

Phyllis H

August 12, 2004

Greetings Pacific Region Delegates!

I'm delighted to be sharing news of the first General Service Board meeting since the Conference. We had a long yet wonderfully fruitful "weekend" that began on Thursday with orientation for our four new trustees; two Class A trustees: William (Bill) D. Clark, M.D. and Ward B. Ewing, D.D., and two Class B regional trustees: Charles B, West Central Region and Tom K, Western Canada Region. They all received a warm welcome and support from fellow board members as we moved through our committee work and activities of each day. And too, we were grateful for the richness of diverse knowledge, love and respect for A.A. that each new person brought to our discussions and group conscience.

Board Weekend Reflections

Early Friday I joined other directors in traveling the subway to our A.A. Grapevine Board meeting held on the 10th floor conference room of the Grapevine Office. The Board is chaired this year by David E, General Service Trustee. This was the second meeting of the nine-member board as we had met in June for a planning meeting. A.A.W.S. Board meets also during this time but on the 11th floor. Both Boards were too busy all day to see each other, except at noon - if we were quick, we checked on who was having the best "lunch box" and shared the wealth!

Saturday through Sunday mornings were filled with scheduled meetings of the eleven trustees' committees. (Summaries of these meetings are recorded later in this report.) Saturday, following our lunch, we held our General Sharing Session with the topic, "A.A. Principles: General Service Conference, General Service Board, General Service Office". Gary K, SW Regional Trustee, presented on "A.A. Principles and the General Service Conference"; General Service Trustee, David E's topic was "A.A. Principles and the General Service Board" and Valerie O, Staff spoke on "A.A. Principles: General Service Office".

After our Saturday evening dinner we gathered together for a special remembrance of G.S.O. Staff member, Bill A who passed away on June 6. Several co-workers and members, including his sponsor from Canada were there to each share their individual memories of Bill. While it's difficult to capture here all the wonderful stories and loving thoughts expressed during this meeting, Greg M seemed to sum it up as he shared how he will miss Bill's wonderful spirit that he applied to change an occasional bleak moment into one of joy and harmony. It was also recognized how very grateful we are to Bill for his friendship, splendid service and precious example.

Sunday we continued at 8 a.m. with our trustees' committee meetings which concluded at noon. As we normally do on Board weekends, members of the Board of Trustees met together in executive session during the afternoon. Several reports were heard and discussed including a

very interesting trip report by Bob P, Eastern Canada Region Trustee to the far north on the Ungava Bay Coast in Nunavik, Canada. Leonard Blumenthal Class A Trustee and chair of the General Service Board Native American Committee gave the committee's final report. After discussion, it was decided to mail this report to all Conference members to assist in furthering our work with Native Americans throughout our service structure.

The two Ad Hoc Committees gave interim reports of their progress 1) Ad Hoc Structure Review Committee – reviewing By-laws and Certificates of Incorporation and 2) Board Structure Review Committees (all three Boards) – creating an agenda for future Board discussion and inventory.

Sunday evening the Trustees met for dinner and wonderful fellowship. Monday a.m. was our General Service Board meeting with reports on all our meetings over the weekend and approval of recommendations. We then said our goodbyes with hugs and a strong sense of unity among all board members, new and “older”.

Those of you who attended our Regional Forum in Portland last month may remember Greg M talk about groups being listed, not registered with G.S.O. He again mentioned this and it seems a good time to send a loving reminder for us to communicate this message throughout our Areas as we know it will be a change for many us.

I close with full gratitude for your shining examples of service leadership in your Areas, districts and groups. I continue to enjoy reading your newsletters and messages and it is clear you're your twelve step work is not without a great deal of enthusiasm and love of our fellowship! It will soon be time for me to arrive in your Areas for election assemblies and it will be wonderful seeing you again and joining with you in service and fellowship. Please call anytime – I love hearing from you.

Warmest A.A. Love,

Phyllis

Phyllis H
Pacific Region Trustee

General Service Board Weekend, August 2004

A.A.W.S. Board

A.A.W.S. Board Chair, Ron G opened the meeting followed by Greg's reflections on the life gifts we have received from our dear friend Bill A who recently passed.

