

Area 50 Delegate's Report
61st General Service Conference
Crown Plaza Times Square
May 1st-7th, 2011

Before I begin my report, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous and Area 50 as your delegate to the 61st General Service Conference. The chance to interact with the other delegates, trustees and staff on matters affecting AA as a whole is the highlight of my AA service experience. I would particularly like to appreciate John C [REDACTED], your Panel 60 Delegate, for the humility he displayed in stepping down due to his health. Having had the Conference experience myself now, I realize how difficult it must have been for him to forgo a second chance to attend Conference.

Thanks also to the past Delegates from Area 50 who were invaluable during the preparations leading up to the Conference. Their experience, shared during area assemblies, NERAASA's, NERD meetings and other service events, left me prepared and able to serve at Conference to the best of my abilities.

That being said, September is our Election Assembly and you future Delegates out there will have the same opportunity to serve in our inverted triangle. As Bill said in *A Vision For You*, "We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick." My hope is that there will be many candidates for every service position so Alcoholics Anonymous will be served by the most qualified person in each instance.

At Conference, each delegate is assigned to serve on one of the Committees. Last year, John served on the Corrections Committee, so I also served there. Prior to the Conference, I was contacted by Ino F., the Panel 60 delegate from Area 77, Puerto Rico and chair of the Corrections Committee, with some details of what our task would be.

I flew from Buffalo to JFK Airport in NYC on Saturday, April 30th and took a shuttle into Manhattan. There were two of us in the back of the van, an Hispanic-looking guy and me. When the driver began checking our destinations, we were both headed for the Crowne Plaza. As we drove around Manhattan dropping off other people, I pulled out one of the delegate's handouts and immediately the other guy asked if I was a friend of Bill W's. It turned out to be Ino, my committee chair and the first of many friends I was to make at Conference.

Although not part of the Conference, on Saturday afternoon there is a Remote Communities Meeting in the hotel. I attended and learned that remote does not refer only to physical distance. Some groups or people are isolated by language or culture as well. Some groups are cut off by dark districts and therefore not connected to AA's service structure. Sometimes, in large areas, there can be distinct differences in terrain, such as mountain ranges or lakes, separating people. Native Americans, for instance, traditionally rely on oral, rather than written, means of passing on experience, so books and pamphlets can be uncomfortable. I have a copy of the reports and presentations if anyone is interested.

Saturday evening there was a meeting for Delegates only. We were welcomed by the Delegate Chair, given an overview of Conference week and orientation by Panel 60 Delegates followed by questions.

Sunday morning we registered and the Conference was opened by Ward Ewing, chairman of the General Service Board. Before any business was done, I was seated as John's replacement and another alternate, from Eastern Ontario, was also seated so that we could vote and attend committees. Observers from Peru and the UK were also admitted. Roll was called and it dawned on me that I was actually representing Area 50 and AA. We were then given presentations by the General Manager and the Conference Coordinator about the upcoming week. The Trustee-at-Large(Canada) gave a report on the 21st World Service Meeting.

We broke for lunch by region. From past meetings, we NERDs were familiar with each other and renewed our friendships. Sunday afternoon, we had a presentation on "Diversity in AA", focusing on how to be inclusive and still maintain our singleness of purpose. Later, were the joint Trustee and Conference Committee meetings where the Trustees' committees reported to the Conference committees on their work since last Conference. The Conference Committee met each other and I got to meet more personally with the Trustees and learned how they winnowed 95 stories for the new "It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell" down to 16. The new pamphlet should be ready for the next conference.

Sunday night was the opening dinner and AA meeting. My eldest daughter, who lives in NYC, was able to join us for this and got to see her Dad in a suit. The speakers were a mix of delegates, trustees, staff and directors from across the US and Canada.

Monday morning, we met as the Corrections Committee and started work on our agenda items. There were three. Review "It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell" progress, add "Big Book" meetings to "AA in Correctional Facilities" pamphlet and review the Kit and Workbook. We voted unanimously to accept the Trustees Committee report. We discussed the stories and artwork for ISBSIAC and how to make it fit into the standard literature rack while retaining the easy-to-read format. Kicked around ideas for the Big Book meeting and other changes to the pamphlet that would be required.

