

Welcome to San Diego-Imperial (Area 08)  
*2015 General Service Conference Workshop*



## A note regarding all summary documents provided by the Area 08 Delegate for group consideration of the 2015 General Service Conference Information

- Neither AA as a whole, or your local trusted servants presenting agenda item summaries are “proposing” anything to pass or to fail. Each one of the agenda items is either proposed by an A.A. member, group, district, area, or Trusted servant within the service structure. In A.A. ideas are considered from all sources. Once the idea is accepted as a conference agenda item, those items will not be implemented unless approved by 2/3 of the Conference Delegates who are trusted to represent A.A. as a whole. Of course we all have biases when faced with A.A. topics however we have done our best to remove even the slightest possibility of inserting that bias in these summaries. Please understand when positive reasons are provided that “support” the agenda item, that viewpoint is coming from the originator(s) of the proposal. **Please remember all of us are asked to consider AA as a whole when considering our views on these matters, not necessarily what is best for ourselves or our groups alone.**
- The text included in the title of each agenda item doesn’t necessarily (by itself) include a specific topic or question for groups to review. Many times the primary issue for consideration is stated in more detail within the notes provided for that agenda item. In both the single page agenda summaries and the presentation slides for Area 08, background information has in some cases been cut and pasted, and in other cases summarized so the “general idea” of the agenda proposal can be expressed in one page or less. When available, it was our intention to include background information regardless of whether it supported the item or not. If you have concern about bias or lack of information, please contact your Delegate [2dufflebags@gmail.com](mailto:2dufflebags@gmail.com) or your DCM to gain access to the full background document for that particular item in question.
- **What information best helps your Delegate to Participate at the conference?** Any input from the groups is welcomed, even yes or no answers. Participation is the key. However what best helps your delegate participate at the conference is what viewpoints your groups for and against an agenda item. This may help you at the group level stay out of debate when reviewing items with the group. If there are strong principles and against, regardless of how many people are behind each, knowing principles supporting both views is most helpful. Once hearing this at the group level, members relax knowing both sides can be heard by your Delegate. Of course, only you know your group and are trusted to approach the agenda item discussions in a way you and your group feel most comfortable. **Don’t forget to invite group members as guest at the Pre-Conference Assembly as well. Or “Invite a friend”!**

*POLICY & ADMISSIONS*  
AGENDA ITEM 'C'

Consider proposed revision to the policy regarding General Service Conference audio recordings

A.A. Archivist reports indicates there were various times in history when some audio portions of conference presentations were available for distribution, opening dinner speakers, closing Trustee Talks, and other select presentations.

A recent request to GSO for archival material resulted in approval to review written material but denied to consult audio recordings. As a result the Trustees Archive Committee considered some audio portions of the conference to be made available in the future in some capacity.

A clear reason for either allowing or not allowing use of conference audio is not clearly stated in the background.

Could access to select audio from the General Service Conference stimulate interest at the group level? Why?

***Proposed Audio Policy***

" Recordings of General Service Conference presentations be made available for distribution, in accordance with Archives' Policies, to include audio recordings of keynote presentations; other selected presentations, talks from the Opening Dinner A.A. meeting and the trustees' farewell talks given at the closing brunch. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited."

Any A.A. principles or traditions related to your decision?

*LITERATURE*  
AGENDA ITEM 'E'

Consider creating a book combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

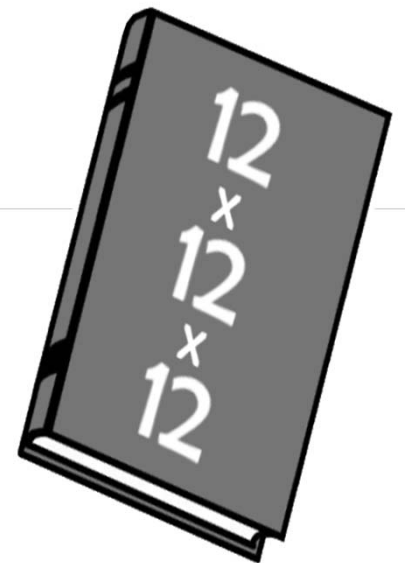
"We believe it is important for the general membership to have easy access to the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts in one book so that the membership can understand the principles that guide our fellowship"

"Hopefully, by affording greater exposure of the 12 Concepts to our Fellowship, we will create greater support for and understanding of our AA General Service structure, for the function of AA General Service as a whole"

"If the Delegate, Area Committee, DCM's, and GSR's understand the right of decision etc. --but the general membership doesn't-- then the people that serve us are at a disadvantage."

