

**"Supporting Our Future"**  
**San Diego-Imperial Area 08**  
**2017 General Service Conference**  
**(This report is only on the items that were presented at our Pre-Conference Workshops)**

**Agenda Item**

**VI. A. "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" (P-15)**

**The Conference approved the removal of two bullet items from the pamphlet:**

1. "A file of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one" (Page 24)

Contradicts information on page 3 of "A Newcomer Asks"

2. Review of newcomers list by steering committee (Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee) with follow up activity where it seems needed. (Page 24)

Contradicts AA Fact file Under the header **Membership** page 4. "Because A.A. has never attempted to keep formal membership lists."

**VI. B. "Too Young" (P-37)**

**VI. C. Consider request to retire the pamphlet "Too Young." (P-37) [http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-37\\_tooyoung.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-37_tooyoung.pdf). A Floor Action was made and resulted in a Conference Advisory Action to revise the pamphlet.**

**The committee took no action** on the originally proposed item because they felt there was not a widely-expressed need. Because no action items are presented under Additional Considerations, the body is free to ask questions regarding the no action decision. This item generated a lot of excellent questions from the floor that inserted new thoughts that were not considered in the committee's decision. There were no young persons on the committee nor were the opinions of young people discussed. The 2014 Membership Survey shows 1% of our membership is under the age of 21. A Floor Motion was made and approved to revise the pamphlet.

**VI. J. "The AA Group" (P-16)**

**The committee took no action** on this item because they agreed that an A.A. group's relationship with their landlord falls within the autonomy of the group. The discussion by the body did reveal that many areas have experienced evictions of groups.

## **VI. K. and J.: Consider requests for literature and/or language regarding safety.**

Trustee's Literature Committee reviewed a number of requests and noted that potential agenda items could fall into two categories:

1. Requests for **new** literature regarding safety such as a pamphlet or bulletin
2. Suggestions for revisions of **existing** literature to include information about safety

**The Conference approved** the action that the trustees' Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.

**The committee took no action** on the request for the development of new literature regarding safety in A.A. They pointed toward the service piece released in January 2017, "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare", SMF-209.

[http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/smf-209\\_en.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-209_en.pdf)

### **A Note on Service Materials:**

Service Material from the G.S.O.

[http://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/service-material-from-the-gso](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/service-material-from-the-gso)

Service material is available to A.A. members upon request. This material differs from Conference-approved literature in that it has not come about through Conference Advisory Action. It is produced when there is a need for readily available information on a specific subject. Service material reflects A.A. group experience as well as specific and timely information that is subject to change.

The benefits of a Service Piece are:

- A collection of shared experience from members and groups.
- They do not go through the Conference process so they can receive timely updates.
- They can be downloaded from **AA.ORG** and copied.

## **II. B. "Problems Other Than Alcohol" (P-35)**

II. B. : Consider adding a footnote to the pamphlet "Problems Other Than Alcohol" (P-35)

[http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/P-35\\_ProOtherThanAlcohol.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/P-35_ProOtherThanAlcohol.pdf)

The Conference approved a footnote with the following text be added to the pamphlet "Problems Other Than Alcohol" at the bottom of page 1:

### **PROPOSED FOOTNOTE:**

*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.*

## **VII. B. Translation of Conference Background Material**

This item was **Recommitted** to the Trustees Committee on Policy & Admissions.

## **II. D. "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" (P-54)**

The Conference approved to change from "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?"

## II. E. "AA and the Armed Services" (P-50)

Additional Consideration: The committee discussed ways of improving communications about A.A. with professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services and suggested that the Trustees CPC Committee:

A. Develop and encourage local CPC Committees to reach out to professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services. B. Update the CPC Workbook to include information about carrying the A.A. message who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services. One suggested change to include in the workbook is adding one or more bullet points to the section, "Suggested CPC Committee Goals and Projects" (pages 19-20), as well as adding experience with professionals to the section, "Shared Experience for One-on-One Military Professionals" (page 25). The committee also suggested sample guide letters be developed which address military command personnel chaplains, and veterans' affairs, medical and/or counseling centers.

## X. B. Accessibility of the A.A. message for Armed Services Veterans.(P-50)

The committee discussed ways of incorporating shared experience in carrying the A.A. message with members of the Armed Services. The committee suggested that Remote Communities Committees encourage A.A. members carrying A.A.'s message within the context of military life to share their experience, strength and hope including at the Pre-Conference Remote Communities Meeting. The committee suggested that the trustees' CPC Committee/Treatment and Accessibilities forward the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" (P-50), to the Publishing Department for translation into French and Spanish, and to add the pamphlet to the Accessibilities Kit. The committee requested that the General Service Office continue to explore strategies to provide more effective to alcoholics who are veterans and active members of the Armed Services and provide a progress report to the 2018 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

## III. A. Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.), (F-26)

The committee suggested that the Corrections Coordinator at the General Service Office work with the trustees' Committee on Corrections to create a letter to be sent to corrections professionals in Canada raising awareness about the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) in Canada and summarizing its benefits.

