

Table of Contents

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY	PAGE 1
CORRECTIONS	PAGE 1
FINANCE	PAGE 2
GRAPEVINE	PAGE 5
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS	PAGE 19
LITERATURE	PAGE 7
PUBLIC INFORMATION	PAGE 9
REPORT & CHARTER	PAGE 14
TREATMENT FACILITIES	PAGE 18
TRUSTEES	PAGE 18

Please fill out evaluation form of this Agenda Summary on Page II

Summary Evaluation

62<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Area 09 Topic Summaries

**Please let us know how we might improve this summary for next year's Conference Agenda**

Did we include the right number of items? (Circle one)

Keep all   -   Pertinent items only   -   Delegate's Committee items only

Comments:

Was there the right amount of detail?

Yes   -   Most items   -   Some items   -   No

Comments:

Was this useful?

Yes   -   Somewhat   -   No

Comments:

Any specific changes you would like to see:

Thank you!

The ad hoc Conference Agenda Items Summary Committee

**Conference Committee: II Cooperation with the Professional Community – ITEM B.**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider adding the phrase “non-alcoholics may attend as observers” to the “Singleness of Purpose” statement in C.P.C. literature.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request originated from a group, was presented to their Area and accepted. The “Singleness of Purpose” statements were revised in CPC Literature in 1997 and 2003. Because it pertains to the difference between “Open” and “Closed” meetings, the purpose of this proposal is to bring clarity and consistency to literature being referred to by professionals who may or may not be alcoholics. The proposed changes would affect 7 pieces of Literature currently in publication.
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	How does your group feel about this proposal? Do we think the change is necessary? Why or why not? Are there any additional considerations or suggestions?

**Conference Committee: III Corrections – Item A.**

Agenda Topic	<b>Review the draft revision of the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell”</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Conference Committee on Corrections recommended the revisiting this pamphlet, updating stories, language and photographs. In 2010 a subcommittee was formed to review the stories submitted. In January 2011 the full Trustees’ Committee on Corrections reviewed the subcommittee’s progress to date, and suggests a final review prior to publication regarding the pamphlet’s relevance. The final version of the pamphlet was mailed to conference committee members only. The Conference Committee on Corrections will be reviewing the draft pamphlet to determine if in case meets the intended goals of the pamphlet, also, that everything is in accord with A.A. principles.</p> <p>In the Conference several things may happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee might approve the revised pamphlet and recommend the pamphlet be approved by the Conference as a whole.</li> <li>• If approved by the Conference, recent experience suggests that copies of previously confidential items are sometimes made available to other Conference members prior to voting on it.</li> <li>• The committee may also send the pamphlet back to the trustees committee on corrections with any significant concerns about the proposed revision of the pamphlet.</li> </ul>
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	Does the pamphlet warrant being updated?

**Conference Committee: III Corrections – Item B.**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider revisions to the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>On January 28, 2012, the Trustees’ Committee on Corrections proposed four changes to the pamphlet, the committee agreed to forward the pamphlet to the 2012 Conference Committee on Corrections to review and consider the revisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision # 1 : <u><i>Mention of ‘lifers’ participating in AA</i></u>, in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” (There is nothing in AA literature related to corrections referring to lifers)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision # 2: Changing the title for the section currently called “ <b><i>Release and paroles</i></b>” to “<b><i>Re-entry and parole</i></b>”</li> <li>• Revision # 3: Changing the Singleness of Purpose statement in the last paragraph, the difference between Open and Closed meetings, adding the word <b><i>Non-alcoholics may attend as observers</i></b>, after the statement. <i>Anyone may attend open AA meetings</i>,</li> <li>• Revision # 4: <b><i>To update the numbers and statistics in the pamphlet</i></b>, it has not been updated since pamphlet’s original print date of 1988.</li> </ul>
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	Which of this changes would be more appropriate? Are they all good changes and why?

**Conference Committee: IV Finance — Item A**

Conference Committee: IV Finance Item A													
Agenda Topic	Consider suggestion to increase the Conference delegate fee.												
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A past delegate (and past Conference Finance Committee Chair) wrote a letter to the Chairman of the General Service Board asking that the dollar amount requested from each Area be raised to help defray the actual costs of the General Service Conference, to better reflect the effects of inflation thus allowing each Area to be more self supporting.</p> <p>a. Past Advisory Actions</p> <p>Initially requested Areas send \$100.00</p> <p>In 1969 it went to \$150.00</p> <p>In 1974 it went to \$200.00</p> <p>In 1978 it went to \$300.00</p> <p>In 1984 it went to \$400.00</p> <p>In 1989 it went to \$600.00</p> <p>In 1997 it went to \$800.00</p> <p>In 2005 it went to \$1200.00</p> <p>b. 2011 Conference cost was \$5800.00 per Conference member. 58 (of the 93) Areas were able to contribute an additional amount with the average being \$2,275.00.*</p> <p>c. Cost difference by year**</p> <table><tr><td></td><td><u>1939</u></td><td>2011</td></tr><tr><td>Average wages per year</td><td>\$1,730.00</td><td>\$28,195.00</td></tr><tr><td>Cost of gasoline</td><td>10 cents</td><td>1.63</td></tr><tr><td>Loaf of bread</td><td>39 cents</td><td>2.00</td></tr></table> <p>* figure submitted by General Service Office</p> <p>** figure submitted by past Delegate submitting request</p>		<u>1939</u>	2011	Average wages per year	\$1,730.00	\$28,195.00	Cost of gasoline	10 cents	1.63	Loaf of bread	39 cents	2.00
	<u>1939</u>	2011											
Average wages per year	\$1,730.00	\$28,195.00											
Cost of gasoline	10 cents	1.63											
Loaf of bread	39 cents	2.00											
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	Would like the groups to consider the effects of inflation and the spiritual value of self support.												