After lunch on Monday, we heard the GSB report from Ward Ewing followed by the AAWS Board report from George M [REDACTED], chair of the AAWS Board. By the way, I have all of the reports in my conference folder and will gladly make any or all of them available to anyone who is interested. George spoke of the financial pressure inflation could bring. With a \$15 million total budget, 4% inflation means an increase of \$600K plus \$200K in additional shipping plus \$600K more in capital costs and reserve fund requirements for a total of \$1.4 million. This would be offset somewhat by \$400K in additional interest down to \$1 million. Since contributions for 2010 were ~\$6.3 million this would require a 16% increase if we could not cut costs. Phyllis, the General Manager, spoke about AAWS plans to make Conference-approved literature available digitally. The Big Book and 12 & 12 should be available for Apple by October, followed shortly thereafter by an Android based version.

Panel 61 delegates from the East Central and West Central regions gave their area highlights followed by the Grapevine Board Report from Ken B., chair of the GV board. There was much discussion of financial problems and digital offerings after the report. My understanding is that GV took drawdowns from the Reserve Fund totaling \$588K to cover deficits from 2009 and 2010. Also, another \$93K will probably be needed in 2011. Major concerns were continuing deficits, whether the digital subscriptions would be cost-effective and were 7th Tradition monies being funneled into the GV through the Reserve Fund.

Terry Bedient, Class A Trustee, chair of the Trustees Finance & Budgetary Committee, gave a report detailing AA's financial position. Highlight were that the cost of services per group and per member continue to go down. In 2010, cost per member was \$6.29, contributions per member were \$4.54. On a per group basis those numbers would be \$137.45/\$99.24. Literature contribution per member was \$1.75 or \$2.4 million.

More Panel 61 Delegate highlights from the Southwest and Pacific regions. Then dinner and Northeast and Eastern Canada region highlights followed by a presentation on "An informed Group Conscience: The Voice of AA"

Tuesday morning in committee, we finalized the language and other changes to the pamphlet. Then we reviewed the Kit & Workbook, finding several inconsistencies and editorial changes. Decided to request updated survey of correction Facilities since the most recent is outdated. We had total unanimity on all our items. After lunch, there were highlights from the Panel 61 delegates from Western Canada and the Southeast region then presentations on sponsorship followed by a general sharing session. During this session, there was discussion about lagging the time between submittal of New Group form & Issuing a number, having the background material translated into Spanish and that 38 print or 50 digital GV subscriptions per area would close the budget gap. We took a subway ride to the GSO on Riverside Dr. then returned for a Delegates only dinner and meeting.

Wednesday morning, we had a workshop on how to increase participation in AA, focusing on Concept XII, Warranty II. The benefits we discussed were being moved toward what I need and feeling a part of rather than apart from. We talked about how we personally communicate the benefits, mentioning that the pamphlets aren't free, there is just no charge. That when the basket is passed, there is an opportunity to demonstrate the gratitude we hear about so often. Finally, letting people know by announcement or signs on table where the 7th Tradition money is used. Communication was key in all areas, helped by area inventory, regional assemblies such as NERAASA, and having area officers and committee chairs visit around the area. After the workshops, we had a sharing session followed by lunch with the NERDs where Rhode Island was chosen to host NERAASA 2014.

After lunch, the NERDs elected J. Gary L. [REDACTED] from Area 59, Eastern PA. As the new Northeast Region Trustee on the 4th ballot. Clayton V. [REDACTED] from Area 38 Eastern Missouri was elected from the Southeast region and Barbara K. [REDACTED] from Eastern Ontario was elected Trustee-at-Large

In the afternoon, we began committee reports the results of which are detailed on the sheets with the agenda items.

2011 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items

I. Agenda (Gold sheet)

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2012 General Service Conference.

It was recommended the 62ND GSC Theme be:

“Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age”

B. Presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference

1. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2012 G.S.C.

It was recommended that the following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2012 General Service Conference:

- a) Carrying the A.A. Message:
 - 1. Still Our Primary Purpose
 - 2. Social Web Sites
 - 3. Young People in A.A.
 - 4. Importance of Sponsorship
- b) Change – Essential to A.A.’s Growth:
 - 1. Service: Our Third Legacy
 - 2. Spirit of Rotation
 - 3. Diversity – Let’s Keep Our Doors Open for Any Who May Suffer from Alcoholism
 - 4. Archives – Where the Past Meets the Present

2. Consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics planned for the 2012 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that the topics be reduced to two

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that the following be the workshop topic for the 2012 General Service Conference: “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.”

