

The 69th General Service Conference

Our Big Book – 80 years, 71 languages



Introduction

What I Saw, Felt and Heard

This report is not a meeting minutes to relay vote tallies. This report attempts to transmit the nature of the conference.

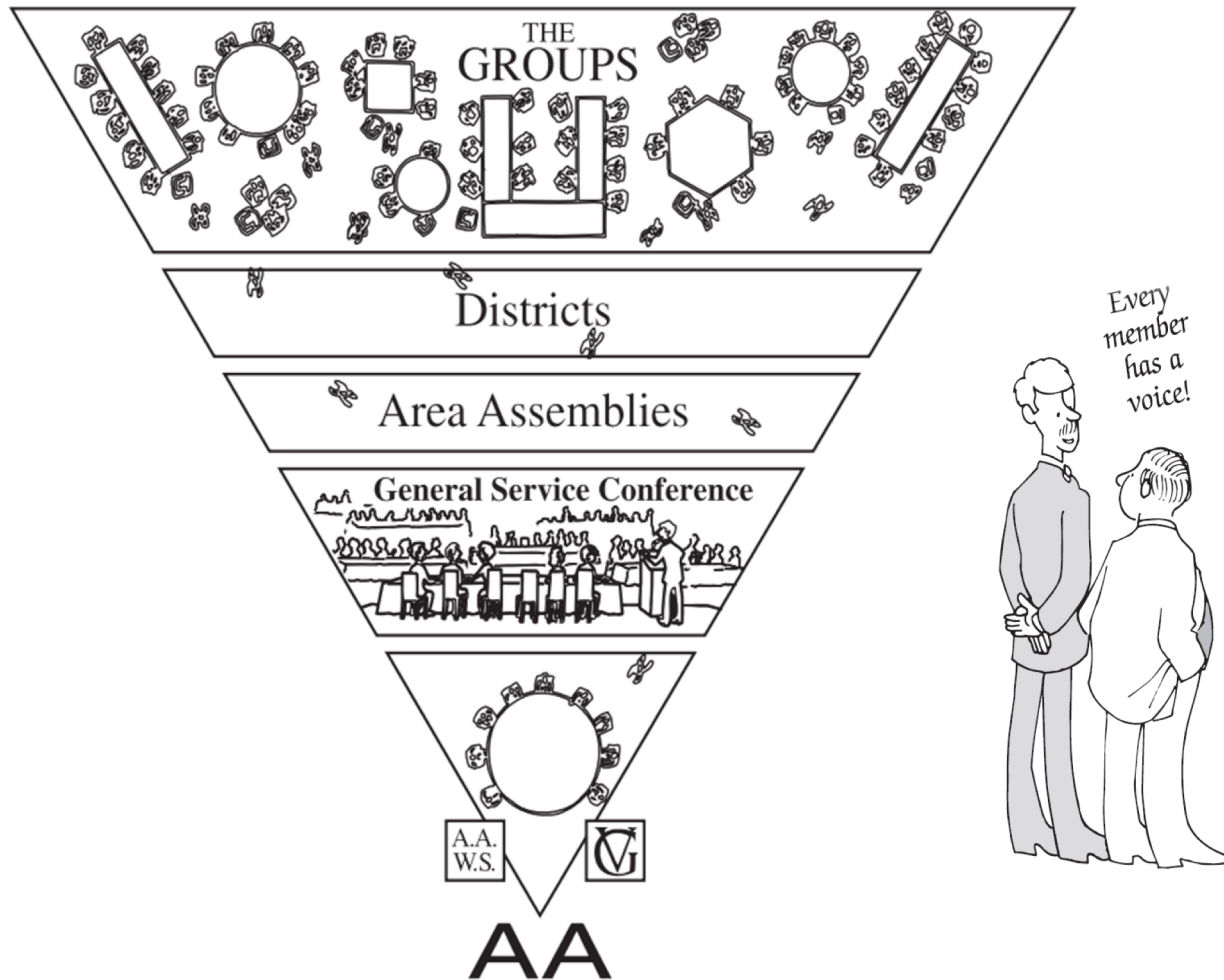
Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: “We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

“We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

“We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.”

Introduction



Who makes up the Conference?

This year there are 135 voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A.'s World Services and of the Steps and Traditions. They are composed as follows:

68.8%

➤ **93 Delegates**

FUNCTION: Represent A.A. groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for A.A.'s World Services. Traditionally, Delegates constitute at least two-thirds of the voting membership.

20.0%

➤ **27 Trustees,
A.A.W.S. Directors,
GV Directors**

FUNCTION: Responsible for policy and implementation.

11.2%

➤ **15 General Service Office
and Grapevine Staff**

FUNCTION: Carry out policies of and report to the General Service Board and Conference.

Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice;
not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.

Introduction



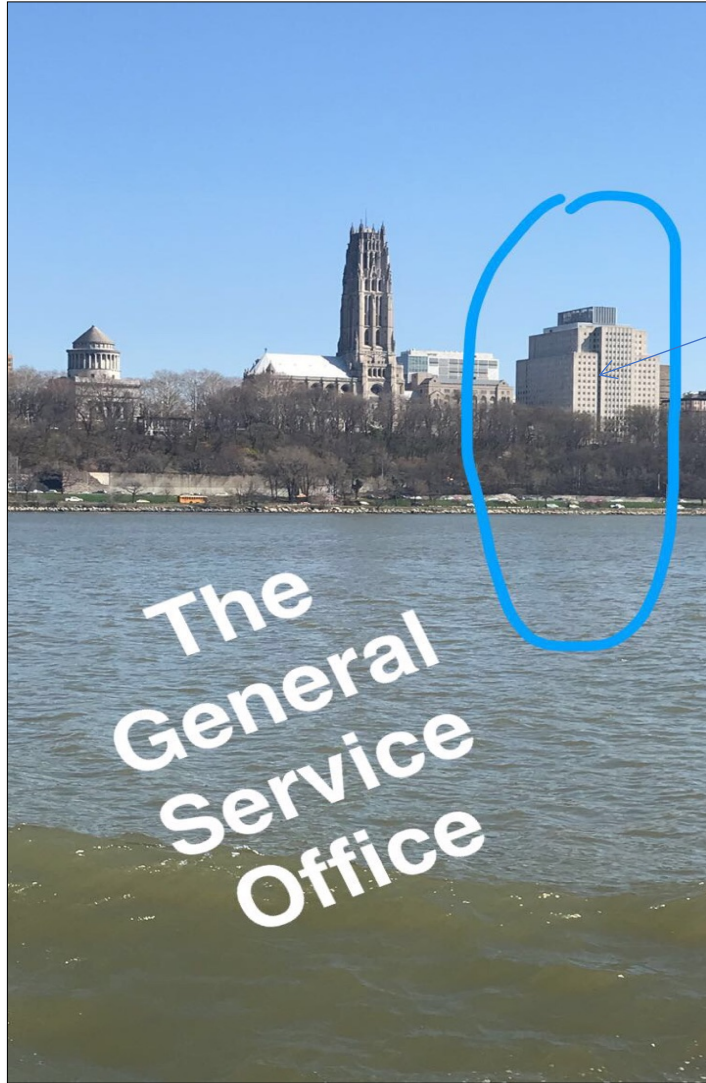
What's the most
important thing?



