

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

July August, September 2014

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXIII, Issue 7

"A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches ... Nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego demands of our own people -- often with the best of intention on their part."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1960. From: "Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours". *The Language of the Heart*. Reprinted with permission.

A Word From Our Delegate

The members and staff of the 64th General Service Conference send their warmest greetings and best wishes to the members of Area 54 Northeast Ohio. It is indeed good to be home.

The Conference week's agenda was from Sunday April 27th, beginning at 9 am through Saturday May 3rd, ending at 10 am. However, for me, it actually began on Saturday morning April 26th at 6:00 am. I departed Cleveland at 8:40 am and arrived at the Hilton Westchester, Rye New York around 1 pm. After checking in and grabbing a bite to eat, it was off to the pre-conference activities. First, there was "The Meet and Greet" then dinner with the trustee and other regional delegates, the Remote Communities Meeting, the 1728 Meeting and finally the Delegates Only Meeting.

The Hilton Westchester, unlike the Crown Plaza in Manhattan, the hotel appears to sit in the middle of nowhere. Because it is centrally located within the city of Rey, New York, the setting is rural, surrounded by beautiful and serene landscaping. Yet, only five minutes away in any direction is the city, like any other urban area.

Sunday morning, after the roll call, it was business as usual, beginning with the Joint Trustee and Conference Committee Meetings. The conference committee meetings were on Monday and Tuesday 9am – Noon. The Committee Reports and Discussion (voting) began on Wednesday afternoon at 3:30pm and this year it ended on Friday about 6:30pm, followed by the Inventory Reports and Discussion.

I had the awesome privilege to serve on the Literature Committee. Our committee had the task of considering eight agenda items this year. Needless to say, it became necessary for us not only to work through lunch both days, but also to meet again at 9 pm on Monday night in order to complete our task. "We got 'er done". There was sheer spiritual exhilaration expressed by all when we finished. And the committee received a standing ovation from the conference floor for all of our hard work. "You really



had to be there" I can't say enough about the workings of the committee system and our extremely helpful and supportive GSO Secretary Mary D.

Throughout the week, there were Presentations, Inventory Group Discussions, Panel 64 Delegate's Area Service Highlights, elections of Regional Trustees, Board Reports, General Service Office and Grapevine Reports. There was a very funny and delightful skit, performed by members of the LaVina and GSO staff during the International Conventions presentation. Friday and Saturday the rotating Delegates and Trustees gave their farewells. Saturday we

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WHAT'S YOUR SOBRIETY WORTH IN TODAY'S DOLLARS?

In this issue of the *Northeast Ohio Recorder*, the delegate offers her perspective on the General Service Conference this year.

The color-enhanced, expanded online version includes Len D's final installment of his twelve-part series on how the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are interrelated. We also include the main advisory actions resulting from this meeting of our fellowship conscience. Additional reports from the Conference are included, too.

In the chart below, which was part of the General Service Board Treasurer's Report at the Conference, we can see that the fellowship was slightly more generous than last year. Group contributions totaling \$5.7 MM, up about 5% over last year. Individual contributions increased almost 4% year over year. If

your group does not have Birthday Contribution envelopes for individuals who wish to make a special contribution on their AA anniversary, please contact our area treasurer or finance committee. The Birthday Plan suggests a \$1.00 for every year of sobriety as a way to extend your gratitude to AA as a whole. Or, you might consider giving a penny a day. Your editor celebrated 10,000 days one day at a time in 2012. I was honored to write those checks to both Area 54 and the GSB. But that's still probably less than I used to spend on a good bender. *(Still? That's a joke, son... pay attention!)*

While overall contributions have increased over the last 30 years, the percentage of groups contributing has steadily declined. I guess the minority of groups contributing will continue to influence AA policy and services for the rest of 'youse guys'...

~Your editor, Jeff

We welcome your service-related contributions, comments and questions. Send topic ideas or complaints to:
newsletter@area54.org



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2012-2013 CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY

	2012	2013
Group Contributions	\$5,451,874	\$5,718,306
Specials ¹	582,011	629,542
Individuals	384,055	398,880
Foreign, WSM etc.	67,403	73,800
Memorials	51,418	63,178
Special Meetings ²	16,571	12,815
Other	4,276	9,850
Totals	6,557,608	6,906,371

¹Special contribution is one that comes from any number of A.A. entities that is not an A.A. Group, for example, a Conference, a Committee, an Area, a District, an Intergroup, etc.

²A Special Meeting is a meeting that does not want to be a group but does want to contribute to the General Service Board.

DELEGATE'S REPORT

ALT. DELEGATE'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

were blessed to visit "Stepping Stones", a truly spiritual adventure.

I had the honor this year to serve as a Reporter for the Inventory Report and Discussion Session and also to share my 63rd General Service Conference experience at the Delegates Only Meeting on Saturday night, April 26th.

Note:

The launching of the new GSO Web-site may be as soon as July.

The oral translation of the Big Book, in Navajo is expected to be complete by spring of 2015. (There is no written language for Navajo)

The main celebration of the A.A. Grapevine's 70th Birthday will be held at Founders' Day this year. Members of the AA Grapevine Board and staff will be in attendance.

I am just so forever grateful for having had this opportunity and I am equally grateful to be able to share this experience with all of you.

In Loving Fellowship
Ola P. – Delegate {63/54}

Closing comments by co-founder Bill W. at the 1954 General Service Conference:

"As recently as six or eight years ago, my own confidence in our destiny was terrible shaken.... The debate was about whether or not we would have a conference. Back in those days the Traditions had just taken form.... but there still remained this terrific question, how to guarantee our or overall function and how to create a structure that could withstand power drivers and the ravages of time and of adverse circumstances..... Today in the last hour of the time of experiment..... The moment of transfer of authority to serve, from us old timers to the movement is at hand."

Spirituality of the Program

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I Am Responsible. That is an amazing statement for an Alcoholic like me to make. That statement in itself is Spiritual.

Before I came to AA, I was not a very Responsible Person. I always had good intentions but I could not muster the power to carry through. Yet I was under the delusion in the reality of my own mind that I was self sufficient. In control and had total responsibility for people, places and things that were none of my business. I continued in this flawed thinking until I hit bottom and came to A.A. Even today, I must be reminded that my perception may not be the reality of the situation.

In A.A., I learned that I was responsible for my actions, that I was Powerless, not only over alcohol but also people, places and things. I needed a power greater than myself. I needed a God of my own understanding. I was told that I must find him now. I proceeded to develop a relationship with God through the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. These Spiritual principles that I have incorporated into my daily life allowed me to develop both fellowship and relationship with the God of my understanding. Today I know that, God brought me to Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous brought me to God.

I remember being at a Big Book meeting a year into my sobriety and reading in the Big Book that "each individual, in the personal stories, describes in his own language and from his own point of view the way he established his relationship with God." I realized then and there that this had also happened for me. What an incredible moment. The book described what would happen and it actually happened to me. I had developed a relationship with God.

I have a GOD of my understanding. He is the Creator and I am the Creation, He is the Potter and I am the Clay. He is not just the God of my sobriety. He is God of my life. I experienced a Spiritual Awakening through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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AREA OFFICER REPORTS

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Today I am Responsible. I tap into a Power Greater than myself each day. I do this through the power of Prayer. The Eleventh step talks about Praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry it out. I need that Power to do the next right thing. I don't always want to do the next right thing. So I need a power greater than myself to tap into. As a famous Saint once said "Of myself I am nothing, My Father doeth the work".

Calvin L., alternate delegate, Panel 63

Tradition 12

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Long Form: "And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all."

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Who we see here, let it stay here. Newcomers come to recovery searching for help; we need to let them know that it is safe, because we will not disclose who they are. Clearly, every AA member name and story too had to be confidential, if he wished.