**Conference Committee: IV Finance — Item B**

Agenda Topic	<b>Review the current \$3,000. Dollar limit on annual individual contributions and one-time bequests.</b>														
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>An area GSR has submitted a proposal that AA members may make a yearly contribution of \$15,000.00 and a one-time bequest (gift when you pass away) of \$75,000.00.</p> <p>Individual Contribution Limit*</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Initially</td><td>\$ 100.00</td></tr> <tr><td>1967</td><td>\$ 200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>1972</td><td>\$ 300.00</td></tr> <tr><td>1979</td><td>\$ 500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>1986</td><td>\$1,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>\$2,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>\$3,000.00</td></tr> </table> <p>The AA Group has a spiritual purpose – the passing on of a spiritual experience with sufficient force that alcoholics might recover and remain recovered from their alcoholism. Financially, AA groups are suggested to donate any excess funds to Inter-groups, Districts, Areas and GSO. The purpose of GSO is to support AA Groups, not necessarily be directly involved in spiritual work.**</p> <p>We want GSO to be fully funded as necessary for ALL its current obligations including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A fully funded pension plan</li> <li>2. Enough to hold yearly Conference in convenient locations instead of Armonk, for example</li> <li>3. Supporting large reoccurring deficits at LaViña, if so desired</li> <li>4. Corporate technology upgraded to make each employee as efficient as possible, i.e. separate corporation computers for video conferencing, online messaging, and etc.**</li> </ol> <p>We may not have dues, but AA is not free. Would like the groups to consider the effects of inflation and the spiritual value of self support.</p> <p>* figure submitted by General Service Office</p> <p>** facts submitted by GSR submitting request</p>	Initially	\$ 100.00	1967	\$ 200.00	1972	\$ 300.00	1979	\$ 500.00	1986	\$1,000.00	1999	\$2,000.00	2007	\$3,000.00
Initially	\$ 100.00														
1967	\$ 200.00														
1972	\$ 300.00														
1979	\$ 500.00														
1986	\$1,000.00														
1999	\$2,000.00														
2007	\$3,000.00														
<p>What do you want to tell our Delegate?</p>	<p>Is there a spiritual value to increasing the amount an individual can contribute to GSO?</p> <p>What is a reasonable amount that can contribute to our well-being without creating undue influence by the giver? Does contributing to GSO increase your “feeling a sense of fitting in/belonging”? Will increasing the contributions help facilitate Bill’s vision of carrying the message world-wide?</p>														

**Conference Committee: IV Finance — Item E**

Agenda Topic	<b>Review information concerning General Service Office/A.A. Grapevine Financial Projections for the years 2013 and 2014.</b>																												
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>GSO-AAGV Proforma Financial Projections for 2013 and 2014</p> <table> <tr> <th></th><th>Unaudited 2012</th><th>Budget 2012</th><th>2013</th><th>2014</th></tr> <tr> <td>GSO</td><td>\$619,100</td><td>\$147,900</td><td>(\$265,000)</td><td>(\$721,000)</td></tr> <tr> <td>AAGV</td><td>\$ 23,800</td><td>\$ 34,100</td><td>(\$178,200)</td><td>(\$320,000)</td></tr> <tr> <td>LaVina*</td><td>(\$ 69,700)</td><td>(\$105,700)</td><td>(\$109,000)</td><td>(\$112,100)</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTALS</td><td>\$773,200.</td><td>\$ 76,000</td><td>(\$552,200)</td><td>(\$1,153,100)</td></tr> </table> <p>Months of Prudent Reserve. 11.7 11.0 10.3 9.3</p> <p>* Currently funded by the General Service Board General Fund (\$ ) are negative numbers</p> <p>AAWS projects that literature sales will continue to be flat, contributions will grow by 2% and expenses will grow by 3%. Purpose of projections was future possible actions without any other actions such as cost (Service) reductions, or price increases.</p> <p>The Grapevine Board projections assume Grapevine continuing existing policies and operations in an arena wherein declining print subscriptions are a reality. In response, Grapevine plans to pursue revenue enhancing and cost saving measures such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meaningful cooperation between the two corporations in cost efficiencies</li> <li>Relocation of the office to the 12th floor, ease of production and short turnaround time for eBooks</li> <li>Expanded digital products and services in addition to existing items.</li> <li>Currently only 44% of AA Groups and AA members contribute to GSO.</li> </ul>					Unaudited 2012	Budget 2012	2013	2014	GSO	\$619,100	\$147,900	(\$265,000)	(\$721,000)	AAGV	\$ 23,800	\$ 34,100	(\$178,200)	(\$320,000)	LaVina*	(\$ 69,700)	(\$105,700)	(\$109,000)	(\$112,100)	TOTALS	\$773,200.	\$ 76,000	(\$552,200)	(\$1,153,100)
	Unaudited 2012	Budget 2012	2013	2014																									
GSO	\$619,100	\$147,900	(\$265,000)	(\$721,000)																									
AAGV	\$ 23,800	\$ 34,100	(\$178,200)	(\$320,000)																									
LaVina*	(\$ 69,700)	(\$105,700)	(\$109,000)	(\$112,100)																									
TOTALS	\$773,200.	\$ 76,000	(\$552,200)	(\$1,153,100)																									
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	<p>How does your group feel about these projections? Does your group have suggestions on how to offset these alarming deficits? Should we consider a reduction in services? Which services should be cut? What can be done to increase contributions from the fellowship? What can be done to ensure the GV's future? (Now more than ever, Self-Support Challenge 2012!)</p>																												

**Conference Committee: IV - Finance --- Item F**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider a review of continuing financial commitment to La Viña per the 2001 General Service Conference Advisory Action that "La Viña continue to be published by A.A. Grapevine and supported by the General Services Board as a service to the Fellowship."</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>There is no background as to where this agenda item originated, so it is assumed it was placed on the agenda by the General Service Board.</p> <p>La Viña has been published by A.A. as the result of a 1995 Conference Advisory Action which stated that, "based on an expressed need", a Spanish edition of the Grapevine be published on a five year trial period, and that it be funded from the General Service Board Reserve Fund. After five years, upon a recommendation by a trustees' ad-hoc committee and the General Service Board, a 2001 Conference Advisory Action stated that: "La Viña continue to be published by the A.A. Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to</p>

	<p>the Fellowship." &amp; "La Viña continue to be published utilizing A.A. Grapevine resources in order to achieve efficiencies in production and distribution."</p> <p>In 16 years, the average net cost/loss is \$82,958 year, with a \$69,725 loss in 2011. Since 1997 circulation has averaged 9,146 on a bi-monthly basis, and circulation for 2011 was 8,982.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group believe there should be a review of the continuing financial commitment to La Viña as per the 2001 Advisory Action?

