

Heart topics are highlighted by the Oregon Area delegate because they may be of interest to the general membership

68th General Service Conference Committees

Agenda Items

I. Agenda



A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2019 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be: "Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages." **Approved 124 Yes, 7 No**



B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2019 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that:

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2019 General Service Conference: Yesterday's World – Our Legacies Begin

Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service

Tomorrow's World – Courage to be Vigilant

Approved 120 Yes, 16 No



B. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2019 General Service Conference. D.

It was recommended that:

The following be the workshop topic for the 2019 General Service Conference: "Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings" **Approved 113 Yes, 3 No**

C. Conference Evaluation:

1. Review summary of the 2017 General Service Conference evaluations.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the summary of the 2017 General Service Conference evaluations. Noting the low number of respondents, the committee reiterated the obligation that Conference members have to fill out the evaluation.

2. Review General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the 2018 General Service Conference Evaluation and noted that the evaluation is now available for delegates to fill out online.

D. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, which included the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference 2016 Report on the Agenda

- Item Selection Process.
- The committee noted that progress has been made on implementing the plan in the 2016 report. However, the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference forwarded a request to the General Service Board to continue to consider enhanced participation of area delegates in the process for selection of agenda items, and no action on this item was reported by the board.
- The committee noted the 2016 report suggested that:
 - Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee could have a conference call with the corresponding trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee. This way, Conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees' committee, and could share regarding those items. This would allow all Conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed Agenda items. Their feedback could be brought to the trustees' committee meeting as background for the discussion.
- The committee noted that this has not happened and requested that the trustees' committee chairs implement this conference call portion of the plan starting in January 2019.
- After reviewing the results of the survey of Conference committee chairs about the implementation of the 2016 plan, the committee requested that this sharing be gathered from the Conference committee chairs annually and provided to the Conference Committee on Agenda.
- The committee requested the trustees' committee create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community



A. Review the trustees' committee report regarding LinkedIn as a platform for reaching professionals.

It was recommended that:

- A.A. World Services, Inc. develop a company page on LinkedIn with the following goals in mind:
- To offer another digital resource, in addition to aa.org, where professionals can find accurate information about A.A.
 - To broaden the reach of the About A.A. newsletter for professionals
 - To offer a platform where our professional friends may recommend us
 - To raise awareness of exhibits staffed by local C.P.C. committees at national and local professional conferences

- ✓ To expand the network of our professional friends and perhaps deepen the pool of Class A Trustee candidates
- ✓ By our presence on LinkedIn, to reinforce the continuing relevance and efficacy of A.A. to professional

Amendment was offered to include AA GV that failed 120 no, 11 yes. The original recommendation approved 125 yes, 9 no. No minority opinion was expressed.

Committee Considerations:

___ The committee strongly suggested that those creating the LinkedIn company page consider adding some kind of disclaimer or explanation clarifying that A.A. is not affiliated with any of the organizations who appear in promoted content on the LinkedIn company page.

B. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional.”

It was recommended that:

The text on page 9 of the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional” which currently reads:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. In most instances, health care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.

Be revised to read:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. With no membership requirements beyond the desire to stop drinking, members are on an equal footing. What’s important is getting the help that is needed, and in most instances, health care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.

The text on page 10 of the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional” which currently reads:

A.A. is listed in most telephone directories or local newspapers, and a phone call is all that is needed for help.

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings nearby.

Approved 132 yes, 2 no

C. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous.”

It was recommended that:

A new section be added beginning on page 16 of the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous,” between the sections “Why Would the Clergy be Concerned with A.A.?” and “Do Any of the Clergy Belong to A.A.?” with text as follows:

What If You Are a Chaplain in the Military?

Like other members of the clergy, military chaplains are often the “safest” people a problem drinker can approach. Chaplains can help direct alcoholics to available

A.A. meetings, either on or near the base. Additionally, if no meetings are available, chaplains may be able to connect interested alcoholics with other A.A. materials, such as books and pamphlets or A.A.'s magazines, Grapevine and La Viña. Online meetings are also available for those members of the military who may be deployed, and chaplains can help get them connected electronically through correspondence groups. (A.A.'s General Service Office can provide information on such resources.)

