

**All Information Below is from the Pacific Regional Trustee's Report
following the January 2017 General Service Board Weekend**

This report covers just the items that are of greatest interest for news to the Fellowship as well as those the trustees' committees have moved forward to the Conference committees for consideration at the 2017 General Service Conference. The Minutes of the meeting will be a more accurate reflection of all business discussed. Each item discussed by the trustees' committees at the January board weekend is not included here. Also, some 2017 General Service Conference agenda items were moved forward to the Conference committees at the July and October 2017.

AA World Services, Inc. / General Service Office

There is always a larger amount of significant AAWS/GSO activity in providing services for the Fellowship than time allows to be discussed during the board weekend. It is hoped these reports, if regularly delivered to groups by GSRs, will give the Fellowship appreciation for all the work going on in the NY offices.

- The Loners/Internationalists Meeting (LIM) confidential directories have been updated and mailed to LIM members; this service helps seagoing AAs and AAs in extremely remote areas of the world to stay connected.
- The public service announcement (PSA) entitled "Tengo Esperanza," originally developed in Spanish, is being translated into English and French and should be available in the first quarter of 2017 (the English title will be "I Have Hope"). PSAs help to make the general public more aware of AA.
- There were four Regional Forums in 2016, with a total attendance of 1,804, including 1,077 first-time Forum attendees. Forums help connect the membership at large with AAWS/GSO and Grapevine, giving members an opportunity to interact and share with board members, directors, and staff; these events keep us all connected to AA as a whole in the interest of Unity in our first Tradition.
- With the publication of the Rarotongan language Big Book (Rarotongan is a dialect of Maori spoken in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific). Our text, ***Alcoholics Anonymous is now available in 70 languages, including the original English.*** Translations help make our basic message available to more and more suffering alcoholics.
- Along similar lines, there is work on a comprehensive inventory of translations of AA material for the U.S. and Canada First Nations / Native American communities.
- **There is a project in the works to produce new audiobook versions of *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and Living Sober* in English, French, and Spanish.** The first title will be the Big Book, with a projected September, 2017, release date. This project will clearly serve those in our society at large who are gravitating toward audiobooks, **as well as helping to carry the message to the blind and visually impaired.**
- AAWS has developed a new piece of service material available on aa.org, "**Safety in AA: Our Common Welfare**" (SMF-209). This service piece collects shared experience from throughout

the Fellowship on keeping meetings, members, and potential members safe, and I believe it will be a valuable resource throughout the AA movement. You can find this document along with many other great resources at aa.org under “Service Material from the G.S.O.” Service material may be copied and distributed in unlimited quantities. All Service materials are “living documents”. The Fellowship is encouraged to continuously submit their experiences in the interest of sharing them with our full membership.

AA Grapevine / La Viña

Grapevine and La Viña continue to serve as the present-day voice of the Fellowship, vehicles for personal sharing, and a tool for Twelfth-Step work.

- The ***Grow Your Grapevine*** engagement continues through the end of February, 2017, providing activities for members and groups to use, interact with, and support Grapevine. Look for a new piece, **4 Seasons of Service with Grapevine and La Viña**, which will begin on March 1st.
- A new Grapevine book with the title, “Making Amends,” is in production for 2017. Books such as this one serve the Fellowship by providing additional resources for personal recovery.
- The Grapevine app, which was launched for Apple devices in 2016, is now available for Android devices. The app has been developed to serve the needs of those who prefer to read on electronic devices. The app itself is free, and once you have the app you can purchase a subscription that will deliver an electronic version of the magazine to you. The app will be launched for Windows 10 later in the year. Plans are in the works to add audio Grapevine to the app.
- Here are some of the Conference agenda items discussed and forwarded to the 2017 Grapevine Conference committee:
 - Discuss the spiritual value of Grapevine and La Viña in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those in need. The GV board is interested in hearing from the Fellowship about its view of the spiritual value of our publications.
 - Reconsider the 2010 advisory action regarding La Viña. The 2010 advisory action specified several different aspects of how La Viña should be produced. The new agenda item is a result of two separate requests received by the GV board. It’s important to note that there is no current discussion about changing how La Viña is being produced. The concerns of those who requested this item revolve around principles related to Concepts III and X, so the question being asked is whether the Right of Decision and delegated responsibility and authority regarding production decisions for both magazines ought to reside with the GV board or with the Conference.
 - Reconsider the 2004 advisory action on outside sales. The 2004 advisory action restricts how GV and LV can pursue outside sales of our products. The GV board reviewed that advisory action and questioned whether it reflects the current attitudes of the Fellowship. We would like to be able to make our meetings in print available to a wider audience, but the 2004 advisory action limits our ability to do this. The Trustees like to know how the Fellowship of today feels about this issue.