### Conference Committee: V - Grapevine — Item A

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider proposal for A.A. Grapevine's Audio strategy</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>After lengthy discussion, the Committee recommended that, in the spirit of being self-supporting while also protecting our Traditions of attraction, anonymity, and non-affiliation, A.A. Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products. The committee requests that the Board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time.</p> <p>Grapevine now offers most of its print products in digital formats such as eBooks or online subscription offerings, yet the audio products have not benefited from similar updates. Grapevine has built a repository of member's written stories. Now, with technology these can be uploaded and recorded at low costs. Members may now speak their story as they do in meetings. Set-up and production for this approach is inexpensive and does not incur any shipping expenses. Every story will continue to go through GV editorial process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MEMBER Recordings – GV will subscribe to a complete voice messaging system. Upon dialing GV's phone number, the caller enters the main voice mailbox. The recording guides caller through the system. Caller then records, after they get the speaker's copyright release, GV will transcribe the story for the print magazine and/or audio books for purchase on AAGrapevine.org.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Favorable feature is most people own a device to play audio books (MP3, PDA, or smart phone)</li> <li>b. Voice Center Plan that GV has is \$9.95 per month for a Private dial-in number. Long distance applies to caller</li> <li>c. Potential Basic Pricing Audio Book \$9.99 and Audio Compilation \$8.99</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group believe that Grapevine should continue to use digital platforms?

**Conference Committee: V - Grapevine — Item B**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2013 and later</b>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>A 2002 Advisory action unanimously recommended that the Conference Committee on the Grapevine annually review a list of proposed related items at least one year in advance of possible production, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing that the committee may request more than one year to review some proposed items.</p> <p>AAGV items are published for several reasons: first, to carry the message of AA stories from members and friends of the fellowship, and second, to help GV maintain its self-supporting status. GV items provide a service to the Fellowship by making GV and LV articles available in a wide range of formats. They also introduce both magazine titles to those that are unfamiliar with them and help deepen member's interest and understanding of the Steps, Traditions, and history of AA. Suggestions taken from previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attitude of Gratitude (working title) - collection of stories on the topic of gratitude.</li> <li>2. Voices of Long Term Sobriety II (working title) – Collection of stories by members with 30+ years of sobriety.</li> <li>3. Women stories in AA – stories from women members on every topic including a special section from AA's women pioneers.</li> <li>4. GLBT in AA – We Are All the Same or Sober &amp; Out (working title) – stories from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender AA community.</li> <li>5. Relationships in Sobriety (working title) – stories on the topic of relationships.</li> <li>6. Having Fun in Sobriety (working title) – Now that you are sober you've discovered that you haven't the foggiest notion on how to have fun. What now?</li> <li>7. Daily Grapevine – 365 inspirational passages as originally published in GV's thought for the day in GV magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.</li> <li>8. Mid Sobriety Crisis (working title) – Not a beginner anymore and not an old-timer either? This collection of stories comes from members in the middle years (10 – 29) who are working the program and trudging the road of happy destiny.</li> <li>9. The Best of La Viña II- collection of Spanish language original stories (not translations) previously published in La Viña Magazine.</li> <li>10. AA Inside the Walls (working title) – Collections of stories from those behind bars and/or from those carrying the message to these institutions.</li> </ol> <p>All Soft cover per book cost is \$2.50 with retail rate of \$10.99. Estimated project cost per eBook is \$2,000 with retail cost of \$9.99</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>Does your group agree with these suggestions?</p>



**Conference Committee: V - Grapevine — Item C**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The objective of the AAGV Sunset Product plan is to update the current product mix.</p> <p>This plan provides for phasing out, or “sun-setting”, some books, most CDs, all of the cassette tapes and selected “other” products. Cassette tapes and other items noted would be discontinued as of December 31, 2012. “Sun-set” products would remain available to the Fellowship in at least one format and would be archived or downloadable as an audio-book or become an eBook.</p> <p>Product Plan Grid is attached indicating whether the title is to be reprinted or archived, become an audio book or eBook and has suggested publication dates.</p> <p>The rationale for updating the list is to offer a list of products that meets the needs of the Fellowship, reduce inventory costs and expenses incurred by reprinting products that have come to the end of their product life cycle.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Would this be a sound/wise decision, etc.?

**Conference Committee: V - AA Grapevine – Item D**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider incorporation the service responsibilities and duties of the service position “Grapevine Representative” into the Service responsibilities and duties of the “General Service Representative.”</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Prior to 1951, Group Secretaries were responsible for all group administrative duties, including corresponding with the main office. In 1951, the first General Service Conference encouraged groups to divide duties between a Group Secretary and a Group Representative. In 1954, the General Service Representative was created. The GSR is the link in the two-way communication between the District, Area and GSO and the Home Group, keeping the Group and the Delegate informed. Since the early 1950’s, there have also been Grapevine Representatives (GvR’s) to carry the word about the Grapevine to the Groups. In 1977, the GSC recommended delegates establish Area Grapevine Committees to achieve the goal of a GvR in every Group.</p> <p>As AA Grapevine (AAGV) subscriptions are on the decline, a proposal was made to modify/expand the role of the GSR, in an attempt at prompt intervention and proactive measures needed to salvage the AAGV as a communication vehicle for our Fellowship. Many Groups and members lack even basic information about the Grapevine and its virtues, in spite of the GvR structure.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is there a benefit to consolidate the roles of the GvR and GSR? Does it serve the fellowship better? Is incorporating the GvR role into the GSR role a practical and spiritually based approach that may help the Grapevine find its way?