Connection with the other
conference members

Love and respect between and among
conference members

Meeting the Conference



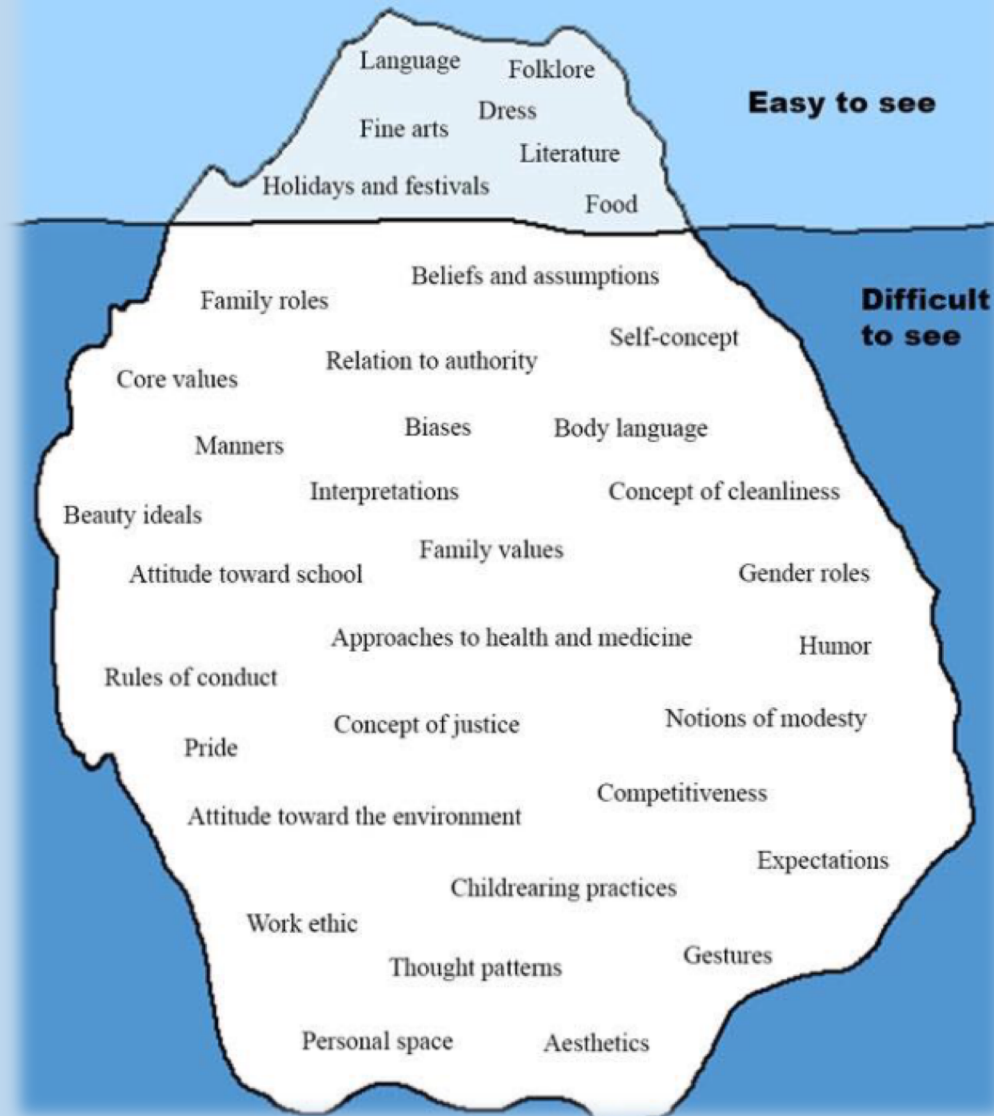
Alcoholics Anonymous
General Service Office
475 Riverside Drive 11th Floor

Circle Line
1748
Remote
Communities
Delegate Meeting

Meeting the Conference



The Cultural Iceberg



Meeting the Conference

Pacific Region Delegates



PACIFIC REGION (15 Areas)

02 ALASKA
03 ARIZONA
05 CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN
06 CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL
07 CALIFORNIA NORTHERN INTERIOR
08 CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL
09 CALIFORNIA MID-SOUTHERN
17 HAWAII
18 IDAHO
42 NEVADA
58 OREGON
69 UTAH
72 WASHINGTON WESTERN
92 WASHINGTON EAST
93 CALIFORNIA CENTRAL

PRAASA = Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

Meeting the Conference



GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC
AA GRAPEVINE INC

Dios,
concédemme la serenidad
para aceptar
las cosas
que no puedo cambiar;
el valor para cambiar
las cosas
que puedo cambiar;
y la sabiduría
para reconocer
la diferencia.

Spanish

serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change,
courage to change
the things I can,
and
wisdom
to know
the difference.

Mon Dieu,
donnez-moi la Sérénité
d'accepter
les choses que
je ne puis changer,
Le Courage de
changer les choses
que je peux,
et la Sagesse
d'en connaître
la différence.

French

God - Skenk my die Kalmte,
Om te aanvaar
wat ek nie kan verander nie,
Moed om te verander wat ek kan,
En die Wysheid om te weet
wat die onderskeid is.

Afrikaans

Boże,
użycz mi
pogody ducha,
abym godził się z tym,
czego nie mogę zmienić,
odwagi,
abym zmienił to,
co mogę zmienić,
i mądrości,
abym odróżniał
jedno od drugiego.

Polish

Onyankopon,
ma me akoma na me mfa
nye nmerma mentumi nsesa ntomu,
akokoduro na me nsesa nea metumi,
na mame nyansa a mede behunu
emu nsonsonnoe

Twi

Gud giv mig sindsro
Til at acceptere de ting
jeg ikke kan rendre
Mod til at ændre de ting
jeg kan
Og visdom til at se forskellen.

Danish

Mungu nipe utalivu wa kukubali mambo
nisiyoweza kubadili,
Na ushujaa wa kubadili ninayoweza.
Hekima ya kujua tofauti
kati ya hayo mawili.

Swahili

אל',
תן לי חכמה לשנות את מה שבכוחי לשנות,
את העוז לשנות מה שאוכל לשנות
והתבונה להבחין בין אלה ובין אלה.

Hebrew

Dio, concedimi la serenità
di accettare le cose che non posso cambiare,
il coraggio di cambiare le cose che posso,
e la saggezza per conoscere la differenza.

Italian

اللَّهُمَّ امْنَحْنِي السَّكِينَةَ لِأَتَقَبَّلَ مَا لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ تَغْيِيرَهُ،
وَالشَّجَاعَةَ لِأَعْمُرَ مَا أَسْتَطِيعُ تَغْيِيرَهُ،
وَالْحِكْمَةَ لِأَعْرِفَ الْفَرْقَ بَيْنَهُمَا.

