

VIII.

**REPORT
AND
CHARTER**

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

Sunday, April 22, 2018 – 2:45 - 5:30

Monday, April 23, 2018 – 9:00 - Noon

Room: 505

Chairperson: Erica C.

Secretary: Racy J.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 67

Jamie B.
Erica C.*
Kenneth C.**
Lester G.
Joe S.

Panel 68

Noni M.
Dee P.
Dale S.

*chairperson

**vice-chairperson

- ◆ Introductions – Erica C., Conference committee chairperson.
- ◆ Review Conference committee Composition, Scope and Procedure – Erica C., chairperson.
- ◆ Review history of Conference committee – Racy J., secretary.
- ◆ Report of A.A.W.S. Publishing Department managing editor – Ames S.

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

1. Review list of editorial updates.
2. Consider request for changes to chapters 2, 3, and 5.

NOTE: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

3. Consider adding "Panel" to the *Glossary of General Service Terms*.
 4. 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.
 5. Consider adding text regarding standing committees from "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.
 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."
 7. Consider developing a plan for a revised editorial review process.
- 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 in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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

1. Review list of editorial updates.

Background note:

From 2009 Conference Advisory Action:

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

Background:

1. List of editorial updates

Note: The background document attached was mailed to committee members only, and is not for duplication or distribution beyond the committee.

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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

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

At their July 29, 2017, the trustees' Committee on Literature reviewed a request proposing a "modification of chapters 2, 3, and 5" in *The A.A. Service Manual* and agreed to forward this request to the 2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

The local committee submitting these changes is asking to make extensive revisions to chapters 2, 3, and 5, and submitted a draft. This draft included extensive rewrites to these chapters, based on personal and local experience. Additional changes included adding substantial sections from "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, and information from A.A. Guidelines. Due to copyright concerns we are unable to provide this draft in the background for all Conference members.

Background:

1. 01-11-16 correspondence from "The SJCMD Service Manual Expansion Project"

REPORT & CHARTER
Item A.2
Doc.1

Mary Clare L. Conference
Coordinator
A.A. General Service Office

January 11, 2016

RE: Conference Agenda Item Service Manual - Chapters 2, 3 and 5

Dear Mary Clare,

The reason for this letter comes from our desire to support the on-going development of the spiritual environment within the culture of AA by modifying some of the contents of the A.A. Service Manual. To be clear, we are proposing the Modification of Chapters 2, 3 and 5 to be included as an Agenda Item at the upcoming 66th Panel of the General Service Conference. This proposal was unanimously approved at our January 9, 2016 monthly SJCMD meeting.

These changes to the Manual are precipitated by observing our meeting and service cultures becoming socialized. In fact, it appears to have become toxic. For example, what occurs when we present members at meetings the opportunity to serve on a committee, and when we offer to help at the area or the G.S.O. we usually are met with what appears to be displays of fear, disgust and don't rock the boat mentality. In essence, being told to simply go to meetings, complain about your miserable life, listen to the next person speak about their life being more miserable than yours, drink your coffee, put a buck in the basket, eat cake; celebrating a member's dry time, then after the meeting ignore the newcomer by standing around socializing with AA buddies, in the process unknowingly modeling the newcomer a dismissive attitude toward our service responsibilities. During the drive home, the scenario may continue by the member complaining of other drivers' lack of skills then exclaiming something like "I need a meeting" which continues the insanity of the meetings addiction without any application of spiritual principles in order to recover from alcoholism.

Another factor contributing to the toxicity in our fellowship occurs when someone that has been coming to meetings for 10-20-30 years begins drinking for the umpteenth time; then in response, the membership comes to the erroneous conclusion that this person relapsed because he/she quit going to meetings. We believe that this diagnosis is not valid and adds to the myth that "meeting makers make it". Like Bill W, we believe that the A.A. program teaches us differently. For example, in his story he tells us:

"For if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through *work and self-sacrifice for others*, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead."

Reprinted from the Big Book, p. 14, 15 with
permission of AAWS, Inc

Therefore, if we drink it has little to do with the number of meetings we attend. We believe that we get sober by the Grace of God, practice of the 12 steps, participation at our home group, practice program based socialization with our home group members throughout each week which involves discussion on how we can help the newcomer that attended our last meeting. We also commit to and are involved in our district's service committees' efforts. The essence of our program is explained very well throughout our Big Book and specifically in the last paragraph on page 159 concluding on the top of page 160.

The ability to work with other members in the group, district, area or the GSC, without the application of the steps/traditions/concepts is difficult. Members often become resentful which leaves our fellowship fragmented and blocked from adequate harmonious action which is essential to conflict resolution. What became evident was that as an organization we are misleading our membership into believing that going to multiple meetings, presented as "groups", is the solution. This faulty belief is documented in Chapter Two, the Group and the G.S.R. within our Service Manual cited below:

"While most AA members attend other groups regularly, the home group is where they participate in business meetings and cast their vote as part of the Fellowship as a whole,"

Reprinted from 2013-2014 A.A. Service Manual, p. S25
with permission of AAWS, Inc.