New G.S.O. Staff member, Mary D, was introduced and welcomed. She will officially join the staff on August 21, 2004. Staff reported that members of the G.S.O. and Grapevine staff responded to an invitation to participate in the 47th National ICYPAA Conference, May 27-30 in Orlando Florida., It was very successful with 100 attendees joining the Board and staff members in a five-hour General Service Workshop, setup similar to a Special Forum. Responses to the presentations were positive and provoked spirited discussion about General Service.

Financial: Gross sales for the first six months of 2004 were \$6,571,520, approximately 13% greater than budgeted and 15.5% less than during the first six months of last year.

Contributions received during this period of \$2,323,000 were 2.3% less than budgeted and .9 % less than for the same period, last year.

Total revenue for the six-month period was \$5,394,283 or 6.86% greater than budgeted and about 9.5% ahead of last year. For the first six months, we had budgeted approximately \$120,000 more in total revenue than last year.

Total expenses for the period were approximately \$5,745,200, or about \$233,200 more than budgeted and approximately \$530,000 less than the first six months of 2003.

Unaudited net loss for the six months was \$350,934, compared with a budgeted loss of \$464,027 and last year's six-month loss of \$287, 260.

Mid year budget adjustments – The board approved mid-year 2004 budget adjustments which will add \$177,750 to the budget. This amount consisted of two items: \$142,750 needed for Operations and \$35,000 to cover the cost of Phase II of the Computer Software Project.

The Reserve Fund balance for this period is \$8,927,320. The Fund is currently earning approximately 4% and represents approximately 9 months of combined operating expenses.

Publications: Books – Unit distribution for the first six months totaled 1,231,261 units, up 36% from the total same period last year. This jump can be attributed to the rush for Big Books in anticipation of the price restoration effective 7/1/05. Distribution during this period of all Big Book editions was 750,000 units compared to 535,808 in 2003. In June we processed a total of 3,464 orders.

Translations: Five recovery pamphlets were published in Mongolian, two in Simplified Chinese, and five in Swahili. We have approved the Japanese translation of *Daily Reflections* and the A.A.W.S. Board has priced the hardcover Japanese Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous* at our cost of \$34.00. Also approved was Chapter Five of the new Big Book in Greek. We have asked Greece to continue with this project and when completed, they will print and distribute under our license.

Copyright Infringement Cases in Germany: Last week brought welcome news that the attorney who represented us in the copyright infringement matters in Germany told us that the defendant has remitted payment of court costs and attorney fees (approximately \$27,000) as ordered by the German Appeals Court last October. We are grateful to have reached a conclusion in this matter.

The A.A. Grapevine Board

The Grapevine report was given by this year's Chairman, David E. David welcomed two new Board members, non trustee director, Dorothy H and Mike P, N.E. Regional trustee. He noted we have one vacancy on the Corporate Board for non-trustee director. The deadline for application is August 13 and review of applications will begin in September.

Executive Editor's Report: Robin B shared that the A.A. Grapevine, Inc is on sound financial foot at the halfway point this year and is reaching more alcoholics and their friends in print, on the web and on CD. Circulation has inched up to 110,769, only 2000 shy of our goal; subscriptions to the Digital Archive have topped 1,000 in less than a month and La Vina's circulation is 9,202, only 300 issues away from its budgeted goal. In addition, Spiritual Awakenings has brought in twice the income budgeted, selling expenses are lower than budgeted in the absence of an executive editor the first quarter and editorial costs are down because of the vacancy in the senior editor's post.

The launch of the Digital Archive, the publication of a special prison edition of the Grapevine, and the assessment of office operations, fulfillment, customer service, and printing have been the focus of attention at the office during the last quarter. Improving the distribution of the magazine is a top priority and the office has taken several steps to improve it, including mailing the magazines earlier and switching to nonprofit periodical postage which should shave ten days off delivery time. We are also reaching out to the Fellowship through the GvR/RLV network, Central/Intergroup Offices and Regional and Special Forums. Plans are underway to publish a collection of Grapevine articles on the theme "I Am Responsible" for the International Convention and a Spanish-language edition of The Best of Bill, and to expand the website to make the Grapevine more useful to alcoholics and those who help them. Upcoming issues focus on the home group and AA's accessibility to the deaf.

La Vina Editor's Report: Hernan M shared on the work toward improving the La Vina database system to track RLVs and continues its mailings to Hispanic central office and all 1700 Spanish –speaking groups in the US and Canada. Staff is also exploring ways to use the magazine as a CPC tool.