**Conference Committee: Literature Agenda Item B**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider the draft of the revised “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This agenda item originated from an Advisory Action of the 60th GSC.</p> <p>In 2010, the Trustees Committee discussed updating this pamphlet to include more recent stories from members from the Armed Services and that a wide variety of experiences be represented. Also, to add the subtitle ‘None Left</p>

	Behind". The pamphlet was developed in 1978 and approved by the conference in 1980. Members have expressed concern that this pamphlet has never been revised or updated. Last addition made to the pamphlet was the A. A. website: <a href="http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org">www.alcoholics-anonymous.org</a>
What do you want to tell our Delegate?	Does the group have concerns about this revision? What are they and why. Also, how does the group feel about the proposed subtitle "None Left Behind"? Please be specific. Based on your own experiences using the pamphlet as a communications tool in service work. Do you see a need to revise and up-date the information as presented?

**Conference Committee: VI Literature - Item D**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider a suggestion for revision of the pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service".</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The pamphlet was developed in 1978 and approved by the conference in 1980. Members have expressed concern that this pamphlet has never been revised or updated. Last addition made to the pamphlet was the A. A. website: <a href="http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org">www.alcoholics-anonymous.org</a>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Based on your own experiences using the pamphlet as a communications tool in service work. Do you see a need to revise and up-date the information as presented?

**Conference Committee: VI Literature - Item E**

Agenda Topic	<b>Discuss a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request originated from an Area. The wording on the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book was rewritten pursuant to a 2001 Advisory Action that the Trustees Committee on Literature would handle these types of changes. It has been re-written twice; in 2001 and again in 2002. This is a request to replace the newer text with the text from the Third Edition. It has been expressed that the language is important because it may be the first thing someone reads about Alcoholics Anonymous. Because the dust jacket in the fourth Edition omits in it's A. A. Message, the phrase "but the basic text (pages 1 through 164) remains unchanged. This is the A. A. Message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 "Alcoholics Anonymous." The Book that gave the young fellowship its name."
What does the Delegate need to know?	Members have expressed a strong concern for this omission as it was part of the 'dust jacket' in the Third edition and omitted in the fourth edition. Does the group agree with replacing the newer text with the text from the Third Edition? Why or why not?

**Conference Committee VI Literature - Item F**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider a request to add the A.A. Preamble to the front inside pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Preamble was introduced to the fellowship and the public at large in the June 1947 issue of the Grapevine. The A. A. Preamble is based on the Forward to the First Edition of the Big Book and was originally called the "A. A. Definition." Today the Preamble is an integral part of the format of many A. A. meetings and is printed on all Conference approved literature and other material prepared for the

	public. It currently is not part of the Big Book. The Traditions and the Concepts are included appendices giving guidelines for personal recovery, unity and service respectively but the A. A. Preamble which is read out at the start of most group meetings and that defines what A. A. as whole is missing
What does the Delegate need to know?	Some are of the opinion that including the A. A. Preamble in the Big Book it would serve to seal an unbreakable connection between group, fellowship and Book why is this ok or why not?

### Conference Committee VI Literature - Item G

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider a request to add the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service to <i>As Bill Sees It</i></b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>An Area requested this addition to immediately follow the Steps and Traditions (short form) at the end of the publication, so it will include all 36 “Guiding Principles” addressed in the excerpts of the book. The book’s Foreword provides a listing of the chief sources for the excerpts including Twelve Concepts for World Service and also references the page numbers of the publication from which they were taken, e.g., page 317, “Vision Beyond Today,” references “Twelve Concepts, Page 40,” which is a quote from the essay on Concept 9.</p> <p>Background material includes the letter of request from the Area along with the motion’s background from the group out of which it originated, including a chart showing the 13 direct references to the Concepts and their associated page numbers In the Twelve Concepts for World Service.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the short form of the Concepts needs to be added?

### Conference Committee: VIII Public Information — Item A

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider 2011 annual report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on G.S.O.’s A.A. web site.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2004 General Service Conference recommended that the A.A.W.S. Board should continue to manage the web site through its Services Committee and a quarterly summary report will be created for the trustees’ Committee on Public Information to review. In addition the A.A.W.S. Board would prepare an annual report for the trustee’s P.I. Committee summarizing all Web site quarterly report information, which would be forwarded to the Conference P.I. Committee for their consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A change to the “How to Find A.A. Meetings” section of the website was implemented.</li> <li>• The A.A.W.S. Service Committee thoughtfully discussed an Area request for a free audio version of the <i>Big Book</i> and <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> on G.S.O. A.A. web site, but decided not to post this.</li> <li>• The board approved the proposal to post Daily Reflections on G.S.O.’s A.A. web site with an optional daily e-mail delivery service.</li> <li>• A.A.W.S. launched the Fourth Edition <i>Big Book</i> and <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> in eBook format. Readers are able to purchase the books through a new A.A.W.S. Online store, and the A.A. eReader is available at no charge from the Apple App Store.</li> <li>• A.A.W.S. Services Committee approved the concept of online sales but has</li> </ul>

	<p>not yet been launched. Until the sale has been launched prices will not be available online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The C.P.I.C. (Conference P.I. Committee) discussed a request to add a “proclaimer” on the home page at <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a> that would inform visitors that the site is intended for the general public and is not a member’s only site. This would be a reminder that linking to the site does not imply A.A. membership, and it would point interested individuals to shared experience about protecting anonymity on social media/networking sites.</li> </ul>
What does the Delegate need to know?	The digital age is changing how A.A. literature is available. How does this affect members of A.A.? Are we making sure that every suffering alcoholic has access A.A. literature? Looking at the changes involving the Daily Reflections, will these emails protect A.A. member’s anonymity?

