

### **Basic Conference Details and How to Access Conference Actions Only**

The 64<sup>th</sup> annual General Service Conference was held Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> thru May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 in Ryebrook, NY. In recent years the Conference location has rotated between New York City and Ryebrook, primarily as a cost savings to the fellowship. Conference Representatives from the United States and Canada gathered to hear Corporate Board Reports, discuss 60 agenda items, elect two Regional Trustees, and to continue taking the second of three spiritual inventories taking place in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Agenda items are first discussed in Conference Committees, then, if the items are ready to be considered for approval by the Conference, they are sent to the Conference floor as Advisory Actions. Actions this year ranged from approving next year's General Service Conference theme, to considering a revision to a pamphlet, to approval of an Archive's Video that has been updated, along with what I consider to be some historically significant item(s) your groups should be interested in.

**You can go to [Area8aa.org](http://Area8aa.org) to get a copy of this delegate report, and individual lists of Advisory Actions, Additional Committee Considerations and Floor Actions.** Advisory Actions are those actions brought to the floor of the Conference for voting. Additional Committee Considerations are suggestions or statements about an agenda item that the committee either took no action on or suggested more work be done on that item by a Trustee committee before it's considered by that committee again. Floor actions were either not on the agenda, or reviewed by committees and then no action taken at committee level, or an advisory action that failed earlier in the Conference. They are received from the floor at anytime during the Conference

### **The Delegates Perspective - How Can This Help Me Personally?**

Having the privilege to attend the Conference on behalf of the San Diego-Imperial Area was a blessing beyond my wildest dreams, and my heart is filled with gratitude when I think of the life changing experience that serving as your delegate has brought to me. There are many things I saw, heard, and felt worthy of sharing. Some say it's the spiritual experiences that occurred between the voting that they're most interested in. Other members say "Tell me what actions were voted on!" Well, what I can promise is you will get me, whatever that means. I am not the past delegate(s) nor am I the future delegate. I was concerned I won't be able to match what others have done, report wise, or that I won't present it as well as others have. Then I am re-reminded I will do best if I just be Dean.

One hope of mine is that any member reading this report will get a glimpse of my full Conference experience, including actions and thoughts I that I encountered leading up to the Conference, during the Conference, and after. Kind of, what it was like, what happened, and what it was like now. Sound familiar? So please bare with me, and feel free to skip forward to the day by day sections within the report if you want to go straight to the **CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS THAT WERE CONSIDERED ON WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY.**

Another hope is the any member that hears my experience might realize you're e a potential delegate, just as the new comer you may work with tomorrow might be some day. You might also become aware how the Conference is just as much a part of the twelfth step to that newcomer as anything else we do in A.A. Just how are we going to treat the next newcomer that walks in our rooms if we know our interactions with them may not only make a life-saving difference, but a life changing difference as they might become the future trusted servant the program of A.A. allows us to become?

### **What Can you do with the Information?**

First and foremost you might re-read it if necessary, and then take the information you feel your group might be interested in to them. The decisions made, and not made at this year's Conference impact A.A. as a whole.

With "me" will come my perspectives of the business discussed and where I think A.A. is possible headed in the future. You might not agree me my take or point of view, but it may be a starting point for discussions, workshops, or considerations for agenda items for the Conference next year. One thing that became crystal clear to me since attending my first Conference, that when I complain about something in AA, real or perceived, something happening too little or too much (or not at all), that I owe it to those not yet born that may need this program, to work within the structure we have to resolve the issue. If it's a Conference issue, then it means proposing a change and submitting a Conference agenda item. If the change doesn't make it as an agenda item the first time but it still seems relevant and important, then I must work to submit it again. The talk in the corner of the room, and over coffee will occur, it's what we do. The same goes for our Area Assembly. If I talk about the problem without putting it on the table, then what really is the problem? Many times, it has been me. I have been that person that keeps talk confined to email, or at the coffee pot, or in one of those marathon phone conversations. And what I learned is, A.A. is better if it goes from talk...to action. The agenda may be the most powerful tool we have in A.A. at any level, and using it to convey my concerns or my groups concerns is where we become empowered.

We are empowered through the General Service Structure that Bill and Bob gave us 64 years ago to effect change, or to keep things the same. But to do it by getting the many involved, not the few.

So, what is the problem or ways we can work better that are on your mind? The agenda is waiting for them.

### **Why Is This Information Important To My Group?**

As a group representative, you might find yourself needing to understand better why your group should be interested in hearing your condensed version of this report. Why is this important? Page S-20 in our service manual (S-21 in Español) might help you better understand. Following the Conference Report Assembly, I will be scheduling as much or as little time as each District or Committee wishes to give on the agenda. Past Delegate(s) have found this visit helpful to answer more specific questions about the Conference not heard at assembly, or to revisit the thought process I heard on the Conference Floor regarding the passing or no action taken on a given item.

Here is my story of the Conference before, during, and after....

### **My Personal Story – When Did My Road To The Conference Start?**

I was guided that whenever I share about General Service, the message can make more sense if I relate it to my own recovery. From that perspective, my personal road to the Conference started on my sobriety date of September 21, 1997. That is the morning after I walked up to the hospital in Western N.Y. with trash bag of my belongings in hand. I remember how embarrassed I was that at the age of 36, my options were few to none, and I felt broken and embarrassed. They had me wait for about 30 minutes in the waiting room, and all the while I was anticipating one of my hundreds of relatives that either live in this town, or work at the hospital to walk by and ask me “Dean, what’s going on?” Well, fortunately the rehab facility knew about A.A. and had current A.A. literature and pamphlets thanks to General Service. H&I meetings were also brought into the facility. And with this embarrassing and incomprehensible time, would come the beginning of the gift of sobriety for me. It’s because of that gift that I am sober today, and was able to be available to experience the almost indescribable experience of serving as your Area Delegate today. If anyone would have walk up and sat down next to me as I was impatiently waiting in the lobby of the emergency room to be admitted to rehab and said to me you “Future Trusted Servant”, I couldn’t have believed them. But now I know without a doubt, each time I see the man or woman alcoholic with a trash bag their belongs in a trash bag, or any other version of destitute and hopeless one might think of...I try to treat them as if they will be my delegate some day. The Structure of A.A. was available to that hospital, and in part why I am here today.

### **Our Area’s Preparation for the 2014 Conference**

**The Conference is a year round process:** Our area actually started preparing for the Conference in a way immediately after the close of last year’s 2013 Conference. That is when members or groups were aware of items passed or not passed, and how discussions went on different agenda items, and were able to start crafting proposals in the form of an agenda item that first were discussed in their committee or district, then the proposals are passed on to the Area Assembly for more discussion.

**Local Agenda Item proposals are submitted:** Eventually a letter from the Delegate accompanies each Conference Agenda Proposal discussed and recommended by the Area Assembly, which is then submitted to the General Service Conference Coordinator (Mary C.) to be considered by the Trustees Committees for inclusion as an agenda item, or not. It’s the “Not” part that is hard to handle sometimes. Allot of work is put into forming an agenda item proposal and “Took No Action” is not always easy to understand. But like our own awareness in recovery goes, the Conference Structure sometimes is not too much different. We don’t always “Get it right”. Communication with your Delegate who then can work with the Trustee to follow up on items that appear to have gone unheard are steps available to those got the “No Action” response to their first try at an agenda item. Remember, not all agenda items eventually passed made it through to be heard the first time. For the 2014 Conference 3 Agenda proposals were made from local groups or committees. 1 of the 3 were accepted as Agenda items at the Conference. **See the report section on Committee Reports for more information about these 3 items.**

**Our Area's Preparation for the 2014 Conference (cont)**

**Receiving and processing 60 final agenda items:** On February 15, 2014 our Alternate Delegate Jane G. and I received 60 Conference agenda items electronically from the General Service Conference Coordinator who sends out a link where they can be downloaded. This was in the most amazing moment for me as it was another time when it really hit home to me, "Dean, you now have the responsibility of taking care and caution in making decisions on your Area's behalf."

Jane and I worked quickly to decide which of those items might be most important to our area for review at the Pre-Conference information sessions. We ended up with a list of 11 items that we felt our area would be most interested in to review prior to the General Service Conference. That doesn't mean the other 49 items were not important, but many of those items we didn't focus on were standard committee business, or items I felt I had enough information from our area already, to consider if I was asked to vote on them at the Conference.

**Around the Area in 4 Days:** Pre-Conference information sessions were meetings where groups of 2 – 4 Districts came here about conference agenda items in a small setting, and also to learn a few ways how they might present this information to their groups. There were a total of eight sessions covering all 21 of our active districts (of the 23 that make up our area). One of those trips included a drive to Brawley. It was quite a road trip! I'm very thankful for Jane's efforts in helping me prepare for these workshops. We got a lot done in a short amount of time, and I couldn't have done it without her. I'm also thankful to all the districts that hosted these workshops, another source of help we couldn't have done without. One of the things that stood out to me most during this time was how re-creating the feel of a home group in any AA setting never seems to fail. Informality and flexibility were necessary in creating such an atmosphere. God bless the people that attended the first information session, as they were our beta testers! Thankfully with each session Jane and I learned a little bit more about how we could do better next time. By the last workshop we almost had it down 😊. The purpose of the workshops was to provide brief summaries of the agenda items, along with basic one page Powerpoint printouts (for each agenda item). No discussion of the Agenda Items or debate took place. We encouraged GSRs to set their opinion aside during presentation of items at their homegroups. All 60 agenda items and full background were made available electronically just in case anyone wanted to bring one of those items to their group and get provide feedback.