A.A. Grapevine Digital Archives: The long awaited launching was on time and on budget June 1, 2004! As you know, access was free for the month of June and by subscription beginning July 1. By July 26, 1049 people had subscribed – 806 current subscribers and 180 non subscribers and 63 people who wanted access for one month. Visits to the rest of the website have continued to increase an average of 38% a month and we look forward to refining the website and Digital Archive so they can be of even greater service.

Financial For the first six months of 2004, we experienced a loss of \$12,241, in comparison to a budgeted loss of \$61,694, which places us ahead of budget by \$49,453. Circulation averaged 110,769 during this period which is 1,898 lower than budgeted and 2,687 lower than 2002. Gross subscription income was \$842,330, which was \$8,440 lower than budgeted and \$8,800 lower than the same period last year. Gross profit on the magazine of \$583,340, which is \$17,200 lower than budgeted and \$14,710 more than last year.

Other publishing income of \$257,305 is \$30,023 lower than budgeted. With cost of goods and delivery, and gross profit on related items (\$180,338) total gross profit for this period is \$763,679, which is \$12,188 lower than budget and \$67,060 greater than last year.

Total Grapevine expenses were \$801,668, or \$61,919 lower than budgeted. Combined with cash flow and interest income from the Reserve fund of \$25,748, total income was \$789,427, resulting in a net loss of \$12,241 which is \$49,452 ahead of a budgeted loss.

La Vina: For the first six months, La Vina showed a net loss of \$54,009 compared to a budgeted loss of \$56,348. Circulation of 9,202 was 298 copies lower than budgeted, resulting in total magazine income of \$37,034 - - \$4,477 behind budget. Gross profit was \$4,097 or \$5,612 lower than budgeted. Gross profit from sales of La Vina's CD was \$6,923. There was no budget for this since it was a new item. Total gross profit for LaVina and the CD was \$11,020. With editorial costs under budget and circulation, business and administrative expenses practically on budget, the total net loss for this period for La Vina was \$54,009, \$2,339 ahead of the budgeted loss.

Other: The Board thoroughly reviewed the 2004 General Service Conference Advisory Actions pertaining to the sale and distribution of Grapevine publications and reaffirmed its commitment to the recommendations that subscriptions to the magazines be issued only by the AA Grapevine Inc. or by AA trusted servants and that the AA Grapevine, Inc. adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers. The Board also discussed the recommendations to revise the pamphlet "The AA Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print" to include references to La Vina and to designate the AA Grapevine Workbook as service material, to be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Board discussed the sales and distribution of Grapevine publications translated into French as well as the receipt of a Spanish translation of The Home Group and referred both items to the Grapevine's Risk Management committee for further consideration. The Board also discussed the request from the delegate from Area 88 to publish Spiritual Awakenings in French and referred it to Risk Management committee.

Committees of the Board: The chair formed seven committees to serve the Board this year: Nominating, Finance and Budget, Risk Management, Internet Development, La Vina, Board Development, and International Convention and Mini-forum.

Archives

Gary K, SW Regional Trustee is serving as this year's Chair. A proof of the revised July 2004 Archives Workbook, incorporating all revisions suggested by the 2004 Conference Archives Committee was distributed to committee members. The third issue of "Markings" for 2004 is being prepared on the subject "A.A. and Industry". There will be references to Eastman Kodak, Dupont and the development of Employee Assistance Programs in industry. Information about the mailing list for the "Markings" newsletter will be presented at this committee's October meeting.

The last batch of audiotapes is in the hands of the preservation company and expected to be back shortly. The next stage in the preservation project will be video and film preservation, the cost of which is included in the 2004 budget.

Susan U, past staff member, has been listening to CDs for the purpose of excerpting appropriate audio material to incorporate into the 2005 International Convention souvenir book's DVD. She is also working on identifying additional voices of pioneers and early members to be captured on a CD, which will be introduced as a sales item at the International Convention. The Fourth Archives Scrapbook, Second Volume for the year 1944 will also be introduced at the 2005 International Convention.

The revised November 3, 2003 Mission and Purpose statements were posted on our web site in July in English, French and Spanish.

The committee discussed a request for G.S.O. Archives or the trustees' Archives Committee to create a letter for use by local archivists and archives committees when contacting the family of a deceased A.A. member regarding the acquisition of A.A. materials of possible archival value. The committee agreed that creating such a letter, which would need to address a variety of situations, could best be done at the local level. G.S.O. Archives will share local experience and correspondence samples if received.

