

San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly  
Delegate's Report  
December 15, 2016

Welcome to our incoming District Committee Members (DCM) and standing committee chairs. General Service is highly important to the sobriety of each individual member. The full range of 12-Step work available is vast and continuously changing. Reading this report will help you see no one person will ever be able to master it all. We are actually designed so that each of us engages the help of several other people. Ask your alternate to share this work with you. Above all, please be patient with yourself as you become engaged in what is truly a fascinating way of life.

Our primary job in the service structure is to perform the two-way communication of the General Service Conference (GSC). The GSC works on a year-round cycle designed to engage the collective of the Fellowship in discussion on topics that strengthen the unity of the Fellowship.

In this report, I outline information regarding the on-going work of the GSC. While all this information needs to be passed on to your GSRs who will pass it on to their groups, I identify items that are **announcements**. Please look for them as you move through this document and be sure to deliver them to your district's GSRs ASAP.

If you have any suggestions on organizing or improving these communications, please do not hesitate to send them to me.

Here are the topics of communication on which our entire Fellowship is asked to actively discuss in preparation for the 2017 GSC.

2017 General Service Conference Theme:  
**"SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE"**

**Workshop Topics:**

**GROWTH**

Diversity -- Outreach and Attraction  
Safety – An Important Consideration  
Communication – Today and Tomorrow

**PARTICIPATION**

Fellowship vs. Membership  
Leadership: "I am Responsible..."  
Is Your Voice Heard?

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Spirituality and Money  
Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations  
Apathy and Power of the Purse

## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### **NON-TRUSTEE APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS (ACM) NEEDED**

The General Service Board is looking for Appointed Committee Members (ACM) for two trustees' committees. These are non-trustees positions. The two committees that are in need of an ACM are:

- The Trustees' Committee for Cooperation with the Professional Community / Treatment and Accessibilities Community
- The Trustees' Committee for Public Information

Please contact me for the required paperwork if you or someone you know would like to submit a resume. The submission deadline for both positions is March 1, 2017.

*See page S72 of The Service Manual for a description of duties and qualifications for an Appointed Committee Member.*

### **2017 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE (GSC) AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL AREA**

Thank you to all who have participated in the year-round cycle of the Conference by assisting in the creation of GSC agenda items. Generating agenda items is important service participation as the discussion of agenda items serves to inform the entire Fellowship on the specific topics.

The following items have been submitted to the Conference Coordinator:

1. Consider Retiring the Pamphlet "Too Young."
2. Consider adding a Young People in A.A. Subcommittee to the Service Structure
3. Review/Revise the pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality."
4. Consider Writing a version of the Big Book at the fifth-grade level
5. Consider Developing a Translation Committee Workbook\*
6. Consider Using a One-Page GSC Agenda Item Submission Form (A suggestion to ease translation of Conference background material into Spanish and French.)
7. Consider Revising the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" with the message: There is no limit to the amount a group can contribute to GSO.
8. Consider the San Diego-Imperial Area's Agenda Committee's Suggestions for 2018 GSC Theme and Workshop Topics\*
9. A Letter of Support for Area 5's Safety Literature Consideration\*

\*Not an agenda item. These are either supporting background or support for items already moving toward the agenda.

I spoke directly with the new General Service Office (GSO) Conference Coordinator to confirm all nine items were received and are being directed to a trustees' committee.

## **GROWING PARTICIPATION IN GROUP SERVICES**

In support of two of the key 2017 GSC workshop topics of Growth and Participation, it is important we understand the overwhelming majority of A.A. members either have no idea about general service or see it as “politics”. The point is the Fellowship is self-sustaining through the maintenance provided by membership participation. We are not keeping A.A. available for now and in the future without a healthy number of General Service Representatives (GSR) and other group members participating in the 12-Step work of our local area standing committees.

Service is the legacy of our spiritual way of life that allows each of us to be useful, purposeful, and active in 12-Step work. The wonderful thing about 12-Step work is that there are literally hundreds of jobs to do. Because jobs vary in necessary knowledge and time commitments, there is a variety of participation available for every group member. We need to reframe our thinking to actively include all group members in learning our Traditions and Concepts by applying them in carrying out our 12-Step work. Our local area standing committees need to create notifications to our DCMs on available 12-Step work. DCMs are the key point of contact for delivery of the 12-Step work notifications to GSR, who then work to engage their group members in it. This is how the Fellowship is sustained.