Approved 132 yes, 2 no

E. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..."

It was recommended that:

Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." on page 4, first paragraph, to read (additions in **bold**):

Meetings: At the heart of the program are its meetings, which are conducted autonomously by A.A. groups in cities and towns throughout the world, **even in jails, institutions and on military bases.**

Approved 132 yes, 2 no

Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." on page 4, last section, to read (additions in **bold**):

Referrals from Judicial, Health Care, **Military**, or other Professionals

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from judicial, health care, **military** or other professionals. **Approved 131 yes 1 no**

Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." in the last full paragraph on page 5, to read (additions in **bold**):

Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G.S.O.'s A.A. website aa.org can aid in finding local resources. **Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are **deployed** in places where there are no meetings nearby.**

Amended to eliminate the word "deployed" passed 128 yes, 6 no. No minority opinion expressed. Final vote 132 yes, 2 no

Committee Consideration:

The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities consult with health care professionals to determine if there are issues unique to problem drinkers in the military and military veterans, that would be helpful to cover in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for Health Care Professionals."

F. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

-) That the updated sample guide letters replace the guide letters currently in the workbook, and that utilizing the guide letters be mentioned in the "Suggested C.P.C. Committee Goals and Projects" section of the workbook.
-) That the "Suggested C.P.C. Committee Goals and Projects" section of the workbook mention contacting military bases and veterans' facilities.

- J That when listing professionals whom C.P.C. committees should approach in the workbook, that list should include professionals who come in contact with active members of the military and veterans whenever possible.
- J That the text of the pamphlet “Let’s Be Friendly With Our Friends: Friends on the Alcoholism Front” which is currently reprinted in full in the C.P.C. workbook be removed from the workbook.
- J That the Membership Survey and the display of the Membership Survey be encouraged for use in C.P.C. work.
- J That we continue to look for opportunities to utilize Class A Trustees in C.P.C. work.

III. Corrections

- ♥ A. Consider request to create a pamphlet for inmates who are to be released after long term incarceration.

Committee Considerations:

The committee discussed the request to create a pamphlet for inmates who will be released after long-term incarceration and **took no action**. The committee suggested that correction service materials be revised for this purpose.

The committee asked the trustees’ Committee on Corrections to update the service materials, “A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - For A.A.s on the Inside” and “A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - For A.A.s on the Outside” with excerpts from existing literature.

- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Corrections create a letter to corrections professionals to raise awareness about prerelease and Bridging the Gap volunteers.

The committee noted that many correctional facilities have increased their security restrictions for paper materials and suggests the trustees’ Committee on Corrections continue to work with the Publishing Department to insure access to A.A. materials for incarcerated alcoholics.

The committee noted the value of peer-to-peer communications between corrections professionals and looks forward to the creation of letters for use in Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) and Corrections Committees.

- The committee suggested that the links displayed in the video “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” be updated.
- The committee suggested the trustees’ Committee on Corrections discuss ways to utilize A.A. materials for incarcerated alcoholics at juvenile facilities.

B. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Committee Considerations:

The committee noted the benefits of identifying facilities with incarcerated alcoholics to effectively present A.A. to the professionals who work in these settings. This effort could inform the local Fellowship of the

need for outside volunteers. The committee suggests the trustees' Committee on Corrections create a checklist for local committees to be included in the Corrections Kit.

The committee noted the progress made with producing dubbed versions of the video "A New Freedom" in Spanish and French and suggested adding this video to the Corrections Kit upon completion.

IV. Finance

- ♥ A. Consider developing a method to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the General Service Board.

Committee Considerations:

The committee discussed developing a method to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the General Service Board and felt that the consumer price index fluctuates by such small proportions that a change would be costly and not conducive to the Fellowship and **took no action**.

It was recommended that:

The Conference-approved maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

This item was not on the agenda but was a result of discussion in Committee.

Passed 118 yes, 13 No.

- B. Review Self-Support Packet.

