

**Delegate's Summary
of the Report on the Trustees' Committees From July 2016 Meeting
Communicated to the San Diego-Imperial Assembly on September 10 2016**

NOTE: Each trustees' committee reviewed the Additional Considerations from the 2016 General Service Conference. If you have interest in any Additional Consideration item on which you see no report in this document, OR if you have interest in participating in any of the ongoing work that is going on through our local committees, please feel free to attend any meeting of the standing committees In which you have interest.

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (GSO)

This just in --- GSO has now, in 2016, established a formal IT Department.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON THE GENRAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

As evidence of taking action on Conference advice, I was contacted as the Delegate Chair for Report & Charter Conference Committee by the Chair of this committee. He informed me the Board approved a recommendation that there be regular communication between the chairs of each trustees' committee and their corresponding Conference committee. This same request is made of the trustees' and Conference committees for Grapevine. All Conference committee chairs will now in advance of the board weekend be provided with all background materials supplied to the trustees'. As is appropriate, all confidential information will be removed from their copies.

Also, the Chair of the General Service Board announced the distribution of the General Service Board minutes will include all Conference members.

ARCHIVES

If there is interest in learning more or participating in the Archives work described below, please know both the trustees' and Conference Archives Committees can be accessed through our local Archives contacts:

Mike S., San Diego-Imperial Area Archivist at mksenter2@gmail.com.

Anne, San Diego-Imperial Area Archives Committee Chair at aha.mmmmmm@gmail.com

Requests for access to the Archives have been granted for two projects related to the growth of A.A. in their respective state. Individual requests have been granted for Texas and California. Another request was to access materials on spirituality.

The committee is looking at the feasibility of using a **Flickr page** for sharing archived material. If you have any experience using this tool, please consider sharing your experience with our local contacts. This knowledge may help them with current projects or planning a new one.

The committee agreed to continue its discussion on a new **AAWS book holding Bill W.'s General Service Conference addresses from 1951-1970**.

CONFERENCE

The 2016 GSC included a **trial of electronic voting**. The committee reviewed the report and will put together a plan for implementing electronic voting to be considered at the 2018 GSC. The San Diego-Imperial Area tried this at an ACM a few years ago. It saves a lot of time and is far more accurate than the counting of a show of hands.

GSC Agenda Item Review and Selection Process. Regarding the Conference Advisory Action that “The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process, to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference.” All current directors, trustees and staff are being asked for their thoughts and ideas about how area delegate members of the Conference could provide a role in vetting and selection of GSC agenda items. In our last call with the Pacific Region Trustee, all delegates were asked to share their thoughts and ideas on the topic. The recommendation to the GSB is that there be regular communication between the chairs of each trustees’ committee and their corresponding Conference Committee chair and between the AAGV Board and the chair of the Conference Committee on the Grapevine. The chair of the trustees’ committee on the General Service Conference will communicate with the chairs of the Conference committees that do not have a corresponding trustees’ committee. (Please see **TRUSTEES’ COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE** on page 1 of this report.)

Plan to translate conference background material. A subcommittee will create a plan using all possible methods to translate conference background material. A progress report will be delivered to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions. Process and costs will be included. Staffs will gather information on volunteer translation efforts already existing within the fellowship and provide that information to the subcommittee.

General Service Conference Site Selection: The Panel 67 delegates will attend both their conferences in Rye Brook, NY. The committee asked the GSO Manager to provide them a financial report on moving the 2018 GSC site from Rye Brook to New York City.

AA for the Armed Services and Veterans: Assignment of this work has been given to the CPC desk at GSO.

Delegate Chairs at Conference Board Weekend: Each Conference committee is chaired by a delegate. The delegate chairs attend the January Board weekend to prepare for the upcoming GSC. These chairs will now receive a copy of the trustees work for the year in order to leave us to prior to the weekend. The committee also discussed how to evenly distribute the agenda items among all the Conference committees.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

“**About AA**” is the newsletter for professionals. The current edition focuses on treatment professionals. You can subscribe to the automatic electronic delivery with this link: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/subscribe-to-about-aa-newsletter-for-professionals

CPC Workbook: The revisions from the 2016 GSC were reviewed and are being submitted to the Publishing Department for inclusion in the next printing.

CPC Publications:

“**Three Talks to Medical Societies**” – A subcommittee was elected to continue the discussion of this item.

Topic of material for Mental Health Professionals - the discussion on the development of this material continues.