It occurred to us that the directions in our manual fall short. Specifically, by encouraging members to attend multiple meetings (see above); we are presenting the wrong message. The message we present in the current manual validates the faulty belief that sobriety happens through "osmosis" by endorsing multiple meeting attendance. Our traditions are not worked in meetings because members usually attend passively. By putting the focus on attendance at multiple meetings per week and not sharing with your home group members by participation at Treatment Facilities, Jails, etc. we have altered our program's principles and in this process the service structure has been undermined. The prescription of '90 meetings in 90 days' is a medicine that just does not produce long term positive results. Directives like this are much like marriage counselors advising clients to commit to their marriage while, at the same time, go on multiple dates with others during the week. In reality, many of these members spend their time going to the other meetings as social events. Some attendees often

claim to have a home group but then refuse to do the foot work. Such home group members, unfortunate for them, are depriving themselves of potentially receiving a deeper level of enlightenment. Therefore the work of the district/area service committees usually goes undone.

Our desire to become more informed we continued our study of *Chapters Eight, Conference Committees* and *Nine, the General Service Board* which provide definitive structure of the service committees. Upon review of *Chapters Two, Three* and *Five*, we discovered no clear- cut direction for these same committees. It seems the only effort documented in these three chapters is to report on what has happened at the conference. They contain no indications of what actions could be taken to carry our message to our communities. It is subtle however it may be that this focus on only reporting on the General Service Conference has lead to a perceived hierarchy. This also adds to the socialization of our fellowship by the inclusion of this faulty perception. This adds to the importance of having a better developed Manual.

It became obvious as we worked on this Project that The AA Guidelines are very important for committee members to have as guideposts. Likewise, the Service Manual also needs to incorporate their content. Again these efforts are to fill in the missing information of chapters 2, 3 and 5 and address some other items within the Manual.

We realize we are not authors; we are trying to be service workers. Our prayer is that this effort may be a start and possibly set in motion the completion of these three chapters. This added guidance would give our Fellowship more specific direction to do the work as laid out by the Trustee Service Committees, thus making it more attractive for our membership to get involved

It seems that Bill was writing on this topic in Concept I:

"Therefore we believe that we see in our Fellowship a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions. We are confident that we can rely upon Tradition Two, our group conscience and its trusted servants. Hence it is with a sense of great security that we old-timers have now fully vested in A.A.'s General Service Conference the authority for giving shape — through the labors of its chosen Delegates, Trustees and service workers — to the destiny that we trust God in His wisdom is holding in store for all of us.

Reprinted from the Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 6, 7
with permission of AAWS, Inc.

PERSPECTIVE

We have been working on the Service Structure within Saint Joseph County Indiana, Dists . 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 & 39 in Area 22 (Northern Indiana) since October of 2009. The following are our service committees and a partial list of our 2015 efforts.

- ❖ Cooperation with the Professional Community
 - ❖ Big Books / Schedules / 'A Message to Teenagers' to Schools.
 - ❖ Literature Holders / Information on A.A. to Dr's Offices.
- ❖ Corrections
 - ❖ Big Books / Meetings to St Joe County Jail and Pre-Release.
 - ❖ 5 members involved *Corrections Correspondence* Program.
 - ❖ *Corrections Temporary Contact* Program initiated.
- ❖ Finance
 - ❖ Approximately \$4000 Budget / 100% proceeds to still-suffering.
 - ❖ 21 Groups and several members contributed via 7th Tradition.
- ❖ Grapevine / LaVifia
 - ❖ 8 Subscription to VA Clinic / (2) YWCA / (2) Jail / CSAP.
 - ❖ Encourage members to subscribe / write their story.
- Literature
 - ❖ Purchased 250 Big Books for Jails / Schools / Treatment Centers.
 - ❖ Literature Holders / Literature to Dr's Offices.
 - ❖ Literature / 12 Step Guides to three (3) Treatment Facilities.
- ❖ Public Information
 - ❖ A.A. Informational Signs on Gateway Signs to South Bend, IN City Limits.
 - ❖ Involvement at City/County Employee Health Fairs & VA Stand Down.
 - ❖ Weekly inserts in South Bend and Mishawaka "Coffee News".
 - ❖ We maintain our website; and email;
 - ❖ Eleven signs inside TRANSPRO buses / one back-of-bus sign.
 - ❖ Service Colloquiums with Police Chief / Judges / Jailers / AA Members.
- ❖ Treatment Facilities
 - ❖ Taking a weekly group into three Treatment Centers.
 - ❖ Literature Holders and Literature on A.A. to Treatment Facilities.
 - ❖ *Bridging the Gap* Program initiated.
- ❖ Special Needs
 - ❖ Purchased (2) Braille Big Books

It is from the above effort that we have observed the following:

- To coordinate the *AA Group pamphlet*, the *AA Guidelines* and the *A.A. Service Manual* in order to do the work is extremely difficult. *We believe it could be made much easier and more effort would be initiated if we look at possibly expanding our "A.A. Service Manual", using the following pages as a starting point.*
- ❖ Our prayer is this effort will be viewed in the same context that it was created; to help the still-suffering alcoholic.