D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

No action.

E. Consider a request that the trustees' Conference Committee meet annually with the Conference Committee on Agenda and the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions to address matters concerning the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy.

Requested that the Trustees Committee on the Conference meet with the Conference Committee on Agenda prior to the winter GSB meeting to address matters concerning Conference week agenda.

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community (Lilac sheet)

A. Discuss the concept of a compilation DVD of C.P.C. literature.

Asked Trustees Committee to bring report & draft to 2012 Conference Committee on CPC. (See lilac page)

B. Discuss a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne. (No Action)

C. Review a draft service piece regarding use of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in C.P.C. endeavors. (Suggested including piece in CPC Kit with minor edits.)

D. C.P.C. Kit and Workbook

1. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook. (Suggested adding list of goals & project suggestions to Workbook.)

2. List of goals and project suggestions for C.P.C. committees.

3. Sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals. (Suggested that a summary of experience from CPC Committees & professionals be included in the Workbook.)

Sample guide letter for healthcare professional school administrators. (Suggested adding two bullet points on page 20 of the Workbook:

- Invitation to accompany professionals or students to open AA meetings.
- Invitation to present on what AA is and is not.

III. Corrections (Green sheet)

A. Review progress report from trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." (Reviewed Trustees Committee report and suggested making it foldable to fit in pamphlet racks while maintaining "Easy-to-read" format.)

B. Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities," including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.

(Recommended that the pamphlet be revised to include the Big Book as a source for meeting topics and editorial changes to reflect the addition.)

C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

(Suggested that the Workbook be updated at each printing to ensure that references to statistics, page numbers, AA publications, etc. are accurate.)

Requested the Trustees Committee explore the need for a comprehensive survey of AA Activity in Correctional Facilities. [Last done in 1990.]

IV. Finance (Grey sheet)

A. Review update from trustees' Finance Committee on gathering personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh

Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about self-support. (Reviewed stories & continue collection.)

B. Consider two alternative suggestions of ways to revise the pamphlet F-3 “Self-Support: Where Money and Spiritually Mix” forwarded from the trustees’ Finance Committee. (Recommended that a blank pie chart with no values before the percent signs be added to the pamphlet.)

C. Consider a request “that the trustees’ Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook, a draft of which is to be made available for the 2012 General Service Conference, to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition.” (No action. Committee felt it was not needed.)

D. Consider a request “that the trustees’ Finance Committee convert Self-Support packet F-19 to a comprehensive Finance Kit.” (Committee referred this back to the Trustees Committee & asked that a draft be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee for review.)

E. Discuss the list forwarded from the 2010 Conference Finance Committee for additional ways to communicate about self-support:

1. Birthday Plan
2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet
3. Box 4-5-9 or Grapevine Articles
4. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit
5. Report Costs of Services to Members
6. Discuss Effects of Inflation
7. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web site

(Asked that the Trustees Finance Committee prepare a sample document.)

V. Grapevine (Beige sheet)

A. Consider that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies such as but not limited to smart phones, tablets, e-reader, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products. (Recommended that this go forward, ensuring that all contracts protect our Traditions. Also, these products must be self-supporting within one year and a status & financial report be provided to the 2012 Conference Committee on Grapevine.)

B. Consider permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund. (The Committee noted that the current financial structure is appropriate.)

C. Review request for a discussion on how to best support the Grapevine magazine. (Recommended that the Grapevine board & AAWS board investigate what efficiencies & objectives can be accomplished by combining services, sharing resources, including reviewing Concept XI[Page 53 AA Service Manual], while maintaining editorial & corporate independence.)

D. Consider collections of Grapevine stories for possible publication in the year 2012 or later. (Three new titles proposed.)

E. Review and discuss the results of the surveys conducted per the 2010 Advisory Action. (Recommended an ad hoc committee be formed to review and determine actionable items from the survey.)

F. Review revisions to “The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” pamphlet. (Recommended that the editorial changes be approved.)

G. Review contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook. (Reviewed)

The Committee also suggested that the Grapevine Board only propose balanced operating budgets to the GSB.

VI. Literature (Yellow sheet)

A. Review the revised draft pamphlet “The A.A. Member–Medications and Other Drugs.” (Recommended approval.)

B. Review progress report from the trustee’s Literature Committee on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

(It was recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee continue to develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee expressed support for the trustees’ efforts to develop a pamphlet which reflects the wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members and asked that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.)

