

**April 2006**

## **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS**

Advisory Action 40 of the 1990 General Service Conference states: "Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section of the *Final Report*." All items, listed by committee, are as follows:

### **Conference Agenda Committee**

- The committee reviewed the Conference Evaluation form and suggested that the section on laptop usage be modified in light of the 2004 Advisory Action allowing use of personal computers at the General Service Conference.

### **Conference Committee on Archives<sup>1</sup>**

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook, including the revised "Ownership of Material" statement and revised "Deed of Gift" form. The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee review a legal opinion of the revised sample "Deed of Gift" form before inclusion in the next printing of the Archives Workbook
- The committee considered annually reviewing a list to be compiled by G.S.O.'s archivist of proposed archival recordings (format to be determined by A.A.W.S.) to be produced for sale by A.A.W.S. so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production. The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop oversight procedures for the boards and Conference Archives Committee for possible production and distribution of selected archival recordings, and that the proposed procedures, along with a sample descriptive list of archival recordings, be brought to the 2007 Conference Committee on Archives for their consideration.

### **Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community**

- The committee noted that the following points may be helpful in developing the three video segments directed to professionals:
  - Describe how professionals can use A.A. as a resource, including utilizing G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and local A.A. Web sites, requesting presentations from local C.P.C. committees, and connecting alcoholics to local A.A. service committees.
  - Utilize Class As or other nonalcoholic friends of A.A. in the videos to share their experiences of cooperating with A.A.
  - Include footage from A.A. Conference-approved videos and other sources to make these videos more dynamic and interesting to professionals, as appropriate.
  - Exercise care to ensure that the videos attract rather than promote.

- Make videos available in DVD and other formats to be used by local C.P.C. committees for presentations and at exhibits at professional conferences.
- The committee discussed participation of local C.P.C. committees at exhibits at local professional conferences, emphasizing the role of local A.A. committees as a resource for professionals who come into contact with alcoholics.
- The committee discussed the practice of inviting professionals to local A.A. events (e.g., C.P.C. luncheons, events targeted to specific professions, and A.A. conventions, conferences and round-ups), and agreed that these are valuable ways to cooperate with professionals.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities develop sample presentations for possible inclusion in the C.P.C. Kit, and report back to the 2007 Conference Committee on C.P.C.
- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook with appreciation. The committee asked staff to gather sharing from local C.P.C. committees pertaining to attractive design of A.A. booths at professional conferences and effective training methods for booth volunteers, for possible inclusion in the C.P.C. Workbook.
- The committee discussed how important it is to bring a spirit of enthusiasm and fun to local C.P.C. committee service so that more A.A. members may be attracted to C.P.C. service.

### **Conference Committee on Corrections**

- The committee reviewed the Kit and Workbook with appreciation. The committee noted that some local committees prefer the term "Bridging The Gap" when referring to pre-release contacts and asked that acknowledgment of this local custom be included in the Workbook.
- The committee suggested that the Correctional Facilities Kit and the Correctional Facilities Workbook be retitled "Corrections Kit" and "Corrections Workbook" and that this terminology be reflected in Corrections service material where appropriate.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

## **Conference Committee on Finance**

- The committee discussed the draft “Finance Card” and thanked the trustees’ Finance Committee for its work. The committee asks the trustees’ Committee to consider the following suggested short language for use on the card:

“The Seventh Tradition states that Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting through our own contributions. The contributions help cover the group’s expenses. But the Seventh Tradition is more than simply paying for rent and other group expenses. It is both a privilege and responsibility of both the groups and individual members to insure that our organization, at every level including group, intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office, remain forever self-supporting and free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose.

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

- The committee discussed a request from an area regarding removing pie charts and a request from another area regarding adding additional pie charts to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and took no action.
- The committee discussed requests to eliminate the discounts on volume purchases of A.A.W.S. literature and took no action.

## **Conference Committee on Grapevine**

- The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook with appreciation and made no changes.
- The committee urged the A.A. Grapevine Board to produce a Spanish translation of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook as soon as financially possible.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce an anthology of La Viña stories in the year 2007 or later.