**Did I mention San Diego was hosting a PRAASA during this same timeframe?** I want to note that the Pacific regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly was scheduled for San Diego March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. PRAASA only comes around to our area every 15 to 17 years. So as I continue to describe the conference preparation, it's amazing to me Area was also preparing for an event that would attract up to 2000 AA members from all over the Pacific AA Region is a testament to the dedication and unity we are blessed to have amongst our local members & groups. Thank you to all the Area Service Committees, GSRs, Area Officers, and group members for helping either with Pre-Conference preparation, PRAASA, or both!

**Our Area's Preparation for the 2014 Conference (cont) The Area's Conference**

**preparation comes together in Brawley at the Pre-Conference Assembly:** I can't think of a better way we could have finished our Pre-Conference preparation this year, then by taking another road trip. Yes, a road trip to Brawley! The Pre-Conference assembly this year was hosted on April 5th in Brawley by District 9, which serves the whole county of Imperial. They did an amazing job. They graciously helped to set up the assembly hall very close to how chairs and tables are set up at the actual General Service Conference. The idea was to give local members a personal experience that they are at the conference.

The purpose of the Pre-Conference assembly was for the Delegate to hear feedback from members of the Area regarding the Conference agenda items. In the morning session we heard open microphone discussion on all 11 items covered at our preconference workshops. During the sharing of microphones are alternate delegate Jane and I stood as close to the sharing at the microphones as possible. There wasn't a plan to do this, but it soon became evident to me that close eye to eye contact with those sharing from the microphone was an effective experience for all. I felt the hearts of those sharing like I never have before. In the afternoon the assembly split up into individual groups of 20 or less I called "Pods", or sometimes referred to as roundtables. I will never forget looking out over the assembly hall of about 160 attendees discussing the agenda items passionately in their small groups, and no one had to yell to be heard. The respect while one individual in the group was sharing was evident. The listening process was phenomenal! And so many people were sharing in the roundtables that hadn't come to the microphone all day! After roundtables were completed the assembly gathered together one more time for the Delegate to get a sense of how the whole assembly felt on each 11 items by raise of hand.

At the end of the day I felt the Area had prepared me well for my first General Service Conference. Now it was up to me to personally prepare for "The Trip".

**Not done with Pre-Conference yet. What about the Conference Inventory questions!?** As I mentioned earlier the conference was in the middle of a three-year inventory process. Each delegate is assigned to an inventory group. The only way I felt I could prepare for this inventory is to ask for input from past Area Delegates and Trustees. Thankfully several of them were able to meet with me and go over the inventory questions I was assigned. This process was invaluable as I will discuss more about in the Committee Reports section.

**Final personal preparations to attend the Conference:** After the Pre-Conference assembly there was a little less than three weeks before I would fly out for NY. I waited until the week I flew out to read and reread the note taker's sheets from that assembly. The other thing most important to me in doing final preparations was to stay sober. That meant to the best of my ability staying in touch with those I sponsor, staying in touch with my own sponsor (including service sponsor), and most important no matter how busy I got not missing date night with my wife 😊. It's important for me to remember that the service I am blessed to do can help them stay sober but it doesn't keep me sober. I can't remember the last time I heard somebody say they were about to drink, so they wrote a service report.

Being prepared also meant for me doing my best to maintain a daily spiritual regiment that I could continue to maintain at the conference. I was excited, blessed, scared at times, nervous, and grateful. Sometimes I felt all of them at once! Thanks to so many past delegates that came before me who helped me understand and prepare better by sharing their experience. What kept popping up from different people in different conversations was "Strap yourself in, and get ready for the ride of your life".

*Before I move on to what I heard, saw, and felt in regard to the days before the conference, I want you to know I fully understand some don't want to hear this part as a report because "The Conference hasn't started yet"! I chose purposely to include this information because it's my experience as a first-year delegate and these days leading up to the conference had a profound impact on how I would be able to participate during the conference. Please read on to the start of the Conference if you wish.*

**Leaving for Ryebrook, N.Y. a few days before the Conference** Wed/4-23/11pm  
**Not Going Alone – Flying out of LAX with Fellow Delegates from California:** With some conference activities starting on Saturday, April 26, I decided to prepare best I should arrive on Thursday. The bad news, that meant I would be taking in all-night flight Wednesday night to arrive in New York City at 530 in the morning, probably without any sleep. The great news, the flights worked out where I could go from San Diego to Los Angeles on my first stop, and join my good friends and fellow Delegates Juan from Area 5 (LA) and Cesar from Area 9 (Orange County and parts to the East). I hadn't got much sleep the night before, and knew I was in for another similar experience on the all-night flight, but when I saw my two friends at LAX waiting for the same plane as I was, nothing else seem to matter. We were "the three amigos", and off to the conference we went! At one point before we boarded the airplane I was able to look Cesar in the eyes and an exchange in understanding with very few words spoken, of "Wow-can you believe it?" I believe it's safe to say all three of us were also very excited to join our fellow delegates from the Pacific Region in the coming days. After serving with most of them prior to becoming delegate and seeing them at events like PRAASA, and extended family has been formed, A family of friends that care about each other and indeed are friends for life. I can't wait until we are all together again!

**On the plane – picturing the faces of my Area, and thinking "Why me"?** As I kind of thought the case would be, after the plane took off I wasn't anywhere near close tired enough to sleep. As the plane took off and I realized next is New York City, I was humbled as countless images and voices came to my mind of so many members I've served with over the years in general service (and some outside of general service) that loved AA from the bottom of their heart, and are just as qualified to be on this plane instead of me, serving as Delegate.

### **Arrival in New York's JFK Airport** Thurs/4-24/5:30a

**Arriving in NY City and good luck getting to the hotel:** You know the options that you have had information on for weeks but it never goes as the flyer told you it would? Up to four people sharing a town car in New York City for \$67 total? Did we really believe that information was true? We soon found out that brochure from the conference mentioning a price of \$67 for four people must've been written by Bill W himself, and must've been written decades ago The cab ride was not one of those typical New York City cab ride you hear about, it was pretty uneventful, but there would be time for those crazy typical cab rides in the week to come.

**Arrival at the Hotel – so close, but yet so far:** If I recall correctly we got into the hotel in Rye Brook a little after 9 AM. Of course we couldn't get into our rooms that are really what were thinking? It turns out each one of us would have different times that we could access our rooms later in the day so we decided to have breakfast and make a plan with the hopes the rooms would open up earlier than anticipated. By now I've gone one full night without sleep, and didn't do too much better the night before I flew out. But I was bound and determined to keep that positive attitude, keep moving forward.

**Plans change – Trudging New York City with Pacific Regional Trustee Rod B. as our tour guide:** as we were eating breakfast waiting for the hours to pass until we can get into our room, who shows up but our Pacific regional trustee Rod B. As the talk progressed a grand plan for the day was formed. Let's forget the rest, and take advantage of the fact we rarely get to spend time with Rod, he's just about to rotate out as our trustee, so let's go where he goes.

Now is about the time where we start meeting the interesting New York City cab drivers. The first and for me what would be the most memorable experience was the shuttle driver who serviced the hotel and took us to the train station near Rye Brook. His name was Nana, and he came from Ghana. Nana from Ghana will pop up in my conference story later on, and yes, it is related to recovery. By now you might think this report is about everything except the conference. We are almost at the Conference.

Taking the train back to the city people could tell we were from out of town for sure. It might have been because we looked like a bunch of school kids that didn't know how to ride the bus. We would confirm some information, then ask somebody else because we still aren't sure, then ask again. We were quite a motley crew. We informally discussed if we go into New York City let's at least get back early to get into our rooms. We arrived in New York City a little after 11:30 AM as I recall, and the next thing I know we are walking, walking, walking-fast trying to keep up with our fearless leader Rod B. Juan also knew the city a little bit because he was at the previous conference, but Rod had been coming for years so we were going where he said to go, city block after city block. I asked Rod at one point, "did you run track in high school?" He answered "yes". We seemed to have many times where Rod was guiding us to the next block and stopping us so cars could go by, and he would say to Cesar "I saved your life again!" By the end of the day he would save our lives at least 23 times. Or, was it 25, or 30. To make this part of the story much shorter we walked, we saw many of the sites there were to see, we rode the subway, we rode the double-decker bus, and we even took a ferry cruise. **Next thing we know, we're back to the hotel and its 10 PM Thursday night. I'm not too happy with myself for not making up the rest, but glad I went and didn't miss a once in a lifetime experience with my fellows.** Friday more delegates were expected to come in and the plan was to go back to New York City in the morning to visit GSO.

### **The long awaited trip to the General Service Office** Fri/4-25/8:00a

**Early to rise Friday morning, but well worth it. We are going to GSO!** Back to the train station and we are headed to NY City. More delegates show up from the Pacific Region so it's now getting really exciting. The only parts of GSO I had seen before today were in pictures or videos. We get off at the Harlem station and take yet another cab over to GSO.