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and made the following suggestions to the Publishing Department:
 - The pamphlets "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" and "The A.A. Group Treasurer" be consistent in print and revision coding on the back.
 - Adding language regarding group level electronic contributions, passing the "virtual" basket, to the section Passing the Basket in the service piece "The A.A. Group Treasurer" and also be included in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" and the Guidelines on Finance.
 - Update illustrative material on the Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet (F-203) to reflect current pamphlet covers and website.
 - Update birthday contribution envelopes per member per year statistics.
- The committee had a discussion on the topic of AA Grapevine and suggested the following:
 - That there be a greater online presence.
 - A fact sheet on the topic of Grapevine be included in the Self-Support Packet.

- That the General Service Board make available issues of Grapevine for distribution purposes through G.S.O. staff assignments.
- The committee requested that when A.A.W.S. develops an A.A. app that self-support information be easily accessible. The committee also discussed having access to assignment folders containing literature relevant to the services.

V. Grapevine/La Vina



A. Review social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook and Google for Nonprofits.

Committee Considerations

The committee reviewed the 2018 Grapevine social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook, and Google for Nonprofits and suggests that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue to explore social media strategy in their forthcoming strategic plan, taking into account issues regarding anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion. The committee reviewed the audio strategy report and thanked AA Grapevine, Inc. for including it in their forthcoming strategic plan.

B. Review Audio Strategy status update.

Committee Considerations

The committee reviewed the audio strategy report and thanked AA Grapevine, Inc. for including it in their forthcoming strategic plan.

C. Review report on 2004 Conference Advisory Action on Outside Sales.

It was recommended that:

AA Grapevine, Inc. allow sales of Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available), and other products to non-AA entities, such as (but not limited to) hospitals, treatment centers and book stores. [Note: As a current practice, AA Grapevine, Inc. does not seek outside sales for magazine subscriptions.] **Approved 120 Yes, 14 No**

AA Grapevine, Inc. continue to seek opportunities to expand bulk sales. [Note: AA Grapevine, Inc. currently offers volume discounts and will respond to requests, rather than solicit sales from outside entities.] **Approved 122 Yes, 9 No**

AA Grapevine, Inc. provide notification to A.A. World Services' list of non-A.A. entities to let them know that they can now purchase AA Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available) and other products. **Approved 120 Yes, 13 No**

C. Reconsider the 2014 Conference Advisory Action regarding La Viña.

It was recommended that:

La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color. **Approved 128 Yes, 7 No**

D. Review revised text of the pamphlet "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print."

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" be approved and the title changed to "AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media." **Approved 104 Yes, 28 No**



F. Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2019 and later.

Committee Considerations:

The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that in the year 2019 or later Grapevine produce the following items:

1. **Our Twelve Steps II (working title)**
Stories of experience by members about our Twelve Steps (our last Step book was in 2011).
2. **All About Grapevine Reps (working title)**
Helpful and inspiring stories by A.A. members doing service with Grapevine and La Viña.
3. **Prayer & Meditation (working title)**
A collection of stories by A.A. members about the many ways they practice Step Eleven.
4. **A.A. & Families (working title)**
Stories by A.A. members that illustrate the many ways alcoholism and A.A. has touched our families.
5. **Hispanic Members Doing Service in A.A. (working title)**
A collection of stories published in La Viña magazine by members getting sober and active, doing service and carrying the A.A. message.

G. Review Grapevine Workbook.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the Grapevine Workbook and suggests that it undergo a comprehensive review and revision, and AA Grapevine, Inc. bring back a progress report to the 2019 Conference Committee on AA Grapevine.

Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee discussed ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Viña and suggested that all current and past delegates consider it a part of their responsibility to inform the Fellowship about Grapevine and La Viña as tools of sobriety, either through their own efforts or by recruiting others through email and area websites.

VI. Literature

A. Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

1. Request to add an appendix reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.

Adding an appendix to the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress, **Not Approved: 57 Yes, 79 No**



2. Request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement.

Committee Considerations:

The committee considered a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and **took no action**. The committee noted that the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement are adequately noted in other A.A. literature.

