

This handout is intended as a brief digest of the actions, considerations and reports of the 2010 General Service Conference. A complete list of advisory actions, a complete list of additional committee considerations, and a narrative report of our delegate's experiences at the Conference have been distributed separately. See those reports for more detail on the items below.

Noteworthy Conference Advisory Actions

- **Conference Theme** The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference will be "We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future – Let it Begin With Us." Groups, districts, and committees that are interested in using the Conference theme for workshops and other discussions are encouraged to begin using the 2011 theme now.
- **Corrections pamphlets** Revisions to three corrections pamphlets were approved that emphasize the importance of being aware of the specific regulations of the facility you are entering before doing corrections (H&I) service work.
- **Self-Support pamphlet** Revisions to this pamphlet were approved that explain how groups can support the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña – primarily through subscriptions and by carrying related items.
- **Seventh Tradition stories** The General Service Board will begin gathering stories from the Fellowship that would humanize the impact of the Seventh Tradition. More details, including how to send in submissions, will probably follow in summer or fall.
- **La Viña** We will begin publishing La Viña without staples and expand it to 68 pages beginning in 2011, with a review and assessment of these improvements to take place in 2012.
- **The A.A. Grapevine** Sharing will be gathered from the Fellowship on the value, use, potential changes, and purpose of our meeting in print. Look for information about sharing sessions in the coming months.
- **Questions & Answers on Sponsorship** Revisions to this pamphlet were approved that eliminate outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.
- **New literature on spirituality** We will begin developing a new piece of literature that focuses on spirituality and includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in A.A. Some members of the Conference literature committee shared that their original reaction to this proposal was, "Heck no!" but that after reviewing the background material and engaging in discussions with A.A. members within their own areas, they became convinced there was a need. More details, including how to send in submissions, will probably follow in summer or fall.
- **A.A. and the Armed Services** This pamphlet will be updated and a section will be added that focuses on the experience of veterans. More details, including how to send in submissions, will probably follow in summer or fall.
- **Living Sober** This booklet will be reviewed in order to consider updating outmoded references. According to the publications director, a very light edit is what is envisioned, not a major revision.
- **Conference inventory** A plan will be developed for the Conference to take an inventory of itself, and a committee was appointed to develop the plan for the inventory.
- **PSAs** A new PSA (public service announcement), entitled "My World," was approved.
- **Videos for Young People** A new addition to the A.A. Videos for Young People was approved that uses animation to depict the stories of three A.A. members who got sober young.
- **Policy on full-face videos** It was requested that the trustees develop a policy on using or not using full faces of actors portraying A.A. members or potential members in visual media.

- Pacific regional trustee election Rod B., past delegate from Utah, was elected our new trustee. Rod has a professional background in the treatment field. He also is the first Native American to serve on the General Service Board.

Noteworthy additional committee considerations

- Early pioneer women book proposal The literature committee reviewed this proposal, but chose not to recommend development because they felt the need wasn't widely expressed at this time.
- Anonymity in a Digital Age The idea of holding a future Conference on this theme has been forwarded to next year's Conference agenda committee. It was also suggested that information on this topic be developed for possible inclusion in the pamphlet, "Understanding Anonymity," and that workshops, newsletter articles, panels, and area websites be used to stimulate discussion on how to maintain anonymity on online media, such as social networking sites.

Financial information

Total G.S.O. revenue in 2009 was approximately \$14.5 million including about \$6.2 million in contributions. Total operating expenses were about \$13.5 million. Functional expenses were approximately \$8.8 million, and it is estimated it would take about \$6.46 per member for functional expenses to be fully funded through contributions (we currently use literature profits to make up the difference).

The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., lost about \$132,000 last year due to a decline in subscriptions. An investment from the reserve fund will be made over the next two years to try to rescue our meeting in print. If all goes as planned, Grapevine should be back in the black in 2011.

The General Service Office will begin accepting contributions from A.A. members and groups online at www.aa.org. Contributions can be made via credit/debit cards and electronic checks. It is expected that this service will launch in May of this year.

International Convention: A Vision for You

The 75th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrated in San Antonio, Texas, July 1-4. Attendance is expected to be between 40,000 and 50,000, and the event is on course to break even.

Protecting vulnerable members

Areas, districts, and groups are encouraged to discuss ways to ensure the safety of potentially vulnerable A.A. members or prospective members, including minors. Sponsorship, workshops and assemblies and committee meetings are suggested as ways to raise awareness in the Fellowship and encourage the creation of as safe an environment as possible for the newcomer, minors and other members or potential members who may be vulnerable.