“**Problems Other Than Alcohol**” – The committee is forwarding to the 2017 General Service Conference Committee on CPC a footnote to appear at the bottom of page 1, it reads:

This pamphlet is derived from an article written by A.A. co-founder Bill W. in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.

“AA at a Glance” The committee decided to insert the flyer into the CPC Kit in response to the CPC Conference Committee’s suggestion to include it. This will happen on the next update. Here’s the link to the document: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-1_AAataGlance.pdf

CPC Exhibits – The committee agreed to create a standing agenda item to hold discussions on the effectiveness of CPC exhibits.

Changes to CPC Kit Pamphlets – The committee agreed to have staff send a memo to the appropriate committee with suggestions for revisions to pamphlets that fall under the purview of other trustees’ committees. Here’s a link to the list of the contents of the CPC Kit: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-66w_CPC_Kit.pdf

LinkedIn Page: A subcommittee was appointed to discuss the feasibility and potential implementation of an official LinkedIn page for CPC Committees.

TREATMENT/ACCESSIBILITIES

Accessibilities Checklist – The committee asked staff to work with the Publishing Department to develop a checklist that groups can use to inventory its accessibility to all alcoholics. If the San Diego-Imperial Area has an Accessibilities Checklist, this would be a good time to share our experience with Accessibilities Committees across all A.A. areas in the U.S. and Canada.

“A.A. Guidelines on Carrying the Message to the Deaf Alcoholic”: The committee agreed to retain this item in the Treatment Kit. Here’s the link to the list of contents of the Treatment Kit: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-167w_TF_Kit.pdf

Replacing the term “Special Needs” with “Accessibilities”: is being done to the inventory list of all AAWS materials; and the Publishing Department will revise pamphlets such as “A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs” and “Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs. Draft revisions of the “Accessibilities Workbook” were reviewed and accepted including the changes that replace the term “special needs” with “accessibilities”.

CORRECTIONS

Please review the **newly-released video**, “**A New Freedom**” that replaces “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.” You can view it at www.aa.org. The video’s target audience is inmates. Listen for announcements for its use by our local H&I Committees.

Corrections Correspondence Service: There is a need for more male “outside” A.A. members to sign up to correspond with an inmate. There is a need for Spanish-speaking men, too. “Outside” correspondents are encouraged to subscribe to Grapevine Online as a resource from which to pull articles on topics in which inmates may show an interest.

FINANCE & BUDGETARY

Net literature sales to date are running considerably ahead of budget, as are contributions. The six-month unaudited financial report revealed that net sales were \$345,000 or 5.4% ahead of budget, **contributions were 257,200 or 8% ahead of budget, and total operating expenses were \$609,600 of 7.4% less than budget. Net profit for the six months was \$305,900** compared with a budgeted loss of \$897,711. *(I have submitted an email to the GSO Manager inquiring if the use of the \$897,711 number is an error. I thought the net loss for YE2016 was \$325,600.)* It was noted that sales in July seem to be slowing, however, contributions have continued on a positive track with the month not yet closed.

The six-month unaudited financial report for Grapevine shows a net income of \$39,308 against a budgeted loss of \$71,494 and LaVina shows a loss of \$80,904 which is more than its budgeted projection for a loss of \$75,825.

Gross Profit from Literature is up over \$300k for both the 2016 budget and in comparison to the same period in 2015. The 2014 literature price increase is thought to be the reason for the increase.

Retiree Medical Committee: As of June 30, 2016 the value of the Retirement Trust was around \$28 million and the projected obligation as of December 31, 2016 is at \$34 million. These amounts remain consistent with the prior year.

Feasibility Study Subcommittee is now transitioning and will change its name to “Subcommittee on Our Future Sustainability.” The name change is to be more consistent with the positive direction that these efforts are now pursuing. The subcommittee’s membership will be determined by the GSB Chair.

The subcommittee did prepare a summary of ideas gathered at the 2016 GSC Feasibility Study sessions that are worth examining. The subcommittee will not make any decisions on any idea. Their decisions are only that an idea be explored and brought back to the GSB for its consideration to decide whether the board should act upon it or forward the idea to the 67th GSC for consideration.