Conference Committee

Arnold R, General Service trustee serving as Chair of this committee introduced Eva S, Staff Secretary. Eva reported that in accord with a 2000 Conference Agenda Committee additional consideration, she has prepared a letter and form to be sent out in early August to all Conference members to gather suggestions for the Conference theme, presentations and workshop topics for the 55th General Service Conference. This letter also includes a list of Conference themes, 1966-2005.

It was noted that twenty-six (26) Conference Advisory Action of the 54th General Service Conference have been implemented or are in the process of completion; additional considerations are also being addressed and implemented where applicable. The committee discussed the following additional considerations of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

- The committee requested that the trustees' committee on the General Service Conference consider changing the reference to "personal digital assistants" to "*personal digital assistants* (PDAs) with a *keyboard requiring power*" in section Definitions 1 of the "Guidelines for PC Users at the General Service Conference."
- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference consider forwarding a recommendation to the 2005 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions regarding the broader use of self-powered personal digital assistants (PDAs) and/or similar electronic devices with no attachments for note taking at the General Service Conference.

The chair appointed a subcommittee to examine the feasibility and practicality of implementing these two additional considerations and to explore all options. The subcommittee will report to the committee at the October meeting.

The committee discussed the Evaluations Summary and General Service Office Post-Conference Sharing Session Report and made the following suggestions:

- Add the service piece “General Service Area Map” to the Conference Manual.
- Consider adding one additional time slot for the Joint Trustees’ and Conference Committee meetings and examine meeting times.
- Look for ways to improve communication with Conference members on the history and purpose of the Joint Trustees’ and Conference Committee meetings.
- Consider re-labeling the answer options on the Conference Evaluation form.

The electronic distribution of Conference agendas and background material was tabled for discussion in October.

The committee discussed the request that all proposed agenda items (and their source) submitted for inclusion on the General Service Conference Agenda and denied, be compiled. After lengthy discussion on the impact such a list would have on keeping the focus of the Fellowship on those items which are on the Committee agenda, the committee took no action.

Correctional Facilities

Leonard Blumenthal, Class A Trustee chairs this committee, supported by Staff Secretary, Mary Clare L. Mary Clare reported that as of January 1, 2004, the number of inmates waiting for outside A.A. volunteers to correspond via the Corrections Correspondence Service was 195 men and today 200 men and less than 15 women are waiting each week to be linked with outside A.A.s. The Biennial Mailing to over 11,000 Correctional Professionals (which included a copy of the July 2004 special correctional facilities issue of the A.A. Grapevine) was completed in early June and tracking has begun on responses received by Staff and by the Grapevine.

As requested by the 2004 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities, two service pieces describing The A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Program were developed for inclusion as service pieces in the next printing of the C.F. workbook and insertion in the C.F. kit. Also, the Statement on A.A.’s Singleness of Purpose approved by the 2003 General Service Conference will be included in the next reprint of the C.F. Workbook as directed by the 2004 Conference committee on Correctional Facilities.

The committee reviewed the recommendation of the 2004 Conference Committee “that the trustees’ Committee on Correctional Facilities consider including the statement on A.A.’s Singleness of Purpose, which follows, in the pamphlet “A Message to Correctional Professionals”.

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addition 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.”

The committee **agreed to forward** the statement to the 2005 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities for inclusion in the pamphlet “A Message to Correctional Professionals.”

Chris Ch presented the committee with samples for the cover, illustration style, writing style, an outline of the contents, the production schedule and the unedited stories selected for the revised *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*. Draft chapters will be supplied by the Publications Department to the trustees’ committee for their review at their October meeting.

The committee appointed a subcommittee to prepare a report on the feasibility and cost of producing and distributing an informational video featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to corrections personnel. In a response to a request from the 2004 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities, the committee reviewed all sharing gathered to date on workshops and information sessions being conducted by members of the Fellowship to introduce A.A. to correctional personnel. A sub-committee was appointed to determine ways to elicit more specific shared experience from the Fellowship.

The committee's recommendation to change their name from "Trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities" to "**Trustees' Committee on Corrections**" was approved by the General Service Board on August 2, 2004.