Arabic

A Dhia,
deonaigh dom an suaimhneas
chun glacadh le rudai
nach feidir lom a athrú,
misneach chun rudai
a athrú nuair is feidir,
agus gaos
chun an difríocht a aithint.

Gaelic

Боже,
дай мне разум
и душевный покой принять то,
что я не в силах
изменить.
Мужество изменить то,
что могу.
Мудрость,
чтобы отличать
одно от другого.

Russian

Gud
gi meg slik Simnsro
for å godta de ting jeg
ikke kan forandre...
Mot til å forandre de ting jeg
kan
og Forstand til
å se forskjellen...

Norwegian

Gud
gefi mér æðruleysi
til að setta mig við
það sem ég fíe ekki breytt
kjark til að breyta
því sem ég get breytt
og vit til að greina
þar á milli.

Icelandic

Gott
gebe mir die Gelassenheit,
Dinge hinzunehmen,
die ich nicht ändern kann,
den Mut,
Dinge zu ändern,
die ich ändern kann,
und die Weisheit,
das eine vom anderen
zu unterscheiden.

German

Concedi-nos Senhor,
a Serenidade necessária
para aceitar as coisas que não
podemos modificar;
Coragem para modificar
aquelas que podemos,
e Sabedoria para
distinguir uma das outras.

Portuguese
(Brazilian)

Diyen God adibbheh' shaa yinla
t'laado le'e doo laho anadilnikitigi
doochoogoo haa hushaba dooleet biniye,
t'laado le'e laho anadilnikitigi t'aa
buziaka hosh' u dooleet biniye,
laado husha' ya t'laado haa
nashakees dooleetigi doo biniye
t'ee hoo'aggi' abo' dilan
dooleetigi biniye t'la ya' t'la'elago doo
beheneedagoo nashakees shaa yinla.

Navajo

神様、
私にお与えください
自分に変えられないものを
受け入れる勇気を与えて
変えられるものは
変えてゆく勇気を
そして二つのものを
見分ける賢さを

Japanese

Jumala
suokoon minulle tyyneyttä hyvaksya
asiat joita en voi muuttaa,
rohkeutta muuttaa mitkä voin,
ja viisautta erottaa
nama toisistaan.

Finnish

Gud, giv mig sinnesro
att acceptera det jag inte kan förändra,
mod att förändra det jag
kan och förstånd att inse skillnaden

Swedish

E Ke Akua,
E ha'awi
mai ia'u ka maluhia
e 'ae i na mea i hiki
'ole ai'u ke ho'olohi,
ka wiro'ole
e ho'ohuli na mea i hiki,
a me ka na'auao
e ike ai i ke 'oko'a

Hawaiian

Umthandazo Wenjabulo
Nkulunkulu ngiphe intokozo,
Yokwamukela izinto,
Enging nakuzigazula
Isibindi, sokuzigazula
izinto engingazigazula,
Nolwazi, lokuhlak –
aniphabokwazi izinto
Exihlukemayo

Zulu

Istenem
Adj lelki bekét annak
elfogadására
amin változtatni nem tudok,
bátorságot,
hogy változtassak,
amin tudok
és bölcsességet,
hogy felismerjem
a különbséget!

Hungarian

Θεέ μου,
δός μου τη γαλήνη να δέχομαι
τα πράγματα που δεν μπορώ ν' αλλάξω,
το κουράγιο ν' αλλάξω αυτά που μπορώ,
και τη σοφία να γνωρίζω
τη διαφορά.

Greek

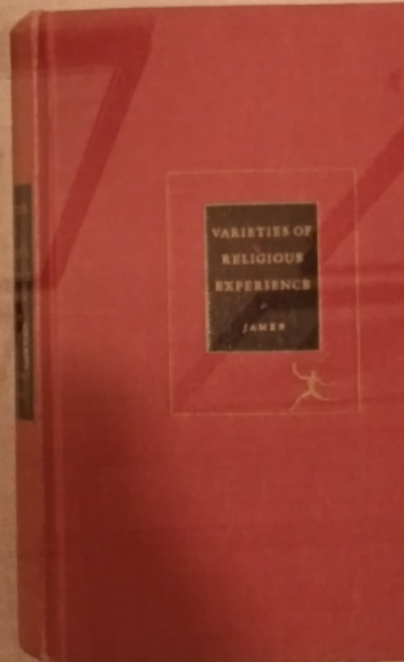
God geef my kalmte
om te aanvaarden
wat ik niet kan veranderen
Moed om te veranderen
wat ik kan veranderen
Wijsheid om tussen
deze twee onderscheid te maken

Dutch

General Service Office – A tidbit from the Archive



William James and his book *Varieties of Religious Experience*



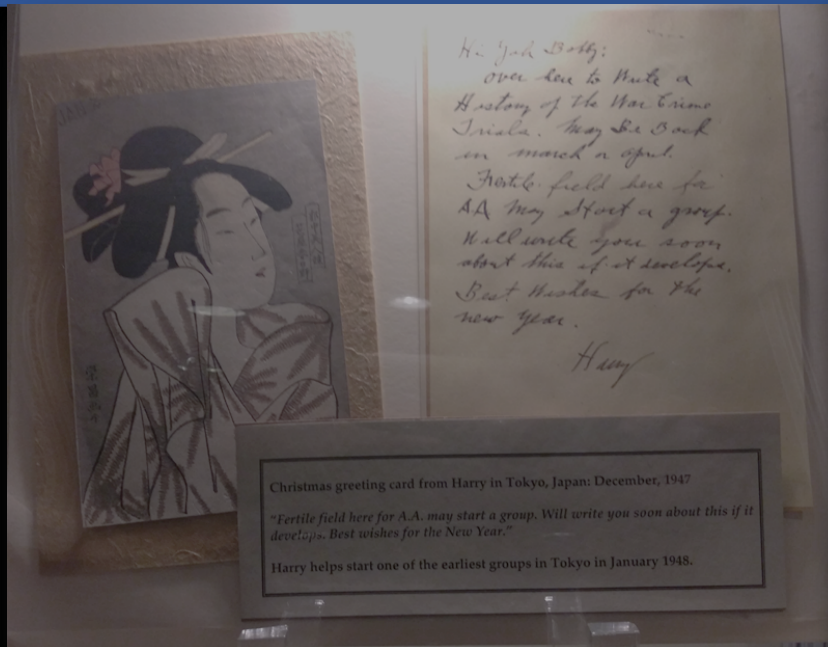
Influence of William James

William James is considered to be the founder of psychology in the United States. He authored the book *Varieties of Religious Experience* which Ebby gave to Bill during his final stay at Towns Hospital in December 1934. Bill had a spiritual experience while at Towns Hospital which Dr. Silkworth validated. As it says in *Pass It On*, "As Silkworth had given Bill the information he needed to understand his own alcoholism, James gave Bill the material he needed to understand what had just happened to him – and gave it to him in a way that was acceptable to Bill."