+ **We are asking for your help!**

THE SJCMD SERVICE MANUAL EXPANSION PROJECT
 time and consideration in helping us. Michael D. Randy J. Kevin S. Sarah M. Jim D. John C.

Thank you for your

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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

3. Consider adding the word "Panel" to the *Glossary of General Service Terms*.
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Background:

1. 09-16-17 request from Area 78



AREA 78 ALBERTA/NORTHWEST TERRITORIES area78.org

AREA 78 SEPTEMBER 2017 ELECTION ASSEMBLY – RED DEER

DATE: September 16, 2017

SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth P, Panel 66 Registrar / 2nd BY: Larry M, Panel 66 Delegate

MOTION:

That the trustees committee for Policy/Admissions consider adding the word “panel” to the glossary of the “AA Service Manual”.

HISTORY OR CURRENT PRACTICE: Suggested wording would be: *“Panels are two year terms in which trusted servants serve in their positions. Panels start on January 1 and end on December 31 of the following year. Each panel is numbered for the Conference at which an area’s delegate will first serve. Half of the 93 areas in North America start their panels in odd years and half in even years, thus creating rotating Panels to maintain some continuity.”*

The term “Panel” is used frequently in A.A. General Service. There is a section in the A.A. Service Manual that explains how the General Service Conferences came to be and how the first General Service Conference in 1951 became known as Panel 1, the second annual General Service Conference became known as Panel 2, the third G.S.C. as Panel 3, etc. But the term “Panel” is used now to refer to more than just the year in which a General Service Conference happened. It also refers to a two-year rotation and specifically, which two-year rotation a trusted servant is serving, not just the number of the current year’s General Service Conference. For example, I’m not a delegate, but I am referred to as the Area 78 Panel 66 Registrar, because I am serving in the same rotation as my delegate and the first General Service Conference my delegate attended was the 66th G.S.C., therefore Panel 66. It has been my experience, especially since revising the Orientation Handout that new G.S.R.s and members find the term confusing and difficult to define.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION: _____

AMENDMENT: _____

CARRIED ☒ **DEFEATED** _____ **TABLED** _____ **WITHDRAWN** _____ **REFERRED** _____

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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

4. Consider adding on page S75, above the section A.A. World Services, Inc., charts or text boxes that visually display the member positions on each of the three corporate boards.

Background:

1. 11-05-17 request from Area 08

REPORT & CHARTER
Item A.4
Doc.1

From: area8contact
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Conference <Conference Coordinator
Subject: 2018 GSC Agenda Item

Hello Rick,

On November 4, 2017, the San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly voted its unanimous support to submit a consideration for the 2018 General Service Conference agenda to add verbiage and text boxes to *The Service Manual* that display the positions on the General Service, AAWS, Inc., and Grapevine Boards.

I have attached the document in both English and Spanish as our area requires all documents to be presented in both languages.

With Spirit of Love in Service
Con Espiritu de Amor en Servicio

Jane G., Delegate, San Diego-Imperial Area 08

Request from Area 08:

“2018 General Service Conference Agenda Item from the San Diego-Imperial Area

Consider adding on page S75, above the section A.A. World Services, Inc., charts or text boxes that visually display the member positions on each of the three corporate boards; and verbiage for the text boxes indicating which members overlap AAWS, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc. with the General Service Board.

SAMPLE OF TEXT BOXES

The text boxes below show the spread of service positions and the total number of members that make up each of our three corporate boards. Nontrustee directors serve on the AAWS, Inc. board and the Grapevine, Inc. Board. Nontrustee directors do not sit on the General Service Board. However, once a Nontrustee director has served for at least one year, s/he is eligible to become a General Service Trustee. If accepted as a General Service Trustee, then s/he will sit on either the AAWS, Inc. or Grapevine, Inc. board as well as the General Service Board.

While these boxes show the usual roster of positions, life circumstances can cause interruption to the specified configuration. In the rare event a board member's life circumstances require him/her to immediately resign, the configuration is adjusted in order to provide continuity to the work.

AAWS, Inc. Board Members	
General Service Trustees	2
Regional or At-large Trustees	2
Nontrustee Directors	3
Paid Staff Member	1
Board President (GSO Manager)	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	9

Grapevine, Inc. Board Members	
General Service Trustees	2
Regional Trustees	2
Nontrustee Director	1
Paid Staff Member	1
Executive Editor/Publisher	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	7

General Service Board Members	
Class A Trustees	7
General Service Trustees	4
At-large Trustees	2
Regional Trustees	<u>8</u>
TOTAL	21

Reason for Area agenda item submission:

The verbiage within Chapter Ten, The Board's Operating Corporations (S74-S78) provides verbal descriptions of the duties of the individual positions on each of the corporate boards. The selection process for each is also detailed. What is not easy to understand is the profile of positions on each board and how the design in the membership maintains communication between the three entities. Text boxes showing the roster and verbiage that describes which members overlap AAWS and Grapevine with the General Service Board and serve to maintain communication.