The committee requested that the secretary report on options for additional distribution of the July 2004 special correctional facilities issue of the A.A. Grapevine. The report is to include revised list of correctional professionals.

CPC/Treatment

Allen Ault, Class A Trustee is chairing the committee this year and Irene K and Rick W are assigned Staff co- secretaries.

Treatment Facilities

The committee discussed the mailing to Treatment Facilities professionals. Staff will continue to explore options for the mailing, including the possibility of email distribution.

The Changing Landscape of Treatment Facilities": The committee continued discussion on Treatment Facilities committee activities and noted that this was discussed by the 2004 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities. Input has been requested on the scope of T.F. activities around the U.S. and Canada and Irene K will compile this information and have it available as background for the October meeting.

The committee discussed a request from the A.A.W.S. Services Committee for sharing on how G.S.O.s Web site can be of help to our committee. We will view the Web site at the October meeting.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was noted that the summer edition of "About A.A." is now available. We have had our A.A. display at 36 professional events so far this year.

A request was forwarded to the A.A.W.S. Publications Department asking that the C.P.C. kit be made available in a three-ring binder format.

The committee requested that the C.P.C. staff member gather sharing from local committees on ways that they approach professionals, for possible inclusion in the Workbook.

An additional consideration of the 2004 Conference C.P.C. Committee requested "that the trustees' committee on C.P.C. /T.F. review the inclusion of the name of a Class A trustee in the service piece "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous". After discussion, the trustees' committee concluded that in this particular context, it would be more appropriate to replace the name with a description of the professional making the comment.

2004 Exhibits: The committee reviewed with appreciation the list of C.P.C. exhibits by field and year. They offered some suggestions for additional exhibits, including religious and medical conventions.

International Committee

Chair, Murray McI, Trustee at Large Canada, introduced staff secretary Adrienne B. She shared that each day telephone calls and letters from countries around the world via fax, e-mail or “snail mail” comes to the International Desk gather General Service Office e.g. Argentina, Belize, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Finland, France, Ghana, Honduras, India, Israel, Jordan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, panama, Peru, Spain....

The 18th World Service Meeting will be held in New York on October 24-28th and the theme is “One Message – Many Languages – One Fellowship.” Planning for the WSM continues and to date, 48 delegates are planning to attend representing 32 countries. Following the WSM meeting, many of the WSM delegates will attend the General Service Board Weekend of October 30 –November1, 2004 as guests of the Board.

Trip reports:

- Iceland: Greg M attended the 50th Anniversary of A.A. Iceland in Reykjavik, April 9-11, 2004 where over 3,500 A.A.’s family members and friends were present.
- Greece: “Our Primary Purpose” was the theme of the 10th International Convention of Greece. Greg M was joined by A.A. members from 30 countries in Emioni, Greece, May 6-9, 2004. Two representatives from Al-Anon World Services Office and members of the General Service Board of A.A. in Turkey also attended this wonderful event in the country that will host the 2004 Summer Olympics.
- Singapore: Adrienne B attended the First Asia Pacific Institute of Addiction (APIA) held in Singapore, May 30 – June 3rd, 2004. This landmark event brought together faculty from eight nations, and over 400 delegates from 23 nations and 5 continents participated in the institute.
- Thailand: After participating in the 1st APIA, Adrienne B visited Bangkok to meet with member of the Thailand Intergroup, June 3-6, 2004. the intergroup celebrated its first birthday and the new Carrying the Message Committee has established a Thai-speaking and a bilingual meeting at a local hospital that is well attended.
- China: On their return from Mongolia, Murray McI and Greg M met with Mr. Ma, the Manager of the A.A. Office in Beijing on July 15, 2004. There are currently seven A.A. groups in China.
- Columbia: Murray McI and Adrienne B traveled to Barranquilla for the 8th National Convention of Columbia, July 2-5, 2004. Over 1, 200 attendees from Columbia, Mexico, United States, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Costa Rica gathered to celebrate “A.A., A Bridge from Darkness into Light”.
- Mongolia: It was a historic moment when Murray McI and Greg M traveled to Mongolia for the 1st National Convention in Ulan Baatar, July 7-10, 2004. During the 5th Asia Oceania Service Meeting last year, Japan assumed the responsibility of sponsorship and sharing experience, strength and hope with the Mongolian A.A. Board. Subsequently, Noriaki N, General Manager of the Japan Service Office (JSO) in Tokyo, and Isamu S, JSO International staff member, also attended the convention.
- Panama: Adrienne Bn visited Panama City for the 31st AA Convention of Central America and Panama, April 8-10, 2004. Over 1,500 participants were present from each of the countries of Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama) as well as Mexico, the U.S., Venezuela and Columbia.