Bill W. with Ebby T.
St. Louis, MO
1955

General Service Office – A tidbit from the Archive



General Service Office – A tidbit from the Archive



THE HAND OF A.A. IS ALWAYS THERE

A few examples of what the 90 people of both GSO and Grapevine do each working day to make sure that the hand of A.A. is always there for the Fellowship and the still suffering alcoholic:

- ❖ 14,000 booklets, pamphlets, and miscellaneous items shipped daily
- ❖ 4,900 Big Books and other books shipped daily
- ❖ 230 emails responded to daily
- ❖ 40 phone calls answered daily
- ❖ 350 Seventh Tradition contributions processed daily & thank you letters sent
- ❖ 200 Grapevine and La Vina mailed daily
- ❖ 400 people (215 first timers) on average attended each of 12 Regional Forums held during last three years
- ❖ 6 requests for information from the Archives answered daily
- ❖ Archives conserves A.A.'s history
- ❖ Manages over 2,700 cubic feet of our history – materials are equivalent to nearly **three quarters of a mile** of 8½" x 11" pages of paper stacked end to end.

AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee
General Service Board Treasurer

2018 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

7th Tradition of Self-Support – **\$8.4 million**, almost equal to 2017 record

Cost of Services Provided to Fellowship – **\$11.4 million**, up 11.8% from 2017

Shortfall between - **\$3.0 million**

AAWS publishing profits – **\$3.4 million**, down 4%, used to cover shortfall between 7th Tradition and Cost of Services, resulting in net GSO profit – \$0.4 million

Grapevine subscription levels declined in 2018.

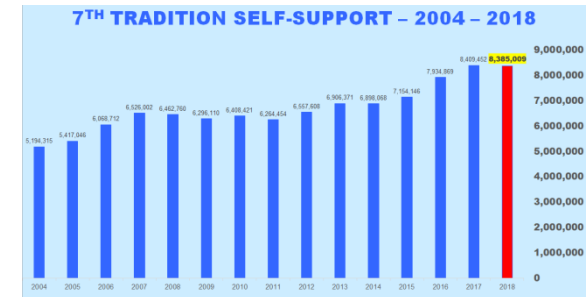
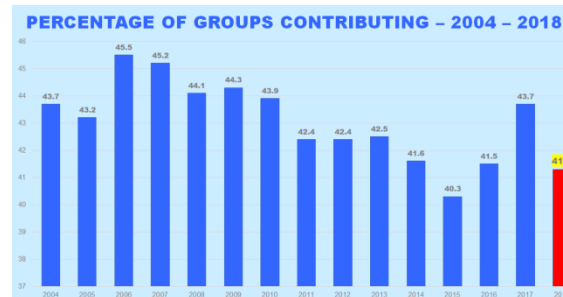
General Fund support of La Viña service activity – \$148 thousand

Reserve Fund – \$15.9 million, resulting in ratio of 9.7 months

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS – 2018

Dollar Range of Contributions	Number of Contributing Groups per Each Range	Percentage of Each Range to Total Number of Groups	Total Dollar Contributions per Each Range	Percentage of Each Range to Total Dollars of Groups	Average Dollar Contribution per Group in Each Range
\$1 – 99	10,726	37.9	\$537,129	8.0	\$50.08
100 – 499	14,553	51.4	3,127,284	46.5	214.89
500 – 999	2,085	7.4	1,408,917	21.0	675.74
1,000 – 1,999	737	2.6	980,842	14.6	1,330.86
2,000 – 2,999	140	0.5	334,792	5.0	2,391.37
3,000 & Above	<u>73</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>331,323</u>	<u>4.9</u>	4,538.67
Total	28,314	100.0	6,720,287	100.0	237.35