Our history discusses a few excursions in major publicity – Cleveland Plain Dealer /Saturday Evening Post got besieged with request of personal appearances.

In the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions on page 187, paragraph 2 and 3 , these thoughts are shared:

"These experiences taught us that anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity."

"We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safe guard that Alcoholic Anonymous can ever have."

Just some thoughts I wanted to share on Tradition Twelve. In Love and Service,
Shyrl B. Recording Secretary Panel 63, Area 54

Let's Go Green!

Area 54 General Service is inviting you to Go Green! Get your Area flyers, information, and an EXPANDED web-only version of the Northeast Ohio Recorder. All the information that comes to your USPS mailbox now can come to your inbox.

The NE OH Recorder you're reading now is 8 pages long—that's the page limit to keep postage weight within our budget and so that it can be folded to fit in an envelop. But we have so much more Area 54 news for you! The web version of the last issue of NEOHR was 14 pages packed with experience, strength, and hope.

Let Jim S., your Area 54 Mailing Secretary, know that you would like to save a tree or three (and save the area some \$Green\$) with a message at mailingsecretary@area54.org

Please note: if you do nothing, you will still get your Area mail by USPS and by email (if we have your email address) as you always have.

AREA COMMITTEE and DCM REPORTS

Area 54 Assembly Minutes March 16, 2014

Opening: Area Chairperson

Jamie B. opened the Assembly with the Serenity Prayer Marilyn H., read the Preamble, Val D. read the 12 Traditions and Mary Ann K. read the 12 Concepts. James A. discussed the Eight Tradition and Erika B. discussed the Eight Concept. Gratitude Sunday bids will be accepted at the April Assembly. The assembly will follow the Mini-Conference on April 6 at 1pm.

Recording Secretary

Shyrl B. explained the sign-in procedure for all DCM's, GSR's; Area Committee Chairs and past Delegates to establish eligibility to stand for office. Remember there is a 2-minute time limit for giving reports. Patti R. made a motion and Diane K second the motion. Minutes were approved.

Area Treasurer

Susan R. We are doing alright. Great time for groups to donate to the Area. We had outgoing expenses that needed to be paid. Contributions would be appreciated. Budget was review and with a correction to Grapevine Sales, Gary C made motion and Joyce C second. Body approved minutes.

Mailing Secretary

Jim S.— Next mailing party will be Saturday April 19th. Deadline for the recorder is April 4th. Deadline to Jim is April 11. We need a district to host mailing party.

Registrar

Group updates are due today. If forgotten you can mail, e-mail or call Patti R. Anything later than today might not make into the directory.

Introduction of New GSR's & Introduction of New DCM's.

AA Anniversaries recognized Finance Committee handed out Birthday Plan envelopes

Area Officer and Function Reports

Diane K.,- GSR Workshop- The workshop was well attended. A new panel presented the information. It was great time.

Jamie B. - Unity Day: Want to meet with area committee chairs after assembly to discuss what exactly will be happening at the event. It is potluck, so bring a dish.

Gene A. - Open House Picnic Update: The location is the VFW Park on White Rd. in Richmond Heights on June 22. I will need the seed money to make deposit. It holds 200 people indoors and a lot more outdoors.

Susan R - Area 53 Mini-Conference: Began at 3:30 with GSR School. Steve S. GSO staffer gave a good report. Bill F., trustee gave report that contributions are up. Dave C., gave overview. On Saturday committees met, discussed, and made recommendations. Encourage everyone to attend our Mini-Conference get all the information on the agenda items to be presented at this year conference.

Area Committee Reports:

Tina C - Corrections-Youngstown held first workshop and no one showed. They will need a new chair and volunteers because of employment and moving out of state. Several items, some being the facilities did not have correct address to contact committee, there are 28 prisons in the state and women are not a good choice for the men's facilities. We need districts in the area to get involved and attend corrections meeting.

Gary C- Treatment - We have been busy this year. We have 135 new people to AA from treatment and a new 1323 club opened 5 days a week for folks from treatment. We need the numbers and address of treatment centers in your district.

Quinsetta M. - Public Information - Been in contact with local libraries to find out if they have approved AA literature. The majority of the libraries did have some and those who did not were encouraged to make purchases. There is a new service piece titled "Anonymity Online".

Jerry P. - Literature - Literature committee had total sales of \$119.25; in addition, an order has been place for the mini-conference. Finally, 50 copies of the "75th Anniversary" Big Book have been ordered and will be delivered in April. Once the 50 are sold, we will order more.

Terry H.- Finance-Self—Support packets are available from the Literature committee, these packets contain vital information, which includes background on self-support, self-

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AREA COMMITTEE and DCM REPORTS

(Continued from page 5)

support pamphlet and guidelines on finances. Northeast Ohio General Service envelopes are also available for groups to contribute to the Area.

Mary Ann K. - Cooperation with the Professional Community I am new to this position and I am looking forward to learning what this committee does. (Ola assigned former CPC chair to assist).

James T.—Archives – Is working with the planning meeting for the Min-Conference that will be in April. I also had an opportunity to view the workbook and agenda items. I am also involved the National AA Archives Workshop as treasurer. I am encourage interested AAs to become involved.

Bob D. - Grapevine - GV 70th Anniversary –go online and view PowerPoint on history. Introduce Grapevine to your home group. Record your own story and get information on GVs 70th Founder's Day Celebration. Grapevine from New York will also be at Founder's day this year.

Area DCM Reports:

D #35 Edward U. - Have 20 groups in district, but only 7 active GSRs, but I am still working with them.

D #13 Gary C.-We are starting over. We have to get new GSRs and contact with the meetings. We are ready.

D #11 Gary D. - We have two new GSRs and a new alternate DCM for D-11. Two new meetings have started Chatham group on Monday and Sterling 164 group on Tuesday.

D #40 Gene A. - I am working to get groups up-to-date for the directory. I have found a place for the Open House Picnic. We also have 3 new GSRs in the district and looking for a location for us to meet once a month.

D#10 David W. - At this time, we have seven members from our district registered for the Mini-Conference. Our annual picnic will be held at Christmas Run Park in Wooster on August 10, 2014 and we are planning for this event. Further details to follow, so join us for food fun and fellowship.

D#45 Mike R. – Prepared my report on a new DCM report form used by the Northcoast Multi-District. I am still going to meetings encouraging groups to elect GSRs.

D#33 Vanessa S. - The issue being discussed is transportation for locals to get to Brunswick. All 6 GSRs are attending the Multi-District meeting.

D#38 James A. - There has not been any new changes in the district, look at the approved minutes from January

for the latest news. A service panel will be at the Sobriety First group at the Tick Tock Café.

Intergroup Reports

Genny M. - Cleveland Central Office-The Operating Committees' monthly meeting will be held on March 27. It is held at the lower level at Reserve Square @ 7pm. We are looking for members with at least 3 years sobriety from the following areas to become a part of the committee; Eastlake/Mentor thru Ashtabula, Parma/Brooklyn thru the southwest groups in Brunswick/Hinckley area. In addition, the Cleveland Corrections Committee will have a volunteer training workshop on March 24, 2014 from 10am-12noon @ Reserve Square, lower level.

Tim H. - Ashtabula Area Intergroup-We have updated our website to add upcoming event's AAIGO.org. We are also initiating a fund drive for individual from materials we receive from the Cleveland central office. . We are having a golf outing fundraiser in August in Kingsville, Ohio. Flyers are forthcoming.

Art C. - Lorain Intergroup - Follow-up to Special Needs Committee on January 15, 2014. Research showed that area and local county entities should help with the funding for ASL signers for those in need. At this time there are no definitive answers to this funding issue. I will continue to follow-up with this issue and bring info back to Lorain and the area.