Here are summaries of the key points from each of the four feasibility topics discussed at the 2016 GSC: Communications, Increase Revenue, Decrease Expenses, and Organizational Structure:

Communications

- Explore the feasibility of a media and communications audit to better understand what and how we communicate.
- Explore how to better utilize the FNV database (this is the group information database used by Area Registrars) for more efficient net bundling and distribution of information and resources.
- Explore what it means to communicate directly with all Groups for the specific purpose of determining why they either contribute or do not contribute to GSO. If a group does not contribute, GSO will ask what they need to do differently to get those noncontributing groups to contribute.

Increase Revenue

- Explore the creation of new literature opportunities (both print and audio) by utilizing the materials in the AAWS Archives and how these materials may or may not be affected by the concept of “Conference Approved Literature”. (AAWS has begun to explore the idea of new literature projects and has a few possibilities in the initial stages of planning.)

- Explore new sources of GV/LV sales and revenue, such as direct sales to treatment facilities.

Decrease Expenses

- Explore the structure of the GSC, such as always holding the GSC outside of New York City proper, and reducing its duration by reconfiguring the agenda.
- Definitely state that the idea of holding the GSC every other year is an idea that will not be considered at this time unless the GSB would hear an expressed desire from the Fellowship.

Organizational Structure

- Explore the combining of back office functions, such as finance, information technology, to promote efficiency, and save costs.
- Definitely state that combining the two service entities (AAWS and GV) is an idea that will not be considered at this time, unless the GSB would hear an expressed desire from the Fellowship.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Development of a Self-Support Strategy for the World Service Meeting (WSM) – Currently, 70% of the costs of the WSM is covered by U.S./Canada service structure. There is a subcommittee devoted to developing the strategy for self-support. They are working on ideas such as decentralizing the WSM costs and asking the host country to take on more financial responsibility.

24th World Service Meeting is in New York is October 23-27, 2016 in Rye Brook, NY-The WSM is held every two years. The 23rd meeting was held in Warsaw, Poland with 61 delegates representing 41 countries. The Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Iran, and Romania were represented for the first time. Simultaneous translation was available in English, Spanish, Polish, Japanese, and Russian. Their topics ranged from how to effectively use new communication technologies to how to get both young and older alcoholics involved in service. (Box 459, page 1, Vol. 35, No. 1 – Spring 2015)

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND REGIONAL FORUMS

What Are Regional and Local Forums?

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris, then Chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. They were to be weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure. (www.aa.org)

2017 Local Forum Requests Recommended for the Approval by the General Service Board:

- Area 72, Western Washington
- Area 75 Southern Wisconsin
- Area 05, Southern California

Examining Local Forums: A subcommittee has been appointed to review the following: the concept of Local Forums, setting a maximum annual number of Local Forums, discontinuing Local Forums, and exploring other options.

Cooperation with Central Offices/Intergroups at Forums: The committee discussed cooperation with Central Offices/Intergroups at Forums and supported the idea to include outreach to offices in performing the duties of Welcome Committees.

Exploration of Forum Presentations: The committee reviewed an update on the ideas for trustee and staff Regional Forum presentations to be video-produced in anonymity protected formats and to be made available to the Fellowship in additional avenues, including aa.org. The committee noted that a GSO committee is addressing implementation of an in-house video production. A progress report regarding the GSO committee will be delivered.

Offsite Attendance to Forums: The committee discussed offsite attendance to Forums and agreed that priority be given to production of a virtual Forum. The committee discussed options for making the Forum experience more accessible, including videotaping American Sign Language (ASL) translators and allowing conference-call based attendance for Spanish speaking members.

2020 International Convention (IC) Consultant Management Firm Selection: The committee reviewed the requests for proposals (RFP) that were received in the bid for convention management services for the 2020 International Convention. The RFP was mailed to 17 firms and five responses were received. The committee agreed to select Talley Management, Inc. as consultants to the 2020 IC in Detroit, MI. The contract is pending negotiations. Talley Management Inc. is the same firm that consulted for the 2015 IC in Atlanta. The committee noted their concerns from the experience resulting in budget overruns and requested that solutions and clear proposals be addressed as part of the contractual process.

International Conventions Site Selection: The voting process for site selection of future ICs is tabled until the October 2016 meeting.

Housing and Transportation for ICs: A subcommittee has been appointed to review these processes. Housing and transportation costs are responsible for the cost overruns at the 2015 Atlanta IC.

IC Convention Databases: The committee recommended to the GSB that the 2015 IC database and future IC databases be available to both the AA World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Boards for communication with registrants for purposes in addition to the IC. The first contact would be from A.A. World Services with an opt-in option.

