

Conference Report to Area 08
General Service Conference Panel 57
April 22 – 28, 2007

**CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE
57TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

Part 2

The following recommendations were approved the 57th General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2008 General Service Conference be: Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support.
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2008 General Service Conference

Communication and Participation

Sharing the Message of Service

Our Key to Keeping A.A. Strong

Leadership in A.A. : Building Communication

Unity

Our Common Welfare Should Come First

Principles Before Personalities

Diversity: Reaching Out to All Alcoholics

Self-Support

Self-Supporting Through Member' Voluntary Contributions Only

Contempt Prior to Investigation

Responsibility to communicate and Participate

3. The following be the workshop topic for the 2008 General Service Conference:
"Love and Tolerance, Now More Than Ever."

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Cooperation With the Professional Community

No Recommendations

Finance

It was recommended that:

The annual limit contributed to the General Service Board from individual A.A. members be increased from \$2,000 to \$3000 and that bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and continue to be on a one-time basis and net in perpetuity.

The following text: "G.S.R. travel expenses to attend service functions" be added to the sentence "once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, A. A. literature, local meeting lists)" on page 7 paragraph 3, first sentence of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (F3) as these expenses are suggested in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Note; The Committee discussed the request to develop a communication plan to increase the level of participation and self support with the Conference Structure, and after considerable discussion

And took no action.

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Note: The two requests to change the volume discount and incorporate shipping charges were discussed and the committee decided to keep the current practices and policy of these subjects. Please see the section on Additional Considerations.

Grapevine

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It was recommended that:

The Grapevine and La Vina include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer.

Literature

It was recommended that:

The following text from *The A. A. Service Manual* be added to "The A.A. Group" and the G.S.R. pamphlets:

"Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support for their general service representatives to attend service functions."

The title of the pamphlet "Can A.A. Help Me Too?" subtitled "Black/African Americans Share Their Stories" be changed to "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic."

The pamphlet, "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs" be revised to include current experience of A.A. Members and that a revised draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Literature.

The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos*, be produced, keeping in mind the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on contents, story selection and progress.

Note: The committee reviewed the trustees' Literature Committee progress report on revision to the "A.A. for the Native North American" pamphlet and expressed appreciation the submission deadline was extended until June 30, 2007. The Committee looks forward to reviewing a draft of the revised pamphlet at the 2008 Conference.

Note: The committee discussed at length requests to develop an Intergroup/central office pamphlet and took no action. As the structure and function on Intergroups/central offices vary greatly throughout the United States and Canada, it was the consensus of the committee that, where a need may exist for an Intergroup/central office pamphlet, it can be addressed locally. The committee also felt that sufficient information is available about Intergroup/central offices in existing A.A. Conference-approved literature and service material, including "The A.A. Group pamphlet, The A.A. Service Manual, and A.A. Guidelines on Central and Intergroup Offices.

Note: The committee considered a request to produce a pamphlet to replace the discontinued "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic"

And took no action.

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Public Information

It was recommended that:

The 2007 A. A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2004 A.A. Membership Survey.

Report and Charter

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It was recommended that:

The second paragraph on p. S29 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, which reads, "In the majority of areas, a district includes six to 20 groups. In metropolitan districts, the number is generally 15 to 20 groups, while in rural or suburban districts the number can be as small as five," be replaced with the following:

"The number of groups per district varies widely, from as few as five in a rural district to 90 or more in a metropolitan district. Population density and the geographic size of the district, which will affect the ability of the D.C.M. to communicate with the groups, would be key factors determining the number of groups a district will have."

Note: The committee considered a recommendation from the GSB that the following text be added to Chapter Nine in The A.A. Service Manual where appropriate:

"The intent of forming regions was to create a vehicle by which regional trustees could be added to the GSB and a way to provide a cross section of people who would serve A.A. as a whole – not in a representative capacity. To allow for a balanced rotation, elections of regional trustees are staggered in order that there may be a relatively even flow of new trustees coming onto the board. It was not until 1962 that the formal naming of regions occurred and a redistribution; and soon afterwards the formation of new regions."

And took no action

Note: The committee considered a recommendation from the GSB that the sentence on p. S62 in the A.A. Service Manual be changed to read "While no trustee can be said to "represent" a geographical section – all trustees represent only the Fellowship as a whole – regional trustees bring to the board's discussions a diversity of A.A. experience that is invaluable.

And took no action.

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Note: The committee considered a request to have AAWS discontinue publishing regional directories (Canada, Western U.S. and Eastern U.S.

And too no action

Note: The committee considered a suggestion to add to the A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S. and Eastern U.S. a separate subsection within the section

"INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE MEETINGS" for listing "Online Intergroups" that request to be listed, and that online Intergroups thus listed provide an e-mail and/or Web site address to be included in the directories.

And took no action

Trustees

It was recommended:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., the General Service Board Consider all eligible Class A (nonalcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees when selecting the chairperson of the General Service Board.

The Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.,
may be found in The A.A. Service Manual.

*Note: a recommendation that did not result in a Conference Advisory Action: The change the Service Manual p. 110 to reflect Class B Regional trustees are to **provide the Board their views and opinions regarding policy matters based on Fellowship-wide experience.***

Note: The committee accepted the "Appeal to the General Service Conference" dated April 11, 2007 concerning the decision made in the January 2007 executive session of the General Service Board not to begin a search for a new General Manager of the General Service Office.

In keeping with the importance of the principle of assuring us that the minority opinion will be heard, as outlined in Concept V, the Conference Committee on Trustees requests that this "Appeal to the General Service Conference" be given a full hearing at the next scheduled executive session to the General Service Board.

In addition, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating reviewing Procedure #9 of their Composition, Scope and Procedures- "Guidelines for Hiring the General Manager, G.S.O." – and clarify the language which refers to the

length of service for that position. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating forward a final report to the 2008 Conference Committee on Trustees.

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To see all Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations, Recommendations that did not result in a Conference Advisory Action, and Floor Actions that did not result in Conference Advisory Actions, please see *Appendix I and 2*