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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

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

Background Notes:

Request and text submitted from Area 08. "S" pages reflect pages referenced in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Background:

1. 11-05-17 request from Area 08 San Diego- Imperial
2. "The A.A. Group..." pamphlet (P-16) (aa.org)

From: area8contact
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2017
To: Conference <conference coordinator
Subject: 2018 GSC Agenda Item

Hello Rick,

On November 4, 2017, the San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly voted its unanimous support to submit a consideration for the 2018 General Service Conference agenda to add verbiage to *The Service Manual* that describes the role of standing committees in local A.A. areas.

What is being proposed is to simply take the verbiage on this topic as it currently appears in P-16, *The A.A. Group*.

I have attached the document in both English and Spanish as our area requires all documents to be presented in both languages.

With Spirit of Love in Service
Con Espiritu de Amor en Servicio

Jane G., Delegate, San Diego-Imperial Area 08

Request from Area 08:

Consider adding to *The Service Manual*, the following passage from page 25 in the pamphlet, *The A.A. Group* (P-16).

"The A.A. Group's Relations With Others In The Community

Tradition Eleven: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

How Service Committee Representatives Serve A.A.

A.A. service committees, composed mainly of representatives, or liaisons, from area groups, shoulder major responsibility for carrying the A.A. message into the community and around the world (see *The A.A. Service Manual*). Each of these committees may serve as a resource for the community through our Sixth Tradition of cooperation but not affiliation.

To assist service committees in their local efforts, their counterparts at A.A. World Services—the trustees' and General Service Conference committees— offer suggested guidelines to local committees when asked, with the help of the General Service Office."

Area 08 reasoning for agenda submission:

Per Article 6 of the Conference Charter, the purpose of an area assembly is to be "...concerned only with the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous." (S105) *The Service Manual* does not clearly define the role of an area's standing committees in world service affairs and carrying the message in their local community.

Informing AA members at large about service opportunities available in their area's standing committees is a great way to encourage and attract participation in general service. Participation in the service work of local standing committees can increase the communication network between groups and their districts. DCMs and an area's standing committee chairs can become more informed of issues affecting their groups and work together to resolve them.

The best reference to group member participation in Area or District service committees is found in "The A.A. Group". There is no specific reference to this point in *The Service Manual*.

S-27 Holds a diagram of "Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group". It displays representative service positions for several committees. However, there is no verbiage discussing or describing the role of group member participation on the committees.

S-44 The Composition section mentions the chairs of an area's service committees as members of the Area Committee. But it does not mention the role of the committees to the local 12th Step work.

Basically, the committee is composed of all district committee members, area officers, and chairs of area service committees.

S-50 The Area (Service) Committees are represented in the diagram of the chain of communication engaged in by the Delegate between the AA Groups and the Conference. The below-listed Delegate duty twice mentions committee members. Clarification on committee members would be in the form of adding either "area" or "standing".

- Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.

There is no mention of the Conference Committees and the role of the Delegate in communicating Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations to the corresponding committees within an area.

Conference Committees are described in Chapter 8 (S61 and S62), and General Service Board (Trustees') Committees, some corresponding, in Chapter 9 (S70-S72).

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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

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."

Background Notes:

At the January 25, 2018, A.A.W.S. Board meeting, the following proposed agenda item was reviewed:

Remove the statement "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" from *The A.A. Service Manual*."

The A.A.W.S. Board moved that this item be forwarded to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Background:

1. Request from Area 88 South-East-Quebec

Question for the Conference :

In the service Manual, on page S41: Area newsletters or bulletins.

We believe, in area 88, that the mention:

“Any group or district of the fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other AA material.”

➤ **Should be removed from the service Manuel.**

The reason for that request is that, in page S77, “Trademark, Logos and Copyrights”, In 1993, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. announced that official use of all of the several circle/triangle trademarks and service marks was being discontinued.

If AA World Services inc. has discontinued the use of the circle/triangle by association, all of the groups, districts and areas of the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous should do the same.

The fellowship is a reverse pyramid; it is our understanding that if a party, at the bottom of the pyramid, announce a decision, this decision come from the Conference and that all the fellowship shall apply the recommendation of the Conference.

Fraternal in AA

Jean-Noël L.

Délégué groupe 67 région 88 Sud-Est-du-Québec

Delegate panel 67 area 88 South-East-Quebec.

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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

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

Background Notes:

Additional Committee Consideration from the 2017 Report & Charter Committee:

The committee discussed the complexities involved in a biennial production of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The committee requested that the General Service Office consider developing a plan with a revised editorial review process for *The A.A. Service Manual* to be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The committee requested that the report include additional information with suggestions on how changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* in non-printing years could be reported to the Fellowship.