Calvin L.—Alternate Delegate's Report: Have been traveling to conferences and mailing parties. Ohio State Convention /ECR will be held July 25 -27, 2014 in Perrysburg. New update scheduled is available at this assembly. Mini-Conference Hospitality has moved to room 236 from 136 (where the hot tub was). This is our 39th conference. **Jeff Y. conference registrar**- stated we have 64 pre-registrations and 52 banquets so far. Please keep them coming so we can give the hotel final numbers in a timely fashion. Agenda items are available here at this assembly. Take copies back to your groups for discussion.

Ola P.—Delegate's Report: We will have special visitors at

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Want more? A 33-page (!) Expanded, Color-enhanced version of this newsletter is now online at <http://area54.org/>

NOTE THE DATE

58th Ohio State Convention of A.A., Hosted by Area 55 General Service



58th OHIO STATE CONVENTION East Central Regional Conference

July 25, 26, 27, 2014

Service: Alcoholics in Action

... from the coffee pot to world service.



WEEKEND EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Panel Discussions
- Sobriety Countdown
- Alkathon
- Banquet
- Committee Displays
- Hospitality Rooms

Holiday Inn French Quarter

10630 Fremont Pike Perrysburg OH 43551

(419) 874-3111 www.hifq.com

Room Rate: \$89.00/night plus tax

July 3 is the Cut-Off Date for the Convention Rate!

Call: 1-888-874-2592

*When you call, be sure to tell them you are with
the 58th Ohio State Convention. This is a non-smoking facility.
Smoking is not permitted within 25 feet of hotel entrances.*

SPEAKERS LIST:

Friday: Jim M., New York, NY
Saturday AM: Karen D., Delta, OH
Al-Anon: Barbara W., Columbus, OH
Saturday PM: Beth G., Brecksville, OH
Sunday: Greg R., Toledo, OH

For More Information, Contact:

AA: Nancy M., Delegate/Chair (419) 410-7085
AA: John C., Co-Chair (419) 340-9646
Al-Anon/Alateen: Steve F., (419) 575-1717
Registration: Sherry S., (419) 972-4216
Central Office: (419) 380-9862 Mon-Fri 9-5pm

You can also visit us on the web at www.area55aa.org

Please Note: Registration is Required for All Activities and Badges Must Be Worn for All Events!

58th OHIO STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

☐ AA ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen

Name: _____

Name (as you would like it on badge): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please note any special needs: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Registration after July 5 \$22.50 x _____
Early Registration \$20.00 x _____
Alateen Registration \$10.00 x _____

MEALS

Saturday Breakfast \$11.00 x _____
Saturday Lunch \$14.00 x _____
Saturday Banquet \$25.00 x _____
Sunday Breakfast \$11.00 x _____
Total Meal Package \$61.00 x _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Saturday Banquet Meal Choices:

☐ Beef ☐ Chicken ☐ Vegetarian

Please send this registration with your payment to:
58th Ohio State Convention, 3328 Glanzman Road, Toledo, OH 43614

RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our A.A. experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. God, as He may speak in our group conscience, is our sole Authority. World Service is the heart of our Third Legacy. Our meetings are informative and educational. They are held so that the Committee Members, GSR's and all interested members may be better equipped to carry the message of World Service back to their home groups and individual members, thus giving a better understanding to our purpose, our hopes and our work.

Confidential Contact List

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 Visit us at <http://www.area54.org>

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Special Needs	Roosevelt T. 400 Locust St., Apt. 804 Akron, OH 44307	(330) 459-1559 specialneeds@area54.org
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Website	Dan M. P O Box 173 Chardon, OH 44024	(440) 853-6768 info@area54.org

Step Twelve inside Tradition Twelve inside Concept Twelve

Our last three-legged stool to reflect on should give every member of Alcoholics Anonymous time to reexamine their own points of reference.

How often do you reflect on the message you carry? Is it coming from your experience or the experience you hear around the tables? How much experience you profess comes from seeking a greater “spiritual” path in your life? Does your experience come from every event in your life or just “how you talk” at our meetings? And finally, do you share at every meeting you can, thereby allowing others to hear about the changes that came about as the result of your recovery?

Speaking of sharing, my first “service sponsor,” Homer B. from Eau Claire WI, while giving a talk on the twelfth tradition, used a line I have never heard repeated:

“If you have principles, tell the world how they have changed you. If you have not acquired principles, please stay out of our service structure.”

Homer’s words rang true then and I believe they ring true today. We are a fellowship of personalities. That foretells our humanness, but if we attempted to live on a materialistic basis and not a spiritual way of life, then the prophesy of human achievement so many other fellowships sought by seeking a material rather than a spiritual “way of life” would have destroyed us.

I will come back to the twelfth step and tradition later, but I wish to fully examine the Twelfth Concept now. Before I offer my reflection, please allow me to write out in its entirety the Twelfth Concept:

“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or powers; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcohol-

ics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will remain democratic in thought and action.”

These words consist of Article 12 of the Conference Charter. The Charter is an agreement between the A.A. groups and the Trustees. They were written in 1955, but soon after the Warranties were adopted, Bill W. started writing the Concepts. The Concepts were adopted at the 1963 General Service Conference.

As I have written in earlier reflections, Bill C., Area 74s’ Delegate, and two other members of our group were in favor of the adoption of the Concepts.

The Trustees were not in favor of the Concepts and wrote letters to Bill asking him to withdraw them from Conference action. This correspondence is on file for anyone to see upon request from our archives; they are interesting reading when seen from the history of our Fellowship since their adoption and Bill’s subsequent death.

The trustees were concerned that future corporate boards could use the Concepts to ignore the Conference and make the Conference an unequal partner. We have had decisions made by our boards that have not been shared with members of the Conference. This would not have taken place before the adoption of the Concepts; how we brought staff members on board after 1955 was shared by Conference members, and except for Bill’s personal life, nothing was closed from open debate at the General Service Conference.

While it would be impossible to remove the Concepts from our service structure, we should have a process allowing full debate over the use of all our Concepts by each entity of service. A question we can ask: is it time we include in our structure the use of an “Ombudsman” like a group within the General Service Conference that would be elected by the conference to oversee how all the Concepts are being addressed, including Concept 12.

This group would have access to the material the different entities used to arrive at their decisions. If the Corporate boards of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot trust the General Service Conference, it must be because of some underlining principle. This mistrust must be dealt with immediately. We are a Society of Alcoholics Anonymous that needs, from its membership, complete trust. If that trust is removed for whatever reason, what do we offer the newcomer, and whom can we ask to help replace the lost trust in our Society?

Doctor William D. Silkworth, M. D., writing about our

(Continued on page 10)

Step / Tradition / Concept

fellowship, wrote these words:

"We feel, after many years' experience, that we have found nothing which contributed more to the rehabilitation of these men than the altruistic movement now growing up about them."

These words make me personally responsible to both Step and Tradition Twelve. In my group, I'm responsible that my words reflect the recovery path the text book *Alcoholics Anonymous* presented to me and the effort I put forth in achieving a recovery. My words and behavior will show my spiritual development. What I have done with that recovery shows in my personal life. Not what others think of me, but what I think of others! Not what others say about me, but what I say of others! In closing my reflection on Step Twelve, let me read from our text book, page 76:

"I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows."

I have not asked to be free from defects, only that the defects God does not remove, He can find a use for.

This admission of flaws brings me to our Twelfth Tradition. Homer was correct. I have gained principles by the retention of flaws as equally as by God removing other flaws. It does not matter what was left, only that by gaining principles, I can judge without being judgmental, I can give an opinion without the demand anyone agrees with it. I can admit error without the need to explain myself. I can thank people without the need to say I'm grateful, and finally I can state; that without the giants that came before and after me showing the path, it would have been impossible to reflect on what all of you have given me.