The committee discussed the progress made on the implementation of the CCS in Canada and noted the benefits of having an appointed committee member from Canada on the trustees' Committee on Corrections.

The committee discussed several possibilities for reducing the initial postage cost for "inside" Canadian members to sign up for the CCS, including providing postage-paid envelopes and forwarding mail to the General Service Office from a Canadian PO Box.

The committee suggested that the Corrections Coordinator at the General Service Office work send quarterly updates to area delegates and area corrections chairs about the status of the CCS and the current need for volunteers.

The committee suggested adding the CCS form for "inside" members to the Corrections Committee page on GSO's AA website in order to make it more accessible to Corrections Committee members.

The committee discussed the benefits of correction's correspondence by email for inside and outside members. The committee suggested the General Service Office Corrections Coordinator explore ways to offer "inside" and "outside" members the option of participating in the CCS via email when possible.

## III. B: Discuss carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated Native American People.

The committee discussed carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People and agreed that local committees were best able to handle this important work. To aid in carrying the message, the committee suggested adding the pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality" to the Corrections Kit and to the Corrections Group Handbook.

X. A. "A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs" (P-83)
The Conference approved that the pamphlet "AA for the Alcoholics with Special Needs" be approved to include suggested editorial changes and be retitled "Accessibility for All Alcoholics."
VII. J. Consider a request to add a "YPAA Subcommittee" to the service structure.
The committee discussed a request to add a "YPAA Subcommittee" to the service structure and took no action. The committee recognized that YPAAs are A.A. entities comprised of members of Alcoholics Anonymous and encourage young people to continue their participation at all levels of service.
IV. D. ""Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"" (F-3)
The Conference failed to approve the recommendation to add the following text to the pamphlet ""Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"" (F-3): Question: "Are there limits to the amount of money an AA group or an AA event can contribute to GSO? Answer: No. and include this language in all appropriate service material.
<b>Develop a Finance Report for the Fellowship</b>
The General Service Board's Treasurer developed two additional versions of the annual Finance Report and displayed them to the Conference. Feedback is welcome.
VII. F., G., H, I. - Concerning Changes to the General Service Conference
The Conference approved proposing the dates of future General Service Conferences as Committee Considerations rather than Advisory Actions.
The Conference declined the motion that the General Service Conference be held in New York City every other year.
The Conference approved the motion that the General Service Office management submit a report on the process, implementation and status of the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Policy and Admissions Committee.
The Policy and Admissions Committee took no action on the request to allow regional service committees to bid to host the General Service Conference.
The Policy and Admissions Committee took no action on the request to rescind the Advisory Action delegating site selection for the General Service Conference to GSO management.
XII. A. New publication: "Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970" (working title).
The Conference approved this proposed publication.
VIII. D. Public Service Announcements
The Conference approved the Public Information Committee's recommendation that a new PSA be developed for a cost not to exceed \$40,000.
V. A., B. Spiritual Value of Grapevine and La Viña
The committee discussed the spiritual value of Grapevine and LaVina in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and agreed that the magazines are important Twelve-Step tools, noting that they serve as a beacon of hope for alcoholics in treatment centers and prisons and alcoholics all over the world. The committee recognized Grapevine and LaVina cannot accept contributions and are self-supporting only to subscriptions and sales of books and other items.
The committee took no action on the reconsideration of the 2010 Conference Advisory Action regarding LaVina.

V. C. Reconsider Outside Sales of Grapevine and La Viña
The committee considered the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on outside sales and suggested that the Grapevine Board create a plan for outside sales of subscriptions, books and other items and report back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine.
V. G. Grapevine/La Viña Reps
The committee discussed ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and LaVina and suggested that all delegates consider it part of their responsibility to inform the Fellowship about Grapevine and LaVina as tools of sobriety, either through their own efforts or by recruiting others through email and area websites.
V. D. <b>Instagram</b> account for AA Grapevine, Inc.
The committee discussed AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an Instagram account and requested AA Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration
V. E. <b>Facebook</b> page for AA Grapevine, Inc.
The committee discussed AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Facebook page and requested AA Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration
V. F. and VIII. E. <b>Google-for-Nonprofits</b> Account
<u>Grapevine</u> : The committee discussed AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Google for Nonprofits account and requested AA Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
<u>Public Information</u> : The Conference past the motion for AA World Services Inc. to create a Google for nonprofits account with use of the account limited to the YouTube non-prophet program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on AAWS YouTube pages. The committee requests that a report including information from website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of AAWS YouTube account be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.
VIII. F. <b>Twitter</b> Account for Public Information
The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the implementation of a Twitter account and took no action owing to the 10th Tradition's direction to avoid public controversy and concerns regarding the viability and modernity of Twitter. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information continue to pursue options for carrying the AA message to the public on social media.
VIII. B. 3. "Understanding Anonymity" (P-47)
The Conference passed the motion for the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" (P-47) to be rewritten to include material from GSO's literature covering Tradition Eleven and to expand the discussion of humility in Tradition Twelve as it relates to anonymity and that a progress report or draft language be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.