There it was. The 475 Riverside Drive address I had seen in so many of the envelopes throughout my sobriety, not to mention the countless envelopes I've received since being Delegate. It was at this point again, that God did for me what I could not do for myself before we entered the building. Here I was a trusted servant they call a Delegate in a service position I had unknowingly put on a pedestal at times. Now, before I stepped into the building, making sure I captured a lot of photos and on the outside looking like a tourist interested in an attraction, on the inside I was feeling very small, in a very good way. That feeling before I had even stepped into GSO, did as much to prepare me for the conference as anything else up to this point. I not only felt like newcomer, I was a newcomer.

**Tour of General Service Office (con't)** Fri/4-25/10:00a

The plan for the morning was to start touring the offices and possibly the archives until later on in the morning when there was going to be an AA meeting inside the GSO called the 1728. Since GSO is just a tenant of the building and only occupies two floors, we signed in with security for the building on the first floor, got our visitor tags, and we went.

The first thing you see when you get out of the elevator is a gold circle and triangle on the wall. It hits home again, were actually here! Yeah! It's my second day here though, and even though I feel like I'm near the nerve center for Alcoholics Anonymous there's almost nothing I can do without feeling like I'm carrying my area with me, and with that came constant gratitude.

Basically the main floor of the General Service Office didn't look too much different to me than any standard office with cubicles on the inside and offices on the outside. Yes there were plenty of historical items hanging on the wall, but for the first few minutes I was a little underwhelmed. Many that have been here before told me they had their heartfelt moment when they saw the circle in the triangle on the wall. So when I pass that wall and I didn't feel that impacted at first I thought to myself, "have I missed something?" We signed in once more at the GSO receptionist's desk, and got our name tag that is also a little medallion that says "GSO" on it, then shortly after we were directed toward a group that had already started a guided tour, and kind of joined them. If you can picture this, with a large group of over 10 people some people would stick their head in an office and those in the back could not all fit in to see that same things all at the same time. People then started kind of doing their own thing and spending more time around certain offices before they moved on. And that left more time for personal interaction office to office.

This is where the magic started to happen for me. I started meeting GSO staff that I've communicated with many times by email and phone, but only knew them by email address or by voice. One person, Phyllis H., (General Manager of GSO) I had seen and met with before, but even seen her at the office where she primarily works with special because it helped me feel at home. I can't exactly explain why but I felt at home. What did the magic happening look like to me? It was in the form of staff members being so welcoming with a true joy in their heart showing that they get to work for the program that save their lives. And get paid for too! Not a bad thing.

It was in the form of getting to meet Mary C., our conference coordinator that sends so many documents out preparing for the conference it could make your head spin. She is the person that when Jane and I were doing our Pre Conference meetings and requested a clarification on information late on a Saturday, responded on Saturday night! I actually got to see she is a real person and not a computer program! (I didn't really think she was a program but as efficient as one it seemed) The magic continued to happen as some staff members would come out to the hallway and start talking about the desk they serve on with passion. Regional Forum Coordinator-Mary Clare, Cooperation with Professional-Racy J. Corrections-Clement C, Mary D – Literature, Eva S – International Conventions, Intellectual Property – Darlene S. , Michelle M – Archivist. When each one shared a little bit about the service they were doing they might as well have had a sign on the front of their chest saying "I love AA". Hearing a little about their personal lives, and seeing the passion in their eyes, looking at the little trinkets on their desk that in part showed what makes them tick. These were my magical moments at GSO I will never forget. I related.

**Tour of General Service Office – The 1728 Meeting** *Fri/4-25/11:00a*

It was now almost 11a and time to go to the 1728 meeting I had heard about. This meeting is open to non AA members, and specifically available to the Class A (Non-Alcoholic) Trustees who want to learn more about our program. It gets its name from multiplying 12x12x12, representing the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

Only AA members shared, as far as I can remember. About 60 people were in attendance and the attendees ranged from Class A Trustees, to visiting Delegates and in some cases their spouses, to local AA members just visiting GSO, some for the first time. What was very cool is that some of the local AA members and some others that were just visiting GSO for the first time and for no particular reason picked this day, found themselves at a meeting with trusted servants attending the General Service Conference from all over the United States and Canada. Mostly what I remember was allot of heads shaking up and down when people would voluntarily come to the microphone to share. It reminded me of the meetings I only read about when my first sponsor shared parts of AA history books with me. Those books described meetings in homes that were open to all who wished to learn about Alcoholism.

Being at this meeting would later on help be a reference for discussions on agenda items at the General Service Conference. I wouldn't know it at the time I was in the meeting, but later on, I would know how important this experience was for me. It was a game changer for me.

**Tour of General Service Office – I don't want it to end** *Fri/4-25/12:00p*

The meeting ended, and I don't want to leave GSO! Most of our Pacific Region crew were planning to go back into New York City for the afternoon. A few others didn't tour GSO in the morning and had just got there in time to go to the 1728 meeting. Kind of feeling like a kid doesn't Disneyland for the first time, I decided to stay at GSO and go on the rides one more time! So I paired up with a few others that were doing the tour after lunch and joined them. This time walking through the office was much different. I no longer saw anything that resembled a typical office and cubicle set up. With my new pair of glasses I only saw the heart of AA in the staff sitting at the desk's in the archives hanging on the wall. What was even cooler was because they were already familiar with our faces in the morning the receptionist basically just said go where we want, as if it was our own office. This trip through we spent most of our time in the archives. I highly recommend any time you are in New York, put a trip to GSO and specifically the archives on your trip itinerary. You will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience and it will change your life. Here you will see the couch Bill W sat on. You will see all the versions of the big book since the first printing. You will see pictures you have never seen before. You will see AA material from around the world in languages you might never have he

**A good end to Friday – Remembering my primary purpose.** *Fri/4-25/2:00p*

After GSO I know that lost sleep is catching up to me quick but I still wanted to pick up a few momentos in the City before returning to Ryebrook. Another spiritual experience would be right around the corner. When I got to Times Square I almost felt like I needed a meeting. With the schedule getting back to the Conference hotel not lending itself to finding an actual meeting to, I said a prayer, and tried to stay aware as I was making my way back to Grand Central Station. This is where another spiritual experience happened for me. I had gotten something to eat and realized I was meeting someone for dinner in just a few hours. So I tried to find someone on the street that might need this food.

**A good end to Friday (con't)** *Fri/4-25/2:00p*

It took a long time to find someone. But eventually I came across the homeless gentleman sitting on the sidewalk with a cup in front of him. I didn't have any cash on me but I did have food. When I asked him if he wanted this food his eyes lit up, and after that followed a 10 to 15 minute conversation. This was the meeting I was looking for. Although I wasn't homeless to this degree before coming into AA I could relate and empathize that this man situation. During our short talk I was able to share in general for me what it was like, what happened and what it's like now. That was for about two minutes of our conversation. The rest of the time I listened. The man was excited to tell me he wasn't going to be on the street much longer, that he had this paper in his back pocket that lists all his appointments in the coming week to get his medication straightened out and to get into public housing. The joy in his eyes that something was actually listening and feeling in my heart that God has done for me what I couldn't do for myself seem to put both of us in the right time in the right place for the right reasons. How do you end the conversation like this? I wished him well and thanked him for the talk and started to walk away. And I wasn't a few feet away before he acknowledged "hey, thanks, love ya!". And then I exchanged back to him "Love you too". **All these experience up till now are preparing me for the General Service Conference. I just never thought I would find this preparation in the form of a homeless person on the streets of New York City.** It definitely reminded me that our declaration "when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help I want to hand of AA always to be there..." is not limited to those you know have admitted they are alcoholic to us. Back to Grand Central Station I went, for the hour train ride to the Conference hotel in Ryebrook. I was feeling thankful.

**Saturday before the Conference** *Sat 4-26/2:00p-9p*

With Saturday being the last personal free schedule day before the conference, I spent much of my waking time reading material and notes from our Area's Pre-Conference meetings, including the Pre-Conference Assembly. There were some optional activities already starting at the conference too.

**3:00pm - There was an opening reception 1728 type meeting (12 steps, 12 Traditions, & 13 Concepts) open to Class A Trustees (non-alcoholic).** This was the first gathering where one could have a look for the first time "The conference is here. It's really happening!" It was a wonderful AA meeting and there are opportunities left and right to make a new friend. Some would end up being a friend for life, whether I knew it at the time or not at the time I met them. There were a few presentations including one on Tradition 4 where Class B Trustee at Large U.S. Bob W. mentioned the infamous "Rule 62 – Don't take yourself too damn seriously". Class A Trustee Albin A. presented on Concept 4 referred to Bill W. writing in 1962 that Right of Decision was a "matter of highest importance to our principles" – "we are all equal".

Seems as though with each day closer to the conference I somehow started to know very little, in the way that all my preparation and things I remembered about that preparation were easily forgotten (for the moment). At one point immediately after the meeting no one had name tags on yet so I went to introduce myself to the gentleman next to me. He responded back to me with his first and full last name. I felt I should have known what his service position was because I do normally connect his name with his position, but I was in a newcomer type of fog. And I say next "So, what is your service position here?" He responds back very humbly "I am the chairman of the General Service Board". It was a little bit of an awkward moment for me because I should have known this I was saying to myself. He went on just to say something helpful to help me feel like we are all newcomers here, which was a blessing.

