

## **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 discussed a request from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics planned for the 2012 General Service Conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics to two for the 2012 General Service Conference.
- The committee considered a request that the trustee's Committee on the Conference meet annually with the Conference Committee on Agenda to address matters concerning the Conference agenda. Following a lengthy discussion, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Conference meet/confer with the Conference Committee on Agenda prior to the winter Quarterly Board meeting to address matters concerning the Conference week agenda.

### **Conference Committee on Archives<sup>1</sup>**

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and accepted the revisions, including a minor change to the Research Application Form and a new section, "Tools and Suggested Activities For Archives Committees," which will provide sharing and suggestions for Archives committees.
- The committee requested that the G.S.O. Archivist solicit new material and stories for the "Shared Experiences" section of the Archives Workbook, by contacting area archivists and area Archives Committee chairs via a memorandum, with a copy to area delegates, so that this section can be updated in a future printing of the Workbook. The committee also requested that the "Shared Experiences" section be updated every five years.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop an informational piece on basic archival preservation procedures intended to provide guidance to local archivists responsible for maintaining the physical and intellectual integrity of the collection.

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

## Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

- The committee agreed that the concept of combining the A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community DVD with a compilation of C.P.C. literature would be very useful in C.P.C. service work. The committee requested the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore replacing the current A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community DVD with a new DVD compilation that includes the following existing material:
  - Table of contents
  - Introduction letter that includes references to aa.org and the resources available for professionals on the Web site
  - "If You are a Professional ..."
  - Information on Alcoholics Anonymous
  - "A.A. Membership Survey"
  - "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community "
  - *About A.A.* – Newsletter for Professional (3-4 selected issues)
  - "Is A.A. for Me?"
  - A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community videos

The committee requested that the trustees bring back a report and draft product to the 2012 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community.

- The committee discussed a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne and took no action.
- The committee reviewed a draft service piece regarding use of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in C.P.C. endeavors and suggested including the piece in the C.P.C. Kit with minor edits suggested by the committee.
- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
  - That a list of goals and project suggestions for C.P.C. committees be added to the C.P.C. Workbook.
  - The committee reviewed the Fellowship sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals. The committee requested that a summary of shared experience from C.P.C. committees and professionals for one-on-one C.P.C. contact with professionals be included in the C.P.C. Workbook.
  - The committee suggested adding two bullets on page 20 of the C.P.C. Workbook regarding suggested elements in C.P.C. letters:
    - Invitation to accompany professionals or students to open A.A. meetings.
    - Invitation to present on what A.A. is and is not.

## Conference Committee on Corrections

- The committee reviewed the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." The committee particularly agreed with the suggestion already forwarded to the Publications Department to include content in the draft revision that would appeal to the young incarcerated alcoholic. The committee looks forward to seeing a full draft of the revised pamphlet at the 2012 General Service Conference, and encourages the Publications Department to consider a more standard pamphlet-sized format, if feasible, while still preserving the elements of the existing easy-to-read format.
- The committee discussed the possible need for a comprehensive survey of A.A. program activities in Correctional Facilities similar to the one conducted in 1990, and requested the trustees' Committee on Corrections explore the need for such a survey and report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Corrections.
- The committee reviewed the Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees' Committee on Corrections regarding content. The committee requested that a process be established for updating the Workbook at each printing, which will ensure accurate references to items such as page numbers, A.A. publications, current terminology and statistical information. The committee also suggested that new Corrections chairs be informed that new A.A. material may be available that is not yet reflected in the current catalogue.

## Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee reviewed the Seventh Tradition stories received to date and encouraged that the collection process continue. The committee suggests that the trustees or office can use any stories received to date if the occasion arises.
- The committee discussed a request that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook and felt a workbook was not necessary at this time as there is a wealth of information currently available.
- The committee discussed a request that the trustees' Finance Committee convert the Self-Support packet F-19 to a comprehensive Self-Support Kit. The committee requested that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a draft Self-Support Kit to be brought back to the 2012 Conference Finance Committee for review. The kit would include, but not be limited to:

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| M-21    | <i>I Am Responsible</i> wallet card                              |
| M-23    | <i>Final Conference Report</i> (current year)                    |
| MG-15   | A.A. Guidelines on Finance                                       |
| P-16    | "The A.A. Group" pamphlet  |
| P-43    | "Twelve Traditions Illustrated"                                  |
| P-44    | "A.A.'s Legacy of Service"                                       |
| MS20    | Traditions Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine                     |
| F-42    | Self-Support Green Card  |
| FR-2    | A.A. Group Contribution Envelope                                 |
| FR-5    | A.A. Birthday Contribution Envelope & Birthday Plan Cover letter |
| FV-19   | Self-Support Packet – with updated flyers                        |
| SMF-176 | Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.                             |

- The Conference Finance Committee requests that the trustees' Finance Committee prepare a simple document of Self-Support/Financial Talking Points to be used by the Fellowship, made available on G.S.O.'s Web site, in the G.S.R. and D.C.M. packets, and in the Self-Support Kit.

### **Conference Committee on Grapevine**

- The committee considered permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions, limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund and agreed to take no action. The committee noted that the current financial structure is appropriate.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook with appreciation.
- The committee discussed at length and agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2011 or later:
  - Working the Program (working title)  
A collection of AA Grapevine stories on recovery from alcoholism
  - Happy, Joyous, and Free (working title)  
A collection of AA Grapevine stories reflecting experience, strength, hope and humor
  - Young and New to AA (working title)  
A collection about getting sober young from those who have done it
- In order to adhere to our spiritual principle of self-support, the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine suggests that the A.A. Grapevine Board only propose balanced operating budgets to the General Service Board.
  - A single issue of Grapevine and/or La Viña magazine be included, with an introductory letter that offers AAGrapevine.org information, in the GSR packet for all new G.S.R.s.
  - Encourage each home group to purchase a minimum of two annual subscriptions.
  - The A.A. Grapevine Board look at distribution techniques of journals similar to the Grapevine, including La Vigne, as well as other General Service structure journals.

