

**April 2013**

**NOTE:** These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports.

### **CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 63<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

#### **Agenda**

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2014 General Service Conference be: “Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World.”
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2014 General Service Conference:

Living in the Heart of A.A.

- a) Recovery, Unity and Service – Our Responsibility
- b) Passing It on Through Sponsorship
- c) Participating in Our Common Welfare through Contributions
- d) Inventory – A Guiding Tool to Our Future

#### **Archives**<sup>1</sup>

It was recommended that:

3. The Archives video *Markings on the Journey* be revised and updated with the proposed changes (estimated cost \$5,000) and brought back to the 2014 Conference Archives Committee.
4. A commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the first edition, first printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be published in April 2014.
5. The posting of freely accessible, anonymity-protected archival audio clips on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site be done at the discretion of the trustees’ Committee on Archives and G.S.O.’s Archivist.

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

## Cooperation With the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

6. The statement in the section Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

"Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court together with a self-addressed court envelope. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance."

Be revised as follows:

"Each group is autonomous. Some groups, at the request of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign, initial or stamp a slip that has been furnished by the court. The referred person provides the slip to the court as proof of attendance."

7. The statement in the section How to Make Referrals to A.A. in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

"Or, you can contact the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. Write:

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Or phone: (212) 870-3400"

Be revised as follows:

"You can also contact the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information at:

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
(212) 870-3400  
[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) "

8. The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities revise the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." taking into consideration suggested changes of the Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community and bring back a report or draft pamphlet to the 2014 Conference Committee.

## **Corrections**

It was recommended that:

9. The revised pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be approved.

## **Finance**

No recommendations.

## **Grapevine**

No recommendations.

## **International Conventions/Regional Forums**<sup>1</sup>

It was recommended that:

10. The undernoted three cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2025:

Montreal, Quebec  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Vancouver, British Columbia

11. Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2015 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

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

## **Literature**

It was recommended that:

12. The draft pamphlet “A.A.—Spiritual not Religious” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and brought back to the 2014 Conference Committee on Literature.

## **Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

13. The 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference be held April 17-23, 2016, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

14. The user responsibilities in the “Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference,” which currently read:

“Users are responsible for insuring adequate battery strength prior to the start of sessions. No technical assistance will be provided by the organizers of the General Service Conference or Conference technical assistants.”

be revised to read:

“Users are responsible for insuring adequate battery strength prior to the start of sessions. For safety reasons, extension cords will not be permitted between any seating rows or walking areas. Power outlets will be available in designated seating areas during General Sessions. No technical assistance will be provided by the organizers of the General Service Conference or Conference technical assistants.”

15. The deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda Items be changed from January 15 to December 15, beginning in December 2014 for the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.
16. The timetable for the election of the delegate from Area 84, Northeastern Ontario, be revised to allow for two odd and two even panels in that province. The revised timetable for the election of the delegate from Area 84, Northeastern Ontario is to be accomplished by having the Panel 63 delegate elected for a one-year term with the understanding that this delegate would have the opportunity to stand for his/her own two-year term in the following Panel 64 election.

### **Public Information**

It was recommended that:

17. The 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference affirm that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: “...at the level of press, radio and films.”
18. A.A. World Services be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of digital A.A. literature. The committee requested that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. The committee requested that a status and financial report be submitted to the appropriate 2014 Conference Committee.

### **Report and Charter**

It was recommended that:

19. A typographical error in the article “Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need,” contained within the essay on Concept IX on page 37, fifth paragraph, third line: “...badly disturbed or **uniformed**...” be corrected to “...badly disturbed or **uninformed**...” in the next printing, noting that this typographical error has existed since the first printing of *Twelve Concepts for World Service*. (Change indicated in bold)

20. The following text describing the duties of the chairperson of the General Service Board be added to Chapter Nine in *The A.A. Service Manual* in a location to be determined by the Publishing Department.

**“Duties of the A.A. General Service Board Chairperson**

“The chairperson of the General Service Board of A.A. presides over the trustees’ meetings, co-chairs the General Service Conference, and functions on behalf of the General Service Board between board meetings. The chairperson appoints members of the trustees’ committees, subject to G.S.B. approval, and is an ex-officio member of all trustees’ committees. In addition to board meetings and the Conference, the chairperson participates in all Regional Forums and may participate in a number of other events.”

21. The following text be added to page S23 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, after the section entitled “Stimulating Interest in General Service”:

“The Principle of Rotation

“Traditionally, rotation ensures that service positions, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many positions have alternates who can step into the service positions if needed.

“To step out of an A.A. office we love can be hard. If we have been doing a good job, if we honestly don’t see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if our friends agree, it’s especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.

“Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us ‘to place principles before personalities.’

“Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. ‘status’ at stake, we needn’t compete for titles or praise—we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.”

22. The following text be added to Article 4 in the Current Conference Charter, on page S102 at the end of the final paragraph:

“The Conference recognizes the principles contained within the Twelve Concepts, particularly the Right of Participation, and the Rights of Petition and Appeal reflected in Concepts IV and V. In keeping with these principles, the Conference may agree to hear Concept V Appeals brought by members of the Conference structure below the Conference level on the inverted triangle.”

23. The 2010 Advisory Action regarding Area Highlights be rescinded, so the entire *Final Report* may be professionally edited and published, while still reflecting the full substance of the General Service Conference.

**Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

No recommendations.