

April 2006

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

**CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE  
56<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 56<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference and the General Service Board.

**Floor Action**

1. To amend the Cooperation With the Professional Community Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that three short video segments be produced that can be accessed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields [with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000].

By inserting the following language into the Advisory Action after medical fields:

“and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community”

So that it would read:

The committee recommended that three short video segments be produced that can be accessed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice and medical fields, and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000.

**Agenda**

It was recommended that:

2. The theme for the 2007 General Service Conference be: “Our 12<sup>th</sup> Step Responsibility – Are We Going to Any Length?”
3. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2007 General Service Conference:
  - a) Inclusiveness in A.A.:
    - 1) Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition
    - 2) Growth of the Fellowship
    - 3) Reaching Out to All Who Want It

- b) Our Primary Purpose:
  - 1) Attraction Rather Than Promotion
  - 2) Working with Wet Drunks
  - 3) Practicing These Principles in All Our Affairs
- c) Humility and Responsibility:
  - 1) Expressed by Anonymity
  - 2) Are We Resting on Our Laurels?
  - 3) Raising Literature Prices or Footing the Bill?

4. The following be the workshop topic for the 2007 General Service Conference: "Spiritual Value of Our A.A. Dollars."

**Archives**<sup>1</sup>

No recommendations.

**Cooperation With the Professional Community**

It was recommended that:

- 5. Three short video segments be produced that can be accessed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000. [See Floor Action]

**Corrections**

It was recommended that:

- 6. An informational media presentation be developed featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training programs for corrections personnel and be brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Corrections. [The estimated cost of production and distribution is \$50,000]

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 draft manuscript of *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* be approved and that the Publications Department maintain standard editorial responsibilities.

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

## Finance

It was recommended that:

8. The word "donation" be replaced with the word "contribution" in A.A.W.S. literature as it comes up for reprint.
9. The following be added to the end of the Q & A section of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix":

**Q** Does A.A. have any specific information for our group or group treasurer about how to handle our group's finances?

**A** Yes. There are two excellent publications available from G.S.O., A.A. Guidelines on Finance and the pamphlet "The A.A. Group Treasurer," that provide specific information to groups regarding practical matters related to their group finances, such as setting up bank accounts, obtaining tax ID numbers, and outlining the responsibilities of a group treasurer.

## Grapevine

No recommendations.

## International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>

No recommendations.

## Literature

It was recommended that:

10. The revised draft pamphlet "Too Young?" be approved.
11. The revised draft pamphlet "It Happened To Alice!" be approved.
12. The pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" be revised.
13. The word "largely" be added to the second sentence in the second paragraph of the preface to the Fourth Edition on page xi, as it originally appeared in the preface of the Second Edition, so that the sentence reads:

"Therefore, the first portion of this volume, describing the A.A. recovery program, has been left largely untouched in the course of revisions made for the second, third, and fourth editions."

**Note:** Keeping in mind the note that was included with the 1955 General Service Conference Advisory Actions, "In presenting the updating of the first edition of the Big Book, Bill described the background of his long-range writing project and made the following point(s): 1. 'Not an iota' of the first part of the text dealing with recovery principles had been changed," the committee agreed that the addition of the word "largely" accurately reflects revisions made to the first 164 pages of the Big Book and is consistent with the original language in the preface to the Second Edition.

14. The word “largely” be added to the second sentence in the first paragraph in the Introduction to the book, *Experience, Strength, and Hope* on page ix, so that the sentence reads:

“In all four editions, the first 164 pages have remained largely unchanged, preserving A.A.’s message just as it was originally recorded by the founding members.”

15. The draft manuscript of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be approved.
16. The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, continue to be developed and that a report be brought back to the 2007 Conference Literature Committee, in keeping with a 2004 Conference Advisory Action on contents, story solicitation, and process, as follows:

**I. Contents**

- A. The Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book to be similar in page count to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.
- B. The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,” and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.’s writings and does not require Conference-approval.
- C. Personal Stories:
- Retain selected stories from current Spanish-language Second Edition.
  - Select stories from A.A.’s *La Viña* magazine.
  - Select new stories from Spanish-speaking membership.
  - Stories to be designated to three main sections similar to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.

**II. Story Solicitation**

- A. Within the United States and Canada and internationally to Spanish-speaking countries.

**III. Story Selection Process**

- A. To be under the direction of the trustees’ Literature subcommittee on the Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book.
- B. Story selection subcommittee:
- All bilingual – Spanish and English.
  - Spanish editors.
  - Spanish-speaking staff members.