C. Review progress report from the trustee’s Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services.” (Asked that a draft pamphlet or report be brought to the 2012 Conference)

D. Review draft revisions to the *Living Sober* booklet. (Reviewed draft & asked that the Trustees Committee continue to review, focusing on outdated language and practices and that a new draft be brought to the 2012 Conference.)

E. Consider suggestion to replace the text under “When you’re a G.S.R.” in the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative.”

It was recommended that the following text under “When you’re a G.S.R.,” in the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative” which currently reads:
“You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. Back in 1953, when the “group contact” was suggested as a new type of trusted servant, the job was seen simply as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information...”

Be replaced with:

“You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. In 1950, a new type of trusted servant, “group representative,” was suggested to help in the selection of delegates to the newly-formed General Service Conference. By 1953, the job of “group representative” was also seen as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information....”

F. Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-support or “green card” to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool. (Committee noted that this would best be developed by the service entity.)

G. Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.” (After consideration, no action was taken.)

H. Consider a request to include the A.A. Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book. (Failed to pass 65/66)

I. Consider a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office. (No action.)

VII. Policy/Admissions (Dark grey sheet)

A. Approve admission to the 2011 General Service Conference of Ron Foor, alternate delegate, Area 22, Northern Indiana, in place of Donald Sheets, the Panel 61 delegate for Area 22. (Elected, no action)

B. Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Peru to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers.(OK)

C. Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Great Britain to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers.(OK)

D. Discuss request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference agenda items. (No action)

E. Consider the comprehensive plan and estimated cost from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee for the General Service Conference to conduct a thorough inventory of itself. (Recommended inventory go forward.)

F. Review dates for the 2014 General Service Conference. (4/27 -5/3/2014)

G. Discuss request that a formal relationship be developed between the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and the trustees' Conference Committee to address matters of policy relating to the Conference. (No action.)

H. Consider suggestion that the Conference Committee on Archives meet outside of the time allotted for their joint committee meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives. (Recommended that the Conference Archives Committee meet separately following the joint meeting with the Trustees Archive Committee.)

I. Review report from the General Service Board regarding Concept V Appeal to the General Service Conference. (Recommended:

The following procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference be established:

- 1) The minority, expressing a feeling or opinion in light of the right of appeal to the General Service Conference, has been very rare. It is hoped that an individual entitled under Concept V to appeal would exhaust every avenue offered within the General Service Conference structure prior to making an appeal to the General Service Conference.
- 2) Those entitled to appeal to the General Service Conference are members who, on the inverted triangle of the A.A. service structure, fall *below* the General Service Conference level – members of staffs, committees, corporate boards or trustees, as referenced, in the first paragraph of Concept V of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
- 3) The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the General Service Conference delegate chair and to the General Service Office Conference coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference.
- 4) All Conference members will be given notice through the General Service Office of the minority's decision to file an appeal.

- 5) Appeals under Concept V, including any minority report and background, must be received in writing 30 days prior to the General Service Conference in order for these materials to be distributed to Conference members. The G.S.O. Conference coordinator will be responsible for seeing that this material is made available to all Conference members within 10 business days after its receipt.
- 6) The minority's appeal will be presented before the start of deliberation on Committee Reports:
 - The minority will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their appeal.
 - The majority will then be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their position.
- 7) The discretion to debate a minority's appeal rests with the Conference body. The chair will ask if there is a motion to decline to consider the minority's appeal. A motion to decline to consider a minority's appeal:
 - Must be made without comment.
 - Needs a second.
 - Is not debatable.
 - Requires a *two thirds majority*.
- 8) If the Conference decides to debate the appeal, it then takes the form of a motion which does not require a second. If passed by substantial unanimity, it becomes an Advisory Action.
- 9) Whether or not an appeal is debated, a summary of the minority's report and the disposition of the appeal will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

It was recommended that:

Mike D [REDACTED], alternate delegate, Area 50, Western New York, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because John C [REDACTED], the Panel 60 delegate for Area 50 resigned.

and

Mel C [REDACTED], alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario International, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because Robb W [REDACTED], the panel 61 delegate for Area 83 is unable to attend.