ELD, Ishpeming MI—Area 74

Editor—I want to thank Leonard for this insightful series; it has been a scholarly pleasure to reprint it here over the last couple years. The whole series can be found at the Northeast Ohio website,

<http://area54.org/NEOHRecorder.html>

Area Committee and DCM Reports

our Mini Conference. Michelle Grinberg, Class A Trustee from Area 73. She will share a Class A Trustees' Report with us. Cathy B. current Area 73, Panel 63 delegate and two others will also attend. Mike M., from North central Ohio Intergroup area has asked Area 54 to come and give a 12 concepts presentation on April 27, at the Ohio Veteran Home In Sandusky @ 1pm.

Jeff Y. and James T. will make the presentation.

Lost another past delegate, Richard Martin from Area 29, Panel 49, passed away last Friday. The P.I. Desk from GSO needs our help in contacting companies who tape to send them our policy of anonymity. AAWS Highlights- ended year with unaudited profit with contributions way up in December 2013, first time ever. Online sales grew substantially. Ola P. shared information on the 2015 International Convention. In August 2014, registration forms will be mailed to GSRs, central offices and Intergroups and online registration will open September 3, 2014. There will be links on the GSO web site for registration. The International will need 3,000 -4,000 volunteers for convention, so stay tuned to the website for upcoming information.

Old Business:

Ad Hoc Committee-Dark District - now a committee of two
National Archives Workshop-Bob McK— Planning meeting, next Sunday in Akron 1pm

39th Mini-Conference Package Drawing – Freddie B., DCM was the winner.

What's on Your Mind?

Dan F. - Met with retirement home in Canton that wants a meeting and new meeting will start on March 20th.

Beverly F. - What is the criterion to hold a meeting at the County Jail. Tina C stated most jails have their own guidelines on how to get a group going.

Tina C. - At workshop some ask the question could we advertize on the recovery-based radio in their area about the correction committee.

Greg J. - remind chairperson about doing abstention when voting. Ola P replied at the GSC they do not ask for abstentions because they are a non-vote.

Genny M. - March 29, Cleveland Corrections Workshops mention again.

John McP. - Concern about the "pink can" what is it ? Jamie mention that they are for collecting funds to purchase literature for incarcerated inmates.

Motion to adjourn was made, second and passed then followed by the Responsibility Pledge and the Lord's Prayer.

Reports from the 64th General Service Conference

May 2014

2014 General Service Conference Committees

Agenda Items, Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations, Recommendations-Not Resulting in Agenda Items & Floor Actions

Agenda

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2015 General Service Conference.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference be: "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future"

Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2015 General Service Conference.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2015 General Service Conference:

"Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action"

Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion

Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group

Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology

Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead

Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The Conference Evaluation Form be available in English, French and Spanish beginning in 2015.

Review the revised description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, Conference Committees in the 2013-2014 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, "Conference Committees," in the 2013-2014 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, which currently reads:

AGENDA (*trustees' committee: General Service Conference*): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes and presentation/discussion topics.

Be revised to read:

AGENDA (*trustees' committee: General Service Conference*): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes, presentation/discussion topics **and Conference Evaluation Questionnaire**.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 11)

Other

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and made no changes. The committee discussed providing the General Service Conference Evaluation Form in a digital format and agreed that was not appropriate at this time.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed and discussed their Composition, Scope and Procedure and agreed that point #3 of the current Scope, which is to consider "The Conference Agenda and where appropriate to make suggestions for improvement to the trustees' Committee on the Conference," is ambiguous. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the Conference explore the potential role that the Conference Committee on Agenda might play in the selection process of Agenda items in the future and provide a report to the 2015 Conference Agenda Committee.

Additional Consideration:

The committee requested that the 2015 Conference Agenda Committee be provided with a report regarding the current and historical process of Agenda item selection.

Archives

Review revised draft video *Markings on the Journey*.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The video *Markings on the Journey* be approved.

Review Archives Workbook.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and suggested adding sharing of experience with regard to preservation procedures, as well as on legal considerations for Archives collections.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

- A. Consider changes to the section, "Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities" in the pamphlet, "If You Are a Professional..."

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The statement in the section *Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities to A.A.* on page 4 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from court programs and treatment facilities. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.

A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern.

Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a court asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.

- *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.*

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 12)

- Other groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.

Be revised to read:

Referrals From Judicial, Health Care, or Other Professionals

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from **judicial, health care, or other professionals**. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.

A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern.

Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a **referral source** asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.

Groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.

Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have **an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance.**

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The statement in the section *How to Make Referrals to A.A.* on page 5 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is listed in most telephone directories. (Some professionals call A.A. while the person is in the office, thus giving the individual an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)

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
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous **can be found on the Internet at www.aa.org and** in most telephone directories by looking for 'Alcoholics Anonymous' or 'A.A.' **(Some professionals ask the person they are referring to call the local A.A. number while still in the office, thus offering an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)**

Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G.S.O.'s A.A. website www.aa.org can aid in finding local resources.

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org

- B. Consider changes to the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional."

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 13)

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

On page 6 in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" the following text be deleted:

"I can't stand the smoking."

There are nonsmoking meetings available. Check the local meeting book for them or contact the local A.A. central office which is listed in your telephone directory.

Review contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

Additional Consideration:

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, subject to cost considerations.

Include a copy of the April, 2010 A.A. Grapevine article entitled, "Spirituality and 'God Talk,'" by former Class A chair of the General Service Board, Ward Ewing, and a copy of the Fall 2003 *About A.A.* newsletter entitled, "The A.A. Program – Spiritual But Never 'Religious.'"

Other

Additional Consideration:

The committee suggested that changes be made to the service piece *Information on Alcoholics Anonymous* (F-2) under the section "Proof of Attendance at A.A. Meetings" to reflect changes proposed for the pamphlet "If You Are A Professional...."

Corrections

Consider request for revisions to the section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" to be consistent with similar text in C.P.C. literature.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals," which currently reads:

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" of social agencies; follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide drying-out or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services; 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.

Be revised to read (additional text in **bold**):

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" of 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,

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 14)

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.

Consider the development of a new video to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" (DV-08).

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

A new video be developed to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.

Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and suggested that the DVD, "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls" (DV-06) be included in the Corrections Kit (MV-45).

Other

Additional Consideration:

The committee noted from the trustees' report that the number of requests from male inmates (U.S.) for Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) continues to increase at a rate significantly higher than the number of "outside" male volunteers available. The committee discussed ways to increase participation in C.C.S. including:

- Offer presentations on C.C.S. at A.A. events;
- Communicate the importance of C.C.S. to area delegates;
- Increase awareness of C.C.S. at A.A. meetings;
- Make C.C.S. information and forms more accessible at the home group;
- Use G.S.O. and Grapevine publications to encourage C.C.S. participation;
- Consider the topic of C.C.S. for presentations at Regional Forums

Finance

Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and after a lengthy discussion felt an increase was not necessary at this time.

Review Self-Support Packet.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the Self-Support packet and suggests that the following changes, as the Self-Support Card (F-42) is being updated by the A.A.W.S. Finance Committee:

- Add the phrase "Your contributions help ensure the future of our Fellowship worldwide" in the "Some facts" section of the card.
- Delete the phrase "Give until it feels good" under "Personal thoughts."
- In addition to reporting the average costs per member, add the year of the costs that are quoted so the reader will know how current the information is.

