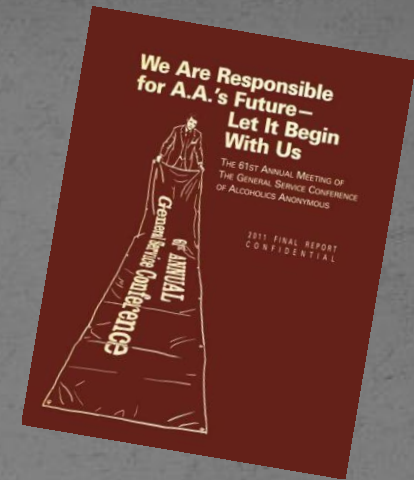
- The committee reviewed suggested changes to the Conference Charter that were requested from the General Service Board and took no action. The committee asked that the General Service Board reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the Conference Charter, and develop text that explicitly addresses the principles of participation, petition and appeal for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.



## Report and Charter

### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee briefly discussed the General Service Conference Final Report and noted that there were no requests for changes to the Final Report.



The committee elected Mark E., delegate for Southwest Ohio, Area 56, Chairperson, and Jeryl T., delegate for Mid-Southern California, Area 09, Alternate Chairperson.

# Questions?

# Treatment/Special Needs– Accessibilities



## Treatment/Special Needs– Accessibilities

The committee reviewed the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous and recommended that one line of dialog, "Uncle Sam is not gonna come in and bail us out" be removed the next time it is reprinted at a cost of approximately \$9,000.00.

*Failed by substantial unanimity*



## Treatment/Special Needs– Accessibilities

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs" be expanded to include additional stories of alcoholics with mental illness collected from the Fellowship, and that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Need–Accessibilities bring a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs–Accessibilities.

*Failed by substantial unanimity*

### Floor Action #1:

I request to develop a pamphlet for the Alcoholic with Mental Illness.

Submitted by:

Janet S.–C.  
Panel 62, Area 45

*Withdrawn*

### Floor Action #5:

That the appropriate trustees Committee develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness, with a progress report to be provided to the appropriate 2013 Conference Committee with suggestions for content of the pamphlet, including breadth and scope of the pamphlet.

Submitted by:  
Scott H.  
Panel 61, Area 79

*Motion to decline to consider failed. Question called. Vote on the motion: 81 in favor, 39 opposed, carried. Minority opinion expressed. Motion to reconsider. 71 in favor, 55 opposed, debate reopened. Question called. Failed, 76 in favor 48 opposed.*



## Treatment/Special Needs– Accessibilities

### Additional Committee Considerations:

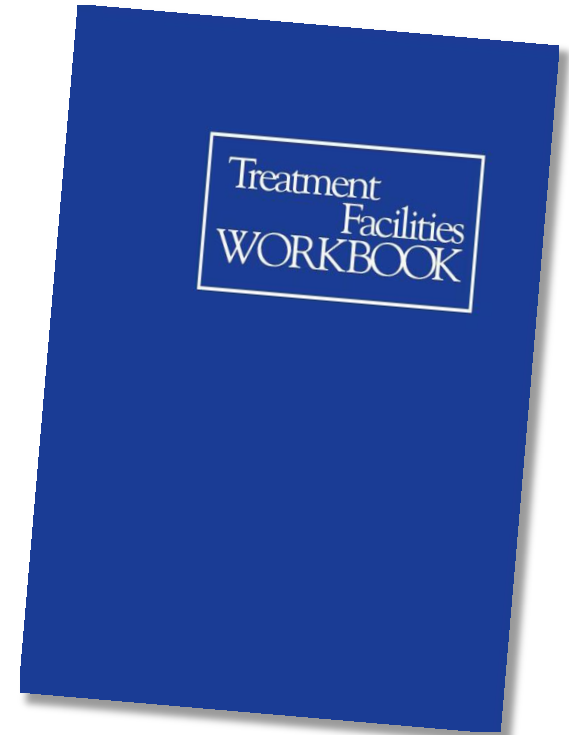
- The committee expressed concerns about the French and Spanish translations of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous regarding the exact translation of the direct quote read from the translated "Big Books" and for background distraction in the videos. The committee asked the Publications Department to review these items and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs–Accessibilities.