2009 Conference Advisory Actions:

All changes to *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* be listed in the edition in which the changes appear for the first time, and organized by source of change (General Service Board, Conference Advisory Action, Conference Committee on Report & Charter, Publications Department). Conference advisory actions will be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the AA Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Background:

1. Memo from A.A.W.S. Publishing Department

A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC.

INTEROFFICE MEMO

From: Publishing Department
To: Group Services
Re: *The A.A. Service Manual*
Date: February 12, 2018

Plan for editorial review process in non-printing years:

With the new revision and printing parameters for *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* which provide for a new edition to be formatted, printed and distributed every two years, the Publishing Department would like to offer the following plan for editorial review in non-printing years.

The plan covers three different aspects that would help to bring the process into compliance with the new 2-year schedule.

A) *Board updates:* As the process currently stands, based on a 2009 Advisory Action, the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter. With the new 2-year printing and distribution schedule, such a review and reporting should now take place only in years in which the Service Manual will be printed, with the three corporate boards submitting any proposed changes every other year rather than annually, as required by the existing Conference Advisory Action. To avoid confusion and bring the two schedules into compliance with each other, it is suggested that the 2009 Advisory Action be either rescinded or amended to reflect the new 2-year review schedule, providing for biennial submission of proposed changes from the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board.

B) *Reporting out proposed Service Manual changes and/or updates in non-printing years:* In order to keep the Fellowship informed of the proposed updates to the Service Manual, a report will be generated following the Conference in each non-printing year that will be based on the History and Actions of the Conference Report and Charter Committee and will catalogue revisions to the Service Manual that are suggested by the committee for implementation at the next printing. This report will be provided to all delegates and made available to the Fellowship on G.S.O.'s website (appropriate placement of the information to be determined in consultation with the G.S.O. Website Committee).

This will allow for information to circulate throughout the Fellowship in the non-printing years regarding Service Manual changes, with the understanding that such updates will not be "in effect" until the next printing.

C) *Proposed redesign*: Following publication of the 2018-2020 edition of the Service Manual, the Publications Department would undertake a thorough evaluation, update and redesign of the Service Manual, for the purpose of increasing readability, consolidating and clarifying text and format, to be completed and introduced with the 2020-2022 edition, with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter no later than February 15, 2019 [or the prevailing deadline date for sending committee background]. The last such redesign was undertaken following a 1997 Conference Advisory Action.

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

AGENDA ITEM B: Discuss the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S. and International)

Background:

Note: Eastern, Western, Canadian, and International Directories have been mailed to committee members only.

2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM C: General Service Conference *Final Report*

1. Any Conference Committee Additional Considerations be published in their entirety including any statements in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.
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Background Documents attached:

1. 11-13-17 Request from Area 15
2. 9-7-17 Email correspondence with General Service Conference Coordinator
3. 2017 Additional Committee Considerations
4. 2017 General Service Conference *Final Report*

Note: The 2017 General Service Conference *Final Report* was mailed to committee members only.

REPORT & CHARTER
Item C
Doc.1



South Florida Area 15
2017 General Service Committee 2018
Panel 67

South Florida, Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands,
Antigua, St. Maarten & Cayman Islands

November 13, 2017

Rick W., Conference
Coordinator General Service
Office

Dear Rick,

Greetings from Area 15, South Florida! I trust this email finds you in great health & spirit. I am forwarding you the following motion that was approved by the Area 15 Assembly on October 8, 2017 with substantial unanimity.

Included with the motion are documents and correspondence pertaining to the same topic that we request be shared with the respective Trustees Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Looking forward to seeing you in January at Board weekend!

Love & Service,

Annie C.
Delegate, Panel 67
Area 15 South Florida

Submitted agenda item by Area 15:

That Area 15 submit the following proposed agenda item for the 68th General Service Conference: Any Conference Committee Additional Consideration(s) be published in its entirety including any statements both in the anonymity protected online version and the full printed versions of the Final Conference Report.

Upon reading the Final Report, it was noticed that the Additional Committee Considerations for a few Conference Committees were not printed as reported at the conference. Statements may be made from the committee discussions that will give information as to why the committee came to the decision it presented. This information is important to pass on to the fellowship for future understanding & discussion on various topics that may also be submitted as proposed agenda items.

From: Erica C.
Sent: Monday, August 14
To: Groupservices
Subject: question about final
report process

Hi Racy,

I've had a question from a fellow delegate about the way that additional committee considerations are written in the final conference report. We noticed that on pp. 80-82, the additional considerations are summarized as topics but without the precise wording developed by the committees during their reports. This is particularly relevant for the policy & admissions committee (p. 81), who carefully selected wording with regard to the agenda item on YPAA subcommittees to ensure that they were sending an encouraging and inclusive message despite the fact that they took no action on this item. Can you shed some light on the history of this - in particular, whether it's standard practice to summarize / paraphrase additional considerations in the final report? Or was this a new practice this year?

Thanks
much!

