

## Thank You for your service!

As your Panel 64 Delegate, thank you for the opportunity to represent Area08 at the 65th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm especially thankful to the groups and members who made an extraordinary effort to share their group's viewpoints with me, which in turn allowed me to participate at the conference with an amazing resource of shared experience.

There are no "final answers" in the system of discussion our founders gave us called "General Service". Each month new and old ideas are being considered for next years conference. The main thing I learn as your delegate is that more important than what was "voted on", is how we treat each other while discussing these matters.

I look forward to working with you all for the rest of 2015 and will be more than glad to make myself available at your group to say hello and possibly share a bit of "Why General Service?" or "How can groups help?"

*Gratefully Yours In Service,.*

Dean B, Panel 64 Delegate  
San Diego-Imperial  
Delegate @ Area8aa.org

## LITERATURE

### Mental Health Literature Moves Forward

A wide range of A.A. recovery experience was requested be gathered from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members for inclusion in potential literature on this topic.

### Pamphlet for Woman to be Revised

A revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" will be started. It was suggested to gather sharing/perspectives from women in A.A., and suggested inclusion of stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds.

Progress reports for both items will be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature. The report may or may not include a draft of the literature.

## 65th General Service Conference

Theme: **Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service - The Foundation of Our Future**

On April 19-25, 2015 the 65th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference (GSC) was held at the Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel in New York, NY. There were 134 voting members of the Conference consisting of Area Delegates (93), General Service Board Trustees, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine Directors (26), and General Service Office (GSO) and Grapevine Staff (15). Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or views, for the good of A.A. as a whole. Our founders urged us that (in summary) the future of our fellowship was in question without a way to give ownership of A.A. to it's members.

*"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." (Page S-20, AA Service Manual)*

## FINANCE

### Phase 1 Adopted to Translate Non-Background Material For the 2016 Conference - While a Separate Plan to Translate Remaining Conference Material is developed

Phase 1 to translate pre-Conference and Conference material (Non-Background) into Spanish and French is set to be implemented beginning with the 2016, 66th General Service Conference. A plan to translate all remaining Conference material (including Background) was also requested, with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions. The report should describe the process and costs, including options using third party translators and a proposal

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

### New Video PSA "Doors" will be produced

The video public service announcement (PSA), "Doors," was approved with the following change: Rerecord the dialog voice-overs using professional voice actors in English, Spanish and French, removing any sense that the voices are recorded phone calls, at a cost not to exceed \$24,000 (for the additional production work). The video PSA will also be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, with information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee. for their review.

## AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

"Should the Fellowship desire that Grapevine and La Viña continue for the future of 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 this effort, to our history, and to our future." *Excerpt from Corporate Board Report: A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

Subscribe at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)

# 2015 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE NEWS

\*Full details of Conference Actions will be available in the Final Conference Report distributed around late August. Please remember your Delegate welcomes invitations to visit your groups anytime.

## LITERATURE

### L.G.B.T. Pamphlet Change Moves Forward

The process to revise the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" moves forward to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. A change to the title of the pamphlet will also be considered to include this broader scope. A draft revised pamphlet or progress report will be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

### 12x12x12 Idea Not Supported at This Time

The suggestion to produce a book combining "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" with the "Twelve Concepts for World Service" was reviewed by the Conference Committee on Literature, which took no action (did not forward to Conference for vote). The committee noted that the Twelve Concepts for World Service are suitably placed with The A.A. Service Manual and in a stand-alone volume. **A proposal to develop a 12x12x12 was also raised as a floor motion later in the conference and did not pass.**



## TREASURER

The Treasurer of the General Service Board provided a complete financial summary will be in the 2015 Final Conference Report, due around late August.

*"And remember, Finance has no importance in and of itself. Finance is simply a way to help carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. Thank you."*

## FINANCE

### Increase of Individual Member Contribution Limit to GSO Not Supported at this Time

A proposal to raise the individual A.A. member annual contribution limit from \$3,000 to \$5,000 was not adopted by the conference. There just wasn't enough interest in this being the right thing to do at this time. Some noted approving it could take focus away from the importance of Group Contributions.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

### Comprehensive Media Plan - Conference Committee Supports Continued Research for Options Using Social Media

The Conference committee supported the gathering of information about the potential for using platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Google+, etc. for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. The committee strongly suggested that the exploration take into consideration the still-relevant concerns regarding potential implications to our Traditions.

The committee suggested that the General Service Board explore these resources and report back to them at the 2016 Conference. Full details of specific items requested in the research effort will be in the Final Conference Report.

### Local AA Member Participation in P.I.

The committee discussed how to increase A.A. member participation in local public information work, and asked the staff secretary to share a list of suggestions with the trustees' Public Information Committee, and with P.I. Chairs at the Local (Area) level.

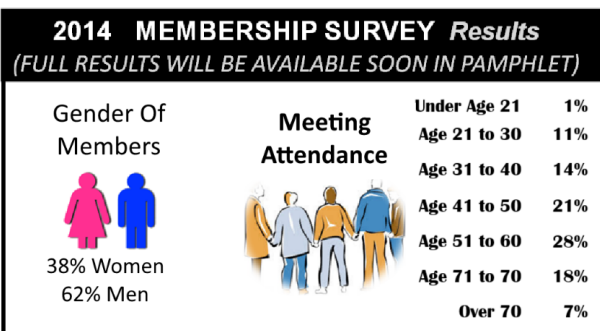
**Why Contribute Outside Your Meeting Walls?**

Thanks to your dime, quarter and dollars, The Big Book is available in 69 languages and pamphlets are available in 90 languages. The 70th Translation into Audio Book for Navajo is nearing completion. **More information is available at aa.org.**

## POICY-ADMISSIONS

### Limited Conference Audio Will be Available

Audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations published in the General Service Conference Final Report and audio recordings of the trustees' farewell talks given at the closing brunch will be made available in accordance with Archives' Policies. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited.



**Learn More About AA Outside the Walls of Your Meeting**  
**area8aa.org**