- Discuss ways that groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Viña when they don't have a GVR or RLV. The GV board is aware that not all groups include a GVR/RLV as a service position and are curious to know how groups would like to stay connected with Grapevine and La Viña.

Feasibility Study and General Service Board Strategic Planning

The GSB heard a report from the Feasibility Study subcommittee, an effort that was launched in 2015 to examine if our current financial model can sustain into the future the work of the GSB, AAWS/GSO, and Grapevine/La Viña. The study was forward-looking and was prompted by concerns that the two affiliate corporations were presently projecting large deficits — if nothing changed. As you'll see below under Finance and Budgetary, things really turned around in 2016. The conclusion of the Feasibility Study subcommittee is that our model is sustainable as long as we:

- A. Continue to be prudent about expenses; and
- B. Stay in close communication with the Fellowship about the services being provided and about the need for participation and support.

The Feasibility Study subcommittee couldn't see a role it could play going forward, concluding that it has done its work of shedding light on issues, and it is now up to all members throughout the service structure to engage in the efforts to sustain our model.

The General Service Board is grateful to our members and groups for all they did in 2016 to turn things around. Our membership can continue to engage in supporting GSO's services to the Fellowship by:

1. Learning and understanding the wide range of services GSO provides to members and groups; and
2. Encourage each group participates in self-support by making a financial contribution to GSO for those services.

Individual Contributors and Group Treasurers: Online contributions as an individual member or a group can be made at aa.org. Look for the basket icon on the upper right-hand corner of the screen. You and your group can set up a User Profile to reduce the time it takes to contribute.

Here's a link to the contribution page:

<https://ctb.aaws.org/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fdefault.aspx%3flang%3den&lang=en>

The GSB spent significant time reviewing our strategic plan and tracking the current status of various initiatives that had been listed as primary priorities for the roll-out of the plan. Most of those items are currently in process at the level of the corporate boards and/or the trustees' committees. The highest priorities are inclusion and communication. Both corporations are in the beginning stages of inventorying all materials with an eye toward inclusion.

Significant progress has been made in improving communication. A specific example of increasing communication is the trustees' committee chairs are now informing their corresponding Conference committee chair after each board weekend on the status of their work. When passed on through the

service structure, this continuous communication on the year-round Conference cycle will serve to engage the participation of the Fellowship at large.

A comprehensive communications audit to assist us in improving our links to the Fellowship is being planned. We also need improvement in our outward-facing communication. Website redesigns are in the works for both corporations that should help with this. There are also pending agenda items at the Conference level that will impact our communication with the public. The GSB and all trustees ask the trusted servants in the service structure to continue to support their efforts by insuring each level has active and reliable communication processes in place.

(If you'd like a copy of the Strategic Plan and/or the Feasibility Study, send a request to area8contact@gmail.com.)

Archives

Archives received a request to create a new pamphlet on "Four Founding Moments" in AA and forwarded it to the trustees' committee on literature. This item won't appear on this year's Conference agenda. The trustees' literature committee will have it on their agenda at their July 2017 meeting. From there, it may move on to the 2018 Conference agenda.

Conference

The trustees' committee on the General Service Conference had one of the most packed agendas of this GSB weekend.

- The committee reviewed a list of topics that had been submitted in response to a request for sharing on the Conference Inventory Final Report and forwarded each item on the list to one or more appropriate trustees' committees, to the AAWS or Grapevine boards, or to the General Service Board for their consideration. This work is an on-going benefit from the the three-year Conference inventory process. (If you'd like a copy of the Conference Final Inventory Report, send a request to area8contact@gmail.com.)
- A revision was made to the language in "How the Conference Operates" to clarify the purpose of floor actions and to add the "motion to recommit" to procedures. The floor action language reminds everyone that floor actions are intended for issues that emerge during the Conference. The "motion to recommit" language sends an item to the appropriate trustees' committee.
- Here are some of the Conference agenda items forwarded by the committee:
 - Two items related to Conference presentation topics. One would limit the number to no more than six. The other would change what we do with presentation topics by turning them into topics for discussion throughout the year in areas, districts, and groups, and leaving them off of the actual Conference week schedule. Both of these items are intended to make more time available during Conference week for other aspects of the Conference week schedule. Both of these items are going to the Conference agenda committee.
 - Three items related to the location of the Conference. One item would specify that the Conference be held in New York every other year, one would allow for regional hosting

of the Conference, and one would rescind a previous advisory action that delegated site selection to GSO management. Although sent separately, it's clear that they all are inter-related. All of these items are going to the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee.