The committee reviewed the report on A.A.W.S.'s International Sales Policy with appreciation: In keeping with previous office policy/practice that incorporates the principles of cooperation and respect for the autonomy of other General Service structures, the A.A.W.S. Board at their March 19, 2004 meeting, reviewed and approved the following policy:

- When an order is placed by an A.A. group or individual living in a country served by a G.S.O. or central office, A.A.W.S. will refer that group or individual to that local office.
- If the local office does not stock the item(s) ordered, a representative from the General Service Office of the U.S./Canada will contact that office to determine if they would like to fulfill the order.
- If the local service office does not stock or publish the requested A.A. literature, A.A.W.S., will, as it does in fulfilling orders in the U.S./Canada, ship the item(s) upon payment or other arrangements. An appropriate amount of literature will be shipped.

The Committee discussed trustee participation on foreign trips and will review a tentative list of 2005 International trips at their October meeting.

International Conventions/ Regional Forums

Regional Forums: Phyllis H, Pacific Region trustee chairs this committee and Warren S and Doug R are assigned Co-secretaries.

After the Committee reviewed the 2004 Conference Committee report, Warren S, on the Regional Forums assignment, was asked to follow-up on several suggested ideas for providing a token souvenir for forum attendees such as forum specific badge holders.

Four Special Forums, submitted during 2004 Conference week, were recommended by the committee and approved by the General Service Board:

- **2006:** Mundelein, IL (Spanish) and in our Pacific Region: Coachella Valley, CA (Native American).
- **2007:** Yellowknife NW Territories (Remote) and Rimouski, Quebec (Remote).

Questionnaires for the Western Canada Regional Forum and the Special Forum in Goose Bay, Labrador/New Foundland were reviewed and the schedule for forums in 2004 and 2005 were confirmed. (The date change for the Special Forum in Alaska is now August 19-22.)

International Conventions: The committee reviewed the suggested Non-AA speakers list from which 21 individuals will be invited to attend the 2005 International Convention. After hearing a presentation on the MP3 download capability, the committee had no objection to its use and as additional means for people to purchase audio versions of speakers at the 2005 International Convention.

After discussion, the committee recommended that A.A. accept the invitation to participate in Al-Anon's 4th International Convention to be held July 4-6, 2008 in Pittsburgh, PA in a similar fashion (three –four staff) to A.A. participation in Al-Anon's 3rd International Convention held in 1998 Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Literature Committee

Mike P, Northeast Regional trustee is the new chair of this committee with Eva Sanchez as Staff Secretary. Eva reported that a May activity report was mailed to 599 literature chairs that included highlights of the 54th General Service Conference pertinent to Literature, list of 51

languages that the Big Book has been translated into, and information on new translations of A.A. literature. She also reported that in light of the development of the Third Edition Spanish-Language Big Book and solicitation of stories and availability of new formats of existing literature in Spanish, communication with Spanish-language Literature chairs is important. In preparation for a mailing to all Spanish DCMs regarding information on listing Literature Committee chairs for districts, central offices/intergroups and groups, staff sent a mailing in May to all 93 delegates requesting that they identify the Spanish-language districts in their respective areas. Based on the response, on July 7th, the literature desk was able to send a mailing pertaining to Literature Committee chairs to the 39 Spanish-speaking DCMs and 60 Spanish central/Intergroup offices currently listed with G.S.O. – Thank you!

The 2004 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations were reviewed. Chris C reported that the Advisory Action pertaining to restoring the punctuation in “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare” in the Fourth Edition as it appears in the Third Edition of the Big Book , *Alcoholics Anonymous*, will be completed by February 2005 [Hardcover Big Book is completed; soft-cover in November 2004; pocket version in February 2005]. The Advisory Action pertaining to revisions on page 11 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” will be completed November 2004.

2004 Advisory Actions

The committee discussed rewriting the pamphlet “Too Young” with changes to layout and style as determined by Publication, targeting the ages 11-17. Publication director, Chris C, reported that the Publication Dept. is preparing a revised draft pamphlet to present to the committee prior to the October 2004 meeting.