Represents 41.3% of total groups

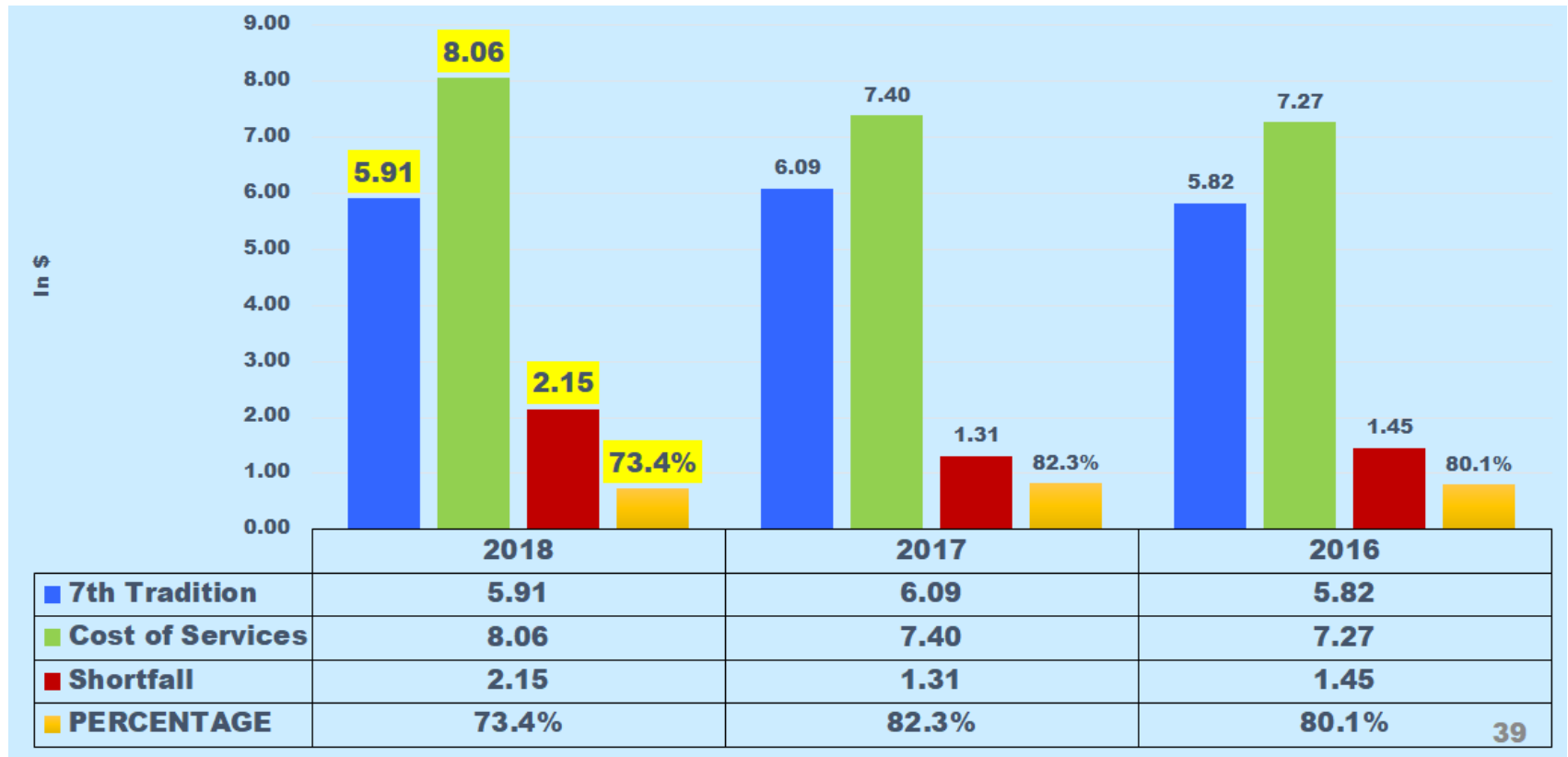


MEMBER SERVICES & STATISTICS – 3 YEAR HISTORY

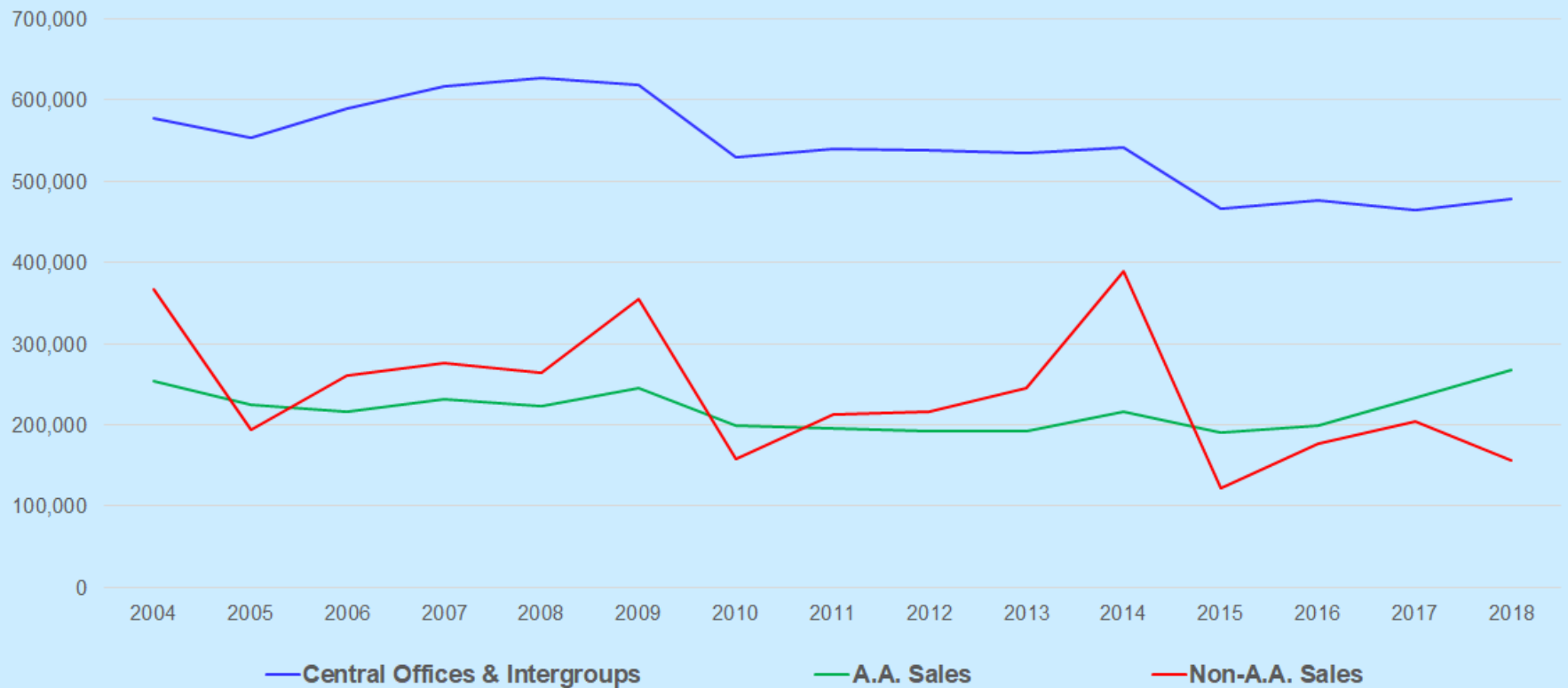
	2018	2017	2016
Number of Members	1,418,177	1,381,954	1,362,402
Cost of Services per Member	\$8.06	\$7.40	\$7.27
7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Member	<u>5.91</u>	<u>6.09</u>	<u>5.82</u>
Cost of Services <u>NOT</u> covered by Self-Support	2.15	1.31	1.45
Number of Groups	68,478	66,860	66,336
Cost of Services per Group	\$166.87	\$152.90	\$149.34
7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Group	<u>122.45</u>	<u>125.78</u>	<u>119.62</u>
Cost of Services <u>NOT</u> covered by Self-Support	44.42	27.12	29.72
Percentage of Groups Contributing	41.3%	43.7%	41.5%
Number of Groups that Contributed	28,314	29,219	27,542
7 th Tradition Self-Support of Groups that contributed – Slide 8	\$237.35	\$231.34	\$234.41