**Saturday before the Conference (con't)**

**4:30pm - This was followed by a "REMOTE COMMUNITIES"** meeting that I missed. In talking with a friend at that conference that knew about that sleepless night I had flying in, they encouraged me it was ok to miss an optional meeting, and get some rest. So, I did. I am forever thankful for that loving advice. What I can tell you about the meeting, though, is that several delegates described what remote means in their area and actions they are taking to reach these communities. From reviewing another members meeting notes the most important thing I picked up was that remote doesn't necessarily equal far distances. On the other hand, one delegate that has to travel very far distances to serve their area shared "we are a long way from the "anyone, anywhere" mentioned in the responsibility statement. Presentations were followed by roundtable discussions where everyone attending had a chance to share about specific challenges and solutions to remote community aspects of their own areas.

**6:00pm – Informal dinner meeting with the complete group of Pacific Region Delegates and our Pacific Region Trustee Rod B.** We found an original type NY deli restaurant. It felt like a family reunion. Many of us have been at each other's side for years, going way back to PRAASA DCM roundtables. At the very least we have been serving with each other going back two or three years as Area Chairpersons or Alt Delegates. One of the highlights for me, besides the camaraderie, was that a good friend and fellow Delegate Gus, from Oregon was able to join us after recently battling a health issue that kept him from attending PRAASA San Diego. Woo Hoo! We are all here together, again. Each time I have been around the Pacific Region Delegates as a group I see a very strong group in terms of their ability to support each other and their experience. Tonight was no different. This might be the first time it started to sink in that this was our Trustee Rod B's last conference as Trustee, and how blessed we are to have him with us at this conference.

**7:30pm - Delegate only meeting.** Delegate only is not about keeping anyone out, but instead was more about just having a place to share one on one with your fellows in the same service position. It was more about a sharing session and orientation than anything else. This is where all of us Panel 64s got to meet the Panel 63s of the entire conference for the first time. 63 means a delegate started their term in 2013 and therefore, they are rotating out after 2014. They lovingly shared their experience, strength and hope, even covering suggestions for how to share and announce yourself formally at the microphone when sharing or asked to share. At one point we did an exercise where all the delegates in the room took turns announcing ourselves in the correct way we were being asked to do during the whole week of the conference. Many got it right. Others did not. The funny thing to me is how humbling and funny the experience was at the same time. Was I the only one that felt like kids do when their parents drop them off at first grade? And I appreciated it! Another thing shared by "The 63s" was their wish for us "64s" to succeed in representing our Areas, and basically they were here to help. Now that I look back, the panel 63s set the tone for a conference full of camaraderie and unconditional love. One of the Delegate speakers said early on in his service he was told "Keep your eyes open and watch. Keep your ears open and listen".

**Sunday April 27, Day 1-The Official Start of the 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference****9:00am – Registration****10:00am – Opening Session**

I'm feeling full of energy. Even though my body is still on West Coast time in my average bedtime is 1:30 am. After all, this is what we've been waiting for, the start of the conference. Gus my good friend and fellow Delegate from area 58 Oregon is sitting next to me.

**Guidance for voting and participating at the Conference** - Phyllis H. our General Service Office manager and Terry B. Chairman of the Gen. Service Board. Phyllis and Terry would be alternating throughout the conference as chairperson. They both offered information pertinent to how we do business at the conference including Rules of Order and how we should conduct ourselves while participating in floor discussions.

In Terry's opening remarks he lightly said "the conference is like a self-cleaning oven", I believe, referring to the old adage about the conference that no individual member of the conference can break it.

**Roll Call** - although I had already had several significant experiences prior to the conference starting some of them spiritual roll call hit me when I least expected it. Before you know it, my name was called as Delegate from San Diego and Imperial Area 8. As I raised my hand to say "present", a deep sense of gratitude ran through me. After I sat back down and tried to be present mentally for the remaining member's roll call, many names, faces and voices of my Area back home started flashing. The responsibility to represent AA on their behalf was more real than ever. As roll call ends my friend Gus leans over to me and says "I think I have my wings now"! After the end of roll call Phyllis announces the 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference was now seated, which was followed by a standing applause.

**Mechanics of the week & review of the conference manual** – We were guided thru the Conference Manual by Mary C., Conference Coordinator. Everything we would be doing for the next 7 days could be found in "The Yellow Binder". Where, when, and what in regard to the whole conference schedule was in that binder. Knowing that would be different than doing it for me. I started off fairly disoriented even though I had my yellow binder. As the week went on all I could think of is one next thing at a time, and do it to the best of my ability, although the review of the week did help.

**Keynote Speaker – Class B Trustee Roberta L.** – She formerly served as director of a AAWS (AA World Services Inc.) and most recently has served four years as our General Service Trustee, which he will be rotating out of after this conference. This type of trustee serves on both the General Service Board and AAWS Board. She recalled a time in the conference when is this carried over into Saturday morning (like past midnight), there was a determination from the conference to finish what they had started for the sake of AA. Another vivid memory from her early days in AA is when a man came into a home group acting funny, and smelling bad, and was often the corner. Members of that home needed to point to surround that man can offer him help. One other point she emphasized is that we must continue to remember how important it is to communicate with the newcomer eyeball to eyeball in this technological age. Roberta demonstrated a heart for service and a love for AA, and didn't take herself too seriously. Anyone that can communicate a life and death message of importance and at the same time sound like a stand-up comedian is special in my book.

**Sunday April 27 Day 1 (con't)****12:00pm – Pacific Region Orientation Lunch – Seeing a glimpse of the past from Area 8**

This was another gathering of all delegates within the Pacific region, along with our Trustee Rod B. for the most part, this was just a lunch that we all just happen to be attending. My biggest memory of this lunch was one Rod handed me the daily reflections that he had signed as a delegate back in the late 90s. And he turned to the page where other delegates from Area 8 had signed. When I saw the names of JP and Sally and realized I was signing the same book, I was overcome with emotion and gratitude.

**1:30 – Sunday Afternoon presentation topics**

Presentation topics are chosen by the conference committee on agenda at the previous conference at the same time they propose the next year's general conference theme. The 2014 General Service Conference theme was "Communicating our Legacies...Vital in a Changing World. Typically at the local level the conference theme and presentation topics don't get a lot of recognition in my view. It's my hope that we can use these to help focus our service efforts throughout the year, just like the conference uses them to focus their efforts at the conference. At this afternoon's session Kim C. spoke on Recovery, Unity, & Service – Our Responsibility, citing that the resolution that AA adopted to form the General Service Conference back in 1955 may be the least understood of our legacies. Scott Gilchrist presented on "passing it on through sponsorship". He raised the question "why are we hesitant and absent from passing on the importance of traditions to newcomers?" He also remembered how one of the best things his sponsor did for him was to demonstrate how to support the group conscience and get into service.

**All presentation topics will be available in their entirety, including translation, in the final General Service Conference report. Copies will be distributed when they are published sometime around September 2014.**

**Sunday Afternoon - 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Conference Committee Meetings – Overview of Committee Process**

Sunday Afternoon marked the start of Conference Committee meetings. I will not be reporting on any conference committee meetings. Other than those I served on. During conference committee meetings, members review the conference agenda items assigned to their committee. **Each committee can choose one of the following actions for each agenda item they are responsible to process:**

- 1) Make a recommendation to be voted on by the conference
- 2) Take No Action
- 3) Make an additional consideration. Additional considerations can be used in a wide variety of ways for everything from describing more information when no action was taken to assigning additional research to be conducted before they consider whether to revisit the issue again.

Each Conference Committee meets an average of 3 times. The first meeting typically includes the Trustees Committee Counterpart for that conference committee. Then the conference committee meets two more times prior to writing their final report to be heard (later in the week) on the floor of the General Service Conference.

**Sunday April 27 Day 1 (con't)**

**All Conference Committee Reports will be available in their entirety, including translation, in the final General Service Conference report. Copies will be distributed when they are published sometime around September 2014.**

I am assigned to two Conference Committees, Finance as a primary Committee and Archives as a secondary Committee. Not all Delegates are assigned two committees. It's my understanding that a secondary committee typically doesn't require as much effort and doesn't have as many agenda items as a primary committee.

**4:30-5:30pm – First Joint Conference Committee and Trustee Committee on Finance Meeting**

It's my first committee meeting and I'm nervous. When I had approached other members of the committee from 2013 and asked for some financial background that I could study to prepare for the meeting, they just smiled at me and said "Dean to show up and trust in the process, you'll be okay". That didn't ease my mind so even up until the time the meeting started I felt like there should be some numbers I could audit or look at after all, aren't I on the finance committee? When I was originally assigned to the finance committee, I had called a past chairperson who would also guide me away from worrying about numbers. He told me just to bring my love and passion for service in AA and I will do just fine.

**Getting comfortable in a foreign environment – Finance!** I felt like a bull in a china shop coming into that room. I was caring too much stuff and had too much on my mind. Fortunately, a kind trustee gently guided me from the seat that I first chose away from the main table up to the main table where conference committee members sit. Shortly after the meeting started the staff Secretary Don M. mentioned something about, "don't worry, you don't need previous experience in finance to be on this committee". What I heard was, this is about spirituality and not money. I was breathing easier as time went on. Next, the treasurer of the general service board, David M. started a compressed version of the financial report that he would be giving on the conference floor. This was his first year as treasurer and would be his first General Service Conference too. He immediately indicated that he will no longer be using the word loss in regard to La Viná finances, and that he is aware many in the Fellowship feel the word loss should not be connected with a tool for recovery that saves lives."