### Conference Committee: VIII Public Information — Item C

Agenda Topic	<p><b>Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.’s):</b></p> <p><b>C2. Review report on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2010 television P.S.A., “My World.”</b></p> <p><b>C3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., “Tengo Esperanza,” at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, as an addition to the work of local Public Information committees.</b></p> <p><b>C5. Consider production of new video P.S.A.’s.</b></p>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>C2. The 2010 A.A. TV P.S.A., “My World,” was centrally distributed to 520 stations in December 2010 and January 2011. The P.S.A. aired on several national and regional networks including CNN, Fox, Sports net, etc. The placement of “My World” into the February edition of Health &amp; Home Report brought the A.A. message in a new way to a previously untapped audience. According to West Glen reports “My World” was seen in 134 markets on 305 stations with a total of 24,055 airings.</p> <p>C3. Recommendations have been made to continue “targeting” audience segments, such as Hispanic spots currently being produced (along with focusing on the audience segment based on their online use). The Trustee’s Public Information Committee was recommended to consider developing a comprehensive “media plan” for A.A. requiring professional expertise. Give particular consideration to developing a more effective distribution of Spanish and French language PSA’s to Spanish and French language stations. New Spanish or French language PSA’s needed to be produced independently of any English-language PSA’s. Centralized distribution would provide P.S.A. coverage to areas that do not have active P.I. committees.</p> <p>C5. In 2008, an Advisory Action suggested the review of current television P.S.A.’s for relevance and usefulness. A trustee’s subcommittee found that all of the P.S.A.’s, when taken together, reached much of the population, although they are not as diverse as they could be. The subcommittee unanimously agreed that a new TV P.S.A. is not needed for calendar year 2012. On the flip side, there is clear evidence that P.S.A.’s are not reaching teens and there are electronic distribution modes available to put our message into school systems across the country. An area that needs further study is the suggestion of an Online Newsroom for both media and consumers. The subcommittee discussed the various TV P.S.A.’s lengths</p>

	(60,30,20, and 15 seconds) and affirmed that it is important to continue to have a variety of lengths available to TV stations to increase the likelihood of A.A.'s TV P.S.A.'s being selected for play since, typically, station personnel are seeking to fill specific length of "empty" air time.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Since broadcast stations are no longer required to air PSA's, does A.A. require a whole new avenue of reaching the public? Are we reaching all demographics of the suffering alcoholics?

### Conference Committee: VIII Public Information — Item D

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider a suggestion that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public, this presence would serve as an informational resource only, with no interpersonal communication capabilities.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This suggested topic came from a 2011 PI sub-committee that was formed in response to the recommendation of creating a comprehensive media plan to present to the PI Trustees committee in July 2011.</p> <p>Background material includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2012 Final Subcommittee report-describing their meetings which had thoughtful, broad ranging in-depth discussions about the way A.A. communicates with the public and the numerous methods &amp; tools available. The developments, outlines, suggestions and recommendations were listed. Along with their recommendation to establish a presence on Facebook as soon as possible as an informational resource communication only. A request was made for the Trustees' PI Conference committee to consider forwarding to the PI Conference committee this year.</li> <li>• Memo to subcommittee from a Class A Trustee detailing A.A.'s current presence on the Internet &amp; benefits from using this tool. Stating it would increase sharing of the A.A. message to the thousands that may not visit the A.A. website, used solely for distributing A.A. information.</li> <li>• Copy of Facebook fact sheets that describe the product, and company.</li> <li>• Copy of Facebook statistics showing numbers of users, &amp; languages.</li> </ul> <p>A.A. literature pieces mailed to committee members, are available to all, on line or at groups for review. They are: <i>A.A. Guidelines Internet "Understanding Anonymity"</i>: which review and guide the principles of our traditions regarding Anonymity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mailing to committee members only, from another fellowship regarding Social Media. (Available to conference members only)</li> <li>• Memo from staff secretary to PI Conference Committee describing some of the complexities of estimating potential costs, and need for a review of the legal issues &amp; policy's. Expressing the serious need for further investigation.</li> </ul> <p>If your group is interested in this topic, it could be helpful to further review all the background material thoroughly before sharing with your group.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel this format could be a useful tool for carrying the message of A.A.? Does your group have experiences, concerns or ideas to share? Is this important enough to warrant consideration

**Conference Committee: VIII Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	<b>Discuss requests related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This topic came from 2 requests last year, by a Group and a GSR. They requested that the wording be changed in Tradition 11 to reflect A.A.'s Anonymity in all public media forms, using the method described in the A.A. Conference Charter to effect this change. The following is one recommendation for revision to Tradition 11.</p> <p>The current wording for Tradition 11 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film”</li> </ul> <p>Suggestion 1) changed to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion: we need always maintain personal anonymity <i>in the public media.</i>”</li> </ul> <p>Suggestion 2) changed to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion: we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of <i>all public media of communication.</i>”</li> </ul> <p>One group further recommend changing the” long form” of Tradition 11 which can be found the A.A. Service manual with the current wording:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· “Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not to be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed”</li> </ul> <p>To be changed to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· “Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not to be <i>“transmitted in the public media”</i></li> </ul> <p>Background materials include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Letters from the group &amp; GSR requesting the change, with support for their reasoning and suggested revisions. Stating that it’s an assumption we make that members should know not to reveal their or others identity on public media sites. Their concern is that anonymity is not clearly understood by all members, especially newcomers. They believe that if the traditions were written today they would possibly include the words “TV, cyberspace, or internet.” They support the Conference Charter procedures to request this change. References were also made to the 2011 61st Conference report Trustees’ sharing sessions.</li> <li>· A response letter from a PI Trustees Conference committee member referring to the “Original Conference Charter in the A.A. Service Manual, historical information from a 1974 request to change wording in the PI manual, and a 60th GSC PI request to develop a text on topic of anonymity in digital age, which was approved.</li> <li>· The Conference Charter document is included with highlights referring to the requirements for such a change to happen. Reminding them that all the known groups would have to be contacted and 3/4s of all groups responding in the U.S., Canada and the world would have to approve this change.</li> </ul> <p>The background material letters explain the members request; The Conference Charter &amp; Concept II clarify the current policy, and the latest membership numbers page brings to light the true nature of the efforts required to carry out the revisions.</p>