3. Request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.

Committee Considerations:

The committee considered a request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* acknowledging co-founder, Bob S., and **took no action**. The committee noted that acknowledgement of Bob S. ("Dr. Bob") as cofounder is currently mentioned in two separate places in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.



- C. Consider request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish "The God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain).

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "The God Word" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes.

Approved 122 Yes, 13 No



- D. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members.

Committee Considerations:

The committee considered a request for the development of a new pamphlet for atheist and agnostic alcoholics and **took no action**. The committee agreed the recommendation that A.A.W.S. adopt/adapt the pamphlet "The God Word" responded to the need expressed by atheist and agnostic members of A.A.

- D. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Literature Committee develop a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies, and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Approved 89 Yes, 44 No: (Exactly 2/3's vote on this)**



- E. Review report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety in A.A. literature.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the trustees' Literature Committee report on "Language Related to Safety in A.A. Literature." The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee develop text regarding safety in A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and bring back the draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

E. Review revised draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman."

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman," retitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.," be approved. **Approved 122 Yes, 8 No**

G. Review revised draft pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic."

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," retitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.," be approved with minor edits provided by Publishing regarding use of gender specific language. **Approved 120 Yes, 12 No**

H. Review draft pamphlet "A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues."

It was recommended that:

The draft pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors" be approved. **Approved 125 Yes, 9 No**

I. Review revised draft pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services."

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services" be approved. **Approved 125 Yes, 2 No**

J. Review progress report and draft revised text for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed draft text for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or revised draft pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

K. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Too Young?”

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft revised pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

L. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft revised pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

M. Consider request for revision to *Living Sober*.

It was recommended that:

The following text (originally included in the 1998 edition of *Living Sober*) be added to *Living Sober* following the section titled “Note to Medical Professionals”:

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some, it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson’s advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that “A.A. is against pills.”

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become readdicted to any drug, it’s equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems.

Approved 110 Yes, 25 No

-  N. Consider request for the development of a new book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

Trustees on Literature Committee develop a new book, combining Twelve Steps and twelve Traditions with twelve Concepts For world Services, and bring back a progress report on a draft manuscript to the 2019 General Service Conference on Literature. **Question called 118 Yes, 13 No: vote was 62 Yes, 72 No, didn't get two-thirds vote, Vote to reconsider 63 Yes 71 No (Simple majority)---Not Approved**

- O. Consider request to update the video "Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure."

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive update to the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" to reflect a contemporary presentation of the General Service and AA Grapevine offices as well as a current portrayal of the General Service Structure, and bring back a progress report or draft updated video to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Approved 129 Yes, 6 No**

- P. Consider request to change the subtitle of the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A."

It was recommended that:

The title of the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A." be changed to "G.S.R. General Service Representative: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole." **Approved 120 Yes 11 No**

-  Q. Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Literature Committee develop a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics by gathering sharing from Spanish-speaking women in A.A., and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Approved 124 Yes, 8 No**

- R. Consider request to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to include a section on anonymity, and bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **Approved 125 Yes, 5 No**

- S. Review matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

The committee accepted the 2017 matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

VII. Policy/Admissions



- A. Approve request for one observer from A.A. in India to attend the 2018 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that:

Valley K., general secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India, be admitted to the 68th General Service Conference as an observer.

- B. Review dates for the 2021 General Service Conference.

Committee Considerations:

The committee accepted the dates April 25-May 1, 2021 for the 71st General Service Conference since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

- C. Review report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the report from G.S.O.'s general manager on site selection of the General Service Conference. The committee looks forward to a progress report for review by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

- D. Review draft process for polling the General Service Conference between annual Conference meetings.

It was recommended that:

The "Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings" be approved. **Approved 100 Yes, 31 No**

- E. Review progress report on options for equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the trustees' General Service Conference Committee's Report on Equitable Distribution of the Workload of Conference Committees. The committee encourages the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to continue reviewing options in order to create a workable plan for equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees. The committee looks forward to a plan or progress report on this important process for review by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

- F. Consider request to develop a policy for the use of the Conference dashboard.