At this point, all discomfort from being on the Finance Committee assignment slipped away. These words from the treasurer were quite unexpected. Now my heart and soul was in this thing, and I am stoked I'm on the finance committee. **Please contact me if you would like a complete version of his financial report prior to it being published in the formal conference report translated and available around September 2014. I will be summarizing key points of his report later on in this document.**

**6:00-9:00pm – Opening Dinner:** The dinner was open to all conference members and their guests. It was an opportunity just to wind down, meet more conference members. There were five 10 minute speakers that ranged from GSO staff to conference delegates. Our own Juan M., delegate from Area 5, was one of the speakers and he represented us well. He talked about early days in Mexico prior to getting sober, when he would knock on the doors of AA meetings and then run away. Little did they know it was a future delegate causing that mischief!

**Monday April 28, Day 2****9:00am-12:00pm – First Conference Committee on Finance (no Trustees)**

At this meeting the Trustees don't attend. Delegates discuss the conference agenda items, and anything else the committee feels is worthy of discussing or proposing to the Conference. We discussed the following Agenda items:

**Agenda Item A – Review suggested Area Contributions for Delegates expenses for the Conference**

The committee decided to take no action.

No one on the committee made a proposal to raise recommended contributions at this time. Past increases have occurred in approx 7 year increments and the last increase occurred in 2012. Other discussion on this topic reflected concern that many areas have limited funds, and it may alienate them to ask for continued increases for delegates, fees. The other concern mentioned by some was that it may be misleading, asking areas to solely fund the delegate, when groups are already contributing to GSO to support services, including those of the delegate. Staff was asked if asking for funds specifically for the delegates, fees equated to targeted contributions, something they thought was not acceptable in AA. Our staff Sec. said, this is not considered targeted contributions as the money goes into the general fund. Personally, I feel these concerns deserve more discussion and would raise another question for future consideration. "Does approaching the areas to subsidize funding for the delegate further isolate the general membership from being aware of the costs for AA services?"

**Agenda Item B – Review the self support packet (literature #F-19)**

An additional consideration was formed to ask the Trustees Finance Committee to make changes to the Green Self Support Card.

One key change involved removing the phrase "Give until it feels good" under "Personal Thoughts" section of the card. The committee felt this "flowery" language didn't make a distinct point and a point of our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. Another key change was to add the phrase "your contributions help ensure the future of our fellowship worldwide" in the "Some facts" section of the card.

No other parts of the self support packet were not seen to need changes at this time.

My main take away from hearing committee discussion on the self support card was it everybody sitting around the table, thought regardless of how long this card had been in existence that AA can do better to clearly communicate the important principle of seven tradition. I felt very proud to be part of this conversation. The truly funny part came when one of our committee members, who happen to be a French-speaking Canadian and was being interpreted to, started having a site discussion with his interpreter. We thought our committee member had a problem since he didn't always call over the interpreter, unless it was a big deal. When we asked the interpreter what the problem was, he said it wasn't straightforward how to interpret the word flowery. And to be honest, the exact word being used in committee was flowery then followed by a word that I probably shouldn't say in my report. Let's just say the second word was "stuff". That's as close as I can come. The meeting adjourned after this discussion, leaving one more Finance committee meeting for the conference yet to happen.

**Monday April 28, Day 2 (con't)**

**All Board Reports will be available in their entirety, including translation, in the final General Service Conference report. Copies will be distributed when they are published sometime around September 2014.**

**2:00pm-5:30pm - Board Reports:**

**General Service Board Report Summary – Terry B./Chair**

**Asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge passing of Wayne Parks**, past Southwest regional Trustee and past G.S.O. general manager, passed away in Rogers, Arkansas on January 26, 2014. **Marty Watters**, Western Canada regional trustee, died peacefully and surrounded by the love of his family on March 4, 2014.

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. They also decided to add a 15th Initiative with the working title of "Serving the Fellowship."

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.

**(I encourage groups in our local Area to consider resubmitting Safety in AA literature proposals that were once submitted to the General Service Conference and no action taken.** It appears the board may be reconsidering their decision not to create literature on this issue, which deferred to the groups to take action locally.

This year we will be celebrating the **23rd World Service Meeting in Warsaw, Poland**. The theme is "The Three Legacies: Vital for All Generations."

**Closing Thoughts:** 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.

**Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) Board Report Highlights****Gary L./Chair**

Group Services — A net **total of 1921 new A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada** were listed at G.S.O. last year. G.S.O.'s A.A. Website — The **www.aa.org website redesign** was implemented in the Spring of 2014. Online Store sites have steadily increased over the past several months. Currently we are **achieving about 40% of our total literature sales online**. G.S.O. hosted the **2013 Day of Sharing** on October 15, 2013. **Stepping Stones attended for the first time and was joined by Al-Anon and NCADD**. This yearly gathering continues to be an important venue for sharing among these organizations. GSO staff members were invited to, and attended 47th Mexico General Service Conference, Ukraine 15th General Service Conference, Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting, Asia-Oceania Service Meeting, European Service Meeting, and the Al-Anon International Convention.

**Monday April 28, Day 2 (con't)****AAWS Board Report Highlights (Con't)**

We received preorders for more than 100,000 units of the special **75th Anniversary Commemorative Alcoholics Anonymous** edition Big Book. As of December 2013, there are **69 translations of Alcoholics Anonymous** in distribution, with **17 new translations pending**. **G.S.O. welcomed 1,942 visitors** (including several groups of 10 to 60 members). It is not unusual to see visitors standing quietly with tears in their eyes in front of the multiple translations of the Serenity Prayer in the entrance hallway.

**Grapevine Board Report Highlights - Nancy H/Chair**

We received preorders for more than 100,000 units of the Circulation – Grapevine's average monthly print circulation was 77,126 in fiscal year 2013 (this is less than budget by 1,634 and less than 2012 by 6,132). Following the May 2011 Relaunch of [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org), an online subscription was introduced as Grapevine Online (GVO), which as of December 2013 averages 5,175 subscribers. The average bimonthly circulation of La Viña was 10,145 (this is 945 greater than budget and 988 above 2012 levels).

Further efforts to establish connections and to underscore the value and relevancy of Grapevine and La Viña to the Fellowship are central to the GV70 celebrations and the Carry the Message and Grassroots/Events ad hoc committees.

Should the Fellowship desire that Grapevine and La Viña continue into the future — for alcoholics and friends, many of whom may not know about A.A. yet — additional subscribers will be required. Organization-wide support for A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is integral to our history and our future.

**Treasurers Report – David M/Treasurer**

This simplified summary of the Treasurer report is provided by Dean B. I have simplified it for use by the average group. If you want the more detailed report you can request it from me via email [delegate@area8aa.org](mailto:delegate@area8aa.org). Contributions were \$6,906,371 in 2013, an increase of approximately \$348,763, or 5.3% greater than 2012. The 2013 actual contributions received were \$209,371, or 3.1% above 2013 budget. In fact, December contributions were the best month in the history of A.A. On one hand dollar contributions continue their upward growth, as indicated by the dollar amount received in December 2013. On the other hand the percentage of total Groups contributing to GSO is at an all time low. About 72% of AA services are paid for by Contributions. The other 28% is paid for by selling literature. I believe there are continued opportunities to use this information demonstrate how being self supporting is not all about the money, and it may be time to hold more workshops and ask ourselves tough questions about how effective are we in carrying the message of self support to the newcomer. Can we carry this message without alienating them away from work at hand needed to save their life? How can we be more effective carrying the message that participation is the key, and that participating means helping to preserve the future of the fellowship so it is here for the baby born today?

**Monday May 28, Day 2 (con't)**

**7:15-7:35pm – Lavigne (French version of Grapevine) Presentation:** Trustee Donald Cusson shared on the development and history of the AA magazine LaVigne for French Language members. The first issue was produced in 1965. In 2015 it will mark it's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! The publication is not conference approved but comes from AA members. They don't have the equivalent Corporate structure that grapevine has, so it literally is generated by members.

**7:15-7:35pm – Area Highlights/ Pacific Region:** Highlights are small essays required to be written by each delegate in their first year of service. Some highlights include straight facts about their area, how much territory it covers, how many groups they have, etc. Others did what I did and try to write it in story form. Each person gets two minutes maximum time, so it's a little nerve-racking, knowing you have this time limit. On the other hand, it was so wonderful being at the podium with all the Pacific region delegates that were in their first year of service. I realized once we all got on stage and were sitting next to each other and the first person started to read your highlights that possibly everybody else was thinking when I was thinking, that we wanted our friends to do well. There was a lot of love in the air, and it showed me once more that we are lucky in the Pacific region to have the representation we do. I highly recommend that in the final conference report that comes out in September, looking through the area highlights. You will learn a lot about the different areas in the region from a unique perspective and you may learn a little bit about the delegate that shared those highlights.

**8:15-9:00pm – Sharing Session – What's on your mind?** There were several sharing sessions throughout the conference. At first I thought, why do they have the sharing sessions because if we've had long days why have them at the end of the day? Then, as the conference progressed, I started to realize that each of us is processing so much information and were not getting to very many meetings (at least not in the same way we did back home) and these sharing sessions really helped my spiritual condition. At tonight's sharing session people shared everything from disappointment the board report that mentioned safety and AA, to concern the background material is not in Spanish. Oh, and let's throw the need for liability insurance by some home groups. Both the translation issue and the safety in AA issue seem to get a majority of like-minded members also interested in those questions. And in the case of all three issues I recall at the sharing session, I guess the main thing is we had a place to share. No matter what the topic was or how popular it was.