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

**\$8.06 on
August 6th**

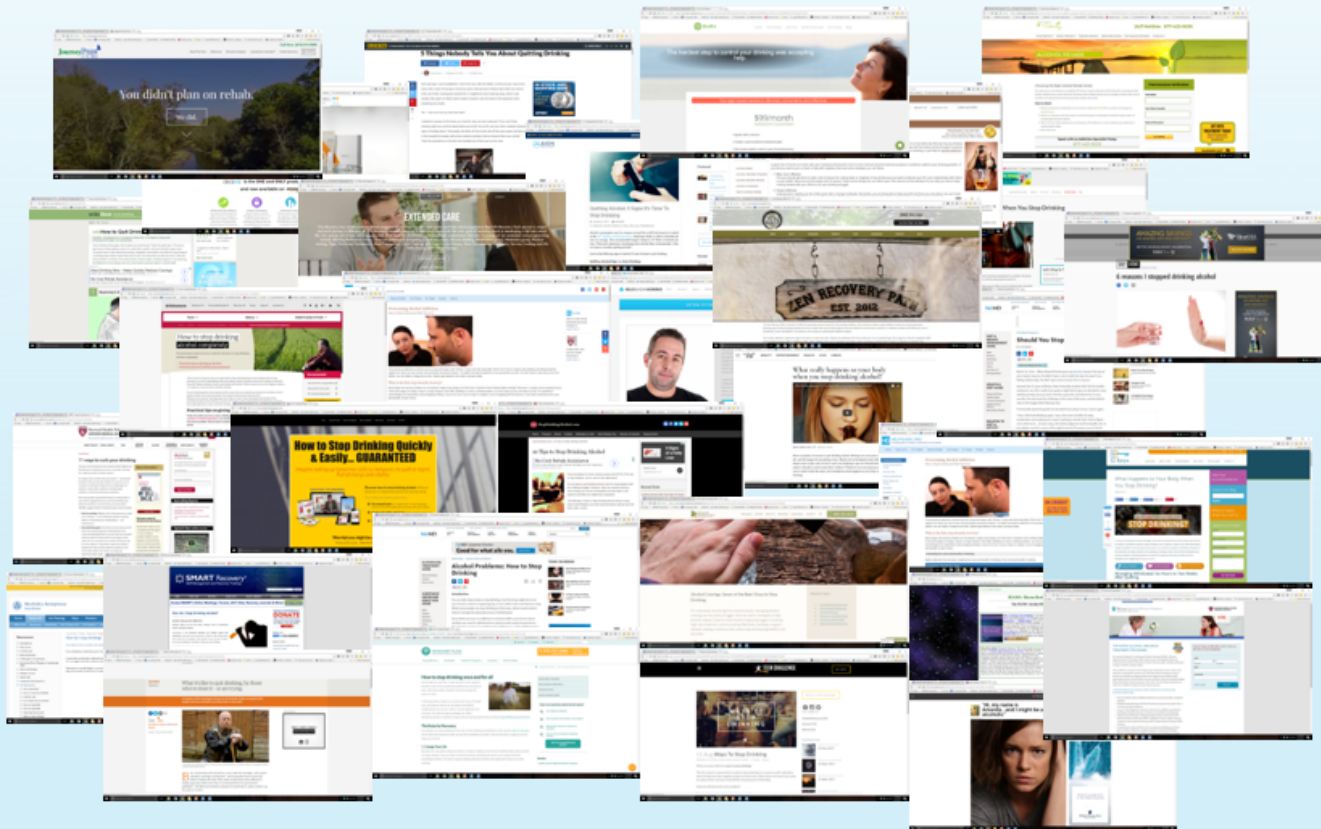


BIG BOOK — BREAKDOWN OF SALES ALL ENGLISH VERSIONS



There is a lot of noise out there about alcoholism

Search results for “**How do I stop drinking?**”



Alcoholics Anonymous is invisible here...

The Conference

69th ANNUAL General Service Conference

Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages

Notre Gros Livre – 80 ans, 71 langues

**Nuestro Libro Grande – 80 años,
71 idiomas**

Conference Process Notes

- Conference stats
- Conference and Conference Committees
- Conference Action
- Committee Additional Consideration
- Floor Actions
- 2/3 Vote

69th General Service Conference

Data on Area Delegates

(92 responses)

	<u>Years</u>
Average Age	59
Oldest	75
Youngest	36
Average Length of Sobriety	23
Longest Sobriety	42
Shortest Sobriety	9
Average Length of Service	17
Longest Service	36
Shortest Service	6

EVOLUTION OF A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION

1	An idea, suggestion, question, concern or subject comes from A.A. members, G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, Area Committee members, Delegates, Trustees, or G.S.O./GV Staff, and may be shared or discussed at the group, district and Area Assembly and sent to the	Conference Coordinator G.S.O.
2	The idea is reviewed by the G.S.O./GV Staff and forwarded to	Appropriate Trustees' Committee
3	which then may refer the matter to the	Appropriate Conference Committee
4	which meets during the General Service Conference week and makes recommendations that are presented in the Committee Report to the...	General Service Conference
5	if a Conference Committee recommendation is approved, after full floor discussion, it becomes a Conference Advisory Action , which becomes binding when approved by the	General Service Board

For example, I am on the CPC Conference Committee

However: Conference Committees also make '**Additional Considerations**' which do not go to the Conference floor, instead they move directly back the corresponding Trustee Committee. They can also '**Take No Action**' on an item.

Additionally, Conference members can also submit Floor Actions (these are like our Floor Motions)

"Without committees, it is doubtful that any Conference would be able to function effectively. Most questions suggested for the Conference agenda are assigned to a committee, where items can be discussed in a small group before they are forwarded for discussion to the full Conference body."

The Conference CPC Committee



Electronic Voting

1 = YES

2 = NO

POLICY & ADMISSIONS

April 13-15, 2018
Guides 2
SUGGESTED GREY BOX: FOR DELEGATE USE ONLY

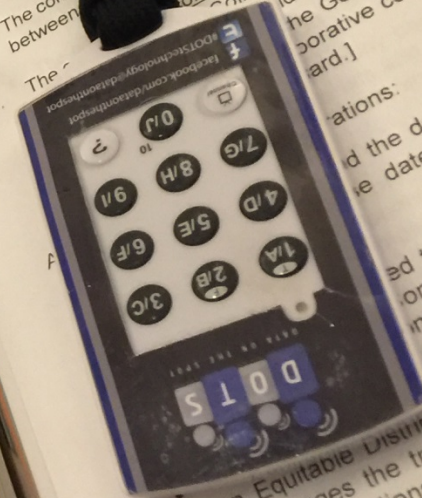
I India, it would be
our first time to other countries
as we did
the India law to put
the request

we think that a little more time between conference
would be beneficial. Also the weather
(better)

The Conference
Agenda Items:

- A. Approve
Conference
- B. Review
Conference

C. The



At Large Canada

Patricia LaNauze

Northeast Regional Trustee

Francis Gilroy

Southwest Regional Trustee

James Dean



Items From Preconferences

1. Discuss progress on implementation of A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page

- **Additional Consideration** – Referred back to Trustee Committee with updated recommendations such as:



- Include a disclaimer about affiliation (the lack thereof)
- Use language aimed at the intended audience – IE professionals with their own jargon which is not A.A. jargon, however the overall tone must be “A.A.ish”
- Rely on existing CPC and PI language, instead of the consultant’s language as it was felt by the committee that the consultant’s language was to... self-congratulatory (and somewhat self promoting)
- Provide links to aa.org and aa.org/information-for-professionals
- Provide an annual LinkedIn report to the Conference to ensure understanding of usage and input on future changes if needed

2. Consider request to remove the “Alcoholism at Large” section from AA Grapevine.

- Committee **Took No Action** on Request to Remove
 - (this is basically like, “died in committee”)
 - The Committee affirmed the Grapevine and LaVina’s editorial responsibilities and freedoms
- Additional Consideration: Committee requested that the disclaimer on the page be made easier to see

**Alcoholism
At Large**

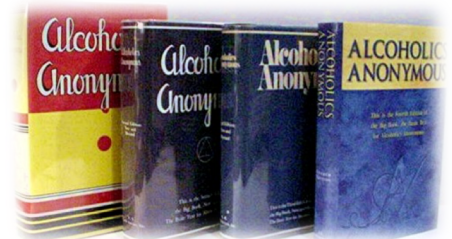
The purpose of this page is to offer information that may further readers' understanding of the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism; the severity and international scope of the illness; and the worldwide efforts being made to combat it. Publication here does not imply endorsement or affiliation. AA does not conduct or participate in research, nor does it hold any opinion on research conducted by others.

3. Consider requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*

- The Committee recommended that a draft version be developed.
- The Conference **FAILED** this recommendation: 54/78

Some comments from the Conference:

- There is currently a committee forming to look at the series of Big Book requests/recommendations from the past several years: translating a plain language, modernizing, etc.
- That stories are gilded by inclusion in the Big Book is a mistake, we have stories in many locations (read your Grapevine) all of equal validity. If stories are the primary reason for an update, then anytime in the near-ish future will suffice for a 5th ed.
- The growing clamor for “joining the digital age” will be placed on hold to focus on a new Big Book, so we must choose our opportunity cost.
 - IE there is more work than workers right now



4. Consider request to revise the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”

- *In the A.A. Group pamphlet (P-16), add an additional question in the ‘group inventory’ questions section. That question to read: “Do you feel safe coming to the group? Are the group’s members treated with respect?”*

Committee **Took No Action**

5. Consider request to update language in the flyer “A.A. at a Glance.”

- *“Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the suggested Twelve Steps for recovery from alcoholism”*
- *“Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, which are suggested as a program of recovery.”*

PASSED by the Conference

6. Consider adding a story from an A.A. member who is deaf to the pamphlet “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.”

