

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

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

Conference Agenda Committee

- The committee reviewed the Conference Evaluation Form, along with the comments and suggestions from the trustees' Conference Committee and agreed that the form was adequate and that no changes be made at this time.

Conference Committee on Archives

- The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and expressed satisfaction with the content.

Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

- The committee discussed how local C.P.C. committees are utilizing new technologies to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to professionals, and suggested adding information to the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook on:
 - Using PowerPoint and Webinars.
 - Providing electronic subscriptions to A.A. newsletters.
- The committee discussed ways of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service work and suggested:
 - Using mock C.P.C. presentations at service workshops.
 - Encouraging groups to elect C.P.C. chairs.
 - Bringing A.A. members along on C.P.C. presentations.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With the Professional Community Kit and Workbook and suggested:
 - Adding an index of past issues of *About A.A.* to the publications tab.
 - Including a copy of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in each Kit.

Conference Committee on Corrections

- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections continue their thorough review of all Corrections materials.
- The committee discussed how to engage A.A. members in corrections service and shared about the opportunities to highlight the current available corrections literature through local area and district Web sites.
- In discussing difficulties in engaging A.A. members in corrections service, the committee recognized that some A.A. members who have not been incarcerated may feel they have nothing to offer in corrections service. The committee requested the staff secretary work with the Publishing Department and the trustees' Committee on Corrections to incorporate text in the Corrections Workbook section "Ideas to Stimulate Corrections Twelfth Step Work Within A.A." to reassure all A.A. members that they can participate in corrections service by sharing A.A.'s basic message about getting and staying sober.
- The committee discussed available resources in support of local corrections' Twelfth Step work and suggested:
 - that the committee secretary gather sharing on ways that areas fund A.A. literature for incarcerated alcoholics for an article in *Box 4-5-9* and other service materials;
 - that corrections committees be encouraged to use *La Viña* as a valuable resource for Spanish-speaking A.A. meetings and members inside correctional facilities.
- The committee reviewed a sample Letter of Introduction to Correctional Facilities, a sample Correctional Facility Fact Sheet, and a sample A.A. Program Plan for Correctional Facilities, and requested that all three samples—with suggested changes—be added to the Corrections Workbook at the next printing.
- The committee suggested that in cases when the Area Corrections Committee is inactive, communications from the G.S.O. Corrections assignment requesting prerelease contacts or outside support for correctional facility A.A. meetings be forwarded to the delegate.
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and suggested that the service piece "Suggestions for Using the A.A. Grapevine Magazine (or *La Viña*) as a Tool in Corrections Service" be updated and considered for inclusion in the Workbook.

Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and felt an increase was not necessary at this time.
- The committee reviewed the Self-Support packet and suggested adding the following words to the packaging sleeve: "Information from Self-Support packet also available on the Web site aa.org" and "Please Share with Your Group."

- The committee suggested adding the following phrase to the Self-Support Green Card (F-42): “Gratitude expressed through contributions reaches the still-suffering alcoholic.”
- The committee thoroughly reviewed the report on self-support from the trustees’ Finance Committee and urged that the work of the Self-Support subcommittee continue.
- The committee suggested that the appropriate committee reconsider the policy concerning the General Service Conference site selection (“The responsibility for General Service Conference site selection be delegated to General Service Office management, subject to approval of the General Service Board”)* and that Conference members consider the spiritual and financial aspects.

*2008 Policy/Admissions Committee

Conference Committee on Grapevine

- The committee reviewed the 2013 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and made the following requests:
 - That Grapevine communications regarding the Grapevine Audio Project specify that GV is not recording meeting speakers at A.A. events.
 - That an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future, be provided to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.
- The committee reviewed the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page magazine and concluded:
 - The committee recognized that funding La Viña as a service, through the General Fund, is an issue affecting the overall Fellowship.
 - The committee acknowledged the increase in circulation by 8.6% from January 2011 to December 2012 may be tied to the changes in format and additional content.
 - The committee acknowledged that the 2012 increase in La Viña deficit results in large part from allocation of pension funding expense.
 - The committee expressed concern that funding La Viña through the General Fund of the General Service Board, while AA Grapevine Inc. has responsibility for the production of La Viña, may suggest an imbalance between responsibility and authority.
- The committee requested that the GV board submit a proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine that would significantly reduce the La Viña deficit.