**Tuesday April 29, Day 3**

So it's official day 3 of the conference and besides the jet lag challenges of bed time, I'm feeling comfortable. By now the Conference is becoming something like a home group. Yes a home group. What was this big huge larger than life thing when I got here ( including those with titles like "Trustee", and "Chair of the Board" and "GSO Staff") now feels like a small room with friends. The people with all those titles I speak of, they are people just like anyone else, most of them were recovered alcoholics like me. And I'm starting to hear personal stories that include challenges in extreme struggle just like I experienced when I showed up at the doors of the recovery center with trash bag in hand.

**Tuesday April 29, Day 3 (Con't)**

I no longer see titles around the room. I see people. And like other parts of my personal program, getting to this vision might have been an inside job as they say. A change had happened from within. My surroundings had not changed, but my perception did. Not to be coy, but kind of a new pair of glasses.

From here forward in my report expect gaps. Being in Day 2 at the Conference means the last day of Conference Committees for most. There are exceptions, though. It also means were about to go into day 3, which is the start of Conference committee reports from the floor. I will continue to give timelines, so you have a sense of what happened during each day and how long the day was. But I will only cover in this report what I consider to be key agenda items of interest to our area and things I personally participated in like the Pacific Regional Trustee election, selected agenda items, Archives committee actions, and of course my primary responsibility Finance committee.

**9:00am-12:00pm – Second Meeting of Conference Committee on Finance:** Yesterday we had covered both Agenda items we were assigned ahead of time. We took no action on Delegate's conference expenses, but we did suggest small but important changes in wording on the green self-support card. Go back to the first conference committee meeting on Monday for these details.

So today, it looks like a pretty simple day for us for us. Will we get out early?. We would be surprised.

**An agenda item is born.** In discussion of new business the concern was raised about conference material not being available in all languages of those attending. On our committee, we didn't have any Spanish-speaking members, but we did have at least one delegate from an area where translation is an ongoing interest. The committee also had a Delegate member from Canada, whose primary language is French. The stage seemed to be set for an active discussion. We all went around the room, taking turns sharing with everyone speaking favorably about the need to have all things translated at a conference that has members with different primary languages. Why wasn't translation of all Conference related material brought to the conference for a vote in the past? If it was to be considered in the future there certainly would have to be a review of the issue from a financial point of view. The conversation seemed to end with the suggestion from our staff person that it would be a good topic to forward to the trustees for further research. That was followed by a collective pause by the committee. At one point in one of my shares, I had restated what other people had shared as one statement just to confirm I was clear on what was said. Maybe that's why someone on the committee asked me to say that again. I didn't know where we were going with this, but I did my best to restate what I felt the group had said individual already. After that collective statement was voiced something special started to happen. Raymond from Canada called over his interpreter invoiced "Yes, Areas in Canada have spoke about this recently, and we fully support this!" Then another member speaks up "And it should also include the

**Tuesday April 29, Day 3 (Con't)****Second Meeting of Conference Committee on Finance: (Con't)**

wording ALL CONFERENCE RELATED MATERIAL". Then someone else asked "And how about the words "Because we are all equal?" Then "the wording should be flexible enough for the conference to adopt." Then "How about using existing volunteer translators to help?" "Do you have resources in Canada?" "Yes we have resources in Canada." At some point our Committee Secretary smiles and says "This sounds like an Agenda item ". Smiles went around the room. Then the words that had been crafted collectively on paper were given to the staff secretary to type out and reread back to the committee. This is what was read back to the committee

*"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."*

As it was read some tears started flowing around the room, followed by hugs. "We actually have an agenda item" "This needed topic will finally be in front of the conference!"

Next, we are reminded that we should not discuss this agenda item outside of our Committee. We would have to wait until as late as Friday until our Committee Report, so the General Service Conference could hear it and see if action would be taken. 3 days seemed like it would be an eternity.

**3:15-4:00pm – Grapevine Presentation by Amy B./Executive Editor - Publisher**

Amy emphasized there is a lot of material available online for use in local AA Grapevine 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We were reminded that anyone can now go to [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) and sign up for the quote of the day and download 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary material. The grapevine will be represented at the AA Birthday Founders Day celebration in Akron this year. She offered open invitation to all to relate to an aspect of their AA experience thru the Grapevine.

Comments from microphone following the presentation included:

-if you have a way to share about this online – tell someone. I believe they were referring to taking pictures of a poster, etc and sending it to friends via email or text.

**4:00-4:45pm – East Central and West Central Regions Area Highlights****4:45-5:30 – General Sharing Session**

-More comments about the need for translation of our materials in other languages more consistently. They also mentioned the literature sales order forms.

-There are facebook issues at the conference. Pictures of inside the Conference Hall are showing up on FB, in addition to saying that person was at the Conference. (it appears to be a result of peoples settings on FB, not being set for enough security).

-Don't "Hawk" the grapevine. This means the person is asking not to just give away Grapevines, but instead try to share personally the information inside it and how it has helped you.

**6:00-9:00pm – Delegate Dinner** – Elect new Delegate Chairperson & sharing your report at home.

### **Wednesday April 30, Day 4**

It's now day 4 of the conference. Today is the first meeting of my other Conference Committee Archives, the Area Inventory Group Sharing session, and elections for 2 Regional Trustees. One election is for Pacific Regional Trustee and we in Area 8 have a candidate standing to serve, Joel C.

Also I need to mention my **Conference buddy Kathy B.** each new get delegate is paired up with another delegate that has more experience with the conference. We didn't talk too often at the conference, but when we did she always gently could steer me in the right direction.

#### **9:00am-12:00pm – Inventory Group “L”**

The year 2014 is the second of three years the Conference is taking its own inventory. I don't have a clear summary to offer in this report, and neither has one been published yet. **You will find the Conference Inventory Summaries in the final General Service Conference report. Copies will be distributed when they are published sometime around September 2014.**

#### **12:15pm – Pacific Regional Delegate Luncheon**

This was the lunch where we would give our trustee Ron B his going away mementos, and let him know one more time how much his service is appreciated. We presented Rod with an authentic Native American dream catcher and a picture frame with artwork that used much of Rod's own words in the art. Rod would talk a lot about how we in service are like ripples on the water and in Native American culture everything is understood through circles.

#### **1:30-3:15pm – Regional Trustee Elections**

So, some nerves are coming back up this afternoon. As the delegate possible to present our areas trustee nominee. The resume has already been provided to the conference in those voting, but each delegate is asked to present up to two minutes on your areas nominee and it's recommended the talk be something other than what is already on the resume.

Although an area offers a nominee, Trustees don't really work for the area they come from. Instead they work for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. All regional trustees are of the type “Class B”. That means they are alcoholic. (Class A Trustees are nonalcoholic). One way to remember the distinction is A= amateur, and B= boozier! As a Trustee (Class A or Class B) that person serves on the Corporate Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. They basically become the legal owners of our fellowship, since they represent the corporation. Legally, they can do anything they want with our fellowship. But they don't, and not what makes the choice for which trustees will serve our fellowship so important.

I've looked over all the resumes from candidates within the Pacific region, and have tried to write a two minute presentation several times that can capture aspects of our nominee Joel C. that isn't on his resume. A few minutes before it's my turn to present, I write 3-4 of what I consider to speak about what makes Joel tick and go for it. Our region would have been in great hands with a number of Candidates from those available.

**Joel C. from San Diego/Area8 was elected Pacific Regional Trustee by the hat.** The final two candidates that went into the hat were Joel C and Rick H/Alaska. It never was about me and my presentation of Joel's resume. What it was about was the integrity the Joel had demonstrated in his years of service at the conference. And whenever the hat is involved, in my view it also has to be about a higher power.

**Wednesday April 30, Day 4 (Con't)****3:30-5:15pm – Committee Reports and Discussion****See last section in Report / Selected Agenda Items****5:30-7:30pm – Joint Trustees Committee on Archives**

Archives Committee is my secondary Conference Committee. At tonight's meeting we saw a preview of the revised Video – Markings on the Journey. There was no other discussion on the Video. The conference committee would be voting to recommend the committee meeting in a separate session. There was a very neat thing that I realized though, that our AA archivist Michelle M. loves AA and loves what she does. She happened to be sitting next to me in and toward the end of the video I heard a her saying something. As I turned I realized she was mouthing the words used in the end of the video. She had them memorized and was speaking them as though they were her words. We are lucky to have a Non-AA GSO staff member like Michelle. She may be the archivist, but she is also a one of our treasures, in my view.

**7:30-8:45pm Committee Reports and Discussion****See last section in Report / Selected Agenda Items****8:45-9:30pm – General Sharing Session****Thursday May 1, Day 5**

Day 5 of the conference is here. My notes record "A new energy is with me, I seem to be getting my committee report stride". This process I'm witnessing here is nothing short of a miracle. There is a lot of fun to be had in it all too. In my Conference buddy is still popping up from around the corner at times. I least expect and asking me "how is it going?".