Committee Consideration:

The committee discussed the request to develop a policy on the use of the

Conference dashboard and suggested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference develop an information sheet that reflects shared experience and guidance on usage of the Conference dashboard

- G. Discuss the following question from the trustees' International Committee: "Does the U.S./Canada have a role/responsibility in assisting in the development of A.A. structures around the world through sponsoring other countries via direct invitations to observe our General Service Conference."

Committee Consideration:

The committee discussed the question forwarded from the trustees' International Committee: "Does the U.S./Canada [service structure] have a role/responsibility in assisting the development of A.A. structures around the world through sponsoring other countries via direct invitations to observe our General Service Conference?" While wishing to remain open to requests from other country's boards/G.S.O.s, the committee agreed that the U.S./Canada service structure does not have a role/responsibility in assisting other countries *via direct invitations* to observe our General Service Conference rather than at their own request.

Two consultants, Andréa Pellegrino and Chris DeSantis, from the firm Impact Collaborative, be admitted to the 68th General Service Conference on Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27, 2018 as observers. [Note: This was a special request from the chair of the General Service Board for approval of two representatives from the firm contracted to conduct a communications audit initiated by the General Service Board.] **Approved 110 Yes, 22 No**

VIII. Public Information

- A. Review 2017 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed and accepted the 2017 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.

- B. Review 2018 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed and accepted the 2018 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan and noted the importance of the trustees' continued exploration of social media and social network platforms to carry the A.A. message to the public.

- C. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

1. Consider approving the proposed video PSA "Changes."

It was recommended that:

The video PSA "Changes" be approved with the following revision: That the line "That's where A.A. came to my rescue" be replaced with "A.A. offered a solution."

Approved 124 Yes, 7 No

2. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed video PSA “Changes,” at a cost not to exceed \$42,000, in addition to the work of local public information committees.

It was recommended that:

In addition to the work of local committees, the video PSA, “Changes” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2019 Conference Public Information Committee for their review. **Approved 131 Yes, 1 No**

3. Review the 2017 Report on the Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed and accepted the 2017 report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding the usefulness and relevance of video public service announcements.



- D. Consider approving a Young People’s Video submission.

It was recommended that:

The Young People’s Video submission be approved. **Approved 119 Yes 19 No**

- E. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” which expand content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve and adds information related to safety in A.A.

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity,” with expanded content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve, be approved.

Approved

The trustees’ Committee on Public Information develop language reflecting that A.A.’s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and that calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. A progress report or draft language is requested to be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information. **Approved**

- F. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous” which update language, contact information and information on the prevalence and severity of alcoholism and add information related to safety in A.A.

It was recommended that:

The updated pamphlet “A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous” be approved.

Approved 124 Yes, 10 No



- G. Review a progress report on the A.A.W.S. Google for Nonprofit YouTube channel.

It was recommended that:

A progress report including website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information. **Approved 121 Yes, 9 No**

H. Review the 2018 trustees' Public Information Committee Report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the A.A. message.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the 2017 trustees' Public Information Committee Report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the A.A. message and requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information continue to develop information on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants including information on the cost of implementing a six month trial and the cost of a full year's implementation and that a progress report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.

H. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook, and suggested that the information in the P.I. Workbook in the section Approaching Local Broadcast Facilities be updated to reflect changes in how G.S.O. delivers public service announcements.

IX. Report and Charter

A. *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2018-2020 Edition:

1. Review list of editorial updates.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and accepted the updates.

The committee reviewed a Publishing report with suggestions on how changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* could be made available to the Fellowship in non-printing years and took no action. The committee noted that substantive changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* can be found in the *Final Conference Report* and the Report and Charter Conference Committee's History and Highlights of Actions.

3. Consider request for changes to chapters 2, 3, and 5.

Committee Considerations:

The committee considered a request for changes to Chapters 2, 3, and 5 in *The A.A. Service Manual* and **took no action**. The committee suggested that if an extensive rewrite of the chapters is undertaken, the Publishing Department review these chapters for possible future editions of the manual

4. Consider adding "Panel" to the *Glossary of General Service Terms*.

It was recommended that:

The following text be added to the Glossary of Service Terms in the A.A. Service Manual:

A panel is a numerical designation that refers to a group of delegates elected to begin serving at the General Service Conference in a particular year. Each panel is numbered for the Conference at which the Area's delegate will first serve. The two-year cycle frequently applies to area committee officers and committee members, as well.