Are members of your group aware there are Twelve Concepts of World Service?

Does your group feel a combined book could stimulate interest in the Concepts that guide our 3rd legacy of Service? Why or why not?



*LITERATURE*  
AGENDA ITEM 'D'

Consider developing literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues

**Current Special Interest Pamphlets Exist**  
(AA & The Armed Forces and several others)

**"The mentally ill newcomer would be assured that they too belong and can recover from alcoholism"**

**"Doctors would have an excellent tool to pass on to their mentally ill patients who have a problem with drinking"**

**"It would help the Fellowship to understand the unique difficulties of the mentally ill"**



Does your group think literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues will help some of our membership stay sober? Why or why not?

Does your group think pamphlets in general help to carry the A.A. message?

*LITERATURE*  
AGENDA ITEM 'C'

Consider updating the pamphlet (P-32)  
“A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”

Information to include the perspective of the entire  
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender (GLBT) community and Gender  
Non-Conforming individuals.

This literature may help the transgender and gender non-conforming  
community overcome access barriers to recovery in A.A. &  
Literature of this nature could be educational for the Fellowship at  
large.

“Trans/GNC individuals experience include being stared at,  
harassed, and even being asked to leave meetings because people  
are uncomfortable or disagree.



Does your group feel adding language to the  
pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”  
will help some of our membership stay sober?

Does your group think  
pamphlets in general help to  
carry the A.A. message?

*LITERATURE*  
AGENDA ITEM 'F'

Revise the current pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman." (Pamphlet No. P-5)

"(Story starting on page 24) Reference to tranquilizers, doctor stating you can't become addicted to tranquilizers, etc."

"(Story starting on page 10) Contains material which date the story, such as reference to crashing into a stanchion and the Bowery."

"(Story starting on page 27) Very dated. Should be replaced with a story that reflects a more typical housewife of today.."



Does your group think pamphlets in general help to carry the A.A. message? How?

Does your group feel adding language to the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" will help it be more relevant and useful in carrying the message? Why or why not?

*PUBLIC  
INFORMATION*  
AGENDA ITEM 'B-1'

Review 2015 Public Information  
Comprehensive Media Plan.

"2013 – Trustees Committee and Conference Committee agree Facebook presence at this time can't be implemented consistent with Traditions".

In 2015 questions continue to arise regarding how social media platforms and social media networks might be used (a) for A.A. public informational purposes.

The 2015 Comprehensive Media Plan includes potential exploring of social media platforms (Twitter and Instagram) and social networking platforms (Google+) as potential channels for sharing information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Should A.A. continue to explore Social Media platforms that might be used for Public Information Purposes, as long as it could be done in a manner consistent with our Traditions?

Could information about how members could stay within tradition(s) while using social media be helpful



*FINANCE*  
AGENDA ITEM 'A'

Discuss a request to increase the maximum annual contribution to GSO .....from an A.A. member from \$3,000 to \$5,000

"Historically on the average this amount has been increased every 8 years. The last time an increase to the limit for A.A. member contributions was 2007 "

"Since 1998 approximately 110 members have contributed up to the limitation set on personal contributions"

Year	Existing Amount		New Limit
1967	\$100	to	\$200
1972	\$200	to	\$300
1979	\$300	to	\$500
1986	\$500	to	\$1,000
1999	\$1,000	to	\$2,000
2007	\$2,000	to	\$3,000

Does your group feel this amount should be raised regardless of the limited number of members who contribute the maximum contribution limit each year? Why or why not?

Is there a different limit they think should be considered?

Any Traditions or A.A. principles to consider?

**PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
AGENDA ITEM  
'C1 & C2'**

- C1. Consider approving the proposed video P.S.A., "Doors"
- C2. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed video P.S.A.....at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, as an addition to the work of local Public Information Committees.

**C1**

2014 Conference Approved new PSA to be produced in 2014 *(That PSA has been produced and will be reviewed for possible approval at 2015 Conference)*

New PSA developed called "Doors" where "Real A.A. members (voices) tell real A.A. stories". Small excerpts from Grapevine Audio are used for voices while Video portion is animation only.

Could real members telling real A.A. stories can be effective in carrying the message to the Alcoholic who still suffers?

**C2**

"Centralized distribution would provide P.S.A. coverage to areas that don't have active P.I. committees"

"Tracking could provide insight into which videos are played most often, thus providing guidance on the type of P.S.A. that reaches the still-suffering alcoholic."

Is Your Group Concerned with Traditions and using Real AA Voices in a PSA?