PASSED by the Conference

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

- Committee **Additional Considerations** such as:
 - Regional Forum app and/or a micro-site
 - Capture ‘first timer’ sharing and distribute
 - Encourage ‘local level’ welcome committees
 - Include in Grapevine and LaVina

Other Agenda Items

The following slides show outcomes from the rest of the agenda. For additional information, please refer to the background material posted on the [area72aa](#) website.

Items that seemed particularly interesting are boxed in purple.

AGENDA

Theme: 70th GSC Theme will be “2020: A Clear Vision for You”

Presentation Topics:

- Recovery – Who is Missing in Our Rooms?
- Unity – Practicing Our Principles
- Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant
- Workshop Topic: Attraction through Action

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

- Recommend changes to “Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community”:

PASSED

GRAPEVINE

- Considered and forwarded for approval: Books for future publication: The Early Days of AA; Getting Involved in General Service; Surrender and Hope (La Vina book)

CORRECTIONS

- Recommendation to modify Composition, Scope and Procedure.

“The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot, of their own free will, seek A.A. help.”

Be revised to read:

“The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot seek A.A. help outside the walls.” **FAILED**

- Consider review of Corrections-related literature to be more modern and inclusive. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Consider Request to establish and maintain a database of Correctional Facilities. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Additional Consideration: That Publishing prioritize Corrections pamphlets for publication without staples.

FINANCE

- Recommended increase of maximum annual contribution from AA member bequests from \$5,000 to \$10,000. **PASSED**
- Reviewed the current area contributions for delegate expenses. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Consider increase in maximum annual contribution from individual member. **TOOK NO ACTION**

INT'L CONVENTIONS / REGIONAL FORUMS

- Recommend taking an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony at the 2020 International Convention. **PASSED**
- Recommend an anonymity-protected internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony. **PASSED**
- Recommend that anonymity protected video footage of highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for archival use. **PASSED**

LITERATURE

- Recommend “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” (P. 13) and (P. 15) be revised to include references to anonymity. **PASSED**
- Recommend updates to “The Twelve Steps Illustrated”. **PASSED**
- Recommend text be added to the Forward to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. **FAILED**
- Recommend “Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers”, be added to the “Open Meeting” side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card. **FAILED**
- Discussed “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” and supported the proposed policy. (Later Floor Action re-committed this back to the Committee for review next year).
- Additional Consideration: Begin work on a Literature Committee Workbook
- Additional Consideration: the Trustees’ Literature Committee consider an update to the pamphlet “Is A.A. for Me?”

POLICY / ADMISSIONS

- Recommend “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings” be modified to include time for discussion of the motion. **PASSED**
 - The 71st GSC be held April 18-24, 2021.
 - The 72nd GSC will be held April 24-30, 2022.
 - The 71st and 72nd GSC will be held in Brooklyn, NY
- Considered a process for Conference committee to review proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference Committee and requested additional information regarding background material process be provided to the next Conference.
- Requested trustees’ Committee on the GSC develop a process for approval of other guests to be presented 1 week prior to GSC for approval.
- Considered the 1986 Advisory Action and asked that it be re-implemented.
- Noting that a presentation on Equitable Workload Distribution was scheduled, the Committee requested a plan or progress report be brought to the 70th GSC.

REPORT AND CHARTER

- Reviewed the report from Publishing regarding suggestions to update *The A.A. Service Manual, 2020-2022 Edition* and forwarded comments to the Publishing Department
- Considered the AA. Directories in light of the new ERP system implementation and requested the General Service Office explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the information.
- Agreed to new privacy policy that personal addresses not be included in the final Conference Report for Area Delegates, Trustees and Non-trustee Directors

ARCHIVES

- Recommend adding of 1940's home movie of co-founders and their wives to the video "Markings on the Journey" at an estimated cost of \$5,000. **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Approved service material "Archives Checklist: A quick guide for local A.A. Archivist" and suggested the use of gender specific language be avoided in future printings of the Archives Workbook.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Recommend the trustees' Committee on PI develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. Pamphlets. **PASSED**
- Recommend the video PSA "My World" be discontinued. **PASSED**
- Recommend, in keeping with the 2011 Advisory Action, that full-face actors (not A.A. members) be shown as long as the character is not portrayed as a "potential A.A. member" or "A.A. member". **PASSED**
- Recommend two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an "actor portrayal" disclaimer on screen. **PASSED**
- Recommend adding text addressing anonymity and safety be included in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity". **PASSED**
- Recommend a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel be brought back to the 2020 GSC. **PASSED**
- Recommend current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes. **PASSED**
- Recommend A.A. World Services, Inc. and Grapevine Inc. apply for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants. **PASSED**
- Recommend that A.A. World Services, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc. apply for Google AdWords Grants. **PASSED**
- Recommend that A.A. World Services, Inc. implement AdWords for providing information to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 GSC. **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Update A.A. pamphlet covers to prominently display the G.S.O and Grapevine website addresses.

TREATMENT/SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITIES

- Recommend the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late” be updated. **PASSED**
- Recommend the development of anonymity-protected audio interviews of military professionals as an online resource. **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Considered revising the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap Between Treatment and A.A. and requested a review of all treatment and correction literature with consideration of what might be combined.
- Additional Consideration: Review of draft Remote Communities Kit and suggested a guideline or workbook be developed for inclusion.

TRUSTEES

- Recommend the approval of the slate of trustees and officers for GSB, Grapevine Board, A.A.W.S., Inc. Board and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Board. **PASSED**
- Reviewed draft procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the GSB, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board. Suggestions were provided and a request was made to bring a **revised plan** to the 2020 GSB.

FLOOR ACTIONS to the Conference

*This sends it to the Appropriate
Trustee Committee*



7 Floor Actions resulted in the following:

#1 – A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book be developed. **RECOMMIT**

#2 – Spanish Audio Language of the Heart be prioritized with a timeline. **FAILED**

#3 – Include pamphlet The God Word for possible publication w/o staples (for corrections use) **DECLINED TO HEAR**

#4 – Pamphlet A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic be updated.
RECOMMIT

#5 – “Simple majority suggestion” be prominently included in the Conference Report.
FAILED