Throughout the committee reports the use of friendly amendments is very interesting. It seems like they just started using friendly amendments this year I may be wrong. What happens when a friendly amendment is used is that someone from the microphone proposes a change to the committee's advisory action, then that committee's chair (who is present at the podium in front of the conference) confers informally with their committee. Sometimes it's done physically, and they all get together at a table. Other times it's done by eye. It seems to be working.

The other thing I'm noticing now that we are in committee reports is how no matter how long we discuss something once its final, people on both sides of the issue move onto the next agenda item without a problem. Another thing I'm noticing is that even though I know the person next to me is not in favor of a particular advisory action, they almost always weigh on the side of voting to reconsider that item. I guess they would rather hear all the information available about that item before they vote no, as opposed to voting down any point of order like reconsideration, just because they don't want it to pass.

**9:00am-12:00pm Committee Reports and Discussion****See last section in Report / Selected Agenda Items**

**Thursday May 1, Day 5 (Con't)****12:00pm Second Meeting of Conference Committee on Archives**

The key Agenda item we considered was passing of the Archives Video Markings on the Journey. There was some discussion about minor errors still present in the video, including the subtext blended in too much with the background. Michelle M/Archivist said changes of the type being reported would be extremely costly to incorporate at this late stage in production. **Committee voted to make advisory action to approve the revised video.**

Other discussion included a request for the committee to research further if there is support in the fellowship to recommend key historical conference recordings be allowed to be made public. One example of recordings not available to the fellowship is the 1955 St. Louis Conference discussion they have in archives (non-public). Current AA policy precludes conference recordings from being made public.

**1:15-5:00pm Committee Reports and Discussion**

**See last section in Report / Selected Agenda Items**

**5:45pm Dinner Break****7:00-8:00pm Committee Reports and Discussion**

**See last section in Report / Selected Agenda Items**

**8:15-8:45pm International Convention Presentation by Eva S/GSO Staff**

GSO staff put on a really funny play that centered around a wide variety of characters coming to the international convention. They called themselves the 475 Riverside Players! All of them were dressed eccentrically for their part, including one player that stood out called "Rainbow" named for her multi colored hair style. After several sessions of seriousness with committee items, this play was a welcome change.

**The bottom line is, plan now if you're going to Atlanta in 2015 for the international convention!**

In Eva's words:

"I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest. Thank you for coming in. I know you like becoming your reasonable rest already being expressed for information about the 2015 International Convention to be held July 2-5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia.

We expect several thousand local A.A. members to greet A.A. members as we come together to experience A.A.'s 80th anniversary year. Gathering together in Atlanta will be a wonderful opportunity to rededicate ourselves to carrying A.A.'s message of recovery. **Registration should be active by September 2014.**

During comments and questions from the microphone, one delegate shared how in very early sobriety his first large general service gathering was so important. He said he was feeling lost and someone alone at a regional forum when he was introduced to a staff member of GSO. "I wasn't anybody with the title reason to be there" he thought. But this staff member treated him like it was very important that he was there, and just showed loving personal interest. He said that interaction changed his life and in large part why he is part of this General Service Conference today.

### **Friday May 2, Day 6**

I woke up today with a familiar feeling. The “extreme gratitude and I don’t want this to end” feeling, mentally and spiritually anyhow. Seems like I can’t go one session at the Conference without being overwhelmed with gratitude for the Conference process we have given, that helps preserve the future of AA. And when feeling comes another one is right there with it How grateful I am to be given this opportunity to participate in that process. On the other hand physically, my body is saying were almost done, thank you.

Although the conference is scheduled to end around 5:30pm, the agenda for the conference is just like any other AA agenda, it’s a target. I have heard recollections of Friday’s at the conference, sometimes going past midnight, depending on floor motions.

I’m really excited to see how the Conference receives the Finance motion regarding a translation plan. Finally Friday is here.

As I stated earlier in my report, I am not covering all business items in this report. The full list of advisory actions, additional considerations, and floor motion outcomes are available at [Area8aa.org](http://Area8aa.org).

**In This main report I have only noted the actions of the Committees I served on. Also Included as its own section at end of this report is a group of the 11 advisory actions we reviewed as an area in Pre-Conference, and the status of each in regard to how they were voted on at the conference.**

#### **8:30am-10:30am - Committee Reports and Discussion**

Both of my Committees presented reports on Friday Morning.

##### **Archives Committee Report –**

Committee Recommendation to approve the revised video “Markings on the Journey”

-passed with substantial unanimity.

-minority opinion was heard that expressed concern over the amount of errors that still exist in the final product. **No motion to reconsider – Motion passes.**

##### **Finance Committee Report –**

Committee Recommendation :

*“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. **After 1 comment from the Delegate from Puerto Rico expressing (in summary) the fellowship has been waiting a long time for this, the vote was called to question. (yes after 1 comment). The Chair asks with a smirk “are we really ready to vote”? Yes we are ready.** The motion then passed unanimously, followed by a standing ovation. It was the first standing ovation I saw at the conference that was not connected to a person.*

**Friday May 2, Day 6 (Con't)****8:30am-10:30am - Committee Reports and Discussion (Con't)**

**Floor Motions followed after all the Committee Reports** had been completed. Floor motion is a motion that has been submitted to the Chair of the Conference at some point throughout the week. The needed to have been submitted to the Chair prior to the end of Committee Reports to be accepted for presentation to the conference. A Floor motion typically includes either 1) A motion the conference never has seen in advance and was not on the Conference Agenda or 2) A motion that was previously either considered by Committee and no action taken or 3) A motion that was previously either recommended by Committee and failed to be passed by the Conference.

This is Concept V in action, at least in the case where the issue has been heard by a body and voted down. (some say that is a true appeal) Concept V reads: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

**\*\*One selected floor motion** I will cover in my main report is about a Pamphlet on Mental Illness that was a Conference agenda item. The literature Committee "Took No Action" so in turn the item didn't come to the floor of the Conference for further discussion.

**A floor motion was presented to "Create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness"**

-the floor motion was voted in by the Conference (simple majority) to be heard for discussion.

-the Conference members opinion varied widely, some saying it's covered elsewhere in literature, some saying "This proposal is not in keeping with our singleness of purpose", and yet some others shared "If we (in AA) believe that alcoholism isn't a form of mental illness in itself I recommend you do some research". One class A trustee who is a psychologist spoke highly in favor of this motion, indicating he knows alcoholics he has treated that also have a separate mental disorder could be helped by such a pamphlet.

In the end this proposal missed passing 2/3 of the conference by 7 votes. At one point it failed to pass and a motion to reconsider passed. Only to eventually not gain the support needed to pass, at this conference anyway. From what I see the Conference isn't a fast burning fire, instead it is more like a slow cooker. **No conference is binding on the previous.** So, we may see this motion again. **The class A trustee who shared on this from the floor also mentioned "Why don't we make it online only, in a easy to read one page format type of thing."** The online one page format is another idea that may have been born at this conference, we will see. **Agenda item for 2014 anyone?**

**You will find the Floor Motions listed in the final General Service Conference report. Copies will be distributed when they are published sometime around September 2014. They will also be posted at Area8aa.org.**

### **Saturday May 3, Day 7**

Today I woke up with a grateful heart. It was almost unreal that I was in the middle of gathering up things in my room and packing so soon. 4 days ago after lagging from my body clock never quite adjusting to the time change, I had moments that between the long days and enormous amounts of information to process, that the week would last forever. Now...it seems like I am just ready to start. I've learned so much. Now there are many more faces to flash back to in gratitude as I take a few minutes of quiet time before I leave the room. Now there are countless new friends. I've met at the conference, some who will be here next year and some will not be. It's amazing how the conference experience has allowed me to form what I think will be deep and lasting friendships for life with people I had never met before this week, and for whom I've only interacted with a handful of times.

This is the longest I can remember where I've been away from my wife for this much time and I miss her dearly. As much as I'd like to get back home to San Diego immediately though, unfortunate that I get to stop in my old hometown of Batavia, New York for a few days and then fly on to San Diego. It's in Batavia where I had my last drink and admitted myself to a hospital treatment center with trash bag in hand. I'm wondering how strangely wonderful it may feel to take a walk by that hospital, after having come back from the general service conference where I was blessed to serve as a Delegate. If you want the rest of the story, please ask me, I'd be more than willing to share.

#### **9:00 am-10:00am – Farewell Talks by Rotating Trustees**

Today the conference will be same farewell to three General Service Class "B" Trustees (remember the B=Boozer!), Rod B, Donald C, and Roberta L., If you recall earlier in my report, I shared how a trustee search for four years. Each one of these servants has put their heart and soul and time into serving AA for that amount of time. It's not only been a great sacrifice for them, as is mentioned in the opening talks, it's a sacrifice for the family as well. Thankfully, most spouses of trusted servants that are staying in the middle of AA, are thankful their partners are in the middle of AA. Eva S. might have said it best in the opening remarks when she said our goodbyes are never permanent, that we will meet again soon. Either in today's sharing, or in past talks by the same individuals I have heard a common thread of gratitude for being able to serve AA in the capacity of Trustee, and how there was a time in their life when trust was not abundant. Another common thread I heard in their talks today was gratitude for loved ones who've supported them unconditionally. Rod B. Our Pacific regional trustee who is rotating out has brought his mom along with him today. Her name is Regina. I cannot write any amount of words that could describe the gratitude and respect that you can see coming from Rod towards his mom, and the grateful and happy presence Regina shows as a proud mom. **With the trustees talks ending, the meeting is adjourned, and exchanges of hugs and goodbyes flood the room.**

#### **Visit To Stepping Stones, The Home of Bill W. and Louis.**

The last stop before heading to the airport is a visit to the home of Bill W, and Lois they call stepping stones. As much as I like archives, and have never been to stepping stones, I mostly looking forward to the relaxation and spending the last few hours with my newfound friends.