- A request to add a YPAA subcommittee to the service structure. The intent behind this request is to increase inclusion, communication, and participation. This request is being sent to the Conference committee on policy and admissions.
- Translation plans. In response to an action from last year's Conference, two new translation plans have been developed that would make use of volunteer efforts. These two plans are being sent to the Conference committee on policy and admissions, along with the four plans that were considered by the 2016 Conference.
- Agenda item selection process. A report regarding the agenda item selection process is being forwarded to the Conference committee on agenda. The report notes improvements in communication that have been put in place over the last year and suggests additional possible improvements that could keep trustees' committees and corresponding Conference committees in closer contact regarding Conference agenda items that have been submitted.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Accessibilities

- The committee is engaged in discussion of CPC exhibits at professional conferences with an eye toward better use of current technology at such conferences and in follow-up after those conferences.
- The committee also finalized a letter to mental health professionals intended for use as a CPC service piece; this letter will be added to the Information for Professionals page at aa.org.
- The committee forwarded three Conference agenda items:
 - "Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" An item is being forwarded to Conference CPC requesting that the title of this pamphlet be changed to "Is there a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?"
 - Needs of armed services veterans. An item is being forward to Conference Treatment/Accessibilities Committee to discuss the unique needs of armed services veterans in the U.S. and Canada. This item is motivated by a desire to do better in reaching out to suffering alcoholics in this population.
 - Professionals and armed services veterans. An item is being forwarded to Conference CPC to discuss ways of improving communication with professionals who come in contact with armed services veterans and those currently serving in the military. This item acknowledges the role that professionals can play in referring members of these populations to AA.

Corrections

- This committee discussed the Carry the Message program that helps to fill Grapevine and La Viña subscription requests from inmates, noting that in addition to areas, individuals may sponsor subscriptions.
- The committee began work on an inventory of materials with an eye toward making AA more attractive and inclusive to a broader membership.
- The committee forwarded on agenda item to the Conference committee on corrections.
 - Carrying the message to incarcerated Native Americans/First Nations/Inuit People. The committee secretary gathered sharing from the members about their experiences carrying the message to these groups, and also located materials in which Native AA members shared about their experience integrating AA principles with Native culture. The sharing and other materials are being forwarded to the Conference committee for discussion.

Finance and Budgetary

- AAWS ended 2016 with an income of \$1,464,625. This compares to a budgeted loss of -\$26,690. Gratitude is expressed to the Fellowship for their participation in increasing contributions, which totaled \$7,934,869 (\$834,869 greater than budgeted and \$780,724 greater than 2015). We can all be grateful to see how the Fellowship responded when the word went out that more participation and support was needed. Let's continue to encourage the efforts we undertook in 2016 to increase communication to the Fellowship.
- AAGV ended 2016 with an income of \$144,070. This compares to a budgeted loss of -\$146,063. Gratitude was expressed to the Fellowship for sustaining circulation. Total circulation for Grapevine (print, online, and app) was 77,429 (1,819 better than budgeted and 230 better than 2015). This increase in circulation comes after years of declining numbers. It's a small increase but let's continue the communication efforts to turn it into a trend! The launch of the subscription app was a key factor in the circulation increase.
- La Viña ended with a shortfall of expenses over income of -\$151,651. This compares to a budgeted shortfall of -\$152,082. Gratitude was expressed to the Fellowship for sustaining circulation. Total circulation was 10,374 (357 better than budgeted and 19 better than 2015). Remember that the Conference has established that La Viña is a service to the Fellowship, to be supported by a combination of income from sales and from the General Fund. La Viña financials get reported alongside AAWS and AAGV financials, but please remind everyone that La Viña is a service, like Corrections or CPC; it's just unique in that it's a service that is also an income stream.
- The committee forwarded the following items to the Conference finance committee:
 - Three items related to reviews of financial practices. There are three separate items asking the committee to consider reviewing the following every other year, rather than every year: the delegate Conference expense; the annual limit on individual contributions; and, the annual limit on individual bequests. The motivation behind these requests is more efficient use of committee meeting time.

- “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” This is a request to add verbiage to this pamphlet indicating that there is no dollar limit to the amount a group may contribute.

