

April 2007

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Advisory Action 40 of the 1990 General Service Conference states: “Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section of the *Final Report*.” All items, listed by committee, are as follows:

Conference Agenda Committee

- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form. In response to a request for sharing from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference on the question of participation by service category, the committee agreed that the question remain on the Evaluation Questionnaire. While the responses from the question may not affect the planning of future Conferences, it was felt that the publication of the responses in the Evaluation Summary provides an opportunity for Conference members to check their own participation, and may open communication with others on how they viewed this topic.

Conference Committee on Archives¹

- The committee accepted the “Sound and Video Access Policies” and expressed gratitude for the hard work in developing this General Service Board policy clarifying procedures and limitations for accessing the archival recordings of the General Service Office Archives.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and accepted the revisions.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Archives Committee consider developing new format(s) for the Archives Workbook. Suggestions included a 3-ring binder and/or a CD format, from which pages and forms could easily be updated, copied, downloaded, and/or printed.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Archives Committee consider developing language for the Archives Workbook and/or a service piece that would help foster awareness of copyright issues in local, district, and area archives projects.
- The committee forwarded to the 2008 Policy/Admissions Committee a request to consider that the Conference Archives Committee be established as a permanent Conference committee.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

- The committee reviewed the “Progress Report on Video Segments Directed to Professionals” from the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities, and viewed a preliminary clip of the C.P.C. video directed to medical professionals. The committee offered several suggestions to the Publications Director and video production vendor regarding script pacing, content, content security, and the general direction of the video.

The video segments directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields will be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community.

- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and suggested two minor changes to the C.P.C. Workbook, which will be forwarded to the Publications Department.
- The committee recognized that local C.P.C. committees could benefit from easier access to the C.P.C. Workbook, and suggested that placement of the C.P.C. Workbook on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site be considered by A.A. World Services, Inc.
- The committee agreed that sending letters introducing A.A. and supplying A.A. literature to professionals are valuable C.P.C. service projects. The committee stressed the importance of one-on-one contact with professionals, noting that personal contact with professionals is essential to effective C.P.C. service.
- The committee recognized the value of utilizing professionals who are friends of A.A. at local A.A. events with the goal of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service. This approach can generate enthusiasm in the Fellowship for C.P.C. service, and enthusiasm is a critical component of effective outreach to professionals.

Conference Committee on Corrections

- The committee reviewed the Corrections Workbook and suggested one change and one correction to the service piece “A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information” (F-162), which will be forwarded to the Publications Department.
- The committee discussed various ways to stimulate corrections Twelfth Step work; these included:
 - Utilizing the video *Carrying The Message Behind The Walls* more effectively.
 - Creating Power Point presentations about A.A. corrections service including photos and discussion topics.
 - Hosting A.A. round-ups inside correctional facilities similar to those previously shared about in *Box 4-5-9*.
 - Mentioning in G.S.O.’s welcome letter to Corrections chairs that G.S.O. staff collects sharing on local corrections workshops and events.
 - Sending sharing on local corrections workshops and events to G.S.O.
 - Discussing ideas in areas and districts regarding ways to collect money to purchase literature for local correctional facilities.
 - Including local corrections events on area Web sites.
 - Introducing someone to corrections service by bringing them to corrections events and/or A.A. meetings on the inside.

- Listing Corrections chairs with G.S.O. so they receive useful corrections-related material and communications.
- Sharing about corrections service experience with excitement and enthusiasm.
- Encouraging ex-inmate A.A. members to participate in corrections service.
- Creating calendar of corrections events around U.S. and Canada.

Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee suggests that the phrase “G.S.R. travel expenses to attend service functions” be added to A.A. service material where appropriate when describing expenses in need of support.
- The committee discussed a request to “Develop a communication plan for the purpose of increasing the level of group participation and self-support within the Conference structure” and after considerable discussion took no action.
- The committee discussed a request to eliminate volume discounts on literature orders and agreed with the A.A.W.S. practice of allowing volume discounts on literature orders.
- The committee discussed a request to incorporate shipping costs into literature pricing, and agreed that the A.A.W.S. practice of shipping charges is appropriate.

Conference Committee on Grapevine

- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2008 or later:
 - a) a collection of Grapevine stories by people with 40 or more years of sobriety, and;
 - b) a book of classic cartoons and jokes from the A.A. Grapevine.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook and suggested that the sample presentation in Appendix IV be updated.
- The committee encouraged the Grapevine to explore less expensive formats for production of the workbook.
- The committee again urged the A.A. Grapevine Board to produce a Spanish translation of the A.A. Grapevine workbook as soon as financially possible.