### **Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>**

- The committee accepted the reporting on the 2010 International Convention and noted that the financial results of the Convention showed a profit of \$844,545.
- The committee expressed appreciation to the 2010 International Convention coordinator, Rick Walker, for coordinating a successful event celebrating A.A.'s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in San Antonio, Texas. Gratitude was also expressed to the volunteers of the local Host Committee.

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

- The committee discussed the importance of Regional Forums and how Forums foster unity, enhance communication and provide a unique opportunity for local A.A.s to meet Board members, G.S.O. and Grapevine staff and trusted servants from the region. The committee noted that in 2010, over 1,500 first time Forums attendees were welcomed at Forums.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Forums and how areas communicate about upcoming Forums. The committee noted that flyers for upcoming Forums are being sent electronically from G.S.O. to delegates and D.C.M.s, and the information is accessible through G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. In addition to announcements in local A.A. newsletters, bulletins, at assemblies and meetings, and local distribution of Forum Flyers, some local A.A. Web sites include the Forum Flyer or hyperlink to Forum information and registration on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

### **Conference Literature Committee**

- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report from the trustees' Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services." The committee expressed appreciation for the work done by the trustees and provided several suggestions for the development of the pamphlet, and asked that a draft pamphlet or report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.
- The committee reviewed the draft revisions to the *Living Sober* booklet forwarded by the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee expressed appreciation for the revisions suggested, and requested that the trustees' Literature Committee continue to review the booklet *Living Sober*, focusing on outdated language and/or practices, and provide a new revision to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.
- The committee considered a request to develop an item similar to the Self-support card or "green card" to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool and took no action. They noted that when an item to promote the use of A.A. literature as a Twelfth Step tool is needed, the language and format of this tool is generally best decided by each A.A. service committee or entity, based on their needs and experience.
- The committee considered the request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that "the trustees' Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous," and after thoughtful discussion agreed to take no action. The committee noted that the trustees' Literature Committee's report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality clarifies that the pamphlet under development will reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members.
- The committee considered a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office and agreed to take no action at this time. The committee noted that Conference-approved materials describing the General Service Office are currently available.

## **Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions**

- The committee noted that Donald Sheets, the former Panel 61 delegate for Area 22, Northern Indiana, resigned. In February 2011 Ron Foor was elected as the new Panel 61 delegate for Area 22. Therefore, no recommendation from the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions was required in order to seat him as a Conference member at the 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference.
- The committee had lengthy discussion on a request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda items, and took no action. Acknowledging the challenge of communicating about agenda items within a short time frame, the committee noted that many delegates are taking advantage of current technology in order to facilitate timely distribution of background within their areas.
- The committee discussed a request that a formal relationship be developed between the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and the trustees' Conference Committee to address matters of policy relating to the General Service Conference and took no action.

## **Conference Committee on Public Information**

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2010 Annual Report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- The committee expressed support for the trustees' Public Information Committee development of a comprehensive media plan.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. T.V. public service announcements and agreed with the trustees' Public Information Committee's report that found them all to be relevant and useful.
- The committee suggested that "The A.A. Fact File" be revised and updated every three years.
- The committee suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee explore alternative packaging of the Public Information Kit and report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Public Information including cost information.

## **Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

- 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* 2011-2012 Edition, and the 2011 General Service *Conference Final Report*.
- 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. The committee suggested that the A.A.W.S. Board consider adding examples to clarify what "other entities" refers to on page S74 in the last paragraph under FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

- The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publications Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.
- The committee considered the request to change the phrase “new kid on the block” with “a first year Delegate” on page S52 under Personal Experience in section “Preparing for the Conference” in *The A.A. Service Manual* and took no action. The committee agreed that this quote from a past delegate should not be altered and it adequately expresses the sentiment.
- The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.

### **Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

- The committee suggested that when the pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs is created, formats for alcoholics who are deaf, blind, or have learning challenges be produced as soon as fiscally possible.
- The committee requested that the term “treatment facilities” be replaced with a more appropriate reference such as “Treatment Committee,” “Treatment Committee Kit,” “A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Committees,” etc. wherever it appears in service material.
- The committee considered removing one line of dialog from the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” and took no action. The committee requested instead that the trustees’ Committee review the entire script of the video, taking into consideration concerns expressed by the Conference Committee, and return a progress report to the 2012 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities.
- Upon review of the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook, the committee:
  - Expressed appreciation for the slimmer, less fragile, DVD case to be used for the videos in the Kits in place of the current DVD casings at no additional cost.
  - Suggested that the section on “Carrying the Message Into Noncorrectional Youth Facilities” in the Workbook be reviewed by the trustees’ Committee for appropriate emphasis on the safety of the A.A. members and the youths involved.
  - Reviewed the two suggested Bridging the Gap forms, one for A.A. members requesting a temporary contact to help them connect to A.A. on the outside, and one for A.A. members willing to serve as temporary contacts, and accepted them with minor editorial changes.
- Upon review of the Special Needs Kit and Workbook, the committee:
  - Hoped that there will continue to be A.A. Grapevine issues that include stories from A.A. members with special needs.

- Expressed appreciation for the recent repricing of the American Sign Language (ASL) DVDs of the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and hopes that special needs formats will continue to be priced in accordance with their corresponding standard formats wherever fiscally possible.

### **Conference Committee on Trustees**

- 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.

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