As we work to involve our committees in more and more 12-Step work, I urge us to focus on actively identifying and communicating the services each committee provides to our groups. These increased communications will need to include a call for a greater number of people from groups to participate in our efforts. Below are a few examples of where we need help:

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

#### **REQUEST VOLUNTEERS FOR SPANISH TRANSLATORS AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) INTERPRETERS**

Please urge your GSRs to make announcements to their groups asking for volunteers with Spanish-English bi-lingual skills to participate via email on our area’s Translation Committee. This specific work is to translate written documents from English into Spanish.

A separate category of skilled workers needed are ASL interpreters. Group members who are skilled in ASL are asked to contact our Area Chair to be placed on a list of available ASL Interpreters.

I urge each standing committee to identify and communicate the services it performs for groups as well as the 12-Step work in which all A.A. members are urged to participate.

## **COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (CPC)**

Several meetings have reported problems associated with individuals who are mandated to attend A.A. meetings. The problems occur when A.A. members unintentionally offend visitors when informing them on A.A. Tradition. Disruptions to the meeting arise from the visitors who have a negative attitude about being mandated to attend meetings. To discuss a taking actions on these Safety issues, I accompanied Elke, DCM of District 10, and Ken B., Alternate DCM of District 8, to the November 2016 meeting of our area's Cooperation of the Professional Community (CPC) Committee. We reviewed a couple of Box 459 articles describing outreach work of CPC Committees in Kalamazoo, MI (Area 34) and Calgary, Alberta (Area 78) that have successfully addressed these issues.

I emailed each of the CPC Committees in those areas asking if they will share their service materials with us. As soon as we receive the materials, our CPC Committee will begin discussing outreach programs for agencies that mandate attendance to A.A. meetings as well as other professionals who may consider recommending A.A. to their clients. The objective would be to inform those who are referred or mandated on how A.A. meetings work so they have the best chance for a positive experience. Another program the CPC Committee will consider is to focus on educating group members on how A.A. groups in other areas have approached court and attendance sheets. The committee will support topics such as how to speak to a non-A.A. audience and what DCMs can consider when they do outreach to group secretaries.

These efforts will require an increase in participation on our local area CPC Committee. We are responsible to extend the hand of A.A. to anyone who wishes to recover. The CPC Committee can help A.A. members understand applying our Traditions in relation to visitors to our meetings, and acts as an ambassador to the referring professionals and agencies.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**DCMs:** Please ask GSRs to announce at their meetings that the CPC Committee has need to engage professionals and agencies in setting up education programs. If you have a friend who is a professional (physician, psychologist or other healthcare provider) or works for an agency (judge, lawyer, law enforcement/probation officer) that may mandate their clients to attend A.A. meetings, please provide their contact information to our CPC Committee. The committee would like to develop outreach programs and gain the cooperation of those professionals in presenting them to those they mandate to attend A.A. meetings.

#### **CPC Committee Outreach Programs:**

**“Mock” A.A. Meetings** - CPC Committee participants educate doctors, nurses, and other referring professions by presenting to them a demonstration of how an A.A. meeting works. The CPC Committee participants must have one-year of sobriety and have received its orientation on how to speak to non-A.A. groups. The program is to move through the agenda or format of a typical A.A. meeting to demonstrate how it is conducted. While the meeting is mock, the CPC Committee participants do share from their hearts. They prepare their informational sharing such as that A.A. is a spiritual way of life, not a religion; or they may talk about how their doctor or other healthcare provider was instrumental in getting them to A.A. After quickly moving the demonstration of a typical meeting, the professionals are divided into smaller groups for roundtable questions and answers. An hour is provided for the roundtables that are led by the CPC Committee participants.

The benefit of the “Mock” meeting is that it can be customized for the group that is being educated. One set of topics would be covered in the roundtables of the physicians, nurses and

other healthcare providers while another set would be developed for lawyers, judges, and law enforcement professionals.

**Orientation for Court Referrals or Other Agencies** - In the interest of insuring visitors have a successful visit to an A.A. meeting, it is important each person who is mandated learns what to expect. There is a risk of erasing the wording on the welcome mat when A.A. members inform them they have somehow acted inappropriately.

