

April 2005

NOTE: These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports.

**CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE
55TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 55TH General Service Conference and the General Service Board.

Floor Action

It was recommended that:

1. The draft manuscript, *A.A. In Prison: Inmate to Inmate*, including revisions suggested by the 2005 Conference Correctional Facilities Committee, be returned to the trustees' Corrections Committee for review and revision, mindful of the concerns expressed during the Conference discussion, and that the revised draft manuscript be submitted to the 2006 Conference Corrections Committee.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

2. The theme for the 2006 General Service Conference be: "Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World."
3. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2006 General Service Conference:
 - a) Sponsorship:
 - 1) Presenting A.A. to Newcomers
 - 2) Changes in the Alcoholic Coming to A.A.
 - 3) Sponsorship Into Sobriety, Into Service
 - b) Service:
 - 1) Performing Service Without Expectations
 - 2) Leadership – An Ever Vital Need
 - 3) Responsibility With Accountability
 - c) Self-Support:
 - 1) An Informed Group Conscience
 - 2) Gratitude Through Self-Sacrifice
4. The following be the workshop topic for the 2006 General Service Conference: "Passing It On in a Changing World."

Archives¹

No recommendations.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Correctional Facilities

It was recommended that:

5. The "Singleness of Purpose" statement, which follows, be included in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals":

Singleness of Purpose and Problems Other than Alcohol

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend *open* A.A. meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings.

6. A progress report on the development of an effective informational media presentation introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training for corrections personnel be brought back to the 2006 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities.

The following should be reflected in the presentation:

- a. What A.A. is and is not.
 - b. How to contact A.A.
 - c. An inmate's chances of maintaining sobriety on the outside are improved by participation in the A.A. program of recovery.
 - d. Correctional facilities usually regard A.A. as contributing to the objectives of their institution.
7. The name of the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities be changed to the Conference Committee on Corrections.

Finance

It was recommended that:

8. In the interest of self-support, area contributions for delegates' expenses be increased from \$800 to \$1,200 effective with the 2006 Conference and that areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion of the Conference costs.

Note: The last increase was in 1997 from \$600 to \$800 at which time the requested area contribution covered approximately 26% of the direct costs. By 2004, the percentage has fallen to 17% and this increase will result in approximately 26% of the direct costs being covered.

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

Grapevine

No recommendations.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

It was recommended that:

9. An encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

Literature

It was recommended that:

10. The following introduction be added to the front matter of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

Introduction

Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and “it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writing be retained as originally published.”

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

11. The pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be revised to include eleven current, and eight new stories, and that the Publications Department forward the revised draft pamphlet or a progress report to the 2006 Conference Literature Committee following review by the trustees’ Literature Committee.
12. The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, continue to be developed, keeping in mind the 2004 Conference Advisory Action regarding the trustees’ recommendations on contents, process and story solicitation and that a progress report and/or draft copy be brought to the 2006 Conference Literature Committee.

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

13. The addition of the following four paragraphs to the current section titled “Service Sponsorship” in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be approved with minor revisions to the current pamphlet text suggested by the committee:
 - a) *...A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer —ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.’s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service. — The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, page S1.*
 - b) A service sponsor is usually someone who is knowledgeable in A.A. history and has a strong background in the service structure. The A.A. member is introduced to a new language: G.S.R., D.C.M., area assembly, minority opinion. They will become familiar with the Traditions, Concepts and General Warranties, as well as the *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, A.A. Comes of Age* and other A.A. literature.
 - c) Co-founder Dr. Bob said, “I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:
 - 1) Sense of duty.
 - 2) It is a pleasure.
 - 3) Because in doing so I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
 - 4) Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip.”
 - d) The basis of all sponsorship is to lead by example. Service sponsors can impart to their sponsees the pleasure of involvement in the work of Alcoholics Anonymous. This is best done by stressing the spiritual nature of service work and by pointing out the usefulness of simple footwork and faith.
14. The manuscript of the revised pamphlet “The A.A. Group” that includes revisions suggested by the committee be approved.
15. The text under the heading “The A.A. Grapevine” in the pamphlet “Your A.A. General Service Office” be replaced with the following:

The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

As it has since 1944, the A.A. Grapevine serves as the monthly magazine of Alcoholics Anonymous. Articles, drawings and photographs, which reflect the growth of A.A. over the years, are not paid for, but contributed by members in free sharing of experience and thought, as at an A.A. meeting. You do not have to be a professional writer or artist to contribute to the A.A. Grapevine and *La Viña*, A.A.’s Spanish-language magazine. All submissions are welcomed and acknowledged. Manuscripts are always read by A.A. members on the editorial staff. Published material is protected by copyright, held by the A.A. Grapevine Inc. — a corporation entirely separate from A.A. World Services, Inc.

For editorial submissions, or to subscribe to the magazines, please contact the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115; or visit the website at www.aagrapevine.org.

16. The term “sexual preference” be replaced with “sexual orientation” on page 10 in the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.”

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

17. Rick H, alternate delegate, Area 2, Alaska be seated as a Conference member at the 55th General Service Conference because David M, the Panel 54 delegate for Area 2 is unable to attend.
18. Glenn H, alternate delegate, Area 37, Mississippi be seated as a Conference member at the 55th General Service Conference because Elizabeth K, the Panel 54 delegate for Area 37 is unable to attend.
19. The 58th General Service Conference be held April 27-May 3, 2008, having considered significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws’ deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.
20. The timetable for the election of delegates from the Western Canada Region be revised to allow for an even distribution of new delegates on each panel.