## Treatment/Special Needs– Accessibilities

### Additional Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Workbook and Kit and suggested minor editorial changes to the service piece "A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request" and removed redundant information in the Kit. Following these minor changes the committee found the Workbook and Kit to be satisfactory for use by local committees.
- The committee reviewed the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook and Kit and suggested that the following changes be made at the next printing:
  - Add a suggestion to page 10 of the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook under the section "Activities suggested for Special Needs–Accessibilities" for "committees to gather local information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options."





## Treatment/Special Needs– Accessibilities

### Additional Consideration:

- The committee is hopeful that A.A.W.S. will format the pamphlet "A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs" for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges as soon as fiscally possible as requested in a 2011 Committee Consideration.



## Treatment/Special Needs– Accessibilities

The committee elected Jay D., delegate for Area 64, Tennessee, chairperson, and, Pamela V.–M., delegate for Area 80, Manitoba, alternate chairperson.

# Questions?



# Trustees Committee

## Trustees Committee

### Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

#### Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE  
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.  
Corliss Burke, B.Ed.  
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.  
The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores  
John Fromson, M.D.  
Michele Grinberg, J.D.

#### Class B Trustees

Rod B.  
Donald C.  
Nancy H.  
Barbara K.  
Robert L.  
J. Gary L.  
George G. M.

Don M.  
Don M.  
Eleanor W. N.  
Pamela R.  
Clayton V.  
Andrew W.  
Marty W.

*Passed by substantial unanimity (1 opposed)*

### Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

#### Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
First vice-chairperson	Pam R.
Second vice-chairperson	Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Treasurer	Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Secretary	El N.

*Approved unanimously*



### Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the January 2012 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 2012:

Assistant Treasurer:	Donald W. M.
Assistant Secretary:	Rick W.

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

*Approved unanimously.*

### Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2012:

Andrea G. Barthwell  
Rod B.  
Joe D.  
Phyllis A. H.  
Roberta L.

J. Gary L.  
George G. M.  
William N.  
Rick W.

*Approved unanimously.*

### Advisory Action

The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2012:

Ami B.	Clayton V.
Donald C.	Albin Z.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.	[vacancy]
Nancy H.	[vacancy]
Don M.	

NOTE: The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Bylaws state that its board shall be comprised of "no less than seven (7) and no more than ten (10) directors."

Motion to amend to remove 2 "[vacancy]" seconded. Failed by substantial unanimity, no minority opinion expressed. Main motion: **Passed by substantial unanimity (4 opposed)**

### Additional Considerations:

- The committee requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee examine the impact of the Conference disapproving a recommended slate and bring a report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustees.
- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B Trustee candidates for the West Central and Western Canada Regions.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating on the Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate noting that, as requested, the report solely addressed the admission of slates; the committee recognizes that the General Service Conference has additional authority related to the General Service Board not commented upon in the report.

Additional Consideration:

- The committee strongly suggested that the practice of including the operating corporation board slates (A.A.W.S. and Grapevine) on the General Service Conference agenda be continued.

The committee elected Tom H., delegate for Georgia, Area 16, chairperson, and Jim K., delegate for Northern Minnesota, Area 35, alternate chairperson.

# Questions?



# General Service Board

Advisory Action:

*Motion made to send the Board's motion to the Trustees Committee for review and possible action. Motion discussed and failed by substantial unanimity.*

Final amended version:

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

*Motion to amend failed. Calling the question failed. Motion to amend passed by substantial unanimity. Amended motion (above) passed by substantial unanimity*

**Floor Action #7:**

This body form an A.A.W.S. Committee to allow this motion to be heard by a committee before coming to the floor for approval.

Submitted by:

Tom T.

Panel 61, Area 47

*Motion to decline to consider passed by substantial unanimity*



**Thank you all for allowing me  
to serve as your Delegate!**