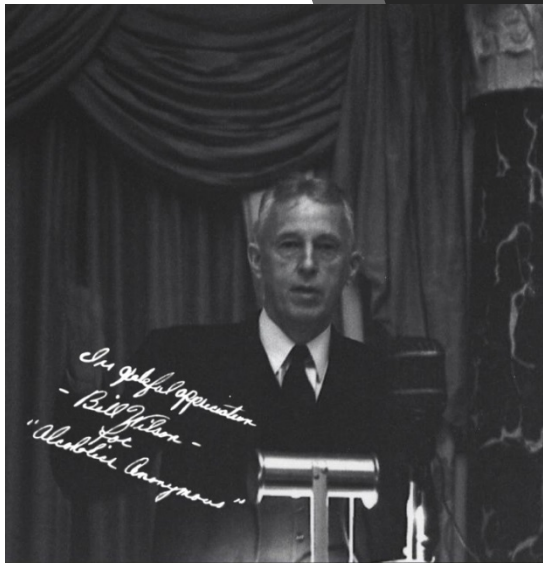
#6 – “Alcoholism At Large” be removed from the Grapevine. **DECLINED TO HEAR**

#7 – “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee. **PASSED**



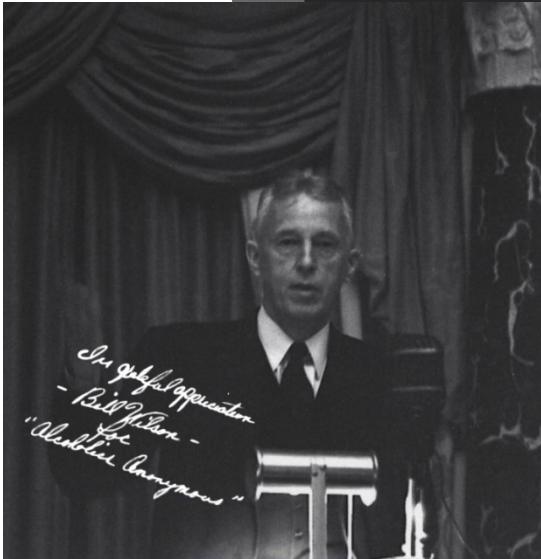
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Area 72

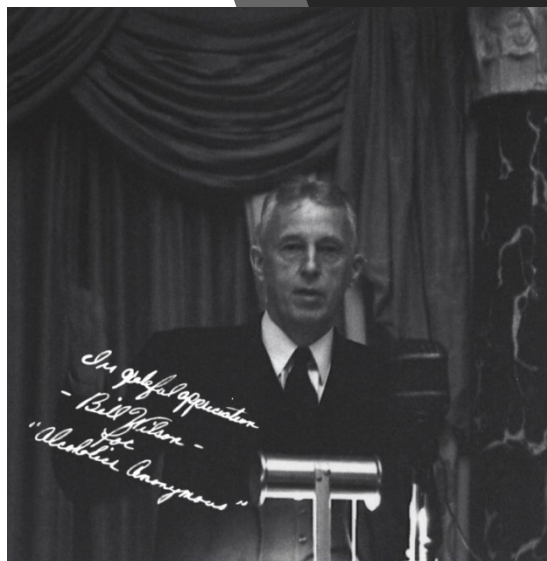
So, here we were sitting now as an incorporated board, providing services that would enable this society to hold together, to carry its message and we still assumed the right to be the guarantors and guardians of its tradition and general welfare. Here we were, growing isolation, at the time things were going well. We hadn't made any great blunder so that the complements of the society were shaken. Money was coming in with which we worked. In the board we had aggregated a self-assumed authority and quite properly so during the infancy of the movement. We had aggregated the authority to print you literature, to resolve group troubles, to be answerable to the public, to administer your funds, to provide your mirror of AA life, the monthly magazine. All of this authority we had simply assumed. And by common consent in 1945 you were only too glad to have us do this job.



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Finally, it began to appear that we couldn't do the job forever. And that all of these years we had been phenomenally lucky. Or to put it more accurately providentially guarded during our childhood. But the day would come when a great blunder would be made, the day would come when there would be a great scandal, the day might come when there would be a great religious or political division among us. The day might come when from sheer remorse and lack of interest or understanding the support of this overall function would melt away. How could it be guaranteed to continue? Well, then looking out among the groups some of them began to regard them as a model. Realized that each group had to have its parent, its founder, so-called, damn bad word that one folks, and that the immediate friends of the founder became the first service committee and they carried the spiritual message to the groups but yay they did more, they enabled it by making all of this [inaudible].

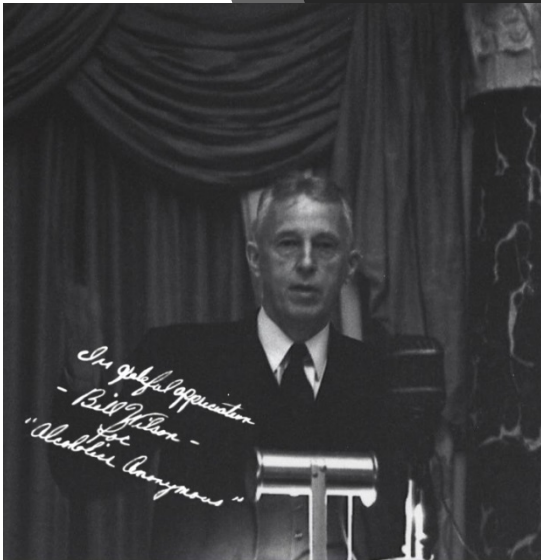




So they were the guarantors of its function, the first self-appointed committee. But we had already seen pretty clearly, even by 1945 that this was a condition that could not go on. Founders were too fallible. Moreover you people had begun to say out at the group and area level that you wished to take your affairs into your own hands. Even as men coming of age. So, the question arose, and the debate turned on how could Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, now sprawling worldwide take its affairs into its own hands and be secure. How could these headquarters and this board of trustees containing all of this vital authority and capacity to manage be linked to those it served in the movement, and with the world outside? That was the question.



Well, I had been around longer, and had been in a better position to see perhaps. And when I realized there was no linkage between a group of services that had been responsible for half of the growth of this society, for much of its unity, and which would be bound to be responsible to a large extent for its propagation and its relation for the outside world. When I began to see that there was no real linkage between my old friends here and this movement, excepting a couple of faithful gals in the office and Dr. Bob and me, and that my old friends were unknown to you, I got simply scared to death. So, I went to my old friends and I said, here, there has got to be a hook up. This movement has now grown to the point where there must be some means by which it can look after its own affairs if it wants to. And even if it doesn't want to it still entitled to a look. And my old friends said to me what I would've said a little earlier, and what many a old timer around AA still says, they said to me, let's keep it simple.



Well, probably nobody is more keen about keeping AA simple than I am. But it has begun to become apparent that simplicity could be over done. An automobile could be greatly simplified and its cost reduced by taking off the wheels or the tires but it wouldn't go any place. And when I reminded my friends of this they said, but yes but things are fine, the money is coming in, people think it's all right, if we bring in a great mass of AAs we're going to have a political brawl in every section of the country, immense confusion, preoccupation with money, with politics, with all those things we so rightfully dread. Well, they were right. But what was the alternative? The alternative was, it seemed to me, that if we didn't take this chance, if we didn't bring in the society to inspect what it had and take it over if it wished, then some fine morning this whole structure here would collapse, with a terrible impact upon our capacity to carry the message, God knows what it would do with our relation with the world outside. So the real issue was should we keep it simple by getting you people in here to see that lasted or would we make it complicated by keeping it so simple that it would break apart. That was the question.