	<p>If your group is interested in this topic, it could be helpful to research all the background material thoroughly before sharing with your group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A copy of Concept II, added by the GSO archivist. Reminding them that in Concept II the groups in 1955 confirmed the permanent charter for the Conference. There was also an “Ask It Basket” references from the 1964 Conference that raised concerns about the “elasticity” of the Traditions, and the pitfalls of assumptions of adherence to them written as they were then. A failed floor action in 1986 asking the GSB to initiate the changing of Tradition was included.</li> <li>· A copy of the latest estimate of groups and members page is available in your 2011 Conference report.</li> </ul> <p>The Background material letters explain the members request; The Conference Charter &amp; Concept II clarify the current policy, and the latest membership numbers page brings to light the true nature of the efforts required to carry out the revisions. If your group is interested in this topic, it could be helpful to research all the background material thoroughly before sharing with your group.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	<p>Does your group feel this is a realistic and necessary change? Why or Why not?</p> <p>What other ideas do they have to address this concern?</p>

**Conference Committee: VIII Public Information — Item F**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider updated text for Anonymity Wallet Card.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Trustees’ committee received a request from a trustee from the GV Board to update the “What does Anonymity mean to A.A.” wallet card and bring the wording in line with the revised pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.”</p> <p>Background has the letter from the Trustee and a sample of the wallet cards.</p> <p>The revision is under heading: In public media, however- such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Current wording is-TV, Radio, films and the press – A. A. Traditions urge...</li> </ul> <p>Revision would read- TV, Radio, films and other media technologies such as the Internet –A. A. Traditions urge</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	<p>Does your group think it’s necessary to change the wallet card to be in alignment with the pamphlet? Why or Why not?</p>

**Conference Committee: IX - Report and Charter — Item A. 5.**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider suggestion for revising text on "Conference Panels," on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term "panels".</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This correspondence was submitted by an A.A. member and forwarded by an area delegate.</p> <p>The member states that the term "panel" as used on Page S107 in the A.A. Service Manual is not clearly defined and suggests further clarification. (regular print below is existing definition, <b>bold is suggested addition</b>)</p> <p><b>The term, "panel", allows A.A. members to know when to vote for G.S.R.s and when to vote for delegates. In using the panel system, every service Conference is automatically assigned a panel number in sequence. Members can know whether their particular area has either an "odd" or "even" panel number by referring to the A.A. Service Manual. Having that knowledge, they know in what year it is their turn to vote.</b></p> <p><b>G.S.R.s and delegates have two-year terms office. Thus, in any one year, about half of the A.A. groups are busy electing G.S.R.s and half of all area assemblies are electing qualified delegates to the annual Conference meeting. At a Conference, about half of the delegates are in their first-year term, and about half are in their second term.</b></p> <p><b>The panel system began in 1951 (an odd year) when Bill and Dr. Bob turned over operating responsibilities to the membership in its historic first service conference.</b></p> <p><b>That year was assigned the name of "Conference Panel 1" (an odd panel number) and included 37 delegates. The following year, 1952 (an even year) became "Conference Panel 2" (an even panel number) and 38 delegates were added. 1953 became "Conference Panel 3", and more delegates were added, roughly keeping the voting cycle equal. Since then, there have been additional areas added to states and provinces---total count, 93---with about half elected in an odd year and half in an even year. You can look at the table below and easily determine whether your area is odd or even.</b></p> <p>The two-year voting cycle also applies to area committee officers and committee members. They are all elected to start serving in an odd or even year, depending on the area.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the present definition needs clarification or should be changed to the above as the member suggests? Or do you have another suggestion?

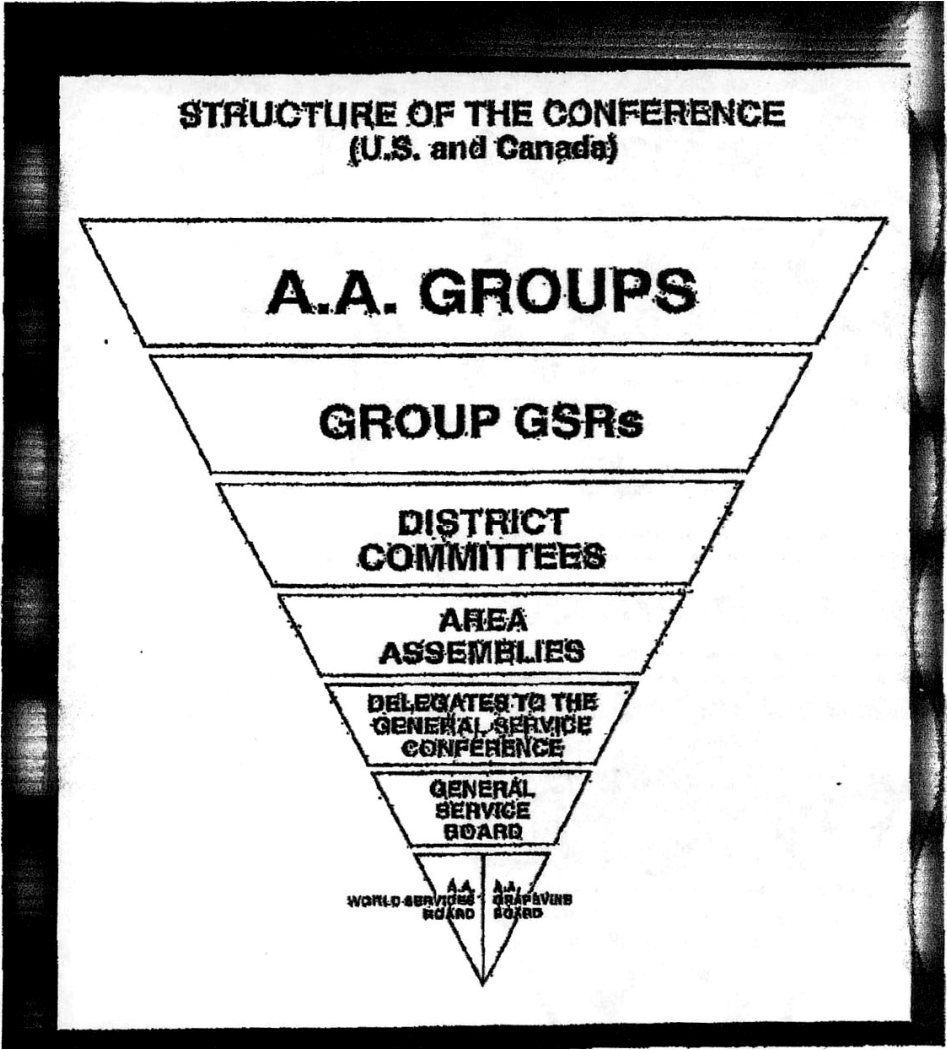
**Conference Committee: IX - Report and Charter— Item A. 6.**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider adding a section to future printings of the AA Service Manual pertaining to the spirit of rotation.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A member was asked to make a presentation on "Rotation in General Service". Upon review of the A.A. Service Manual, he found nothing directly relating to the subject. He did find some information in the "A.A. Group" pamphlet that pertained to rotation, and felt that these paragraphs, (page 28 in the latest printing) or something similar on this topic, would be appropriate in the Service Manual. He brought the idea to his Group where it was discussed and passed on to the District</p>