- Chair to appoint some subcommittee members from the Fellowship.

C. Basic Selection Criteria:

- To use the same criteria as the English Fourth Edition Big Book based on Bill W.'s recommendations.
- Each story must, as Bill W. recommended, reach out to the newcomer who is still looking for the A.A. solution.
- Each story must be a standard A.A. story that tells what it was like, what happened, and what it is like today.

17. The pamphlet "Letter to A Woman Alcoholic" be discontinued.

**Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

18. Valerie M general manager of the G.S.O. for Australia, and Noriaki N general manager of the G.S.O. for Japan, be admitted to the 56<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference as observers.
19. Current General Service Board members and G.S.O. staff members from other countries be granted admission as observers upon their request to the annual General Service Conference of the U.S. and Canada; that admission is not to exceed two countries and two representatives per country, one being a board member and/or one G.S.O. staff member at each General Service Conference; that the request for admission be made through the General Service Office in New York; and that decisions regarding responsibility for guest observer expenses be at the discretion of the General Service Board.
20. The 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference be held April 26 - May 2, 2009, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.

**Public Information**

It was recommended that:

21. The television public service announcement (P.S.A.) "Testimonials," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved completing a four year replacement schedule initiated by the 2002 General Service Conference.
22. The 2002 Advisory Action that states, "After the initial four years, this cycle would continue with the oldest P.S.A. being replaced each year" be reaffirmed and that a new P.S.A. be developed for review by the 2007 Conference Committee on Public Information at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 and the oldest P.S.A. in the four year plan be replaced.
23. The television public service announcement (P.S.A.) "Testimonials" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$31,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

24. The section on "Marital Status" in the "A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire" be revised and retitled as "Domestic Status" with the following four options:
  - Married
  - Single
  - Divorced
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.
25. The option "Internet" be added to the "2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire" under Question 11: "Please indicate no more than two of the following entities that you feel were most influential in your decision to come to your first A.A. meeting."
26. The "2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire" be approved.
27. The videos "Young People and A.A." and "A.A.: Rap with Us" be replaced and that the trustees' Committee on Public Information develop an idea for a film, video tape or some other such instrument targeting young people, including storyboards and estimated costs, taking in consideration the findings in the January 2006 trustees' report on Videos for Young People with the widest possible diversity range, and that a report be forwarded to the 2007 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.

**Report and Charter**

It was recommended that:

28. The graphic, "Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group," as it appeared in the 1998-1999 edition, be restored in Chapter 2 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.
29. The following descriptive sentence be added to the second paragraph on page S63 of *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section "Trustees-at-large":
 

"In the year between the World Service Meetings, the trustees-at-large may attend a Western Hemisphere zonal meeting, the Meeting of the Americas, as delegates representing the U.S. and Canada."
30. The statement on page ii of each A.A. Directory located below the box "An A.A. Group" be revised to read:

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY**

As embodied in the Fourth Tradition, the formation and operation of an A.A. group resides exclusively within the group conscience of its members. While, hopefully, every A.A. group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practice of any A.A. group. Groups listed in this directory appear at their own request. A directory listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any group's approach to, or practice of, the A.A. program.

## Treatment Facilities

It was recommended that:

31. The word "institutional" be deleted from the scope so that the second paragraph of the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities will read as follows:

"The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements."

32. The phrase "and other noncorrectional environments" be added to the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities so that it will read as follows:

"The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments, and to set up means of 'bridging the gap' from the facility to the A.A. community.

The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements."

## Trustees

It was recommended that:

33. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., in April 2006:

### 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 C  
Gary K  
Tom K  
Howard L.  
Murray M.  
Raymond M  
Robert M.  
Madeleine J. P.  
Michael D. P  
Arnold L. R.  
Jane S.  
Denis V.  
Dorothy W

The following slate of officers be elected at the second quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board in April 2006:

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.
First Vice-chairperson	Allen L. Ault, Ed.D.
Second Vice-chairperson	Herbert I. Goodman
Treasurer	Vincent E. Keefe
Secretary	Gary K
Assistant Treasurer	Donald W. M
Assistant Secretary	Eva S

34. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of A.A. World Services, Inc. in April 2006:

Charles J. B	Greg M
Paul C	Eva S
Roberta L	Jane S
Howard L	Jane T
George G. M	

35. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., in April 2006:

James B	Raymond M
Robin E	Robert M
Herbert I. G	Arnold L. R
Dorothy L. H	John S
Tom K	

36. The 2006 revised Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be approved.
37. The 2006 Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be approved.

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