Approved 122 Yes, 6 No



5. Consider adding graphics on page S75, above the section *A.A. World Services, Inc.*, that visually display the positions on each of the three corporate boards.

It was recommended that:

Text boxes visually displaying the member positions on each of the three corporate boards be added to Chapter Ten of the A.A. Service Manual in the section on A.A. World Services, Inc. **Approved 127 Yes, 3 No**

5. Consider adding text regarding standing committees from "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.

Committee Considerations:

The committee considered a request to add text to *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding standing committees from “The A.A. Group” pamphlet and **took no action**. The committee suggested that the Publishing Department consider adding more language regarding local service committees in possible future service manual rewrites.

6. Consider removing the following statement from the section *Area Newsletters or Bulletins*: “Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other A.A. material.”

Committee Considerations:

The committee considered a request to remove the statement from the section “Area Newsletters” in *The A.A. Service Manual*, “Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other A.A. material” and **took no action**. The committee noted that the statement as it stands is informative to those with questions concerning the circle and triangle.

7. Consider developing a plan for a revised editorial review process.

Committee Considerations:

In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed the updates from the General Service Board and the Grapevine Board.

The committee considered a request to update the “Third Legacy Procedure” chart on page S22 in *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested that the chart would be updated to correct inconsistencies.

B. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and International).

C. General Service Conference *Final Report*.

1. Consider request that Conference committee additional considerations be published in their entirety both in the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.

It was recommended that:

Any Committee Considerations be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version. **Approved 124 Yes, 5 No**

Committee Consideration:

The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual, 2018-2020 Edition* and the 2018 General Service Conference *Final Report*.

These Items Came out of Report & Charter Committee and were not on the Agenda

It was recommended that:

In the section “AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD” of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, a footnote be added to the portion of the Resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter with the following text:

Bill uses the term "registered." A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications.

Approved 124 Yes, 6 No

Text be added to the A.A. Service Manual in the section "Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights" reflecting the A.A.W.S. copyright statement on "The Blue People" graphic.

Approved 128 Yes, 4 No

The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the AA Grapevine Board review *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter biennially, only in printing years.

Approved 126 Yes, 6 No

Following publication of the 2018-2020 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. **Approved 115 Yes, 15 No**

X. Treatment and Accessibilities

A. Review the trustees' committee report on Cooperation with Armed Services Exploration Strategies.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the report "Cooperation with Armed Services Exploration Strategies" from the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities and suggested the following:

Review existing literature and service material with a military focus to expand on the topic of accessibilities.

Consider including in existing A.A. literature shared experience from members on active duty as well as veterans.

Consider creating A.A. guidelines with a focus on carrying the message to those in the Armed Services.

Consider whether creating a PSA as a method of carrying the message to those in the Armed Services would be effective.

Consider the need for a national veteran's workshop.

The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities focus on carrying the message to veterans in VA facilities, active service members stationed in local military facilities in the U.S. and Canada, and active military personnel who are deployed outside the U.S. and Canada

B. Review proposed revisions to the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics."

It was recommended that:

The title of the pamphlet “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” be changed to “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.” **Approved**

The proposed changes by the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities to the pamphlet “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” be approved with additional revisions. **Approved 125 Yes, 5 No**

Committee Consideration:

The committee requested that the staff secretary forward suggested further revisions to the pamphlet “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” to the Publishing Department for consideration.



C. Discuss ways that remote communities concerns might be addressed by the Conference.

It was recommended that:

The Scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities be expanded as follows (additions in **bold**):

The purpose of a Treatment and Accessibilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the treatment setting to the A.A. **Fellowship. In addition, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups serving those who experience barriers to accessing the A.A. message and participating in A.A.'s Three Legacies – Recovery, Unity, and Service. Finally, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups striving to ensure that A.A. members who live in underserved or remote communities — communities difficult to reach because of geography, language or culture — have access to the A.A. message.**

Approved 124 Yes 11 No

The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in non-correctional in-patient and out-patient treatment settings, as well as to **A.A.s who experience access barriers**, and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements.