The revised timetable for the election of delegates from the Western Canada Region be accomplished with the election of Panel 56 delegates by having one area in the Western Canada Region elect a delegate for a one-year term with the understanding that this delegate would have the opportunity to stand for his/her own two-year term in the following Panel 57 election.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

21. The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2004 Membership Survey with the following revision to the reporting categories under “Length of Sobriety”:

Sober more than 10 years.
Sober between 5-10 years.
Sober between 1-5 years.
Sober less than 1 year.

to better reflect the range in which the “average” appears.

22. The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), “Living in Chaos,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee be approved.
23. The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), “Living in Chaos,” be translated into French and Spanish, centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a total cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2006 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

24. The phrase “and taking pills” be removed from the P.S.A. “Teenager,” spot #6, on the radio P.S.A. CD item #R-10.
25. The trustees’ Committee on Public Information take the initial steps proposed to determine the feasibility of replacing two videos, “A.A. – Rap With Us” and “Young People and A.A.,” with estimated initial project costs not to exceed \$20,000, and report back to the 2006 Conference Public Information Committee.
26. Distribution of the video “Alcoholics Anonymous – An Inside View” be discontinued since it is outdated.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

27. The existing chart of the “A.A. Grapevine, Inc.” in *The A.A. Service Manual* be replaced with the updated version.
28. The following text pertaining to the A.A. Grapevine Digital Archive be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*:

The A.A. Grapevine Digital Archive

In June 2004, Grapevine articles were preserved electronically and posted on the website, making it possible for A.A. members, professionals working in the field of alcoholism, and others interested in the Fellowship to access almost every Grapevine article and letter ever published.”

“With articles written by A.A. members from June 1944, when the magazine was first published, to the present, the archive offers a vivid account of A.A. history as well as a view of the Fellowship today. It also makes stories easy to find. Using keywords, visitors can search the archive by location, author, or subject to find the first version of the Traditions, to learn what A.A.s have said about such topics as sponsorship and self-support, and to explore how much – and how little – A.A. has changed. Readers may also browse through the collection by department, topic, or date to find hundreds of jokes and cartoons, along with thousands of articles.

29. The following text pertaining to the A.A. Grapevine Reprint Policy be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*:

General Guidelines for Reprinting Art and Articles from the A.A. Grapevine

Permission to reproduce articles or other A.A. Grapevine or La Viña material, either in print or via electronic media (such as web pages), must be obtained from the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Each article or item must be reprinted in its entirety and carry the following credit line:

Copyright © (month, year) A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
Reprinted with permission.

Organizations, publications, or websites outside of A.A. must add the following:

Permission to reprint the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., copyrighted material [in this publication, organization, or website] does not in any way imply affiliation with or endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Logo and Artwork

Only the Grapevine cartoons Victor E. and Clara T. may be reprinted with permission.

The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., does not grant permission to reproduce either its logo or registered trademarks (The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., Box 1980, The Grapevine, La Viña, etc.) or its artwork or any other cartoons on any other website or in any other publication.

30. Online meetings in languages in addition to English, French and Spanish be listed in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS" with the meeting language indicated next to the listing and in accordance with the 1997 Conference Advisory Action that:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the 'International Correspondence Meetings' in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as "mail" contact.

31. Online meetings listed in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS" continue to be listed with an e-mail contact address only, in keeping with the 1997 General Service Conference recommendation that:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the "International Correspondence Meetings" in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as "mail" contact.

Treatment Facilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

32. The following slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2005:

Class A Trustees

Allen L. Ault, Ed.D.
Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.
William D. Clark, M.D.
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
Herbert I. Goodman
Vincent E. Keefe
Jeanne S. Woodford

Class B Trustees

Charles J. B
Paul E. C
Ronald J. G
Phyllis A. H
Gary K
Tom K
Howard R L
Robert (Bob) M
Raymond M
Murray M
Robert P
Michael D. P
Arnold L. R
Dorothy W

Officers of General Service Board

Chairperson
First Vice-chairperson
Second Vice-chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.
Allen L. Ault, Ed.D.
Herbert I. Goodman
Vincent E. Keefe
Ronald J. G
Donald M
Valerie O*

*To be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation in September 2005

33. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2005:

Charles J. B
Paul E. C
Ronald J. G
Gary K
George G. M

Don M
Greg M
Valerie O*
Jane T

*To be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation in September 2005

34. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2005:

James B	Raymond M
Robin B	Michael D. P
Herbert I. G	Arnold L. R
Dorothy L. H	John S
Tom K	

35. New language, in bold-face below, be added to existing language of the Bylaws of the General Service Board regarding successor terms of Class B trustees in the event of resignation or death:

In the event that any member trustee shall resign or shall die, the trustees may at any regular or special meeting elect a new member trustee to fill such vacancy, or, alternatively, permit such a vacancy to continue until the next annual meeting of the General Service Board. In the event that the vacancy is that of a Class B member trustee, the successor shall be elected for a period of four years from the date of the meeting at which he or she is elected. ***In the case of a Class B regional trustee, the position may be filled at the next annual meeting of the General Service Board by election in accordance with the election procedures for such regional trustee, or, may be left vacant for the balance of the unfilled term with regional coverage being provided by the trustees-at-large or by regional trustees in adjacent regions. If a region chooses to elect a new Class B regional trustee in the event of the resignation or death of the current regional trustee prior to the end of that trustee's term, the region should be informed that such an election would impact the current rotation schedule for Class B regional trustees serving on the A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine Corporate Boards.***

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