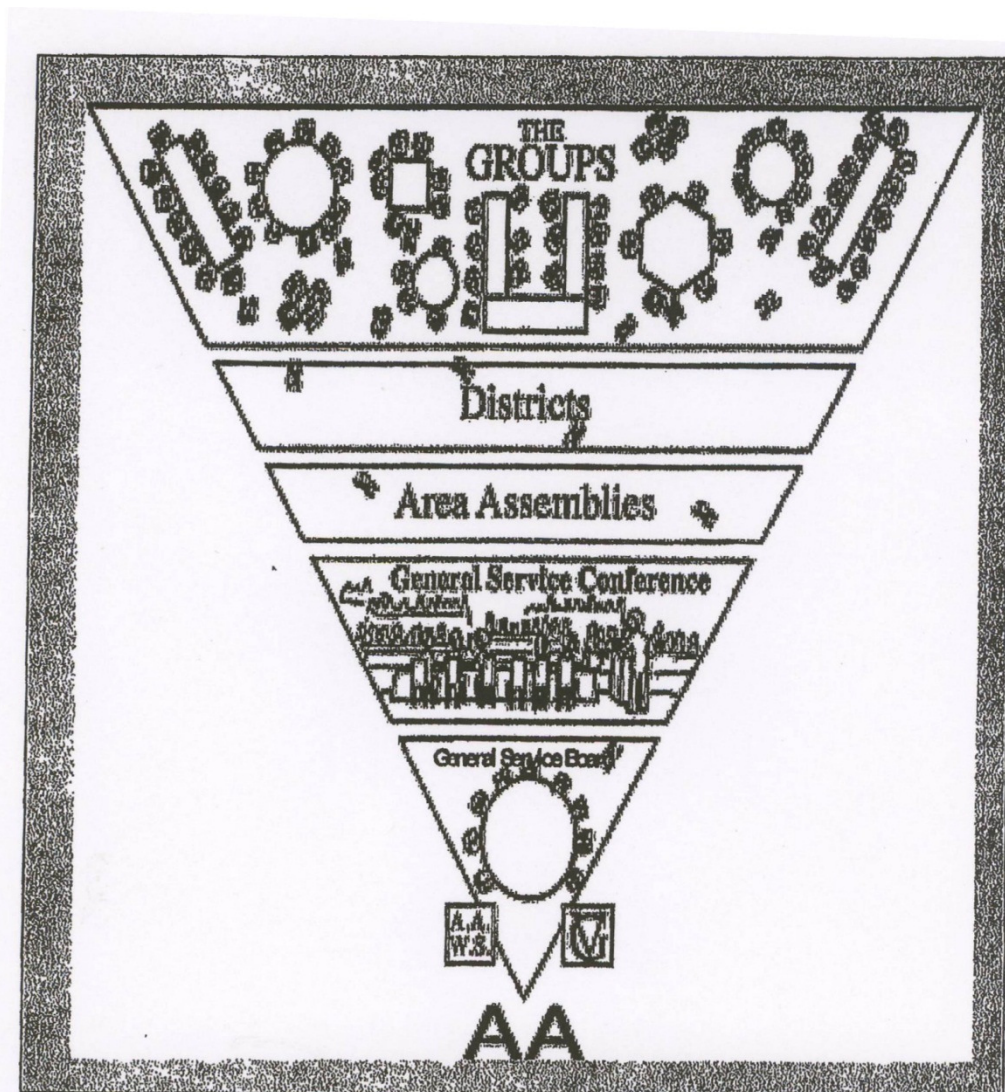


	<p>subsequently to the Area (06) where it was approved with substantial unanimity.</p> <p><b><i>“The Principle of Rotation (page 28, the A.A. Group pamphlet)</i></b></p> <p>Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service position if needed.</p> <p>To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don’t see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it’s especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.</p> <p>Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us “to place principles before personalities.”</p> <p>Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. “status” at stake, we needn’t compete for titles or praise—we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.”</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group agree that this additional information, or something similar should be added to the A.A. Service Manual?

**Conference Committee: IX - Report and Charter— Item A. 7.**

Agenda Topic	<b>Consider suggestion to replace the “STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE” illustration on page S16 with a previous version.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A member asked that the Conference consider changing the illustration (page S16) of our “upside down triangle” that is currently shown in the A.A. Service Manual to the illustration used in earlier editions.</p> <p>His reasoning is that: The General Service Board is at the absolute bottom of the structure and the two corporate boards (A.A.W.S. &amp; A.A. Grapevine) are subsidiary/affiliate corporations of the General Service Board, and their connection to the structure is by their relationship with the G.S.B. The current illustration shows the two corporate boards at the bottom of the structure, whereas the prior illustration shows them on either side of the triangle, connected to the General Service Board. He feels that the current illustration is inaccurate and may lead to confusion when viewed by new members.</p> <p>#1. Present Illustration (page S16)</p> 

## #2. Suggested Replacement Illustration.



What does the Delegate need to know?

Does your group agree that the #1 Present Illustration should be replaced with #2 Suggested Replacement Illustrations?