Erica C.
Delegate
Panel 67 Area 10 (Colorado)

Conference

From: Conference
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017
To: 'delegate
Cc: GMGSO-Greg T., Ames S.; Groupservices
Subject: RE: question about final report process

Hi, Erica,

Thanks for being in touch. As Conference coordinator, I'm responding to the question you forwarded about the additional considerations in the *Final Conference Report*.

The challenge that developed over the past few years is that the additional considerations have been growing longer and longer - longer even than the advisory actions. In 2016, the

editorial choice was taken to present additional considerations in an abbreviated form in the *Final Conference Report*. The 2016 format was followed again for the 2017 *Final Conference Report* by Ames S G.S.O.'s new managing editor, with the explicit approval and encouragement of Greg G.S.O.'s general manager.

Of course, this approach can be a double-edged sword: on one side you have a full reporting of items for contemplation and possible action, but, in order to present them in the report in summarized/edited form (as the area highlights are), there is the possibility that some information may be consolidated in such a way as to diminish its full impact. So, in a sense, there are difficulties on both sides of the equation. This is what inadvertently happened with the additional consideration about young people's committees; there was no intention to diminish the encouraging and inclusive message to young people.

The complete text of the additional considerations was not lost, because it remains available in other documents in its full form. They are in the original committee reports, and in the complete lists of additional considerations provided to Conference members right after the Conference. In July, when the trustees' committees started their follow up on the actions of the Conference, they reviewed the entire text of the pertinent additional considerations.

I'm sorry for the delay in responding. I have been in touch with Greg and Ames, and we have been discussing this issue. One idea that is under consideration is including the full text of additional considerations in future Final Conference Reports. No decision has been made at this point, but all options will be considered in the context of the entirety of the *Final Conference Report* – which can possibly be a better, more useful, more readable and inviting publication.

In fellowship,

Rick W.

Conference Coordinator

April 2017

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Agenda

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request that the total number of presentation/discussions at the Conference be limited to no more than six and took no action. Noting that the number of presentations has fluctuated over Conferences, the committee did not want to impose this limitation on future Conferences. The committee also acknowledged that areas and regions have autonomy in how and whether they use the presentation topics locally.
- The committee considered a request that for 2018, presentation/discussion topics not be placed on the Conference Week schedule and took no action, agreeing that the presentation topics selected for 2018 were important for discussion at the Conference.
- The committee reviewed the summary of the 2016 General Service Conference evaluations. The committee expressed concern about the ability to make useful decisions for improvement of the Conference because the sample size of respondents is low. The committee agreed to emphasize strongly that all Conference members have an obligation to fill out the Conference Evaluation Form.
- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, and encouraged efforts to make the evaluation available in more user-friendly formats, such as a fillable PDF. The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference modify the questions regarding presentations to focus more on the value of presentations as part of the Conference Week Schedule and the presentation topics, and less on evaluating the presentation or the presenter.
- The committee discussed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference. Committee members expressed appreciation for the additional communication and larger role for area delegate members of the Conference members in the selection of Agenda Items. The committee requested that information on the implementation and effectiveness of the plan be gathered from the 2018 Conference committee chairs and included in a report for the 2018 Conference Agenda Committee. The committee also encouraged the General Service Board to continue looking for ways to enhance the role of delegates in the Agenda item selection process.

- The committee expressed appreciation for the posting and updating of the grid of proposed Conference agenda items on the dashboard.
- The committee requested that the grid, updated to show the disposition of items by the trustees' committees, and the list of items that had not been forwarded to a Conference committee, be posted to the dashboard as soon as possible following the January Board Weekend.
- The committee considered a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action, noting that the committee already has this prerogative.

Archives

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and suggested that the "Shared Experiences" section be refreshed with new stories from local archivists.
- The committee suggested that a section be added to the "Archives and History" portal of the G.S.O. website, www.aa.org, to include any updates from G.S.O. Archives at the discretion of the Archivist.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed development of a LinkedIn page for Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) committees and requested that the Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities continue to explore establishing a presence on LinkedIn as a tool for C.P.C. efforts. The committee requested that the trustees develop a full report that includes a complete exploration of all aspects of this social media tool as outlined in the minutes of the September 16, 2016 conference call of the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities subcommittee, and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide an implementation plan to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community that addresses the overall implications of such a presence, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance.

The committee further requested that the trustees' report address the following items:

- Clarify what type of presence, for example, a “company” page for A.A. and/or some type of page for C.P.C. committees, would be the most effective C.P.C. tool(s).
 - Determine if LinkedIn is the optimal platform for area and district committee nonpublic group page(s) to interact with each other.
 - Clarify how “messaging” works for the type(s) of presence suggested.
 - Explore premium options and the associated costs.
 - Determine how to reach non-followers, and how to get “followers.”
 - Fully explore the Traditions issues presented by LinkedIn actions including “endorsements,” “followers,” “comments” and “pushing sponsored links” and determine if these actions can be accomplished within the Twelve Traditions.
 - Determine whether or not comments can be disabled or blocked and if not, the feasibility of effectively moderating comments.
 - Explore if and how the Fellowship and/or C.P.C. committees might be asked to interact with the LinkedIn page.
- The committee discussed ways of improving communication about A.A. with professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services and suggested that:

The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop materials to aid and encourage C.P.C. committees to reach out to professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services.

