

April 2010

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 60TM GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 60th General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Floor Action

It was recommended that:

1. Motion to recommit to the General Service Board development of procedures for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference, taking into account considerations expressed during the 2010 General Service Conference, report to be forwarded to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.
2. The revised 60th Conference draft pamphlet, "The A.A. Member - Medications and Other Drugs", be returned to the trustees' Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
3. To recommit to the GSB trustees' Finance Committee the request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix," and report back to the 2011 General Service Conference.
4. The Conference Committee on Report and Charter Advisory Action which read:

"That *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*."

Be rescinded and replaced with:

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

Agenda

It was recommended that:

5. The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: "We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future - Let it Begin With Us."
6. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2011 General Service Conference:

- a) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:
 - 1. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
 - 2. Carrying A.A.'s Message Online
 - 3. Grapevine - "A.A.'s Meeting in Print" and More . . .

- b) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:
 - 1. Self-Support - Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
 - 2. Humility - Accepting the Group Conscience
 - 3. An Informed Group Conscience - Using the Three Legacies

- c) Diversity in A.A.:
 - 1. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
 - 2. The Hand of A.A. - Inclusive Never Exclusive
 - 3. Tradition Five - Our Primary Purpose

- d) Sponsorship:
 - 1. Importance of a Home Group
 - 2. Leading by Example - Attraction Not Promotion
 - 3. Recovery, Unity, Service

- 7. The following be the workshop topic for the 2011 General Service Conference: "How to Increase Participation in A.A. - Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs."

Archives¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Corrections

It was recommended that:

- 8. The pamphlet "Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities" be revised so that the sentence "Obey the rules of the facility you are visiting" is replaced with the following text:

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

9. The pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" be revised so that the last sentence on page 4 under the heading "Policy Meetings" that previously read:

"Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which A.A. visitors may attend these meetings."

Will now read:

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

10. The pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" be revised so that the following two sentences are added to the end of the first paragraph under "Inmate Groups":

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

Finance

It was recommended that:

11. The following be added to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" where appropriate:

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

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

12. In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading "How can groups participate?" in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"; the second sentence "*(rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,...)*" be changed to read "***(for example: rent, refreshments, A.A. and A.A. Grapevine literature,...)***"
13. The trustees' Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

14. La Vina achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following

manner:

- Publishing La Vina as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year beginning in 2011 followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
 - Content and substance be of primary importance.
 - An announcement will be published in La Vina magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.
15. The A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:
- What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
 - How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
 - What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
 - What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

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

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Literature

It was recommended that:

16. The revised pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be approved.
17. The trustees' Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in

Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

18. The paragraph regarding closed meetings on page 22 of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.," which reads:

"A closed meeting is limited to members of the local A.A. group or visiting members from other groups. The purpose of the closed meetings is to give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics."

Be replaced with:

"A closed meeting is for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking. Closed meetings give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics."

19. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
20. The trustees Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

21. Donna G., alternate delegate, Area 33, Southeast Michigan, be seated as a Conference member at the 60* General Service Conference because Derek D., the Panel 59 delegate for Area 33, resigned.
22. Angel Andres C. and Carlos Julio H. from the General Service Board of Venezuela be admitted to the 60th General Service Conference as observers.
23. The 63rd General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 2013 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.
24. The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan to bring forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration along with an estimated cost for conducting the inventory.

Composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee The composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee (CIPC) will have a proportional representation similar to the General Service Conference including delegates, trustees, a non-trustee director, a G.S.O. staff member and a Grapevine staff member.

Selection of eligible delegates shall include those not elected as chair of a Conference committee who are willing and able to serve. The Conference Inventory Planning Committee will consist of 17 individuals with representation as follows:

11 Panel 60 Delegates

Alternate Conference Delegate Chair

Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Agenda

One delegate from each region for a total of 8 to be chosen by lot by the Chair of the General Service Board, the G.S.O. Conference Coordinator and the Conference Delegate Chair.

Trustees, Directors and Staff

One Class B Regional Trustee

One Class B General Service Trustee who will serve as chair of the committee

One Class A Trustee

One Non-trustee Director

One G.S.O. Staff Person

One Grapevine Staff Person

The trustees, non-trustee director and G.S.O./Grapevine staff will be appointed by the chair of the General Service Board.

A G.S.O. staff member, appointed by the G.S.O. General Manager, will serve as the non-voting secretary to the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and coordinate committee meeting schedules and correspondence.

As a resource for the development of an inventory plan, the Conference Inventory Planning Committee will use the background, recommendations, questions and summary of suggestions contained in the report of the February 2, 2009 trustees' subcommittee on "Discussion of the Proposal for a General Service Conference Inventory" and the January 6, 2010 report of the trustees' subcommittee on "Developing a Plan for the General Service Conference to Conduct an Inventory of Itself," along with any additional, related background material the committee may deem appropriate.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

25. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved
26. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
27. The following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," under Facts About Anonymity on page 10, to read as follows:

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

28. The A.A. Video for Young People titled "Animation" be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: "For more information, search 'Young People' at www.aa.org."
29. The term "drying out" be replaced with "detox" and "rehabilitation" replace "sanitarium" in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer so that the phrase reads "...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services..." and the entire section reads as follows:

"What A.A. Does Not Do

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

30. The trustees' Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

31. The General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees emeriti to *The A.A. Service Manual*.
32. The Publications Department publish the Area Service Highlights in their entirety in the *Final Report*.
33. *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.
NOTE: Rescinded by Floor Action #4

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

34. The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2010:

Class A Trustees

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

Class B Trustees

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

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson
First vice-chairperson
Second vice-chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary

Ward B. Ewing, D.D. Jo-Anne
L. Dorothy L. H. Terrance M.
Bedient, FACHE John K.

35. The January 2010 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2010:

Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Donald W. M.
Doug R.

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

36. *The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2010:*

*Andrea G. B.
Joe D.
Phyllis A. H.
Roberta L.
George G. M.*

*William N.
Victor P.
Doug R.
Pam R.*

37. *The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2010:*

Ginger Rhoades B.

Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.

Robin B.

Kenneth B.

Nancy H.

Dorothy L. H.

Don M.

Eleanor N.

Albin Z.

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