Before attending A.A. meetings, each mandated-attendance person is required to attend a series of three informational sessions. Each session is two hours. At the first meeting, the panel members tell their personal recovery stories in a manner that is suitable for speaking to non-A.A. audiences. For the second meeting, they discuss the Twelve Steps; and at the third they explain how A.A. Tradition was developed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

#### **ELECTRONIC GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (DCM) KITS**

General Service Representatives (GSR) and District Committee Members (DCMs), did you know you can download an electronic version of the your informational materials onto your computer? (The Spanish version can be accessed from here, too!)

All contents of the **GSR Kit**: [http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_GSR\\_list.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_GSR_list.pdf)

All contents of the **DCM Kit**: [http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-153\\_DCM\\_Kit.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-153_DCM_Kit.pdf)

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DEVELOP MEANS OF FAST LEARNING**

In order to grow service, we must be able to provide a pathway to quickly learning each service position. We don't know what we are missing as each person approaches his/her newly-elected position without understanding the primary concepts of service. I will soon call for volunteers to participate in developing a few very short training videos for DCMs, GSRs, and standing committee chairs.

DCMs, please ask your GSRs if they would like to participate. We want you to be sure to let them know those who know nothing can be the most helpful in developing these tools. We have plenty of material. For example, there are two GSR presentations and each has over over 100 slides. We need more concise material that provide an overview. Service and the practice of the 24 principles that guide our actions have vast practical application.

To volunteer, please send an email to: [area8contact@gmail.com](mailto:area8contact@gmail.com).

#### **SHARING FROM THE MICROPHONE**

At the September 2016 Budget Assembly, I asked for sharing at the microphone on how we can more efficiently help GSRs understand their service position. Here's the summary of the sharing:

Make a list of Service Sponsors and show them by location  
Insure there is an understanding of the time commitment

When you rotate out, train the person who is rotating in  
Create an info packet, a cheat sheet  
Hold a Mini-GSR Orientation at the district meetings  
Create GSR information in different medias for different learning styles  
Participate as an alternate or co-GSR  
Encourage GSRs and group members to ask questions. Examples: “What do you think about....” “How do you feel about....”  
Make the instructions relevant  
Gain the participation of other members in tasks that are available to do-share the work  
Regarding all the emails that need to be delivered, be sure they arrive one week in advance of meeting to which they pertain.  
Read S20  
Hold workshops  
Does the term have to be 2 years?  
Can someone with less than 2 years of sobriety serve?

## **GSR NEWSLETTERS**

I posted two November newsletters and one for December. The Delegate’s Newsletter was formed from a suggestion by one of our DCMs to help GSRs make announcements to their groups by breaking down the full-grown elephant of information coming from our trustees’ committees into “bite-size” pieces. The newsletter format divides the information to focus each into its own common theme, such as literature, finances, and general.

District Committee Members (DCM): Please distribute these reports ASAP to all GSRs, standing committee members, and officers on your district’s email roster. You are the information source from the area delegate to all group members in your district.

Two of the newsletters are not yet available as our Translation Committee has a backlog of work. They are continuously in need of participants who can work via email to translate written documents from English to Spanish. Please be sure to remind GSRs to announce the need for both Spanish translators and ASL interpreters.

### **What’s the point of the GSR Newsletters?**

The overall objective of the service structure is two-way communication amongst all groups in the U.S./Canada and all of the Fellowships operations in NY – A.A. World Services, Inc., the General Service Office (GSO), the Grapevine/LaVina, the General Service Board (GSB), all the trustees’ committees, and especially all the work involved in the year-round cycle of the General Service Conference (GSC). All our communication efforts are a service to the groups. What is heard at the Area Committee Meeting (ACM) is important to be passed on to those on your district roster.

Now, more than ever, we need to insure we develop and continue expanding the communication network to and from all groups in the San Diego-Imperial Area. We know this communication network is at an all time low. Districts are the front-line contacts to the groups in their geographic boundaries. Developing a communication network of delivering information to groups is the responsibility of general service. The next phase we need to focus on is insuring group members understand information is a call for their active participation in service, which keeps AA available for now and in the future.