The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities update the C.P.C. Workbook to include information about carrying the A.A. message to professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services. The committee suggested that updates to the C.P.C. Workbook include, but not be limited to, adding one or more bullet points to the section, “Suggested C.P.C. Committee Goals and Projects” (page 19-20) as well as adding experience with military professionals to the section, “Shared Experience for One-On-One C.P.C. Contact with 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.

- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestion:

That the sample guide letters to various professionals in the C.P.C. Workbook be reviewed and updated to insure that the language used is current and relevant to the professionals to whom they are addressed.

Corrections

Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that the Corrections coordinator at G.S.O. 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 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 P.O. Box. The committee asked the trustees' Committee on Corrections to research other options that could encourage more "inside" Canadian members to consider utilizing the CCS.
- The committee suggested that the Corrections coordinator at G.S.O. 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 G.S.O.'s A.A. website, in order to make it more accessible to corrections committee members.
- The committee discussed the benefits of Corrections 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.
- 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.
- The committee noted that some incarcerated French and Spanish members found it difficult to follow the subtitles in the video "A New Freedom." The committee requested that A.A.W.S. produce versions that are dubbed in French and Spanish to make the A.A. message more accessible.
- The committee suggested that a service piece be developed to accompany the video "A New Freedom."

Finance

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and agreed that this was an appropriate amount at this time.
- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and suggested that the Self-Support Packet revert to the previous Self-Support Packet holder with the slot; put back the group registration card; and include only: "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" pamphlet, "The A.A. Group Treasurer" pamphlet, A.A. Guidelines on Finance, Your Seventh Tradition Contributions flyer, Self-Support Card and a Birthday Plan envelope.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee develop a list of Conference-approved literature where the language to be added to "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" could also appear and report back to the Conference Finance Committee in 2018.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Finance Committee consider utilizing the Fellowship New Vision database to provide regular communication to the Fellowship about the spiritual message of Seventh Tradition contributions and the role they play in carrying A.A.'s message, being certain not to convey a solicitation of funds.
- The committee requested that the General Service Office (G.S.O.) consider adding the recurring contributions information to the area quarterly contributions report.
- The committee requested the G.S.O. consider research on how A.A. might utilize an app to further increase carrying the message of recovery and self-support.
- The committee requested that Publishing rework "The A.A. Group Treasurer" service piece to focus on online and recurring contributions.
- The committee requested that Publishing add language regarding online and recurring contributions to all appropriate service pieces as timely as possible and report changes made to the 2018 Conference Finance Committee.
- The committee requested that Publishing simplify the Self-Support Card, basing it on the 2006 Conference Finance Committee's consideration as an example:

The Seventh Tradition states that Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting through our own contributions. The contributions help cover the group's expenses. But the Seventh Tradition is more than simply paying for rent and other group expenses. It is both a privilege and responsibility of both the groups and individual members to insure that our organization, at every level remain

forever self-supporting and free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose.

The monetary amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that joins us in unity with our groups around the world.

- The committee requested the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee develop a list of Conference-approved literature where adding language regarding online and recurring contributions is appropriate and report back to the 2018 Conference Finance Committee.

Grapevine

Committee Considerations

- The committee discussed the spiritual value of Grapevine and La Viña 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 that Grapevine and La Viña cannot accept contributions and are self-supporting only through subscriptions and sales of books and other items.
- The committee reconsidered the 2010 Conference Advisory Action regarding La Viña and took no action.
- 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.
- The committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an Instagram account and requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The committee discussed A.A. 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.
- The committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Google for Nonprofits account and requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The committee discussed ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Viña and suggested that all 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.

- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2018 or later:
 1. *Stories of Recovery from Hispanic Women in AA* (working title). Previously published in LV magazine, a selection of stories written by the Hispanic women in A.A., sharing their experience.
 2. *Writing Together: Stories from LV Workshops* (working title). Hispanic A.A. members share their experience, strength and hope in stories extracted from LV magazine.
 3. *Carrying the Message to the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers* (working title). A collection of LV stories about carrying the message into institutions.
- The committee reviewed the 2017 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy with appreciation and made the following requests:

That an update status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and a more definitive plan for the future be provided to the 2018 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.

- The committee reviewed the Grapevine workbook with appreciation and made the following suggestions:

Review the section Links to Other Sites for additional clarity.
Update A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s location.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees, and suggested:
 - Communicating information to groups that are a car ride or day trip away from the Forum site;
 - Looking for attractive sites for Forums;
 - Forwarding any and all announcements from G.S.O., including when pre-registration opens;
 - Considering forwarding announcements to states which are in other regions when Forum sites are nearby;

- Utilizing FNV for email blasts to communicate with trusted servants about upcoming Forums.

