



Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56

P.O. Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee

A. Consider discontinuing the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W."

Area 56 CPC Committee: 7 For 2 Against

Area 56 Mini-Conference: 32 For 17 Against

not substantial unanimity, minority opinion offered, no vote to reconsider, motion FAILS

General Service Conference:

Additional Committee Consideration:

- The committee considered a request to discontinue the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." and took no action. The committee noted that the information in the pamphlet was outdated and did not accurately or appropriately describe the A.A. program of recovery for C.P.C. use, but agreed that the pamphlet may have value to A.A. members as a marker of historic A.A. moments. In light of this, the committee suggested the trustees' C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities committee continue to discuss the value of keeping this pamphlet available to the Fellowship.

B. Consider adding text regarding A.A. and medications to the pamphlet "If You are a Professional..."

Area 56 CPC Committee: 8 For 0 Against

Area 56 Mini-Conference: Many For Few Against

no minority opinion offered, motion PASSES

General Service Conference:

Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

8. A new section on A.A. and medications be added to the pamphlet "If You are a Professional..." with the following text:

A.A. Members and Medications

A.A. does not provide medical advice; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified health care professional. The suggestions provided in the pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" may help A.A. members minimize the risk of relapse.

Grapevine

B. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2017 or later.

Young and Sober II

Area 56 Grapevine Committee: 7 For 2 Against

Area 56 Mini-Conference: Many For 1 Against

no minority opinion offered, motion PASSES

Stories by Atheists and Agnostics

Area 56 Grapevine Committee: 9 For 0 Against

Area 56 Mini-Conference: Many For 6 Against

no minority opinion offered, motion PASSES

Steps 4 & 5

Area 56 Grapevine Committee: 1 For 8 Against

no action taken

Beginners II

Area 56 Grapevine Committee: 7 For 0 Against

Area 56 Mini-Conference: Unanimous For

motion PASSES

General Service Conference:

Additional Committee Consideration:

- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2017 or later:

1. Stories by Atheist and Agnostic A.A. members (working title)

A collection of stories by A.A. members who are atheist or agnostic, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

2. Steps Four and Five (working title)

Members tell helpful, hopeful stories about how they did Step Four and/or Step Five and how it changed their lives—from previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

Literature

A. Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Area 56 Literature Committee: 3 For 5 Against - no action taken

General Service Conference:

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to develop a plain language version of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action. While sympathetic to the spirit of the request, the committee agreed that developing a plain-language Big Book was not appropriate at this time.
- The committee suggests that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the need for expanding the availability of "plain-language" recovery literature.

H. Consider request for revision to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A."

Area 56 Literature Committee: 6 For 1 Against

Area 56 Mini-Conference: Unanimous For - motion PASSES

General Service Conference:

Advisory Actions: It was recommended that:

15. The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to include information about young people's conferences and that the proposed text be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee for review.
16. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

Public Information

D. Review 2015 report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Usefulness and Relevance of Public Service Announcements.

1. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the English and French language versions of the video P.S.A., "Tengo Esperanza" at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the distribution work of local public information committees.

Area 56 PI Committee: 6 For 1 Against
Area 56 Mini-Conference: Many For 4 Against
no minority opinion offered, motion PASSES

General Service Conference:

Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

23. The English- and French-language versions of the video public service announcement "Tengo Esperanza," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to distribution by local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

2. Consider discontinuing the video P.S.A. "I Thought."

Area 56 PI Committee: 6 For 1 Against
Area 56 Mini-Conference: Many For 1 Against
no minority opinion offered, motion PASSES

General Service Conference:

Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

24. The video public service announcement "I Thought" be discontinued.

E. Discuss a request to reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates.”

Area 56 PI Committee: Discussed – no action taken

General Service Conference:
Additional Committee Consideration:

- The committee discussed a request to reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates.” The committee took no action noting that the current policy on the use of full-face videos is adequate.

Report and Charter

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition:
3. Consider adding text in the Third Legacy Procedure chart in Chapter One.

Area 56 Report & Charter Committee: 11 For 0 Against
Area 56 Mini-Conference: Unanimous For - motion PASSES

General Service Conference:
Additional Committee Consideration:

- The committee considered a request to add existing text from the “Third Legacy Procedure” section to the “Third Legacy Procedure” chart on page S22 in *The A.A. Service Manual* and agreed that the text would be added for consistency.

5. Consider removing endnote #4 in Concept Twelve of the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Area 56 Report & Charter Committee: 11 For 0 Against
Area 56 Mini-Conference: Unanimous For - motion PASSES

General Service Conference:
Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

26. The following text in endnote 4 be removed from Concept XII on page 73 of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

4. Bill here, apparently inadvertently, used the phrase “in action and spirit,” instead of “in thought and action,” that appears elsewhere in both the Conference Charter and the statement of Concept XII.

6. Consider request to revise text in the Concept Eleven essay regarding “male/female” distinctions in the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Area 56 Report & Charter Committee: No recommendation – no action taken

General Service Conference:

Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

27. The following text be removed from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us — of both sexes — have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our “moms” and “pops,” and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-woman relatedness that we undertake.

It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they *are* women. ¹⁰

28. Endnote 10, on page 59 in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the Concept XI essay be revised by the Publishing Department with language noting that two paragraphs have been removed from the Concept XI essay and are available upon request from the G.S.O. Archives Department as a reference to A.A. history.

B. Consider A.A.W.S. recommendation regarding an alternative publishing schedule for *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.*

Area 56 Report & Charter Committee: 11 For 0 Against
Area 56 Mini-Conference: Many For 1 Against
no minority opinion offered, motion PASSES

General Service Conference:

Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

29. *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised per existing schedule after the 2016 General Service Conference and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2017 at a savings of approximately \$45,000 - 50,000 in alternate years when a new edition is not published. The next edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* is to be published in 2018 (after the Conference), the subsequent edition in 2020 (after the Conference), etc.

C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and International.)

1. Consider that the category title "ONLINE MEETINGS" be changed to "ONLINE GROUPS/ONLINE MEETINGS" in A.A. Directories.

Area 56 Report & Charter Committee: No recommendation – no action taken

General Service Conference:

Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

30. The category title "Online Meetings" be changed to "Online Meetings/Online Groups" on page vi and vii in the A.A. Directories.

Treatment/Special Needs – Accessibilities

- A. Consider removing “Special Needs” from Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities’ name and throughout the committees’ Composition, Scope and Procedure.

Area 56 Treatment/Special Needs – Accessibilities Committee:

Additional Committee Consideration – Ask the Committee to come back with suggestions to replace the term “Special Needs”

General Service Conference:

Advisory Action: It was recommended that:

31. The term “Special Needs” be removed from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and throughout the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure. The new name of the committee will be the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.