We need to be clear we have one program with three legacies. As individuals, our work in the Steps makes us available to participate in our Traditions – especially self-support in Tradition Seven and self-sustainability in Tradition Nine. Understanding our individual responsibility to all our Traditions, allows each of us to participate in extending the hand of A.A. In service, we insure our own sobriety by insuring A.A. remains available to us now and all who come in the future.

**GSR Newsletter Information Sources are: the General Service Board (GSB) Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS), the General Service Office (GSO), and Grapevine, Inc.**

The collective of the entities listed in the title of this section are often referred to as “New York” (NY). The two main sources of information to the delegate are the report from the Pacific Region Trustee and the AAWS Highlights. The delegate is the area’s primary appointed contact to receive delivery of the information from any and all of these entities. The delegate is responsible to provide timely delivery of the information to DCMs and standing committee chairs.

The General Service Conference is a year-round activity. On page S18 of the Service Manual, you can see the committee structure. Most of the work regarding the Conference is done by the trustees’ committees that work year round and meet quarterly. The quarterly meetings are referred to as “Board Weekends.” The board in this case is the General Service Board (GSB), which is the umbrella corporation to Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS), the General Service Office (GSO), and the Grapevine, Inc. During each quarterly meeting, the trustee’s work on the Additional Considerations that were delivered to them by their corresponding Conference committee at the last GSC. They will also develop new work that may result in agenda items for the next GSC. Whether the agenda item comes from Additional Considerations or is newly-developed, the trustees’ committees will assign GSC agenda items to the Conference committee that is most appropriate to discuss it.

The Conference committees meet only during the week of the actual General Service Conference. The Conference committees are made up of the area delegates who attend that Conference. During the first three days of the Conference, each Conference committee meets to discuss its listing of agenda items that were assigned to them by its corresponding trustees’ committee. The Conference committee will exercise its Right of Decision on how to direct the next action for each item. In the phase of the GSC following the Conference committee deliberations, each will take its turn in presenting to the body the report on their decisions.

For each agenda item, the Conference committee’s report will report its recommendations. Recommendations are considered motions to the body that have received a second and are, therefore, ready for discussion. The Conference committee can exercise its Right of Decision by making a recommendation that re-words an agenda item. Also, they can decide to insert a new action invented through its discussion. Sometimes the committee decides to take no action. No action items will die unless another Conference member makes a Floor Motion to place it into discussion by the body. The Conference committee will also create Additional Considerations. These are the items that are referred to the agendas of trustee’s committees on which they will work during the next 12 months.

The delegate’s job is to report to the Fellowship through the DCMs, GSRs, and local standing committee chairs on all items that are moving through the GSC. If you, as a DCM, or one of your GSRs or group members has a suggestion for how to improve the two-way communications of the service structure, please do not hesitate to pass it on to me.

## **PRICING OF GRAPEVINE/LA VINA PRODUCTS**

The General Service Board has been considering a variety of proposals related to pricing of all Grapevine (GV) and La Vina (LV) products. Even though circulation trends have been improving, the future budget projections still raise concerns about possible deficit budgets. The decision was that now is not the time to raise prices on the magazines, since such price increases often result in a drop in circulation, and we don't want to negatively affect circulation just as the numbers are finally leveling off. In the end, we approved a 50 cent increase on all GV and LV book titles, to go into effect in March, 2017.

To seize the moment with the leveling off of circulation, and in light of the fact that we are currently showing a profit in 2016 (see the Delegate's Newsletter on Finance), we approved several initiatives that came out of our strategic planning process. These initiatives are intended either to stimulate growth directly or to provide us with information we can use to stimulate growth. Included in the initiatives are: a web update (including a survey on user experience); a readership survey; translation of an existing GV book title into Spanish (choice of title to be determined); and additional outreach to conventions, as well as other entities within A.A. such as Intergroups/Central Offices and areas.

## **2016 WORLD SERVICE MEETING**

The World Service Meeting is held every two years. This year's meeting was held in Rye Brook, NY and was attended by 60 delegates from 41 countries. The report on the 2016 meeting will be available in February 2017. For the first time, it will be published in electronic format and sanitized for distribution via email. This change to an electronic format for the report's distribution, is part of GSO's plan to come into the digital age. I will be happy to distribute the report to all on our Area Roster.