Other

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 15)

Because all Conference members are considered equal, all members should have equal access to Conference material and that a plan be created by the General Service Office to translate Conference Material (background material, Conference Manual etc.) into French and Spanish for use during the Conference, with a report being presented to the 2015 General Service Conference. This plan may include coordinating the use of the volunteer network throughout the Fellowship, hiring professional translators or any other facilities that the office deems necessary. The report should include costs and any other considerations deemed necessary to allow timely translations to occur.

Floor Action that did NOT result in a Conference Advisory Action:

To add a single line item to the General Fund budget for La Viña. **(Not approved)**

Grapevine [No Recommendations]

Review Audio Strategy status update.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the 2014 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and requested that an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future, be provided to the 2015 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.

Review A.A. Grapevine Board proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine to significantly reduce the La Viña deficit.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board's suggestion that a new business plan is required for La Viña and requested that a new business plan be developed for La Viña and be brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on A.A. Grapevine for review.

Review report from A.A. Grapevine Board on feasibility of producing one book in American Sign Language (ASL).

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the report from the A.A. Grapevine Board on the feasibility of producing one book in ASL format. The committee agreed with the conclusion of the report that it is not feasible at this time to produce one book in ASL format due to cost considerations and a lack of expressed need.

Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2015 and later.

Additional Consideration:

The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2015 or later:

The Twelve Traditions—Our Experience (working title)

Members share their experience with each of our Twelve A.A. Traditions, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

Cartoon Book II (working title)

A collection of cartoons by A.A. members, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

Special Needs (working title)

Stories by members who are wheelchair-bound, blind, deaf, ill or with other special needs. How A.A. reaches out to everyone. Previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

Diversity in A.A. (working title)

A.A. members of color share their own stories of getting sober—from previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

Reconsider publishing the "Alcoholism at Large" section of the Grapevine.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 16)

Additional Consideration:

The committee discussed the request to reconsider publishing the "Alcoholism at Large" section of the Grapevine and took no action.

Floor Action that did NOT result in a Conference Advisory Action:

A.A. Grapevine discontinue publishing the "Alcoholism at Large" section of The Grapevine Magazine. **(Not approved)**

Consider a request "to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the A.A. Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines."

Recommendation that did NOT result in Conference Advisory Action:

The committee discussed a request "to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the A.A. Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines." The committee acknowledged that Grapevine and La Viña are valuable Twelfth-Step tools. The committee recommended that the A.A. Grapevine Board have the ability to exercise their right of decision for all formatting decisions in producing Grapevine and La Viña noting that this recommendation removes all formatting restrictions on Grapevine and La Viña.

Floor Action that did NOT result in a Conference Advisory Action:

The 64th General Service Conference reaffirm the right of decision of the Grapevine Board to making formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines noting:

That right is already exercised by publication of La Viña in color and

The 2010 Advisory Action recommended a beginning point in bringing La Viña on spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine.
(Not approved)

Review suggested changes to pamphlet "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" (P-52).

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed suggested changes from A.A. Grapevine Board to the pamphlet "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" (P-52) and made the following suggestions:

Re-edit the pamphlet for consistency and grammar.

Use the subtitle "Our Meetings in Print and Other Media" on the cover of the pamphlet and on page 5.

The committee requested that a revised draft be presented to the 2015 Conference Committee for review.

Review Grapevine Workbook.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the Grapevine Workbook.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Discuss anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2015 International Convention.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2015 International Convention.

Consider a broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected delayed Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.

Advisory Action:

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 17)

It was recommended that:

An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Additional Consideration:

The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees, and some of the suggestions were:

Having the Forum Flyer professionally designed so that it would be attractive, perhaps could be used as a table topper;

Sharing ideas among areas in a region or region-to-region;

Encouraging those who have attended Regional Forums to share their enthusiasm about their experience – word-of-mouth sharing is really powerful;

Bring information about the Regional Forum to every district and area event.

Literature

Review the draft revised pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service."

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be approved.

Review revised draft of the proposed pamphlet on spirituality.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet on spirituality with the title "Many Paths to Spirituality" be approved.

Discuss suggested change to the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated."

Additional Consideration:

The committee discussed a suggested change to the first paragraph in the section on Concept XII in the pamphlet "Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" and took no action. The committee noted that the Report and Charter Committee was discussing a similar proposal.

Discuss suggested changes to the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."

Additional Consideration:

The committee discussed multiple suggestions for changes to the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship" and took no action, noting the current language in the pamphlet is adequate.

Discuss suggested changes to *Living Sober*.

Recommendation that did NOT result in Conference Advisory Action:

The committee recommended removing the following text from page five in the *Living Sober* booklet:

"Many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug alcohol; like addicts of any sort who want to maintain recovery, we have to keep away from the first dose of the drug we have become addicted to."

NOTE: The committee agreed that the current text added to confusion regarding A.A.'s Singleness of Purpose.

Consider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial A.A. service mark on Conference-approved literature.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 18)

Additional Consideration:

The committee discussed a suggestion to reconsider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial A.A. service mark on Conference-approved Literature and, agreeing with past Conference Advisory Actions, took no action.

Floor Action that did NOT result in a Conference Advisory Action:

The Conference consider the use of the circle and triangle on Conference-approved literature as a historical reminder of A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. **(Conference voted not to consider)**

Consider a request to create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness.

Additional Consideration:

The committee discussed a suggestion to create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness and took no action. The committee agreed that this subject is adequately addressed in current A.A. literature.

Floor Action that did NOT result in a Conference Advisory Action:

The General Service Conference recommended that literature which focuses on "Alcoholics in Recovery with Mental Health Issues" be developed. **(Not approved)**

Proposed Anonymity Card

The A.A. principle of anonymity at the public level is one of A.A.'s oldest protections and has helped attract countless newcomers from out of the shadows and into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. Therefore, anonymity breaks on the Internet, social media, and all other forms of public communications are not only contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level, they can scare away a problem drinker reaching out for help.

In the spirit of anonymity A.A. speakers and A.A. members ought not be photographed, video recorded, or identified by full name on audio recordings, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings including online resources accessible to the public. The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of Anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities. **(Conference voted not to consider)**

Consider a request to add "Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the Primary Purpose (Blue) card.

Recommendation that did NOT result in Conference Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that "Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers" be added to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (Blue) Card (F-17) in all three languages when the inventory of the English version is depleted.

The statement will read as follows (addition in bold):

"THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here – especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that 'The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking,' we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol. **Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers.**"

(The 1987 General Service Conference made this statement available as an A.A. service piece for those groups who wish to use it.)

NOTE: The committee agreed that this item is available as a service piece for groups and is not intended to limit attendance at anniversaries or other A.A. events.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 19)

Approve a correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices in the Preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

A correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices on page XI in the Preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which currently reads:

“The second edition added the appendices, the Twelve Traditions, and the directions for getting in touch with A.A.”

Be replaced with:

“The second printing of the first edition added the appendix ‘Spiritual Experience’; in the second edition, the appendices on A.A. Tradition, the ‘medical view’ and ‘religious view’ of A.A., the Lasker Award and information on how to contact A.A. were added, and the appendix on the Alcoholic Foundation was discontinued.”

Other:

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

The Conference recommended that following recommendation be returned to the A.A.W.S. Board for review and brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on Literature with full background:

The committee recommended that “The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature” be further clarified regarding “... needed editorial changes” as noted below by asterisk and bolded text:

“Unless otherwise specified in the Advisory Action of the Conference approving a new or amended piece of literature, A.A. World Services, Inc. will have the full authority, without need of further Conference action to (a) select the format or formats in which the approved literature will be produced, (b) make, from time to time, needed editorial changes*; provided, however, that no editorial change will be made to the Big Book’s Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ the first 164 pages (Chapters 1-11), ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ or the Appendices without prior Conference approval of such change, and (c) translate the approved literature into any language, and in connection therewith to modify or replace illustrations, photos, and other visual art in a manner reasonably designed to conform them to the culture of the expected readership.”