**Saturday May 3, Day 7 (Con't)**

This is another part of the trip. That is probably best shared through conversation. So I encourage you to ask me about this part of the trip whenever you feel like it. What can I tell you about my short hour visit to stepping stones? First, it's absolutely beautiful home in countryside setting, and today is 65° and blue skies. So, between the two, this field trip already is awesome. There is one odd thing about Bill's neighborhood, though. The neighbors seem to be upset that so many people visit stepping stones and have to clog up their street to do it, that they parked cars so close to the opening of Bill's property that buses sometimes get stuck. It happened to us on the way out. On one end, I was thinking to myself, even Bill W has got crazy neighbors. On the other hand, if there really are no coincidences, I thought how ironic it would be if these people blocking the driveway or one of their family members ever has a drinking problem, and need the fellowship Bill W founded.

The tour through the property was nice. I enjoyed the whole thing, and didn't have too many aha moments, except two. One was as I was walking from where the bus drops you off and going toward Bill's little writing shack called "Wits End", and I realized one more time, I'm coming back from the general service conference, and walking in the same footsteps as Bill once did going between his house and his writing studio. I'm so glad I got to share this moment with my newfound friends. As you step into Wits End. One can immediately see Bill's writing desk, the one we've seen in so many pictures. On the walls are plaques of the serenity prayer from all over the world, along with other momentos. The other aha moment I had was going into the main house where they take you through the kitchen, and show you the table where Ebby 12 stepped Bill. Matter of fact, to this day I'm still processing that moment. And I can't finish a summary of this visit without mentioning how wonderful it was to be in the house where Lois lived with and took care of Bill.

Next we get on the bus (get blocked by the neighbors at end of driveway) and the trip to Stepping Stones is over, the Conference is over, and I'm saying to myself that It's been the most spiritually charged, amazing experience I've ever had. Thankfully as Eva said earlier in the day to us all, Good Byes are never permanent.

I want to thank my Area for giving me their Trust, and the opportunity to be part of this E-Ticket ride. There are so many members I've served with back home that are just as qualified, or more so than myself to be here. I guess God will keep why this is the right thing, right place, and right time for me to have been here. Before I came I thought there may be some things I can bring to the table at the Conference. But now I leave knowing I received so much more than I have brought to any table here. I'm leaving extremely grateful.

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FOR REPORT SEPARATION**

## **SUMMARY OF THE 11 AGENDA ITEMS REVIEWED BY AREA 8 DURING PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS**

**The next section of this report can be separated and used by itself as it contains a brief summary of the Agenda Items Area 8 reviewed during our Pre-Conference Workshops meetings and Assembly. You will find the full Conference Advisory Action Summary, The Additional Considerations, and the Floor Actions posted at AREA8aa.org as well. Please, let your groups and districts know I am available to come to your meetings and answer any questions about your Conference that I can.**

### **COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

#### **AGENDA ITEM A:**

CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE SECTION, "REFERRALS FROM COURT AND TREATMENT FACILITIES" IN THE PAMPHLET "IF YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL..." (clarifying attendees are responsible for managing their own court cards)

**RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE**

**CONFERENCE VOTE – passes with unanimity.**

### **CORRECTIONS**

#### **AGENDA ITEM A:**

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR REVISIONS TO THE "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. (Remove word "drying out" – Add Phrase "Host Retreats", etc)

**RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE**

**CONFERENCE VOTE – passes with unanimity.**

### **GRAPEVINE**

#### **AGENDA ITEM C:**

REVIEW REPORT FROM A.A. GRAPEVINE BOARD ON FEASIBILITY OF PRODUCING ONE BOOK IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL). (note: book in ASL means video book)

**NO ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE: DOESN'T GO TO CONFERENCE FOR VOTE**

**Committee Report stated they did not find it financially feasible and not enough members had requested this.**

**GRAPEVINE****AGENDA ITEM C:**

RECONSIDER PUBLISHING THE “ALCOHOLISM AT LARGE” SECTION OF THE GRAPEVINE. (This proposal wants pages removed– NonConference Approved articles in Grapevine and LaViná that provide information on alcoholism)

**NO ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE: DOESN'T GO TO CONFERENCE FOR VOTE  
(gray pages stay)**

LATER IN CONFERENCE A FLOOR MOTION IS MADE TO REMOVE GRAY PAGES

**CONFERENCE VOTE : (total 123) Yes 70 - No 53 – motion failed**

Much discussion during floor motion – motion needed 82 to pass. Comment I made directly to a Grapevine Editor that making the disclaimer larger may unite everyone around this issue.

**LITERATURE****AGENDA ITEM D:**

“DISCUSS SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE PAMPHLET “QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON SPONSORSHIP.” (P-15) (Various suggested changes including how a sponsor might approach the God topic with a newcomer)

**NO ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE: DOESN'T GO TO CONFERENCE FOR VOTE**

**LITERATURE****AGENDA ITEM E:**

“DISCUSS THE SUGGESTED CHANGE TO “LIVING SOBER”  
(remove drug related wording / statements)

**RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE**

**CONFERENCE VOTE : 118 TOTAL – yes 50 – no 68 – motion fails. (wording stays)**

The points made were polar opposites even though a clear majority voted not to remove the language. Some seem to think having the language in there is the wide tent philosophy; others feel words are not the answer-sponsorship is.

**LITERATURE****AGENDA ITEM F:**

“CONSIDER THE USE OF THE CIRCLE AND TRIANGLE AS AN UNOFFICIAL A.A. SERVICE MARK ON CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE.”

**NO ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE: DOESN'T GO TO CONFERENCE FOR VOTE**

**LITERATURE****AGENDA ITEM G:**

“CONSIDER A REQUEST TO CREATE A PAMPHLET FOR ALCOHOLICS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.”

**NO ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE: DOESN'T GO TO CONFERENCE FOR VOTE**

Many questions from floor about the committees basis – they say Mental Illness is covered in our literature.

LATER IN CONFERENCE A FLOOR MOTION IS MADE THAT LITERATURE WHICH FOCUSES ON “ALCOHOLICS IN RECOVERY WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES” BE DEVELOPED.

Much emotional discussion followed the floor motion. Class A Trustee spoke in favor saying he is a doctor and this pamphlet will help people he sees daily. Mentioning mental illness is not the same as a pamphlet. Why can't we print pamphlets online only as trial? Fill Single pages. Other input cited singleness of purpose conflicts or we already have literature.

INITIAL VOTE FAILS – FOLLOWED BY RECONSIDERATION PASSED

**FINAL CONFERENCE VOTE : (TOTAL 128) VOTE: Yes 77 – NO 51 –MOTION FAILED**

**LITERATURE****AGENDA ITEM H:**

Consider a suggestion to add “Non-alcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the Primary Purpose (blue) card (F-17). (card is intended to be used at meetings and advise group leader on a way to deal with non-alcoholic attendees)

**RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE**

**CONFERENCE VOTE : (123 total) – Yes – 82 – no 41 – 2/3rd – MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSES**

**CONFERENCE VOTE : (115 TOTAL) - Yes 60 – No 55 – MOTION FAILS TO PASS.**

This motion was confusing from the start. Chair said this was not conference approved but conference would be voting on the change. Others had concern that the conference is walking thin line creating more cards and such that appear to be conference approved on things that groups aren't aware of and will choose not to use anyway. Are we trying to use cards to inform rather than sponsoring the traditions? (one staff member said)

**PUBLIC INFORMATION****AGENDA ITEM F:**

CONSIDER REVISIONS TO THE ANONYMITY CARD (F-20). (this card is the public anonymity statement read at some large events that involve the public.)

**RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE**

**CONFERENCE VOTE : Total was 116 – yes – 55    no 61 – motion failed.**

This motion was also confusing in that the Chair said this was not conference approved but conference would be voting on the change. Some wanted a two sided card for clarity. 2 sided failed as amendment. Some want Conference to be careful going in and telling groups what to do (atleast it may be perceived as that). It seems like this isn't conference to approve cards that may guide groups on how to run their meeting.

**TREATMENT/SPECIAL NEEDS-ACCESSIBILITIES****AGENDA ITEM A:**

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

**NO ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE: DOESN'T GO TO CONFERENCE FOR VOTE**

The committee stated they felt this didn't have enough widespread support at this time. Someone asked if they were aware multiple committees that do both corrections and treatment submitted this proposal. They said yes but that it still didn't rise to widespread support. Principles of their decision were never mentioned. One Delegate suggested this proposal should go to Treatment committee this coming year and allow them to build this helpful pamphlet.

-xx- end of San Diego Local Pre-Conference Agenda items and Conference review status. Please go to [area8aa.org](http://area8aa.org) if you wish to get full (not summarized) Advisory Actions/Additional Considerations/Floor Motions. Also be aware that the final conference report will be available in September through your District officers or GSRs.