The General Service Board Meeting held its October 2016 board weekend at the close of the World Services Meeting. Our Pacific Regional Trustee, Joel, attended the board weekend. Many of the world delegates remained in New York to attend some of the meetings at the board weekend. In his reports to the Pacific Region Delegates, Joel described his experience with some of the work engaged in by a few of the world delegates.

As they (World Services Delegates) began introducing themselves, I felt literally encircled by the worldwide movement of A.A., embodied by these representatives, my fellow A.A.s. There was Alunia from Poland, who had shared with me about how strong the A.A. corrections work is in her country. Marko from Finland, who had told me about the meeting-in-print that his country produces, with about twenty-percent of members subscribing. Shsrikant from India, who had deep curiosity about how we do things in our service structure. Dmitry from Russia, who engaged me in a lively discussion about the use of outside literature in A.A. meetings, a practice common in some Russian groups (he seemed to be wanting me to take his side against this practice as an official voice on the matter, and I merely shared that it wasn't something that I would want to see done in my own home group). Mario from Argentina, who greeted me with a warm smile and a handshake every time I



saw him throughout the weekend. Heather from New Zealand, who read “How It Works” at the Saturday night A.A. meeting held as part of the board weekend (she shared with me what a lovely coincidence it was to be asked to do the reading, because it was a reading that had helped her to weather a particularly challenging tragedy in her life when she was about six years sober). Shun from South Africa, the country that will host the next W.S.M. in 2018. Gudrun from Iceland, whose warmth and laughter lifted many of us throughout the weekend. My new friends ringed the room in which we sat - a living, breathing embodiment of “One World, One A.A., One Language of the Heart.” My energy renewed by their presence, I dove into the board meeting with the rest of my fellow trustees - focused, alert, and fully present.

I think you will find interest in the topics discussed at that meeting. It appears AA truly is the same the world over. The topics that are discussed by the World Service Meeting delegates are worth the review of GSRs in the U.S./Canada.

### **2014 (23rd) World Service Meeting Topics**

Theme: **“The Three Legacies: Vital For All Generations”**

Here are a few of the topics that were discussed at this world-wide meeting:

- A.A. and the New Technologies: How to Use New Communication Technologies More Effectively
- The Lack of Trusted Servants and Today’s Way of Life
  - The Challenge: Fitting Service into a Hectic Life: How It’s Done; How It could Be Done
  - The Opportunity to Prepare New People for Service
- Anonymity and Social Networks
  - Safeguards for Protecting Anonymity, Yours and Others
  - Pitfalls
  - Successes
- Women in A.A. Groups and in Service
  - When a Culture Restricts Women’s Access to A.A.
  - Encouraging Women in Service
  - Service Sponsorship
- How to Better Carry the Message to Young People
- Old People in A.A.
  - When the Newcomer is a Senior Citizen
  - Twelfth Step Outreach to Senior Citizens
  - Older Members in Service: What Works and What Doesn’t
- Alcoholics Anonymous-The Language of the Heart

To request a hard copy of this report in English, please send an email to: [international@aa.org](mailto:international@aa.org). I have the Spanish translation of the report available in an electronic format.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### **TORONTO INTERGROUP**

The AAWS board recommended to the General Service Board that the Toronto Intergroup's listing be removed from the directory of A.A. Central Offices and Intergroups. This recommendation was made because in a Canadian judicial proceeding, the Toronto Intergroup has taken the position that A.A. is a religious organization and that belief in God is a requirement for A.A. membership. The General Service Board is carefully considering the AAWS board's recommendation. Because board deliberations took place in executive session, this is all that can be shared about this matter right now.

AAWS and the General Service Board are also named in the Canadian judicial proceeding and are scheduled to participate in a hearing on the matter in November 2016. Canadian legal counsel will represent AAWS and the General Service Board. The AAWS chair, who coincidentally is a Canadian, and GSO General Manager Greg T. are scheduled to attend the November judicial proceeding.

