

AREA 8 DELEGATE'S REPORT ON - 64th Annual General Service Conference

Conference was held April 27 thru May 3 — 2014

NEW DEADLINE TO SUBMIT

Conference Agenda Items— DECEMBER 15, 2014

If you or your group feel something in AA needs to change (or not change) proposals are best if heard by the local Area Assembly no later than November 2014. Please contact your Delegate or Area Chair or GSR for assistance.

Why Do We have General Service in the first place? One of the last things Bill & Bob agreed on prior to Bob's passing was the need for a General Service Structure to give authority to the groups for the direction AA is headed. Page S-21 in our service manual states (in part)

..”“We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room.”

A.A. Spiritual Pamphlet Approved

The Literature Committee recommended and the conference approved the “Many Pathways to Spirituality” pamphlet in one of the most heartfelt discussions of the conference. The pamphlet includes references to the “Great Spirit,” God, “Creative Intelligence,” Higher Power, “Allah”, and the Lord’s Prayer, and several short paragraphs about the real world battle tested experience of A.A.s including Agnostics and Atheists.

The Conference approved the revised Circles of Love and Service pamphlet. This pamphlet helps the A.A. member understand more about the communication structure called the General Service Conference. Its especially helpful to Group Service Representatives.

This report is on the 64th General Service Conference which took place at the Winchester Hilton Hotel—Rye Brooke, NY. The formal activities began on Saturday, April 26 with informal opening meetings and ended on May 3 with Farewell to Trustees and trip to Stepping Stones.

Changes to Living Sober to remove references to “Drugs” and the Primary Purpose (blue) Card (F-17) that “Non-alcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers.”

***Recommended by Committee -
BUT CONFERENCE DID NOT APPROVE***



Circle and Triangle with Recovery, Unity & Service—
Not Now

The Literature Committee discussed, but took no action on the request to consider the use of the Circle and Triangle as an unofficial Service Mark on Conference approved literature. A floor motion was brought later in conference but was not successful.

Mental Health Pamphlet

The Committee also did not approve a mental illness pamphlet despite vigorous debate and minority opinions. A floor motion was brought to revisit the pamphlet approval and discussion was heard. However the floor motion came 7 votes short of the 2/3 majority required for it to pass.

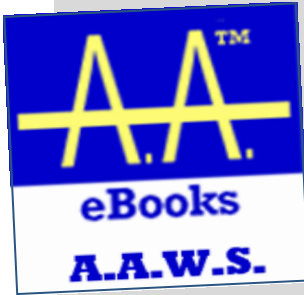
Past Delegate from San Diego—Imperial Area 8 Elected as Class B Regional Trustee

Joel C.—Past Panel 60 Delegate from San Diego was elected to serve 4 years as the new Pacific Regional Class B Trustee.

Joel's Term started immediately after the conference when the newly elected Trustees were seated by the General Service Board.

Dean B—Panel 64—Delegate
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2015 GSC THEME

The Agenda Committee chose the theme of "Celebrating 80 years of Recovery, Unity and Service – the Foundation of Our Future" and approved presentation topics about "Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action."

No Increase in Delegate Conf. Expenses

The Finance Committee felt the Areas contributions for the Delegates' GSC expenses did not need to be increased because it was just recently that the suggested contribution increased. They also acknowledged that groups support the conference already through their contributions. The total cost of the conference per Delegate is approximately \$5600.

General Service Office Finances

OVERALL GSO, AAWS, AA GRAPEVINE INC.

The cost per group is \$146.96, the cost per member was \$6.84, and the cost of services NOT covered by contributions is \$1.87 per member per year.

GSO had net income of \$204,215, while revenues and expenses were up by over \$500,000. Net sales were \$12,604,719. Contributions of \$6,906,371, included the highest amount of contributions ever in one month in December. These sums came from 42.5% of the 64,694 groups listed with GSO about the same as last year. The question still remains with the membership, "Are we ok with hard copy literature sales helping to pay for needed services while the future of such sales is unpredictable in the digital age.

A.A. GRAPEVINE, INC.

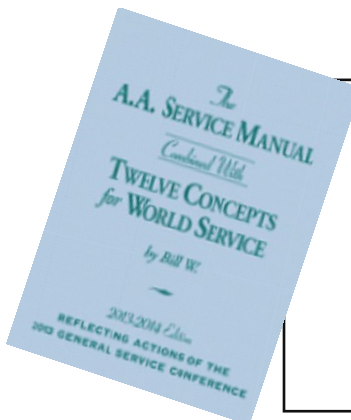
The Grapevine had a net profit of \$315,205, with most of it coming from "Other Publishing Income." Magazine Income decreased by \$100,547. Subscriptions are decreasing slightly.

La VINA

La Vina costs exceeded income by \$142,544 in 2013, however subscriptions continue to increase, and our newly appointed AA treasurer has a focus to help the fellowship make improvements in this area.