“Young People and A.A.” The committee discussed the Advisory Action “that the Publication Department update and shorten existing stories, wherever appropriate, in the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”, and that the trustees’ Literature Committee add new younger age stories solicited from the Fellowship to reflect current experience and present the revised draft pamphlet or a progress report to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee.” Chris C reported that the Publication Dept. will begin working on updating and shortening existing stories. The committee requested that the staff secretary send a memo to all General Service Conference members soliciting stories from young people with a deadline date of January 1, 2005. The chair appointed a sub-committee to select stories for possible inclusion in the pamphlet and present a progress report at the October 2004 meeting.

Spanish-language Big Book The committee reviewed the Advisory Action pertaining to the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos*. The committee requested that the secretary send a memo soliciting Spanish stories to all Conference members, Spanish language District DCM’s, Spanish Literature Committee chairs, all central offices and intergroups listed in the U.S. and Canada, and Spanish –language country G.S.O’s. The deadline date for submissions is September 1, 2005.

As outlined in the Advisory Action on the Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book, the chair of the trustees’ Literature Committee appointed a sub-committee from members of the Fellowship to select stories. The committee requested that the staff secretary send a solicitation memorandum to all Conference members requesting resumes from members available to serve on the Spanish story selection subcommittee. The deadline date for submissions will be November 1, 2004. [Note: The following criteria will be used in the selection of the subcommittee members: must be an A.A. member; have a minimum of five years of sobriety; proficiency in Spanish; written and verbal; available to travel to New York for some subcommittee meetings; and bilingual.] The trustees’ Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book

subcommittee will remain in place and the staff secretary will prepare a progress report for the October meeting.

“Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” The committee discussed broadening the section titled “service sponsorship” on page 28 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to reflect current shared experience and requested that the Publication Dept. prepare a draft of the section to present to the committee prior to their October meeting.

2004 Additional Considerations

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions The committee discussed: “that the Publications Department rewrite the draft introduction to be added to the front matter of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, as recommended by the 2003 General Service Conference, taking into consideration suggestions from the committee, and present it to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee following review by the trustees’ Literature Committee.” The committee requested that the Publication Dept. rewrite the draft introduction taking into consideration the suggestions from the Conference Committee and present it to the committee prior to their October meeting.

“It Happened to Alice!” The committee discussed the consideration that the Publications Department presents a storyboard draft to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee for consideration following review by the trustees’ Literature Committee. Publications is preparing a storyboard draft and will present it to the committee prior to October.

“Your A.A. General Service Office” The committee discussed: “The committee considered the requested revisions to the pamphlet “You’re A.A. General Service Office” pertaining to the A.A. Grapevine and La Vina and requested that the trustees’ Literature Committee, in consultation with the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board review the section titled “The A.A. Grapevine” for the revisions to reflect current practices and accuracy, and present a revised draft of the section to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee.” The committee requested that Publications prepare a draft of the section, taking into consideration the suggestions from the 2004 Conference Literature Committee, and present it to the committee prior to their October meeting.

Mike P gave a progress report on the subcommittee’s review of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet per the 2003 Advisory Action that the trustees’ Literature Committee initiate a comprehensive review of the pamphlet. Mike reported that the Publication Department is preparing a draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet based on the subcommittee’s comprehensive review and suggestions received from the Fellowship by the January, 2004 deadline. The draft pamphlet will be reviewed by the subcommittee prior to forwarding it to the committee in October.

The committee considered the suggestion to revise the two pamphlets “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic” and “Too Young” and took no action. They noted that changes to the pamphlet “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic” cannot be made because the text is reprinted with permission from GOOD HOUSEKEEPING, copyright 1954, which is noted on page 3 in the existing pamphlet. In addition, the committee noted that the “Too Young” pamphlet is current being revised per the 2004 Advisory Action.

The committee discussed a member’s request to “consider concerns regarding changes to the Foreword to the Second Edition of the Big Book found in the following editions and printings of the Big Book” and requested that the staff secretary research the changes and report back to the committee prior to the October 2004 meeting for further discussion.

The committee reviewed a draft for a newcomer brochure that was submitted by a local group and took no action. The committee noted that there is no widely expressed need for an additional

pamphlet for newcomers and there already exists a Conference approved pamphlet “A Newcomer Asks”.