Editorial changes to be limited to factual, statistical, capitalization, punctuation and spelling; that any other changes made to the substance of the Conference-approved literature shall be through the Conference process.”

Policy/Admissions

Approve admission to the 2014 General Service Conference of Jennie Herd, alternate delegate, Area 85, Northwestern Ontario, in place of Ken Baker, the Panel 63 delegate for Area 85.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

18. Jennie Herd, alternate delegate, Area 85, Northwest Ontario, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Ken Baker, Panel 63 delegate for Area 85 is unable to attend.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

19. Jim Stone, delegate, Area 1, Alabama/Northwest Florida, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Craig Miller, Panel 63 delegate for Area 1 is unable to attend.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 20)

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

20. Joyce Saunders, alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Mel Caterine, Panel 63 delegate for Area 83 is unable to attend.

Review dates for the 2017 General Service Conference.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

21. The 67th General Service Conference be held April 23-29, 2017, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

Consider a request that an anonymous electronic voting system be utilized at the General Service Conference on all nonelection votes for a trial period.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

22. During a two-year trial period the General Service Conference include one day of electronic voting on all nonelection votes, on the Thursday of the 2015 General Service Conference and on the Friday of the 2016 General Service Conference, and that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference provide a report from data gathered from the 2015 and 2016 General Service Conferences, evaluating electronic voting to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration.

Reconsider the 2008 Conference Advisory Action regarding responsibility for site selection of the General Service Conference.

Additional Consideration:

The committee discussed the 2008 Conference Advisory Action regarding responsibility for site selection of the General Service Conference and took no action. The committee considered that the current hotel site-selection process by the General Service Office management is appropriate. The committee suggested that, in the spirit of clear communication, reports describing the hotel site-selection process of all future General Service Conferences be provided to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their information.

Public Information

Review 2014 Comprehensive Media Plan from the trustees' P.I. Committee.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the 2014 Comprehensive Media Plan. Because this document will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, the committee asked the staff secretary to forward some suggestions to the trustees' P.I. Committee, including the following:

- Clarification of some terminology since the plan is distributed widely to A.A. members who may be unfamiliar with media jargon.
- Adding annual review of the plan by the Conference P.I. Committee to the cover memo under "process."
- Emphasis on items not only being "actionable" but also, whenever possible, "measurable."

Additional Consideration:

The committee expressed strong support for the forward-looking vision of the Comprehensive Media Plan regarding seeking member-submitted content for future Public Service Announcements, similar to the model used for the Young People's Video Project.

Consider report from the trustees' P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Additional Consideration:

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 21)

The committee reviewed the 2013 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. website. The committee requested that when ongoing website projects have made further progress than what was reflected in the distributed background, that relevant updates be communicated to the committee prior to the Conference.

Consider that the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.

Advisory Action:

It is recommended that:

23. The 2014 A.A. Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:

Item 3a be changed from "Married" to "Married or Life partner."

Item 11e be changed from "Counseling agency" to "Mental health professional."

Item 11f be changed from "Court order" to "Judicial system."

Item 11g be changed from "Health professional" to "Medical professional."

Item 13a be changed to "Before coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) related to your drinking? (If yes, answer question 13b)" [additional text in bold]

Item 14a be changed to "After coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) related to your drinking? (If yes, answer question 14b)" [additional text in bold]

Item 15 be changed from "Did a health professional ever refer you to A.A.?" to "Did a counselor, medical or mental health professional ever refer you to A.A.?"

Advisory Action:

It is recommended that:

24. The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.

Additional Consideration:

The committee considered two proposed items from the report on the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding A.A. member awareness of services offered by G.S.O., and A.A. member awareness of the A.A. Grapevine, and took no action. The committee recognized the potential usefulness of gathering such information, but did not believe these questions fit the historical purpose of the A.A. Membership Survey.

Additional Consideration:

The committee strongly supported the idea of utilizing digital survey methods for future surveys, and looks forward to hearing from the trustees' P.I. Committee regarding how such a transition might best be accomplished.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed presurvey communications for area delegates and groups randomly selected to participate in the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey, and offered some suggestions to the staff secretary for how such communication might be most effective and helpful. The committee acknowledged that successful administration of the survey depends upon delegate participation in the process.

Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 22)

Additional Consideration:

The committee expressed concern about possible inconsistencies between retiring certain P.S.A.s because of conflict with the current full-face policy, and posting video content on AA.org that may also be perceived to conflict with this policy. The committee asked that the A.A.W.S. Board consider offering the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* via a digital platform accessible by local committees, rather than displaying this content on publicly accessible pages of the AA.org website.

Additional Consideration:

The committee agreed with the assessment provided in the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s regarding the P.S.A.s "I Thought," "A Force of Nature" and "Testimonials," including the suggestion that as new P.S.A.s are developed that these three items be retired as quickly as practical.

Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

Advisory Action

It is recommended that:

25. The video public service announcements "Living in Chaos" and "We Know What It's Like" be discontinued.

Consider production of new video P.S.A.

Advisory Action:

It is recommended that:

26. A new public service announcement be produced in 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

Review final report on the centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the video P.S.A. for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza."

- E. Consider revisions to the Anonymity Card (F-20).

Recommendation that did NOT result in Conference Advisory Action:

It is recommended that:

The committee recommended that the Anonymity Card (F-20) which currently reads:

A.A. ANONYMITY

(ANNOUNCEMENT FOR READING AT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on new media technologies such as the Internet.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that "A.A. principles come before personalities."

Be changed to read:

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 23)

A.A. ANONYMITY

(ANNOUNCEMENT FOR READING AT A.A. MEETINGS)

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films." **Anonymity breaks on the Internet, social media and all other forms of public communications are contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level. When we break our anonymity at the public level, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others, and adversely affect A.A. as a whole.**

In keeping with this spiritual principle, A.A. speakers and A.A. members ought not be photographed, video recorded, or identified by full name on audio recordings, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including online resources accessible by the public.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that "A.A. principles come before personalities."

[new or changed text highlighted in bold]

Floor Actions that did NOT result in a Conference Advisory Action:

Proposed Anonymity Card

The A.A. principle of anonymity at the public level is one of A.A.'s oldest protections and has helped attract countless newcomers from out of the shadows and into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. Therefore, anonymity breaks on the Internet, social media, and all other forms of public communications are not only contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level, they can scare away a problem drinker reaching out for help.

In the spirit of anonymity A.A. speakers and A.A. members ought not be photographed, video recorded, or identified by full name on audio recordings, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings including online resources accessible to the public. The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of Anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities. **(Conference voted not to consider)**

- F. Review progress report on development of a brief video on anonymity.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on development of a brief video on anonymity for inclusion with the Annual Letter to the Media, and expressed support for the content and purpose of such a video. The committee requested that if such a video is created that it be brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on Public Information prior to posting or distribution. The committee recognized that this may mean delayed mailing of the Annual Letter to the Media until after the next Conference. The committee also expressed support for the idea of using both Class A and Class B trustees in the video, with the Class B trustees' anonymity carefully protected, to serve as an example of how A.A. members can share information about A.A. in the media within the spirit of our anonymity tradition.

- G. Discuss how delegates might stimulate local discussions in light of ongoing anonymity concerns.