## **UPDATE ON THE TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE**

### **Providing a Role for the Area Delegates in the Selection of GSC Agenda Items**

At the 2016 GSC, the delegates have requested a role in selecting GSC agenda items. The selection of GSC agenda items has been performed by the trustees' committees since 1974. (Two years after the death of Bill W.) The delegates have been pushing for more of a voice in selecting the GSC agenda items for the past several years. A move toward involving the delegates is asking the chair of each trustee committee to contact the delegate chair of its corresponding Conference committee to inform him/her of the trustees' actions in moving toward the next GSC.

There was discussion about the responses to the increased communication between trustees' committee chairs (and the GV board chair) and Conference committee chairs. The reactions have been very positive.

### **Conference Floor Actions**

After a review of the Summary of Conference Procedures that is distributed at the beginning of Conference week, a subcommittee was appointed to develop language for the action of remanding an item to committee and to clearly define and note practices surrounding floor actions. This subcommittee is charged with reviewing a concern that we are losing sight of the purpose of floor actions, which is to address emergent issues.

### **Plan for Translation of Conference Background Material in Spanish and French**

The latest version of the plan for translation of Conference background involves an innovative approach that utilizes the volunteer efforts of A.A. members in the areas that make up our service structure. Some details could change between now and January, but in broad strokes the plan asks the members of each of the Conference committees to pool the efforts of potential volunteers in their own areas, as well as relying on the familiarity that regional trustees have with available resources within their respective regions. The current version of the plan also involves posting background throughout the year (e.g., for agenda items forwarded after the

July and October quarterly meetings of the G.S.B.) in order to avoid the crush of pages to be translated in a short period of time in February.

### **Final Conference Report (FCR) Will Be Made Available in Electronic Format**

The committee recommended to the General Service Board that, in addition to hard copy, the Final Conference Report be published in an anonymity-protected digital format. After discussion, the G.S.B. tabled this recommendation until the January General Service Board meeting because of questions about whether this recommendation should go to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, or whether it might simply fall under the purview of the publishing department, since it's a format change.

### **Orientation for Delegate Chairs of Conference Committees**

The committee is working on improving the materials for the orientation for delegate committee chairs attending the January General Service Board quarterly meeting and has developed a new service piece called "Working Together" to serve as orientation material. All trustees' committee chairs will also receive an invitation to attend the orientation for the delegate chairs. Some committee members may be unable to attend due to schedule conflicts with other board service, but the more of the trustees' who can attend the better. It will help to bring us all to a shared understanding of how to include the delegate chairs in our trustees' committee meetings.

### **A Vote to Adopt Electronic Voting at the GSC**

The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 General Service Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions a report from the subcommittee on electronic voting at the Conference, with the recommendation to move ahead with the use of electronic voting at the Conference (except for elections for regional and at-large trustees, which are conducted by written ballot).

## **CHANGE OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD CHAIR**

Terry Bedient, General Service Board Chair, will rotate off the Board at the end of the 2017 General Service Conference. From the many submitted resumes, three finalists were selected and interviewed by the full board. A Third Legacy Election was held. The next General Service Board chair will be Michele Grinberg. Michele served the board as a Class A trustee and rotated off at the end of the 66<sup>th</sup> GSC. Her background is in the legal profession.

Elaine McDowell, past Class "A" trustee and past General Service Board chair, was reinstated as a trustee emerita. She had resigned this position a few years back due to work and family obligations, and she recently requested to be reinstated as her life circumstances now allow her the time to be able to participate. The trustee emeritus/a position is to a large extent an honorary one conferred on past G.S.B. chairs. They attend the Conference and the General Service Board weekends primarily as observers, and we turn to them when we need guidance, especially from a historical perspective.

All of these nominations will be forwarded to the 2017 General Service Conference:

Tommi H. was approved to serve as a non-trustee director at Grapevine. Tommi has a background in publishing, including print and on-line, as well as expertise in the use of social media.

Ginger B., whose background is in hospital management, was approved to serve as a General Service trustee at Grapevine.

Deborah A., whose background is in clinical psychology, including both research and administration, was approved to serve on the A.A.W.S. board. Current West Central regional trustee.

Tom A. was selected to serve on the A.A.W.S. board.

Cate W., current Western Canada regional trustee, was selected to serve on the A.A. Grapevine board.

Our subcommittee on outside sales completed its work and prepared a report to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Grapevine. The report requests reconsideration of past advisory actions that limited Grapevine's ability to pursue outside sales of subscriptions and books.