## **Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>**

- The committee noted with appreciation the development and addition of registration flyers to the Regional Forums section of G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site in response to a suggestion from the 2005 committee.
- The committee accepted with appreciation the Report on Restructuring and/or Increasing Regional/Special Forums from the trustees’ International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee and asked that the trustees’ committee consider the following suggestions:
  - Add the topic “Regional/Special Forums” to the A.A. Grapevine’s i-Say Forum.
  - Add articles regarding personal Forum experience to future issues of *Box 4-5-9*.
  - Implement a subscription process for ordering Final Forum Reports.
  - Distribute a summary of past Conference committee suggestions on ways to encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums to local Forum host committee contacts.

- The committee accepted the reporting on the 2005 International Convention, and expressed appreciation for the work of our convention consultant in helping coordinate a successful event. The committee noted that the financial results of the Convention showed a loss of \$39,039, less than one per cent under budget.
- Gratitude was expressed for the extranet broadcast of the opening Flag Ceremony, and committee members encouraged further exploration of this type of access to future International Conventions. The committee also discussed how special needs challenges are handled at International Conventions, and briefly reviewed the site selection process for International Conventions.

### **Conference Literature Committee**

- The committee suggested that the word “largely” be added, when appropriate, to references in A.A. World Services service material concerning any changes to the first 164 pages of the Big Book.
- The committee discussed a request to develop an intergroup/central offices pamphlet and took no action. The committee acknowledged that in many areas, intergroup/central offices have a vital role in carrying the A.A. message; however, they felt that there appears to be sufficient information available about intergroup/central offices in A.A. Conference-approved literature and service material. As the structure and function of intergroup/central offices vary throughout the United States and Canada, it was the consensus of the committee that, where a need may exist for an intergroup/central offices pamphlet, it can be best addressed locally.
- The committee considered a request to develop an A.A. history book covering the years 1955-2000, and reviewed the history of the agenda item that included past financial expenditures, and following a lengthy discussion on the logistics of going forward, the committee agreed to take no action.
- The committee considered developing a pamphlet concerning Alcoholics Anonymous, religion and spirituality. After a thorough discussion, the committee felt that there are already numerous references on this subject in the existing A.A. Conference-approved literature, and took no action.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

## **Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions**

- The committee discussed the request that the Conference be mindful of balancing the number of odd and even panel delegates when decisions are made that affect delegate rotation and took no action.
- The committee accepted with appreciation the report from the General Service Board on the feasibility of more balanced composition/structure of regions and, after lengthy discussion, took no action. The committee agreed with the conclusion in the Board's report that it is feasible to change regional boundaries and that the procedures are included in the "Suggested Guidelines for Changing Regional Boundaries" accepted by the 1996 General Service Conference.
- The committee acknowledges the magnitude of the current General Service Board's Ad Hoc "Regional Composition and Structure Inventory Committee" project, which was defined by the General Service Board chairperson following the 2005 General Service Conference and involves extensive review of background material. The committee requested that the General Service Board forward a final report to the 2007 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for review.

## **Conference Committee on Public Information**

- The committee reviewed the 2005 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site with appreciation and noted the new and improved redesigned Web site. The committee also encourages a continued sensitivity to individuals with special needs in future design and development of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the P.S.A. "Living in Chaos."
- The committee discussed how to get more area delegates involved in the distribution and collection of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaires and suggested that a presentation on the relevance and the process of the survey be included as part of the General Service Conference agenda in the years in which the survey is scheduled.
- The committee considered a request to add the categories "Sober between 11 - 20 years" and "Sober more than 20 years" to the "Length of Sobriety" section in the "2007 A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet and took no action. The committee noted that "length of sobriety" categories are not part of the survey questionnaire, and that the categories are developed from data extracted from the question, "I had my last drink in \_\_\_" on the survey questionnaire. The committee agreed that, although no action was necessary at this time, additional length of sobriety categories may be considered by the trustees' and Conference P.I. Committees that would review the next survey and "A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet.
- The committee considered the request to add a "Sexual Orientation" category to the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire and took no action.