Nominating Committee

Serving as this year’s chair is John K, General Service trustee. Staff secretary is Warren S. The committee reviewed the rotation schedule of trustees of the General Service Board and noted the timelines regarding the searches for upcoming positions.

This year we are completing our search for a new Chairperson of the Board as Elaine McD will be rotating after our next Conference (2005). The committee took great care in reviewing resumes from those past Class A trustees that had responded to invitations sent after 2004 Conference. From those expressing interested, three were selected to bring in for interviews during the October Board meeting. Other positions to be filled by Conference 2005 are Trustee-at-Large U.S. As delegates, you will be receiving information before your fall assembly during which you will elect your area’s candidate. Two regional trustees will be elected in 2005, S.E. Region and E. Central Region. Along with two new non-trustee directors, one on A.A.W.S. and the other on A.A. Grapevine, two General Service Trustees will be selected. So there is much activity and excitement for this years committee work.

The committee reviewed a suggested topic from an area for consideration during the 2005 General Service Conference, as follows:

“That the qualifications for Regional Trustee and non trustee Directors be updated to include the following: That an Appointed Committee Member not be eligible as a Regional Trustee or non trustee Director candidate until one year after his or her last service as an Appointed Committee Member.”

A subcommittee was appointed to look further into this request and to report back to the committee at its October 30, 2004 meeting.

Public Information

Bob P, Eastern Canada Regional trustee serves as chair of this committee. Gayle R, Staff Secretary gave a brief review of staff activities since January which included an update on the progress of the 2004 AA Membership Survey and the 2004 distribution schedule for the public service announcement (P.S.A.) – “We Know What It’s Like”. Following a recommendation by the 2004 General Service Conference, the CD of radio P.S.A.s with the new tagline, (“Look us up. Check your phone book, newspaper, or aa.org”) in English, French and Spanish will be available in September.

11.

The committee reviewed the report of the 2004 Conference Committee on P.I., including the requests that the trustees’ committee consider re-filming the first segment of the television P.S.A. “Living in Chaos”, and the recommendation that the A.A.W.S. Board submit quarterly and annual reports to the trustees’ P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site activity.

Television P.S.A.: In response to the 2004 Conference Committee request that the first segment of “Living in Chaos” be re-filmed and the amended version be forwarded to the 2005 Conference P.I. Committee, the committee agreed that the secretary would follow through with having specific editing changes made to the existing tape, not to exceed \$10,000. These changes would address specific objections that were received in response to the current version of the P.S.A. The edited P.S.A. will be brought back to the October meeting and, if approved by the trustees’ committee, will be shared with the Conference Public Information Committee.

Tracking and Evaluation for Television P.S.A.s The committee viewed with appreciation the New English language station in the U.S. to receive the television P.S.A. and the Canadian English language stations where P.S.A. play can now be tracked. The committee also noted the correctly dubbed French language P.S.A. will be redistributed in Quebec and Ontario, Canada. Efforts will continue to get all tracking information into the hands of local P.I. committees to follow through with contacting the stations in their areas. Local committees will also be encouraged to write thank you letters to all those stations who have given airtime to our P.S.A.s.

The Quarterly report from A.A.W.S. on oversight of G.S.O.'s A.A. web site was reviewed by the committee.

Video(s) for Young People in A.A. A sub-committee was appointed to respond to the request by the 2004 Conference Committee on P.I that the committee submit a report to the 2005 Conference Committee which includes feasibility, costs and timelines for updating/replacing the two videos "A.A. –Rap with Us" and "Young People in A.A.".

Radio PSA Spot Responding to another request by the 2004 Conference Committee on P.I. to review the radio PSA "Teenager" regarding the sentence "I started drinking and taking pills" in relation to the spirit of our singleness of purpose, this item will be tabled until the October meeting. The committee also tabled the updated proposal for an A.A. toll free office locator service until October to review additional information that has become available.

Updated Proposal for A.A. Toll Free Office Locator Service: The committee voted to table this item until the October meeting to review additional information that has recently become available.

Request for Service Piece for P.I. Kit In January, the committee considered the request to make the article "The A.A. Program – Spiritual but Never Religious" from the fall 2003 edition of *About A.A.* into service material for inclusion in the P.I. workbook. The matter was revisited with sharing from G.S.O. staff regarding the value of adding this piece into the Workbook or including it in some other fashion, and the committee voted to table discussion until October.