Committee Considerations:

The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities consider producing a Remote Communities Kit and Workbook.

The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities review literature and service material to determine if experience related to carrying the message for underserved and remote communities is included.



- E. Review summary of the Fellowship sharing on the need for additional material to support carrying the A.A. message to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing A.A. members.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the summary of sharing from A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing from the trustees' committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community /Treatment and Accessibilities and suggested the following:

- o Continue exploring ways to meet the needs of A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.
- o Request shared experience from A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing regarding the types of technology used for participation in A.A.
 - o Review the A.A. website to determine if it is accessible to A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.
- o Request shared experience from groups about the ways they are lowering access barriers in carrying the message to A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and include sharing in existing literature and service material.
- o Suggest the AA Grapevine develop a book that includes shared experience from A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and are overcoming access barriers.

F. Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook.

G. Review contents of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Committee Consideration:

The committee suggested that a service piece be developed to help new committee chairs in getting started in Treatment and Accessibilities service.

XI. Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee
 - 2. Pacific Regional Trustee
- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for Eastern Canada regional trustee and Pacific regional trustee.



- E. Review proposal to censure the General Service Board.

Committee Considerations:

The committee thoughtfully reviewed a proposal to censure the General Service Board and after seeking extensive additional input from the general manager of G.S.O., the chair of the General Service Board, and additional General Service Board trustees, **agreed to take no action**. The committee recognized that the litigation regarding the Printer's Copy Manuscript at Alcoholics Anonymous has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue. The committee believes that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also recognizes that the General Service Board and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board have many legal responsibilities and must sometimes make use of the right of decision, but in the spirit of A.A. unity, the committee asks the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. that:

All major decisions made by A.A. World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., the General Service Office or AA Grapevine management be promptly and fully reported to the General Service Board, as appropriate.

If the General Service Board, the A.A. World Services or AA Grapevine boards need to initiate a legal proceeding as a plaintiff, that whenever possible, they will consult the members of the General Service Conference before starting such a proceeding, being ever mindful of A.A. unity and A.A.'s financial prudence. However, the committee understands that sometimes this might not be possible.

- The committee recognizes that the General Service Board, A.A. World Services Inc., and AA Grapevine, Inc. could be brought into litigation by other parties and in no way wants to limit their actions required to protect these corporations.



- F. Review proposal to reorganize the A.A. World Services and General Service Boards.

Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed a proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S. and General Service Boards and **took no action**. The committee noted that although a reorganization was not considered necessary at this time, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating develop procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine boards and that a report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees, including all possible options.

- The committee expressed their appreciation for the report on the regional geographic service structure from the trustees' Committee on Nominating and the suggestion that the General Service Board discuss a possible survey of past and current regional trustees regarding their workload and ability to fulfill all their responsibilities. The committee expressed their hope that every option will be considered to allow as many A.A. members as possible the opportunity to serve on the General Service Board.

G. Review report on the regional geographic service structure.

XII. Archives



A. Review draft of proposed publication, *Our Great Responsibility: Selections of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970*.

It was recommended that:

The proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes.

Approved 126 yes, 7 no. Approx 35 black & white photos and 25 color

* Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee.

C. Consider request from the AA Grapevine Board to post the 2017 General Service Conference presentation, "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña" on AA Grapevine's YouTube channel.

Committee Consideration:

The committee discussed a request from the AA Grapevine Board to post the audio recording of the 2017 General Service Conference presentation, "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña" on AA Grapevine's YouTube channel and **took no action** for the following reasons:

- o The request is not in accord with the current 2015 Conference Advisory Action, which states, "Audio recordings of General Service Conference final reports and audio recordings of the trustees' farewell talks given at the closing brunch be made available in accordance with Archives' policies. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited."
- o The presentation mentions names of A.A. members.
- o The committee recognizes that the AA Grapevine Board might consider presenting the material at an A.A. event, such as a Regional Forum and post the recording of this on the AA Grapevine Board's YouTube channel.