VIII. Public Information (Light yellow sheet)

A. Consider 2010 annual Web site report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. (Reviewed & accepted)

B. Consider that the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey. (Recommended)

C. Consider approval of the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates." (Recommended as follows:

The following "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates" be approved:

Videos produced and distributed by the General Service Board or its affiliated corporations, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., that include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor's full face, unless:

- a. The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with the A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not in fact or in appearance place personalities before principles, and
- b. The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such video.

For purposes of this Policy, a "video" is any item of visual media in which a live actor appears, regardless of the medium in which the video is presented (DVD, film, electronic file, etc.).

For purposes of this Policy, a "potential A.A. member" is a character in a video who is portrayed as seeking help from A.A., or who is portrayed as the recipient of Twelfth Step work in any form.

Existing videos using actors to portray A.A. members or potential A.A. members may continue to be produced and distributed until retired from service.

The videos "Markings on the Journey," and "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions," each of which is currently distributed only to A.A. groups, as well

as “Bill's Own Story,” which also has restricted distribution, may continue to be produced and distributed.

A copy of this policy shall be given to all entities participating in the production of a video prior to commencement of production. The background documentation for the policy will always be distributed with the policy.

D. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

1. Review current television P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

(Committee reviewed current PSAs & found them to be relevant & useful)

2. Consider production of new television P.S.A.s. (Recommended:

A culturally sensitive Spanish–language Public Service Announcement be developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee, independent of any English language P.S.A. (production cost not to exceed \$40,000) to better ensure the hand of A.A. is there whenever anyone anywhere reaches out.

E. Consider revisions to “Understanding Anonymity” which include text on the topic of anonymity in the digital age and answers the question “What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?” (Recommended approval)

F. Consider revisions to “The A.A. Fact File.” (Recommended approval)

Also suggested update every three years.

G. Consider a revision to “A.A. at a Glance.” (Recommended the following: The section titled “How You Can Find A.A. in Your Town” in “A.A. At a Glance” be changed to “How To Find A.A.,” and that that section which reads:

“Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory. In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can.”

be amended to read:

“Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory, your local newspaper or “How to Find A.A. Meetings” on the home page of our website www.aa.org. In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or

intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can.”

H. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook. (Suggested Trustees Committee explore alternative packaging for PI Kit & report back to 2012 Conference.)

IX. Report and Charter (Gold sheet)

A. *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2011-2012 Edition:

1. Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board. (Reviewed)
2. Review draft of description on trustees emeriti.

It was recommended that:

The following text be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board after the section titled “General Service Trustees” on page S69:

“Trustees Emeriti

The General Service Board has designated rotating board chairpersons as trustees emeriti. Trustees emeriti are invited to attend quarterly board meetings of the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference. They are a resource of corporate memory and are often asked to share their experience with past board decisions, how previous General Service Boards conducted business, and the processes they used to reach a group conscience. Trustees emeriti do not vote on any matter before the General Service Board or the Conference.”

3. Review list of editorial updates. (Reviewed)

4. Review revised text forwarded from the 2010 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding the nominating procedure listed as #2 on page S67.

It was recommended that:

The following text on page S67 in *The A.A. Service Manual* under “NOMINATION PROCEDURE” in the section on Regional Trustees:

"2. Two Conference Actions should be kept in mind. In 1977, the Conference recommended that a delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference. And in 1985, it was recommended that 'no area shall submit an

individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.' "

Be replaced with:

"2. Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference."

The following text on page S68 in *The A.A. Service Manual* under "NOMINATION PROCEDURE" in the section on Trustees-at-large:

"In the areas, the same procedure used in selecting a regional trustee candidate is followed. No area should submit the same name for regional and at-large trustee in the same year."

Be replaced with:

"Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference."

5. Consider request to change the phrase "new kid on the block" to "a first year delegate" on page S52 under Personal Experience in section "Preparing for the Conference." (No action, quote from past delegate)

6. Consider suggestion to revise the text on "inactive service workers" on page S37 in Chapter Four to reflect that the appropriate local entity is responsible for addressing inactive G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s and add similar text to Chapters One and Three.