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

- The committee discussed the site-selection procedures for the 2020 International Convention. The committee noted that selecting an International Convention site twelve years out prevents us from having to compete for sites and yet allows us to have enough information about the site city to make a good decision.
- The committee discussed the concept and details of Local Forums as approved by the General Service Board. It was noted that the new Local Forums format specifies that some expense, such as site rental, will be the responsibility of the Local Forum organizing committee. The diversity of the purpose of Local Forums was emphasized. In addition to large gatherings, there can be smaller gatherings to present Forum and local service information to selected A.A. communities and to respond to specific needs of these communities.

There were questions about Local Forums attendance by a General Service Board trustee and a member from either the General Service or the Grapevine Office. Starting July 2008 there will be an annual inventory of the new Forum schedule by the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums to review Forum experience with the new Forum schedule and to respond to any questions about implementation of the Forum schedule.

- The committee discussed the following ways to encourage interest in Forums:
 - Emphasize the importance of A.A. members talking to A.A. members about Forums.
 - Use translators to communicate Forum information.
 - Emphasize that it is more effective if local delegates, districts, groups and A.A. members take responsibility for providing information about Forums rather than relying on the General Service Office's mailing of registration forms.
 - Encourage use of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site to find Forum registration forms, Forum information and hotel information.
 - Encourage A.A. members to use G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site as a source for Forum Final Reports to find out what happened at past Forums and what Forums are like.
 - Be an example of an enthusiastic Forum attendee.
 - Emphasize interesting things you can learn at a Forum such as "Where does A.A.'s money go?"; "Do you want to get to know your literature?"
 - Include Forum registration forms with catalogs in literature orders sent to central offices and intergroups.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Conference Literature Committee

- The committee reviewed the trustees' Literature Committee progress report on revisions to the "A.A. for the Native North American" pamphlet and expressed appreciation that the story submission deadline was extended until June 30, 2007 to provide a greater opportunity for Native North American A.A. members to share their stories. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft of the revised pamphlet at the 2008 General Service Conference.
- The committee discussed at length requests to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet and took no action. As the structure and function of intergroup/central offices vary greatly throughout the United States and Canada, it was the consensus of the committee that, where a need may exist for an intergroup/central office pamphlet, it can be addressed locally.

The committee also felt that sufficient information is available about intergroup/central offices in existing A.A. Conference-approved literature and service material, including "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, *The A.A. Service Manual*, and A.A. Guidelines on Central and Intergroup Offices.

- The committee considered a request to produce a pamphlet to replace the discontinued "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic" and took no action.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

- The committee accepted the final report from the General Service Board Ad Hoc Regional Composition and Structure Inventory Committee and expressed appreciation regarding the complexity of the issues that were discussed at length by the Board's Ad Hoc Committee.

The committee requested that the General Service Board provide a summary of the board's discussions on the inventory questions for board consideration that were listed in the final report, which pertain to regional composition and structure and, if completed, forward the summary to the 2008 Conference Committee on Policy Admissions.

Conference Committee on Public Information

- The committee reviewed the 2006 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and noted the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the G.S.O. A.A. Web site.
- The committee reviewed information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the Public Service Announcement "Testimonials."
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook and suggested that the language in the Workbook be revised to reflect current Conference Advisory Actions and experience regarding how to handle anonymity breaks by A.A. members at the public level.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- The committee reviewed a list of duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.) and requested that a 'service piece' be developed for inclusion in the D.C.M. Kit.
- The committee considered a recommendation from the General Service Board that the following text be added to Chapter Nine in *The A.A. Service Manual* where appropriate:

“The intent of forming regions was to create a vehicle by which regional trustees could be added to the General Service Board and a way to provide a cross section of people who would serve A.A. as a whole – not in a representative capacity. To allow for a balanced rotation, elections of regional trustees are staggered in order that there may be a relatively even flow of new trustees coming onto the board. It was not until 1962 that the formal naming of regions occurred and a redistribution; and, soon afterwards the formation of new regions.”

and took no action.

- The committee considered a recommendation from the General Service Board that the sentence, “Regional trustees bring to the board’s discussions a regional point of view and experience that is invaluable,” in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board, p. S62 in *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2006-2007 Edition, be replaced so that the section reads:

“While no trustee can be said to “represent” a geographical section – all trustees represent only the Fellowship as a whole – regional trustees bring to the board’s discussions a diversity of A.A. experience that is invaluable.”

and took no action.

- The committee considered a suggestion to include the committee scope from each Conference Committee Composition Scope and Procedure document in the Standing Committee section in the Chapter on Conference Committees and took no action.
- The committee considered and accepted a suggestion that the first sentence in the last paragraph of the preface to the *Twelve Concepts of World Service*, which reads: “A ‘short form’ of the Concepts was prepared by the 1974 General Service Conference for inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*,” be corrected to read as follows:

“A ‘short form’ of the Concepts was recommended by the 1974 General Service Conference for inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*.”