- The committee considered discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e., 68 pages, perfect bound) and took no action. The committee needed more background regarding La Viña's financial history and information regarding what a new format would be.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2014 or later:
 1. Making Amends (working title)
Members share their experience about making Ninth Step amends from stories previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
 2. How I Found My Higher Power (working title)
A collection of stories by AA members sharing their experience with their personal journeys with Step Two, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
- The committee reviewed the revised workbook and approved the draft copy with the following suggestions:
 - Expand Appendix V to include all past Advisory Actions about the Grapevine.
 - Look into the feasibility of hyperlinks and a live table of contents to facilitate ease of navigation of the electronic workbook.
- The committee requested a report from the A.A. Grapevine Board on the feasibility of producing one book in American Sign Language (ASL) format.

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:
 - Using locally created “save the date” flyers to encourage attendance and participation.
 - Emphasizing that you do not have to be involved in General Service to attend a Regional Forum.
 - Making Regional Forums more prominent on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.
 - Continuing to include information about Regional Forums in *Box 4-5-9* on a regular basis.
 - Encouraging local host committees to include food, treats and A.A. meetings as part of the hospitality.
 - Providing additional service opportunities for local A.A. members at each Forum.

Conference Committee on Literature

- The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of “Circles of Love and Service” and offered additional suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing an updated draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2014 Conference Committee on Literature meeting.

- The committee discussed a suggestion to add an index to *Alcoholics Anonymous* and took no action, noting that our Big Book is spiritual in nature rather than academic and that an index might discourage a full reading of the material.
- The committee thoroughly discussed a request to add the subtitle 'None Left Behind' to the newly revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet and took no action. The committee agreed that this request was fully and appropriately addressed by both the Conference Committee on Literature and Conference members at the 62nd General Service Conference.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

- The committee discussed the report of the trustees' Committee on Conference regarding the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting international observers admission to the General Service Conference. The committee agreed that no change to the current practice is necessary.
- The committee discussed the concept of combining the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy/Admissions Committees. The sense of the committee was that there was not enough information presented to express a need or benefit to combining the committees. In addition, the amount of time currently allotted for each committee's deliberation seems appropriate, and combining the committees might result in too heavy a workload for the combined committee. The committee was also dissuaded by the complications involved in merging the committees (revising the Composition, Scope and Procedures of committees; updating *The A.A. Service Manual* and other literature; additional responsibilities for staff, etc.).
- The committee noted a discrepancy between the description of the Conference Agenda Committee in *The A.A. Service Manual* and in the Conference Agenda Committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure, and suggested that the 2014 Conference Agenda Committee review the description in *The A.A. Service Manual* for consistency.

Conference Committee on Public Information

- The committee reviewed the 2012 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and requested that as soon as possible, and independent from the Web site redesign, A.A.W.S. insure that A.A. videos on aa.org be accessible on as wide a variety of electronic devices as possible.
- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on A.A. Video Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s).
- The committee considered production of one or more video P.S.A.s to be produced in the calendar year 2013 using the current five "Young People's Videos" and took no action. The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee define more specifically the target audience, the cost, the method of distribution appropriate to the targeted audience, and any format issues, and bring back a report to the 2014 Conference Public Information Committee.

- The committee reviewed all current A.A. video public service announcements and found them all to be relevant and useful, noting that “Living in Chaos,” which the trustees’ committee had suggested for retirement, continues to effectively portray the consequences of alcoholic drinking.
- The committee reviewed the interim report on the centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of “Tengo Esperanza,” the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community. The committee noted the strong performance of this P.S.A. thus far, and looks forward to receiving the final report next year.
- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on establishing a Public Information Social Media Page and agrees with the trustees’ conclusion that A.A. World Services, the General Service Office, and the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña cannot establish a presence on Facebook in a manner which would be consistent with A.A. Traditions.
- The committee suggested the General Service Board encourage the trustees’ committees to review existing literature that discusses how A.A. members apply the Eleventh Tradition, e.g., “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” and suggest updates to the literature that reflect current experience with anonymity in a digital age, with an eye towards reaffirming the importance of the Eleventh Tradition to the Fellowship.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook and suggested that:
 - The address of G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site, www.AA.org, be added to the front of the new P.I. Kit packaging.
 - The pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” be included in the P.I. Kit.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual* 2013-2014 Edition, and the 2013 General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions. The committee noted that one of the editorial updates regarded the description of a Conference Committee, and asked that a review of the descriptions of all Conference Committees for consistency with current Composition, Scope and Procedures be made, and any suggested editorial updates be included in the annual list to be forwarded to the 2014 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The committee also requested that a similar review of the list in Chapter Eleven of services provided by G.S.O. be made, and any suggested editorial updates be included in that list as well.