- o The committee noted that the audience of General Service Conference presentations are Conference members only and that the focus is not the general public.



- C. Consider developing a policy on distribution of audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations.

Committee Consideration:

The committee considered a request to develop a policy on distribution of audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations and **took no action** for similar reasons cited in the preceding committee consideration.

- D. Review Archives Workbook.

Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and made the following suggestions:

In the sections, “What to Collect?”, “Financing the Archives” and “Ownership of Material,” add text in the appropriate sections that distinguishes archivists from historians and collectors. In addition, add text clarifying that archivists do not appraise items for monetary value and that archives generally do not purchase items. The committee suggested that this new text also be added to the “A.A. Archives” service piece.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss selection of cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2030.

It was recommended that:

The following two cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2030: Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri.

Approved 125 Yes, 7 No

Committee Consideration:

The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums review the Guidelines for Site Selection for the 2035

A.A. International Convention and explore expanding the window of dates in which the 2035 International Convention could be held



- B. Discuss inviting up to twenty-one non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2020 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

It was recommended that:

Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2020 International Convention at A.A.’s expense. **Approved 131 Yes, 3 No**

* Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee.

C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Committee Considerations:

The committee discussed ways of encouraging interest in Regional and Local Forums and attracting first time attendees and suggested:

Compiling notes from the first-timer sharing at a Forum for later distribution to encourage members to attend a future Forum.

Reaching out at the local level to young people in A.A. committees, continuing with one-to-one communication and spreading the word as far as possible.

Exploring sending Forum informational text blasts to members receiving La Viña text messages.

Highlighting that Forums have no registration fee which might appeal to newer members to explore service at this level.

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

Literature

E. Adding an appendix to the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress **Did not pass 57 Yes, 79 No**

L. Trustees on Literature Committee develop a new book, combing Twelve Steps and twelve Traditions with twelve Concepts For world Services, and bring back a progress report on a draft manuscript to the 2019 General Service Conference on Literature. **Question called 118 Yes, 13 No: vote was 62 Yes, 72 No, didn't get two-thirds vote, Vote to reconsider 63 Yes 71 No (Simple majority)**

The trustees' Literature Committee develop text for an endnote to be placed at the end of the chapter "Working with Others" in the book Alcoholics Anonymous which would reflect contemporary shared experience regarding twelve-step calls and working with new prospects, as well as include helpful resources (i.e., the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and the service material "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare") and bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

Floor Action That Resulted in Conference Advisory Action

- Area Service Highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference Final Report and the anonymity-protected digital version. **109 yes, 24 no**
- The text on page 18 of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" that currently reads:

Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Additionally, online meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there is no meeting nearby. 129 yes, 3 no

Floor Actions That Did Not Result In Conference Advisory Actions

- The pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” be revised to be more inclusive, to apply to both Treatment and Corrections or possibly any alcoholic leaving any institution into the real world. **Conference Declined to Consider: 96 Yes, 27 No**

- The General Service Board be censured. **Conference Declined to Consider: 96 Yes, 27 No**

- The 68th General Service Conference lovingly advises the A.A.W.S. Board, Grapevine Board and General Service Board to refrain from the practice of litigation for the purpose of acquiring property not previously under the direct control of A.A.
Conference Declined to Consider 103 yes, 27 No

- The informational piece being created by the trustees’ Committee on the Conference pertaining to the Conference dashboard include excerpts on How a Group Conscience is Obtained to reflect the integrity and collective conscience of the registered A.A. groups, including registered online groups. **Conference Declined to Consider: 94 Yes, 34 No**

- All future reorganization and censure motions go directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees, not to be reviewed by a trustees’ committee. **Withdrawn**

- The General Service Conference affirm the delegated authority of the General Service Board and operating corporations to protect the intellectual property of Alcoholics Anonymous. **11 Yes, 117 No Not Approved**