It was recommended that:

The section titled "Inactive Service Workers" in Chapter Four on page S37 in *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised to read:

"Inactive Service Workers

How does the area deal with area officers and committee chairs who have been absent from two or more assemblies? While the

area assembly needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

The following sections be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* as follows:

Add to Chapter Two, page S28, before section titled “Group Information”:

“Inactive General Service Representative

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each group regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the group needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

Add to Chapter Three, page S33, before section titled “The Alternate D.C.M.”:

“Inactive District Committee Member

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each district regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the district needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

7. Consider request to review and update the section “What Goes On at the Conference” on page S55.

It was recommended that:

The following text in the section titled “What Goes On at the Conference” on page S55 in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“What Goes On at the Conference

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting, and business sessions from Monday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some

delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations. A closing breakfast on Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. Every other year, a visit to the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

Be replaced with:

“What Goes On at the Conference

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features roll call, keynote address, an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting. Business sessions from Sunday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops, and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations.

Although outside of the Conference, a delegates-only meeting is often held prior to the opening day of the Conference. On Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, a closing breakfast provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. In alternate years, a visit to G.S.O./Grapevine offices or the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

B. Conference Charter:

1. Consider request to recommend adding “the right of Petition and Appeal” to the Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

It was recommended that:

The General Service Board develop text to add to Article 3 in the current Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual* which includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal, for consideration by the 2012 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

2. Consider request to “address and remedy the inconsistencies between the Current [Conference] Charter and the Original [Conference] Charter” as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*. (No action, floor action to accept current Charter failed)

C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.). (No action)

D. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*. (Accepted a report from Publications Dept. outlining procedure for timely and accurate preparation & publication of final report.)

X. Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities (Blue sheet)

A. Review draft recovery pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs.

It was recommended that:

The recovery pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” be approved.

B. Discuss report from the trustees’ Committee regarding changing “Treatment Facilities” Committee to “Treatment” Committee in committee titles and in A.A. literature. (It was recommended that:

The name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and that these changes be reflected in the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure.

C. Consider removing line of dialog from video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.”

D. Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook.

E. Review contents of Special Needs Kit and Workbook

It was recommended that:

The title of the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” be changed to “A.A. in Treatment Settings” and that the term “treatment facilities” be replaced with

a more appropriate reference such as “Treatment Committees” or “treatment settings” wherever it appears in the pamphlet.

XI. Trustees (Dark grey sheet)

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. Northeast Regional Trustee
2. Southwest Regional Trustee
3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada

B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

It was recommended that:

The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in May 2011:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Corliss Burke
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores
John Fromson, M.D.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.

Class B Trustees

Rod B [REDACTED]
Kenneth P. B [REDACTED]
Donald C [REDACTED]
Nancy H [REDACTED]
Barbara K [REDACTED]
Roberta L [REDACTED]
J. Gary L [REDACTED]
George G. M [REDACTED]
Don M [REDACTED]
Don M [REDACTED]
Eleanor W. N [REDACTED]
Victor P [REDACTED]
Pamela R [REDACTED]
Clayton V [REDACTED]

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson

Ward B. Ewing, D.D.

First vice-chairperson

Victor P [REDACTED]

Second vice-chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary

Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Kenneth P. B [REDACTED]

It was recommended that:

The January 2011 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2011:

Assistant Treasurer Donald W. M [REDACTED]
Assistant Secretary Doug R [REDACTED]

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

B. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

C. It was recommended that:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2011:

Andrea G. B [REDACTED] George G. M [REDACTED]
Rod B [REDACTED] William N [REDACTED]
Joe D [REDACTED] Pamela R [REDACTED]
Phyllis A. H [REDACTED] Rick W [REDACTED]*
Roberta L [REDACTED]

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, Summer 2011.

D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

It was recommended that:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2011:

Ami B [REDACTED] Eleanor W. N [REDACTED]
Donald C [REDACTED] Albin Z [REDACTED]
Michele Grinberg, J.D. [vacancy]

Nancy H [REDACTED]

[vacancy]

Don M [REDACTED]

XII. Archives (Lilac sheet)

A. Review Workbook.

(No recommendations)

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums (Light yellow sheet)

A. Discuss report on the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas. (International in San Antonio -\$844,545 profit due to large attendance. Budget was for fewer attendees, hence excess revenue.)

B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums and how areas communicate about upcoming Forums in their region.

Floor Action

It was recommended that:

1. The 61st General Service Conference express its appreciation and gratitude for the French-language magazine "La Vigne," and the value it has for French-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the respect "La Vigne" has shown for the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.