**Conference Committee: X Treatment Facilities — Item B**

Agenda Topic	That Alcoholics Anonymous print a pamphlet for the alcoholic who suffers from mental illness.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) it was proposed by Area 79 BC/Yukon.</li> <li>2) enumerated the well-known difficulties that people with mental illness have in the program.</li> <li>3) a letter from physicians in AA again stating the problem</li> </ol> <p><u>AGAINST:</u> current practices and history</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. page 140 in the 12 steps and 12 traditions</li> <li>2. an appendix was added to the AA conference approved book "Living Sober," which originated from the pamphlet "the AA Member – Medications and other drugs" (page 5 in the pamphlet). This is the above-referenced report from a group of physicians in AA. COMMENTS: the primary reason that a new pamphlet has not been considered is the presence of previous references in other AA literature. While the appropriate material appears to be present it is not found in a form which would be as useful to the newcomer with a mental illness as would a specific pamphlet. <i>Some opinions are that a pamphlet of this kind could be of great benefit to not only the mentally ill newcomer but also the AA member who often dispenses that advice.</i></li> </ol>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does you group think about this? Do we need a pamphlet for the alcoholic who suffers from mental illness?

**Conference Committee: XI. Trustees — Item E**

Agenda Topic	<b>Review report from the trustees' Nominating Committee on the "Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate"</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This item is on the agenda because it was unclear to the 2011 GSC delegates what the effect would be if the conference disapproved an offered slate of trustees or directors and therefore requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee examines the impact of such disapproval.</p> <p><u>Historical Context:</u></p> <p><u>Trustee Slate:</u> Although the wording in the GSB Bylaws (<i>p.S116 2011-12 Service Manual</i>) refers to disapproval of an individual trustee nominee only, it has become <u>the long-established custom</u> to ask for disapproval of the <u>entire slate</u>. Trustees serve for one-year terms, and must be reelected each year. The mention of the rotation requirement only establishes the number of years in which a person is eligible for reelection. Each trustee serves for one year</p> <p>Although the wording in the GSB Bylaws refers to "conference delegates", it in fact refers to all voting members of the General Service Conference. In order to disapprove a slate, therefore, there would need to be an absolute majority of the conference members voting, e.g. if there were 132 members of the conference and only 124 vote, 67 (one greater than 132/2) disapproving votes are required to disapprove, not just 63 (one greater than 124/2).</p> <p>The Conference is limited to expressing disapproval of a nominee but cannot nominate a replacement or identify the disapproved nominee(s) in its vote.</p> <p><u>Directors Slate:</u> Only <b>trustee</b> nominee disapproval is mentioned in the bylaws,</p>

	<p>but since 1982, the slates of <b>directors</b> have also been included on the conference agenda. It appears that the original placement of the operating corporate board director slates on the Conference agenda was a <u>courtesy to the Conference</u>, and not as a reaction to any perceived problem with prior practice and not to limit the delegated authority of the GSB to choose the leadership (directors) of the operating corporations. The practice was not added to the Scope and Procedure of the Conference Trustees Committee until many years after the practice began.</p> <p><b><u>Effect of Disapproval of Slate of Trustees:</u></b></p> <p>A vote of disapproval alerts the current Members of the GSB that there may be one or more persons on the slate who are disqualified from being elected to serve for the upcoming year. Under New York law, a Trustee serves “...until the expiration of the term for which he is elected or appointed, and until his successor has been elected or appointed and qualified.” Therefore the effect of the conference disapproval would be to prolong the term of service of the current board until a successor has been qualified.</p> <p>If the Conference members disapprove a nominated slate of Trustees, the GSB has two alternatives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Either during or after the conference, they can poll the delegates on each individual nominee in order to determine which nominees, if any, are in fact ineligible. At the GSB Annual Meeting (which follows the General Service Conference each year) they can then elect Trustees for the upcoming year consisting of those nominees who were not disapproved as a result of the individual polls. They can leave the position vacant, or can put forth a replacement nominee and could then proceed to elect him or her to fill the vacancy. The Trustees may fill any vacancy on the Board at any time between conferences.</li> <li>2. The second alternative is for the Trustees to overrule the Conference disapproval and proceed to elect the slate as presented to the Conference. Under the Bylaws, this can only be done by a unanimous vote of the Trustees. As a practical matter, this seems highly unlikely.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Effect of Disapproval of Slate of Corporate Directors</u></b></p> <p>A vote of disapproval notifies the Trustees of the Conference’s unhappiness with the slate, but has no legal effect on the authority of the Trustees to elect the directors of their choosing to serve on the operating corporation boards. The disapproving vote would be similar to an Additional Consideration, i.e. a nonbinding request or statement to the Trustees.</p> <p>The final statement in the report from the trustees’ Nominating Committee states: <b><i>“It now appears that the practice has the potential for causing misunderstanding and controversy without any corresponding benefit, suggesting that consideration should be given to discontinuing it.”</i></b></p>
What the Delegate Needs to know	Does your group agree with the trustees’ sub-committee that the practice of conference disapproval of <u>corporate director slates</u> causes misunderstanding and should be discontinued?

**Conference Committee: XIII - International Conventions/Regional Forums – Item A**

Agenda Topic	<b>Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and how areas communicate about upcoming Forums in their region?</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Historical Context; G.S.O. has improved communication with the Fellowship since Forums began in 1975. Regional Forums are weekend sharing sessions where A.A. members meet trustees of the General Service Board, directors of A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine and staff members from the General Service Office, an opportunity to learn ‘how it works’ all over the world. 2012 Pacific Regional Forum-September 14-16, Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks, Alaska
What does the Delegate need to know?	How do we carry the message to our groups about regional forums? How do we promote them?

**Conference Committee: XIII - International Conventions/Regional Forums – Item B**

Agenda Topic	<b>Review 2025 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.</b>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Historical Context; In August 2012 the invitations to bid and the bid criteria for the 2025 International Convention will be sent to all area delegates with a November 30, 2012 agenda deadline. In the year when the bid process begins, this Conference Committee reviews the guidelines for informational purposes. The site of the 2025 International Convention will be determined at the Fourth-Quarter Board Weekend in 2013 by the trustees’ Committee recommendation to the General Service Board. The General Service Board selects the site city for The 2025 International Convention. The 2015 I.C. Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. The 2020 I.C. will be held in Detroit, Michigan.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How do we carry the message to our groups about international conventions? How do we promote them?