Additional Consideration:

In light of ongoing anonymity concerns, the committee suggested that delegates and other trusted servants utilize a variety of means, such as workshops, newsletters, panels, delegate reports, local A.A. websites, skits, presentations, etc., to stimulate A.A. members' discussion on how to maintain anonymity at the public level. Because the ranks of our ever-changing member-

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 24)

ship exist in an ever-changing world, the committee acknowledged that such efforts truly have no end-point, and might best be incorporated as a regular part of local A.A. discussions and events. The committee asked the staff secretary to explore both direct and indirect ways of sharing these concerns, and a list of A.A. resources on anonymity, with the A.A. Fellowship. The committee also asked the staff secretary to share the following suggestions with the 2015 International Convention coordinator for emphasis on anonymity at the International Convention via the following means:

- Pre-Convention registration and communication materials, including AA.org.
- Hospitality suite communication and materials.
- Consideration of an anonymity booth or similar display.

H. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook, and suggested adding the following items:

- Anonymity Online (SM F-197)
- Anonymity Card (F-20)

Report and Charter

The A.A. Service Manual, 2014-2015 Edition:

Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.

Review revisions from the General Service Board.

Additional Consideration:

In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine 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 General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions. The committee requested the General Service Board reconsider one item that they had forwarded.

Review list of editorial updates.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.

Consider draft text for "Advisory Action" and "Additional Committee Consideration" as additions to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

27. The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of The A.A. Service Manual:

"Advisory Action – Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of a recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole."

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

28. The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of The A.A. Service Manual:

"Additional Committee Consideration – An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 25)

taken or made by the Conference as a whole.”

Consider draft text regarding duties and qualifications of “Secretary and Registrar” on page S45.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

29. The section called “Secretary and Registrar” on page S45 of The A.A. Service Manual be split into two separate sections called “Secretary” (existing duties and qualifications to remain the same) and “Registrar” to include the following text (additions in bold):

Registrar

DUTIES: In many areas, *registrars* now develop and maintain records of all groups in the area, including group name, meeting location, time, and G.S.R. or group contact. Registrars may also be responsible for names, addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers of the G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, district and area officers and area committee members. They may provide mailing labels for area publications such as a monthly newsletter or a mailing of minutes. Area registrars also assist the G.S.O. Records Department to keep their records up-to-date.

QUALIFICATIONS: Registrars should be familiar with the area and district structure. For this job, an organized approach is important as there are many details that need to be recorded. Ideally, it would be very helpful if the area registrar possessed some practical, working computer knowledge, and were comfortable relaying information via e-mail to G.S.O. and within the local area.”

Consider request to modify Article III of the Current Conference Charter.

Additional Consideration:

The committee considered a request to modify Article 3 of the Current Conference Charter and took no action. The committee agreed that the proposed modification was unnecessary, noting that the existing phrasing of Article 3 adequately addresses the process for making a change to Article 12 of the Charter, the Twelve Traditions of A.A., or the Twelve Steps of A.A.

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

Additional Consideration:

The committee considered the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.) and requested that the General Service Office explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the contact information contained in the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.). The committee requested that a report be brought back to the 2015 Report and Charter Conference Committee.

Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*:

Additional Consideration:

The Additional Consideration 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* 2014-2015 Edition, and the 2014 General Service Conference *Final Report*. The committee noted that the “Report of the 2014 General Service Conference Inventory” in the *Final Report* may take longer to prepare than the other front matter and asked to review the page proofs of the inventory report as soon as possible prior to publication.

Reconsider the 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reconsidered a 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights in the General Service Conference Final Report and took no action. The committee agreed that the entire Final Report should continue to be professionally edited and published, and noted that they had discussed the Area Service Highlights in 2013. The committee requested that the memo to first-year delegates regarding Area Service Highlights emphasize that the Highlights may be edited for the Final Report

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 26)

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities [No Recommendations]

Consider proposal to revise the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity.

Additional Consideration:

The committee thoroughly considered a proposal to revise the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity and took no action. The committee acknowledged the desire in some areas for a generic Conference-approved pamphlet about bridging the gap. While some areas have combined corrections and treatment bridging the gap activities, they remain separate in many others. The sense of the committee was that revising the current pamphlet to include both treatment and corrections might not adequately address the variety of bridging the gap programs that areas throughout the U.S. and Canada have developed to address their specific needs. Some of these areas have developed service material tailored specifically to explain their local programs.

Additional Consideration:

The committee requested that the General Service Board consider whether there is a need to develop a Conference-approved pamphlet addressing bridging the gap activities for corrections.

Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook and agreed that the current contents adequately serve the needs of local committees.

Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook and expressed appreciation for the service material that is available to assist American Sign Language interpreters. They noted that the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are available in this format, and requested that a service piece be developed of the Twelve Concepts for World Service for signing purposes.

Additional Consideration

The committee noted that the first line in Gloria's Story in the pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" that says "I was 84 years old and 11 years sober (Although I've been in A.A. since 1962...)" might be confusing to newcomers. They requested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider whether this language might be clarified and bring back any suggestion for revision to the 2015 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.

Additional Consideration

The committee asked that the staff member on the Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities assignment explore ways to provide electronic versions of the Workbooks and other materials in the Kits to committee chairs as an alternative to automatically mailing hard copies.

Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee;
 - Pacific Regional Trustee.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 27)

Additional Consideration:

The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the Eastern Canada and Pacific regional trustees.

- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

30. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Corliss R. Burke, B.Ed.
John Fromson, M.D.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees (See note below)

Richard B.	J. Gary L.
Joel C.	William N.
Joe D.	Chet P.
William F.	Clayton V.
Nancy H.	Andrew W.
Barbara K.	Robert W.
	Albin Z.

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

31. The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014:

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
First Vice-Chairperson	Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Second Vice-Chairperson	Nancy H.
Treasurer	David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Secretary	Albin Z.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

32. The February 2014 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 May 2014:

Assistant Treasurer	Donald W. Meurer
Assistant Secretary	Julio E.

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Advisory Action:

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 28)

It was recommended that:

33. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2014:

Carole B.	J. Gary L.
Beau B.	David N.
Joe D.	William N.
Julio E.	Chet P.
Phyllis H.	

Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

34. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2014:

Linda B.	Paz P.
Ami B.	Andrew W.
William F.	Albin Z.
Nancy H.	
Ed M.	

Floor Actions

Floor Actions that did NOT result in a Conference Advisory Action:

To add a single line item to the General Fund budget for La Viña. **(Not approved)**

A.A. Grapevine discontinue publishing the "Alcoholism at Large" section of The Grapevine Magazine. **(Not approved)**

The 64th General Service Conference reaffirm the right of decision of the Grapevine Board to making formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines noting:

That right is already exercised by publication of La Viña in color and

The 2010 Advisory Action recommended a beginning point in bringing La Viña on spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine. **(Not approved)**

The Conference consider the use of the circle and triangle on Conference-approved literature as a historical reminder of A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. **(Conference voted not to consider)**

The General Service Conference recommended that literature which focuses on "Alcoholics in Recovery with Mental Health Issues" be developed. **(Not approved)**

Proposed Anonymity Card

The A.A. principle of anonymity at the public level is one of A.A.'s oldest protections and has helped attract countless newcomers from out of the shadows and into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. Therefore, anonymity breaks on the Internet, social media, and all other forms of

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

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public communications are not only contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level, they can scare away a problem drinker reaching out for help.

In the spirit of anonymity A.A. speakers and A.A. members ought not be photographed, video recorded, or identified by full name on audio recordings, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings including online resources accessible to the public. The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of Anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities. **(Conference voted not to consider)**

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General Service Board Report

April 2014

General Service Board Report

Terrance Bedient, Chair of the General Service Board

We come together to conduct our 64th General Service Conference under the theme – “Communicating Our Legacies–Vital in a Changing World.” The theme seems particularly relevant as we continue the Conference Inventory Process, which began last year with encouraging results. In spite of a few time-management apprehensions the Conference moved ahead, thoughtfully covering the inventory questions and attending to the work placed before them. This year we will once again consider 15 inventory questions, as scheduled in the three-year inventory plan, and consider many and diverse items placed before each of our Conference committees. In each case we will look for guidance in the spirit of our Legacies: Recovery, Unity and Service.