Additionally, one area through its Assembly Development Committee organizes ride sharing and room sharing for Forums; and one delegate shared that they bring a laptop to A.A. gatherings and use it for pre-registration.

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2030 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.
- The committee considered a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.

Literature

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet "Too Young?" and took no action. The committee noted that there was not a widely expressed desire within the Fellowship to retire the pamphlet.
- 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 draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of "A.A. for the Woman" and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of "Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic" (formerly "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic") and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees' Literature Committee on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft copy or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed draft sample illustrations and corresponding revised text for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated." The committee looks forward

to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.

- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees' literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services." The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider adding information related to safety to the pamphlets "A Brief Guide to A.A." and "Understanding Anonymity."
- The committee considered requests for the development of new literature regarding safety in A.A. and took no action. The committee agreed that shared experience regarding safety and A.A. would be best conveyed by revising existing literature, where appropriate. The committee also agreed that the new service piece, "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare," has been found helpful in providing experience from groups and members on challenges, resources and possible solutions in situations that may involve the safety of groups or individual members.
- The committee considered a request to add a section "Why A.A. groups and members should respect the rental requirements of their landlords" to the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" and took no action. The committee agreed that an A.A. group's relationship with their landlord falls within the autonomy of the group.

Policy/Admissions

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to allow regional service committees to bid to host the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee considered a request that the Advisory Action delegating site selection for the General Service Conference to G.S.O. management be rescinded and took no action.
- 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.
- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.

Public Information

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2016 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan and accepted the 2017 Public Information Comprehensive Media plan.

After reviewing the report on Carrying the Message Online and on Social Media, the committee requested that the trustees' committee continue to develop their ideas on the use of quick response (QR) codes; a video on anonymity and the Internet; and a daily text message.

The committee suggested the development of service material to address frequently asked questions regarding anonymity and a wallet card or bookmark addressing anonymity online and in social media.

The committee reviewed the trustees' committee suggestions regarding service materials with appreciation. The committee agreed that the service piece "Anonymity Online" was still a valuable resource and supports its continued availability.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the public service announcement "I Have Hope."
- After reviewing the trustees' Committee on Public Information's report on a Google Implementation Plan the committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information continue to research the feasibility of A.A.W.S. using Google AdWords and Google Grants and bring a report to the 2018 Conference Committee on 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 Tenth 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 A.A. message to the public on social media.
- The committee reviewed the revised text for inclusion in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" and suggested that the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" be updated to include revised text regarding the source of information identifying one-third of A.A. members as women and adding website information as needed.

- The committee consider a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and, seeing no need, took no action.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook, and agreed that the current materials are adequately serving the needs of local P.I. Committees.

Report and Charter

Committee Considerations:

- 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 2017 *Final Conference Report*.
- The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and accepted the updates.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. 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 A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions. *Note: The committee suggested that the General Service Board reconsider a change that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.*
- The committee considered a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action. The committee noted that the current procedure under Procedure 4 currently reflects the meeting and communication needs of the committee.
- The committee discussed the A.A. Directories and noted there were no requests for changes at this time.
- The committee considered a request that a summary of changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published and took no action. The committee noted that the biennial publishing process is still in its infancy and 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.
- The committee discussed the complexities involved in a biennial production of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The committee requested that the General Service Office consider developing a plan with a revised editorial review process for *The A.A. Service*

Manual to be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The committee requested that the report include additional information with suggestions on how changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* in non-printing years could be reported to the Fellowship.

- The committee considered a request that a footnote be added to *The A.A. Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service* in Concept VIII to reflect accurately the current ownership of the service corporations as is reflected in Footnote 3, Concept XI. The committee suggested that this footnote be added to Concept VIII for consistency. The committee also suggested that the year A.A.W.S., Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. became membership corporations in the state of New York be added to both footnotes.

Treatment and Accessibilities

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee suggested that the Conference-approved pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers" be removed from the Treatment Service Kit.
- The committee suggested that staff review and revise service material in the Treatment Service Kit.
- The committee suggested that the title, menu and introduction to the DVD and CD currently titled "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be revised to "Accessibility for All Alcoholics." The committee suggested that the DVD be available with subtitles in French and Spanish.
- 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' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities forward the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services," 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 services 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.

Trustees

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for East Central Regional trustee, Southeast Regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S.
- The committee discussed the voting procedures for electing trustee-at-large/U.S. and a request to consider the need to restructure the number of regions and number of regional trustees serving on the General Service Board. After thoughtful discussion, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating review all available historical information and the current regional geographical structure and, if changes are needed, provide all options for restructuring to be considered. The committee requested that the committee's review include consideration of each regional trustees' ability to effectively serve his or her areas; consideration of geographical factors and whether an equal or similar number of areas per region is desirable; as well as feasibility and cost analysis, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees.

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