LITERATURE

Annual Review of Recovery Literature – A subcommittee was appointed to develop a plan as described in the 2016 Conference Advisory Action to include a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items, taking into consideration content, relevance, and usefulness; and prioritized by time span since last review.

Pamphlets:

“Young People and A.A.” For review at the October 2016 meeting, the committee requested the Publishing Department develop language for the pamphlet that would inform members about young people’s conferences. **Please note there is currently a call for stories for use in a comprehensive update to this pamphlet. The**

submission deadline is December 30, 2016. At the October 2016 meeting, this committee will appoint a subcommittee to review the submissions.

“Twelve Traditions Illustrated” Per for 2016 Conference Advisory Action calling for a revision of this pamphlet, the committee requested the Publishing Department deliver a “mock-up” of two or three Traditions to the committee’s October 2016 meeting. Please pay attention to the release of this pamphlet to review it and provide feedback on its new development. The last review of this pamphlet was 45 years ago. Let’s not wait that long if it does not meet today’s needs.

Progress reports are pending for October 2016 meeting regarding:

- “For the Woman”
- “AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”
- Literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues
- Expanding availability of “plain-language” recovery literature

Sent to the Conference Literature Committee:

- “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” – Request for Revision
- Development of a pamphlet for deaf A.A. members – Request for Revision
- “Too Young” – Request for Retirement

Literature and/or language regarding safety – The committee was informed that AAWS is in the process of developing service material that covers a broad spectrum of safety and A.A. The committee agreed to request a progress report from AAWS for review at their October 2016 meeting. The report’s information will be used to discuss the several requests the committee has in hand for the development of literature and/or language on the topic of safety.

The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature a request to consider developing a pamphlet reflecting the recovery experience of deaf A.A. members along with a suggestion that the Conference Committee expand the discussion to include all methods of communication (e.g., literature, video).

NOMINATING

Review Composition, Scope and Procedure: A subcommittee was appointed for the review of this committee’s assigned work. Specific consideration will be given to the topics of a diversity policy, open enrollment options for openings on the boards and possible unexpected vacancies on the years when a General Service Board is selected.

2016 Additional Considerations for Trustees’ Nominating Committee:

Expand the Pool of Candidates for the General Service Board and the Corporate Boards – Subcommittee appointed to review resumes.

Videotaped Introductions from Regional Trustee Candidates – The committee took no action on this citing that the spiritual nature of the Third Legacy Procedure provides opportunity for selection of the most suitable candidate.

Voting procedures for electing Trustee-at-large/U.S. – The committee reviewed the additional information and agreed to forward this request to the 2017 General Service Conference Committee on Trustees.

Election process for the officers of AAWS – A subcommittee was appointed to review the election process of officers on the AAWS and Grapevine Boards.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Google-for-Non-Profits – A subcommittee has been appointed to develop a Google-for-Non-Profits implementation plan that defines the scope of services.

Twitter Account - A subcommittee has been appointed to oversee the development a Twitter account for carrying the message to the A.A. public.

Carrying the Message Online – A 2016 Additional Consideration was to explore ways of providing guidance to the Fellowship on carrying the A.A. message to the public online in social media. The Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan Subcommittee has been asked to review the material currently available from GSO and deliver suggestions to the October 2016 meeting.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs) – A subcommittee with consider adding a recurring item for the Conference Committee on Public Information that includes: A. review current video PSAs for relevance and usefulness; and B. Assess the need for a new video PSA.

Annual Distribution of the Anonymity Letter was sent to 29,000 media professionals. Area Delegates are designated as the point person to address anonymity breaks at their local level of press, radio, and films.

PSA “I Have Hope” is now in production in English, French, and Spanish (“Tengo Esperanza”). The committee reviewed a draft of the request for proposal for the central distribution, tracking, and evaluation of the PSA at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. The distribution is scheduled for January 2017.

2017 A.A. Membership Survey – The subcommittee will review the process and timing of conducting the survey. This time it will include a pilot electronic survey and the addition of a question regarding the language spoken at the group.

Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan – A subcommittee was appointed and asked to bring to the October 2016 meeting recommendations for continuing development and implementation of the Comprehensive Media Plan.

Website Activity Review: The committee reviewed website activities for GSO and Grapevine/LaVina. The committee chair will contact the AA Grapevine Board to request additional website analytics including click-stream details.