Since our last Conference we have said farewell to two dear friends. Wayne P, past Southwest regional trustee and past G.S.O. general manager, passed away in Rogers, Arkansas on January 26, 2014. Marty W, Western Canada regional trustee, died peacefully and surrounded by the love of his family on March 4, 2014. Both Wayne and Marty expressed their love and gratitude to A.A. through their tireless and dedicated service. Let’s take a minute of silence to remember our friends Wayne and Marty.

Since the 63rd Conference, the General Service Board has hosted Regional Forums in Cromwell, Connecticut; Charleston, West Virginia; Bloomington, Minnesota; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This last year our General Service Board welcomed two new Class A trustees, the Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle, and David M. Morris, C.P.A. Additionally, the board welcomed Bob W, trustee-at-large/ U.S., Chet P, Southeast regional trustee, Bill F, East Central regional trustee and general service trustees Bill N and Albin Z. There have also been changes at G.S.O. Adrienne B retired after 17 years as a G.S.O. staff member and Eva S rotated full time onto the 2015 International Conventions assignment. Two new staff members joined G.S.O. in the last year. Racy J., from Brooklyn, NY was hired in October, 2013 and started work on the Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.) desk. Clement C. joined G.S.O. from St. Louis, MO, in January 2014, and dove right into the Corrections assignment.

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 30)

Since our last Conference the General Service Board has met four times. Aside from the meeting of the members of the General Service Board at the conclusion of Conference last year, the trustees held three quarterly meetings at the Crowne Plaza Times Square in New York, New York.

At their July meeting, the board reviewed the 14 Initiatives shared with the General Service Conference to improve efficacy and cooperation between the A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine corporate boards as part of the General Service Board proposal to the Conference in 2013. The board agreed that initiatives relating to governance (stewardship) would be addressed by the General Service Board directly and that the A.A.W.S. Board and Grapevine Board would work together to address implementation of the remaining initiatives with interim reports provided to the General Service Board.

The board decided to add a 15th Initiative with the working title of “Serving the Fellowship.” Each trustee was asked for a list of their five most important questions/issues to be considered in working to better carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The site-selection process for the 2025 International Convention came to conclusion at the board’s November meeting with the recommendation that Vancouver, British Columbia, be the site for the 2025 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention.

At their November meeting, the chair appointed an ad hoc committee to conduct the annual review of the General Service Board section of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The board also noted that, as suggested by the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information’s Additional Committee Consideration, trustees’ committees review existing literature that discusses how A.A. members apply the Eleventh Tradition at all possible opportunities.

In November, the board heard A.A.W.S. and A.A.G.V. Status Reports regarding progress made on the Initiatives. It was evident that positive efforts were underway on all fronts. To date, however, the two corporate boards had discussed the issues essentially in isolation. Both reports recommended that representatives from each board (and perhaps trustees not serving on either board) collaborate to move these efforts even further.

Additionally the board received a report from an ad hoc work group on Initiative #15 with the working title of “Serving the Fellowship.” The committee unanimously approved a concept memo entitled, “Self-assessment and Strategic Planning for the General Service Board.” Two work groups were appointed to study elements of putting a planning process in place.

In February 2014, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Conference delegate chair and the chairpersons of the Conference committees at the First Quarterly 2014 meeting of the General Service Board. Delegate chairpersons attended an orientation meeting at G.S.O., met with their committee staff secretaries, and attended sessions of corresponding trustees’ committees as guest observers. The practice of inviting Conference committee chairpersons to the First Quarterly Board Weekend began in 1991 and continues to benefit the Conference process in helping delegate chairpersons fulfill their trusted service responsibilities to the Conference and A.A. as a whole. At its February meeting the board approved updates to Nominating procedures for selection of the G.S.B. chair,

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 31)

G.S.O.'s general manager and the Grapevine's executive editor/publisher.

Also in February, the board received an oral report on cultural sensitivity in AA literature. An example used was the term "dark districts," a phrase that at times was referred to in describing "inactive" districts. Although this was never intended to be insensitive to any culture, it was acknowledged that it could be for some. Reviewing our Conference-approved literature, it was found that this term did not appear, but that it had been used in *Box 4-5-9*. We were reminded of the need to be vigilant about such issues as we develop and modify our literature.

The board has also discussed the 2020 International Convention site and reviewed information regarding downtown Detroit's growth, development and plans for the future. The board received reports from the two working groups addressing our self-assessment and strategic planning. These groups are currently addressing the following questions:

1. What is the mission of the GSB?
2. To whom should the GSB be providing services, now and in the future?
3. What is valued or needed by those we serve?
4. What are the results of the GSB?

The two working groups will continue their work on their original charges, and when that work has been completed, they will come together to deal with the final question,

5. What is our plan?

The board received a progress report from the ad hoc committee on the General Service Board Confidentiality and Code of Conduct. The work to date has focused primarily on a Confidentiality Policy, which was presented to and accepted by the board.

The committee will now turn its attention to a Code of Conduct. The board received a report from the GSB ad hoc committee on group safety. The report reaffirmed the findings of a 2009 GSB report on the same topic and supplied additional thoughtful suggestions. The board agreed to refer a request to the trustees' Literature Committee and a separate request to the trustees' Committee on Public Information related to safety and anonymity in A.A.

At the February 2014 meeting the board discussed a January 2013 report from the ad hoc committee on trustees emeriti participation. The board unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the trustees emeriti, expressing our gratitude for their continuing service, and encourage them to continue to share their experience and wisdom with us and attend board meetings and Conference's at our expense.

In February the board also approved a plan from the trustees' Joint Task Force on the Initiatives, formed by representatives of both the A.A. World Services and Grapevine Boards. The plan carefully assesses the current and future use of office space for both the A.A. Grapevine and General Service offices.

Some trustees, G.S.O.'s general manager and staff were invited to travel overseas to Ukraine, South Africa, Russia, Ecuador, Germany and Poland. Highlights of trustee and staff travel include Phyllis H, general manager and G.S.O. International desk staff member Mary Clare L. attended the 15th Ukrainian A.A. Service Conference, and Mary Clare attended the 6th Sub-Saharan Africa Service

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Reports from the 64th General Service Conference, cont'd

(Continued from page 32)

Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, and, with Greg T, Publishing director, traveled to Irkutsk, Russia for the 10th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM). Trustee-at-large Bob W attended the 18th REDELA (Meeting of the Americas) in Salinas, Ecuador. Phyllis H, and Rick W, staff member on the International desk attended the European Service Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany. Zonal service meetings are invaluable to emerging countries and are held in the Americas, Asia-Oceania, Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa; they provide opportunities to discuss the challenges of creating service structures, literature distribution and practicing A.A. principles in all their affairs.

This year we will be celebrating the 23rd World Service Meeting in Warsaw, Poland. The theme is "The Three Legacies: Vital for All Generations." Once again, delegates from around the world will share their experience, strength and hope in carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics everywhere.

At the close of this Conference, three trustees will rotate Rod B., Donald Cusson and Roberta L. We are grateful for their dedication, self-sacrifice and tireless service on behalf of the Fellowship.

This week we will share much that will enable us to reach decisions based on an informed group conscience. The communication among us will allow and encourage us to participate. Putting thought into actions should be our measure of success. The Conference process truly embodies the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. Let us continue to carry out the vision given to us by our cofounders and early Conference pioneers.



More reports from the 2014 General Service Conference will be published in the Fall issue of the Northeast Ohio Recorder.