RESERVE FUND

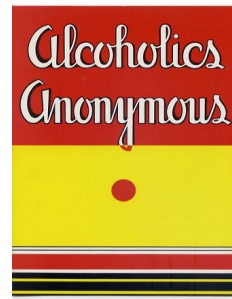
The Reserve Fund balance of \$15,301,653 covers approximately 10.9 months of operating expenses. GSO paid \$7.7 million into the Pension Fund in the beginning of this year, after earning \$3,564,880 from investments.



Markings on a Journey— UPDATED

The Archives Committee recommended and the Conference approved the update of the video "Markings on a Journey." The Conference pre-viewed the updated video and gave the A.A. Archivist, Michelle Mirza, a standing ovation.

75th Anniversary Big Book Debuts



The recently approved 75th Anniversary Big book was published on April 10, 2014, the same day as the very first Big Book was published.

No Changes to Living Sober

The Literature Committee recommended removing the following text: "Many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug; like addicts of any sort who want to maintain recovery, we have to keep away from the first dose of the drug we have become addicted to." After long heartfelt discussion the proposal did not gain 2/3 approval of the Conference.



ADVISORY ACTIONS, ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS, AND REGISTRAR DUTIES

The Report and Charter Committee recommended and the Conference approved additions to the Service Manual defining "Advisory Actions" and "Additional Committee Considerations," and adding updated duties and qualifications for

Groups & Attendance Sheets wording Change Approved

The CPC Committee

recommended and the Conference

approved a change to the wording in the "If you are a Professional" pamphlet clarifying it is responsibility of attendee to return their own court card.

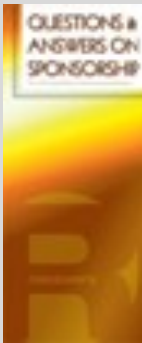


Plan Be Developed For Translation Of All Conference Materials In Spanish And French – Plan Expected By April 2015

Finance Committee:

The following recommendation was approved unanimously by the Conference followed by standing ovation:

"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."

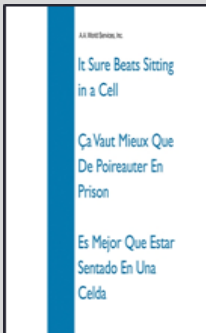


No Q&A Changes

The Literature Committee discussed the suggestion to change the pamphlet on Questions & Answers on Sponsorship

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

The Treatment/Special Need-Accessibilities Committee thoroughly discussed a proposal to revise the "Bridge the Gap" pamphlet to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity and took no action. The Committee asked the General Service Board to consider whether there is a need to develop a pamphlet for Bridging the Gap activities for Corrections.



A New Corrections Video

"It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell"

The Corrections Committee recommended and the conference approved the creation of an updated video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

Groups & Member Estimates

As of January 1, 2013

	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Members</u>
United States	59,321	1,295,656
Canada	<u>5,093</u>	<u>93,071</u>
Sub-Total	64,414	1,388,727
Correctional Facilities	1,499	36,838
Internationalists (Sea-going)	3	15
Lone Members	<u>0</u>	<u>67</u>
U.S. & Canada Total	65,916	1,425,647

Outside U.S. & Canada	<u>48,726</u>	<u>705,902</u>
World Wide Total	114,642	2,131,549

*170 countries and 63 autonomous general service offices



General Service Conference Continues its Inventory

The General Service Conference continued taking its own inventory and discussed how effective the Conference was in treating all conference members equally under Concept Four, how well the Conference considers the Minority Opinion under Concept Five, does our Conference Structure encourage each individual to act as a member of a "Society of Alcoholics in Action," does our year long Conference process encourage Conference members to lead and serve in the spirit of our upside down triangle service structure, and whether the Regions in A.A. should be based on membership numbers or other criteria.

Who Makes Up The Conference?

93	Delegates	71%
7	Class A Trustees (Non-Alcoholic)	5%
13	Class B Trustees (Alcoholic)*	10%
4	Non-Trustee Directors	3%
15	GSO and Grapevine Staff	11%

132 Total *one vacancy due to the death of Trustee Marty W. from Western Canada earlier this year



Grapevine Committee Takes No Action to Publish Book in Video ASL Format

The Grapevine Committee cited not enough requests as reasoning for not recommending the project at this time, and did not find it feasible to spend the 20k necessary to fund it considering they only had one request directly to the committee. Comments and Questions to the committee indicated many conference members did not understand fully the committees use of the word "feasible", and how many direct requests does it take to initiate a much needed project like this?

Grapevine - La Vina Formatting



The Grapevine Committee recommend to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the GV Board on formatting decisions, but the Conference did not pass the motion. Several Grapevine Board members said they were not asking for this, and felt they already had flexibility based on the 2013 conference action.



Grapevine Related

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. reported the average monthly subscriptions for Grapevine were down to 77,126 from 83,258

in 2012. That is a loss of 6,132 monthly subscriptions. The Grapevine also had 5,535 online subscriptions for the year. Grapevine had a net profit despite declining subscriptions due to sales of other materials like books.

Alcoholism at Large Pages Will Stay for Now...

The Grapevine Committee reviewed removing the "Alcoholism at Large" pages, but they took no action.



International Convention

Registrations for the 2015 International in Atlanta will be available in September.