International

- Discussion of World Service Meeting self-support noted that this is a standing item in the WSM’s own committee structure. It was also noted that due to income levels and currency values, many of the countries that participate in the WSM have total annual budgets for their entire service structure that would be completely wiped out if all WSM delegates were expected to take on the full cost of participation. There was also gratitude expressed for those countries outside of the U.S./Canada structure (including Great Britain) that help to offset the cost of the WSM by contributing to a scholarship fund to sponsor delegates from countries that have challenges with the delegate fee.
- Among the upcoming international trips that trustees and staff will make are the Cuban General Service Conference and the 55th Anniversary of AA in Barbados, both in March of this year.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

- The GSB approved the committee’s recommended to reinstate Special Forums. Special Forums, like Local Forums, focus on a particular issue or need. Unlike Local Forums, which are planned by local host committees and supported by GSO solely by sending a trustee and a staff member, Special Forums are planned and fully supported by GSO.
- The committee recommended to the General Service Board, and the GSB approved, a recommendation that video recordings of AA meetings interpreted in American Sign Language be made available for sale at the 2020 International Convention in Detroit. This will help make the International Convention experience available to deaf members who are unable to attend to convention.
- The committee recommended to the General Service Board, and the GSB approved, a recommendation that the theme for the 2020 International Convention in Detroit be: “Love and Tolerance is Our Code.” The challenge of practicing love and tolerance has been one of the most significant aspects of my recovery, and I am so pleased that this will be our convention theme!

Literature

Like the trustees’ committee on the Conference, this committee had a very large agenda and had to extend its meeting beyond its scheduled time in order to complete its work. Here are some of the highlights:

- The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet and media reflecting the recovery experiences of deaf AA members and forwarded the item to the trustees’ committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities. This was a request for a Conference agenda item. Although it won’t go to the Conference this year, it will be considered by the other trustees’ committee at its July meeting.

- The committee discussed the possibility of expanding the availability of plain language recovery literature, and agreed that a survey of area delegates and area corrections and accessibilities committee chairs would be the most effective way to determine the need for plain language literature. The committee formed a subcommittee to work on developing the survey. Be on the lookout for such a survey later in the year, most likely after the July board meeting.
- Here are some of the items that the committee is forwarding to the Conference literature committee:
 - Drafts! There will be drafts of the following: the revised pamphlet “AA for the Woman”; the revised Gay/Lesbian pamphlet, now titled “Finding Acceptance: AA for the LGBTQ Alcoholic”; and, three sections of the draft revision of “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” These drafts will be sent only to the members of the Conference Literature Committee for review during the 2017 GSC. It is known the review and approval process can be frustrating for members of the Fellowship. They will see an agenda item that says, “Review draft ... ,” but they don’t get to actually see the draft. One reason we proceed this way is that widespread distribution of drafts of material that will ultimately be copyrighted could compromise our copyrights. The other reason is that it wouldn’t be helpful to the Conference committee members to have hundreds or perhaps thousands of editing suggestions from all over the Fellowship. Members and groups can provide helpful input to all delegates, however, by sharing their input about their expectations for the message in the literature that’s being developed. Please know all members have The Right of Participation so, at any time, can submit Conference agenda items requesting consideration of revision to any piece of literature.
 - Progress reports! There will be progress reports on the updates to “Young People and AA” and “Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” as well as the development of “AA for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues.” The important thing to note here is that these are all in the works, but they haven’t yet reached the stage where a draft is ready for the Conference.
 - Literature and/or language regarding safety. Several requests for development of literature and/or language regarding safety are being sent forward for consideration. As noted above, AAWS has developed and released service material on the subject. The Conference Literature Committee is being asked to look at all of the requests together with the service material to provide guidance on what more needs to be done to provide resources for the Fellowship on this issue.
 - “The A.A. Group” The committee is forwarding a request that a section be added to this pamphlet regarding respect for rental agreements that groups have with their landlords. The specific concern in the request is the need to respect restrictions and policies that landlords may have regarding pets (other than service animals), cigarettes, garbage, etc.

Nominating

Here are the noteworthy agenda items from this committee:

- Slates of trustees and directors. The committee reviewed all slates for presentation to the 2017 General Service Conference and agreed to forward all to the Conference committee on trustees.
- Regions and regional trustees. The committee agreed to forward to the Conference committee on trustees a request to discuss the need to restructure the number of regions and number of regional trustees serving on the General Service Board. This agenda item came from a member of the board after review of the Conference Inventory Final Report, which included extensive sharing on the question of whether there was a need to look at the makeup of the regions.

Public Information

This committee has been taking a close look at the AA Membership Survey. It has decided not to recommend going forward with the 2017 Membership Survey and will continue discussion at its July meeting of a request that a professional survey consultant be engaged to review the methodology for conducting the survey, including options for an electronic survey.

Here are some of the items that the committee is forwarding to the Conference committee on Public Information:

- Google-for-Non-Profits The committee has developed an implementation plan as requested by the 2015 Conference and is forwarding that plan, which is focused on the YouTube Nonprofit Program.
- Twitter The committee has developed an implementation plan as requested by the 2015 Conference and is forwarding that plan, which is focused on sharing information about AA with the general public, the still-suffering alcoholic, and professionals. A member of the trustees’ PI committee who has concerns about the plan has filed a minority report, and that report will be included with the background on this item.

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