- The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information review the wording in the "A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire" for consistency with the wording used in the "A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet. The committee noted the desirability of including a term that would better describe the "Native American" option under Question 4: "Race." The committee also suggested that option K: "Transportation (equipment operator)" of Question 12: "What is the nature of your employment status now?" be clarified or better defined.
- The committee reviewed a request that the list of early symptoms derived from outside literature on page 17, item #19, in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings," be replaced with a list derived from A.A. literature and took no action. The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information make a thorough review of the pamphlet, "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" and that a report of their findings be forwarded to the 2007 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.
- The committee reviewed the P.I. Kit and Workbook with appreciation.

### **Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

- The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* with appreciation and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department.
- The committee discussed the discrepancy between the Conference Charter and *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding panel rotation of district committee members (D.C.M.s) and took no action.
- The committee considered a request to include a description of the duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.) on page S30 of *The A.A. Service Manual* and requested that a list of duties be developed and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review.
- The committee considered a request to insert into *The A.A. Service Manual* an inverted triangle graphic similar to the one found in "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" pamphlet and took no action.
- The committee considered a request to revise page S28 of *The A.A. Service Manual* to more accurately reflect the number of groups in a metropolitan district and requested that a description be developed and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review.
- The committee reviewed the *Final Conference Report* and noted with appreciation the timeliness of the distribution process.
- The committee considered a suggestion to restore *The Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.* to its original form as published in 1962 and requested that the Publications Department restore *The Twelve Concepts for World Service* to its original form keeping in mind the 1985 Conference Advisory Action and all subsequent Advisory Actions regarding *The Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

- The committee considered a request to attach an explanatory letter regarding the appropriate use of the A.A. Directories and requested that the statement on the front cover of each A.A. Directory regarding “appropriate use” be made more prominent.

### **Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities**

- The committee discussed the name of the “Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities” and took no action.
- The committee requested that the trustee’s Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities gather additional sharing from the Fellowship regarding use of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* by those A.A. members carrying the message into treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments.
- The committee requested that the A.A.W.S. Board consider the development of a pilot electronic bulletin board on A.A.’s G.S.O.’s Web site for those bringing the A.A. message to treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the revisions and additions to the Treatment Facilities Workbook forwarded from the trustee’s Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities. These revisions and additions were based upon the shared experience received from local treatment facilities committees in response to a questionnaire sent to areas, districts and intergroup/central offices in 2004.

### **Conference Committee on Trustees**

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Pacific and Eastern Canada regional trustee.
- The committee discussed the report from the trustees’ Committee on Nominating on the efficacy of the “Diversity Statement” currently being used in vacancy letters, and agreed that the current wording of the statement continues to convey the idea of an inclusive and diverse Fellowship. The current wording is:

“In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons which reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.”

The committee felt the impact of the statement may be improved by positioning it closer to the beginning of relevant vacancy announcement letters.

- The committee discussed the option of having a Class B trustee serve as chairperson of the General Service Board, and requested that additional relevant background be gathered and reported to the 2007 Conference Committee on Trustees, to include specific questions raised by the 2006 Conference Committee on Trustees.

The committee also suggests that all delegates consider discussing this topic in their areas and forward any responses to the trustees’ Committee on Nominating by October 2006.

**RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT  
IN A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION**

**Conference Committee on Finance**

- The committee recommended that the current small-order freight charge policy be replaced with a policy of charging shipping on all orders, which seems to be more in keeping with the spirit of treating everyone equally.

**FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT  
RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS**

- It is recommended that an intergroup/central offices pamphlet be developed and a draft copy or progress report be brought to the 2007 General Service Conference. **(Conference voted not to consider)**
- That the title of *A.A. In Prison: Inmate to Inmate* be changed to *A.A. member to A.A. Member Behind the Walls*. **(Not Approved)**
- To make available the talk by Bill W. given at Amy's presentation to anyone at this Conference through e-mail or CD by anyone requesting. **(Not Approved)**
- That under the section "Domestic Status" in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire, we add the option of "Domestic Partner." **(Conference voted not to consider)**

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