- The committee considered a suggestion that the section on “Past Delegates,” in *The A.A. Service Manual*, be moved from pp. S43-44 and inserted, as amended, in Chapter Six, p. S47, after the discussion on “The Alternate” and took no action.
- The committee considered a suggestion that the terms L.C.M. (Local Committee Member) and D.C.M.C. (District Committee Member Chairperson) be added to the glossary on pp. S18-19, and took no action. The committee requested that the Publications Department place a reference to D.C.M.C. in the Index.
- The committee considered a request to have A.A.W.S. discontinue publishing regional directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.) and took no action.

- The committee considered a suggestion that the second to the last full sentence under Qualifications (S29) in *The A.A. Service Manual* be amended to read: “A D.C.M. should have enough sobriety, generally four or five years” and took no action.
- The committee considered a suggestion to add to the A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.) a separate subsection within the section “INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE MEETINGS” for listing “Online Intergroups” that request to be listed, and that online Intergroups thus listed provide an e-mail and/or Web site address to be included in the directories and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the *Final Conference Report* and suggested that the publications department consider increasing the font size for future publications. The committee also wished to convey its thanks and appreciation for the artist’s continued excellence in providing high quality illustrations to be included in the *Final Conference Report*.

Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities

- The committee suggested that the DVD *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be inserted in the complimentary Treatment Facilities Kit sent to each new Treatment Facilities area committee chair.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities gather sharing from the Fellowship on how to stimulate interest in Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work. This sharing is to include information such as:
 - Service material that has been locally produced.
 - Reports on events that have been held.
 - Examples of how sponsorship has proven to be an effective tool.

The committee is particularly interested in having samples of existing local service information available as background material to assist the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities’ discussion on the possible development of Conference-approved literature and/or Service Material to stimulate A.A. members’ interest in Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work.

- The committee forwarded to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board a suggestion that it consider producing a special section in the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña once a year on Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work.
- The committee discussed the need for more input from the Fellowship in the area of carrying out our Twelfth Step responsibility regarding Treatment Facilities service. Based on a lack of agenda items, the committee discussed the possibility of merging with another Conference committee, and concluded that the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities is still viable.

Conference Committee on Trustees

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Northeast and Southwest regional trustees and for trustee-at-large/Canada.
- The committee reviewed with approval the resume of Terrance M. Bedient to serve as a consultant on the trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee commencing with the July 2007 committee meeting.
- The committee accepted the "Appeal to the General Service Conference" dated April 11, 2007 concerning the decision made in the January 2007 executive session of the General Service Board not to begin a search for a new General Manager of the General Service Office.

In keeping with the importance of the principle of assuring us that the minority opinion will be heard, as outlined in Concept V, the Conference Committee on Trustees requests that this "Appeal to the General Service Conference" be given a full hearing at the next scheduled executive session of the General Service Board.

In addition, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating review Procedure № 9 of their Composition, Scope and Procedures—"Guidelines for Hiring the General Manager, G.S.O."—and clarify the language which refers to the length of service for that position. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating forward a final report to the 2008 Conference Committee on Trustees.

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- The committee recommended that the first sentence of the first paragraph in the “The Area Assembly” section of Chapter Four in *The A.A. Service Manual* which reads: “Any meeting of area G.S.R.s, and the area committee (see Chapter Five) is an assembly,” be changed to read as follows:

“Any meeting of area G.S.R.s, **D.C.M.s** and the area committee (see Chapter Five) is an assembly,”

Conference Committee on Trustees

- The committee recommended that the existing sentence pertaining to regional trustees in the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be amended to read.

“Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the year, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to provide the Board their views and opinions regarding policy matters based on Fellowship-wide experience.**”

Note: As it exists in *The A.A. Service Manual, 2006-2007 Edition*, p. S110, that sentence reads:

“Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the years, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to advise the Board with respect to regional views and opinions regarding policy matters.**”

FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

- The background material on the “Appeal to the General Service Conference” dated April 11, 2007 and reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees, be provided to all members of the 57th General Service Conference. **(Conference voted not to consider)**
- That the hospital scene appearing in the corrections video, previously approved, be deleted. **(Not Approved)**
- That the information media presentation introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training for corrections personnel be edited to include at least one mention and display of our magazines, *The A.A. Grapevine* and *La Viña*, together with French and Spanish A.A. books and pamphlets. **(Not Approved)**
- That a pamphlet on intergroup/central offices be developed and that a draft copy or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Literature. **(Conference voted not to consider)**

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