- 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 the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- The committee considered a request to add “Advisory Action” and “Additional Committee Consideration” to the Glossary of General Service Terms in *The A.A. Service Manual*, and forwarded suggestions to the Publishing Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2014 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee considered a request that “the definition and Composition of an Area Assembly be modified for consistency and clarity in Chapter Four” and took no action. The committee believes the existing descriptions of Area assemblies accurately reflect the variety of autonomous practices determined by each Area’s group conscience.
- The committee considered a request to revise the description of “Director (nontrustee)” in the Glossary of General Service Terms in *The A.A. Service Manual*, and agreed to forward this suggestion to the General Service Board for consideration as part of the annual review of *The A.A. Service Manual*.
- The committee considered a request to update information in *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding suggested qualifications for area registrars, and forwarded suggestions to the Publishing Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2014 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The committee also suggested that G.S.O. develop a new piece of service material outlining the specific abilities and resources area registrars have found helpful in assisting with the maintenance of vital information in the Fellowship New Vision database.
- In light of the recent decision not to publish regional directories this year, the committee asked the staff secretary to communicate their concerns to the A.A.W.S. Board about the still existing, albeit decreasing, need for print resources by A.A. members in rural and remote areas, and those members who may travel frequently.

Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

- The committee reviewed the report on Spanish and French translations of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* and expressed the need for translated versions of audio visual materials to have improved sound production in the future.
- The committee reviewed the report on the DVD version of the pamphlet “A.A. For the Alcoholic with Special Needs” formatted for alcoholics who are blind, deaf or learning challenged and availability of the item. There was a concern expressed whether a DVD in American Sign Language (ASL) and with subtitles in English serves the needs of French and Spanish language-based members.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook contents and its current content.

- The committee reviewed the contents of Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook and Kit and requested the following:
 - That the staff secretary produce a memo with the following wording suggested by the 2012 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities: “Committees gather local information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options.” This memo is to be a temporary insert in the section, “Activities Suggested for Special Needs-Accessibilities Committees,” of the current Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook until the next printing of the workbook. The memo will be sent to area, district, and intergroup/central office Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities chairs.
 - Add the service piece, “Online Meetings/Reunions a L’Internet/Reunions del Internet” (SM F-124), to the Special Needs-Accessibilities Kit.

- The committee had a wide-ranging discussion on how Special Needs-Accessibilities committees can communicate the various ways to make meeting places accessible to *all* alcoholics. Topics included:
 - Start Special Needs-Accessibilities committees and hold workshops on various topics to inform members about this service area.
 - Communicate in web-based and print meeting directories which meetings are handicapped equipped, wheelchair accessible, and ASL interpreted.
 - Consider ensuring that the entire meeting experience for those with special needs is accessible-friendly, e.g. assuring that the height of literature displays or coffee dispensers are accessible to those in wheelchairs.
 - Prepare meeting greeters to identify attendees with special needs and to help provide accommodation as best as possible.
 - Provide local special needs contact information in meeting formats and event flyers.

- The committee also discussed ways that Special Needs-Accessibilities committees might help groups prepare in advance for the arrival of deaf/hard of hearing alcoholics. Topics included:
 - Provide optimal seating arrangements.
 - Use a microphone, discourage cross-talk, and ask those speaking to stand and avoid covering their faces with hand gestures.
 - When economically possible, provide ASL interpreters or seek out capable A.A. members who can sign; some areas fund ASL interpreters.
 - Communicate with the hard of hearing in attendance that seating and other accommodations can be made.
 - Encourage cooperation with local professionals serving the deaf/hard of hearing community.

Conference Committee on Trustees

- The committee reviewed their Composition, Scope and Procedure and updated the references to the trustees' committees on "Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities" and "Correctional Facilities" found in their Scope to trustees' committees on "Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/SpecialNeed-Accessibilities"and "Corrections."
- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the East Central and Southeast regional trustees and trustee-at-large/U.S.
- The committee reviewed 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 and took no action. The committee did not support the proposed interlocking directorate.

The committee noted that the General Service Board has sufficient authority to implement changes in Practices as outlined in the initiatives in the sections under the heading "Communications and Unity" and "Efficient Operations and Financial Stability" and expressed their support for those ongoing changes. It was the sense of the committee that the changes in Practices could address the concerns of the General Service Board.

The committee requested that, before implementation, any changes proposed in the section "Governance," regarding "Non-trustee Director Service," "Eligibility of General Service Trustees" and "Eligibility of Appointed Committee Members" be brought to the Conference Committee on Trustees for review.

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