

## COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

### Agenda

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request that the total number of presentation/discussions at the Conference be limited to no more than six and took no action. Noting that the number of presentations has fluctuated over Conferences, the committee did not want to impose this limitation on future Conferences. The committee also acknowledged that areas and regions have autonomy in how and whether they use the presentation topics locally.
- The committee considered a request that for 2018, presentation/discussion topics not be placed on the Conference Week schedule and took no action, agreeing that the presentation topics selected for 2018 were important for discussion at the Conference.
- The committee reviewed the summary of the 2016 General Service Conference evaluations. The committee expressed concern about the ability to make useful decisions for improvement of the Conference because the sample size of respondents is low. The committee agreed to emphasize strongly that all Conference members have an obligation to fill out the Conference Evaluation Form.
- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, and encouraged efforts to make the evaluation available in more user-friendly formats, such as a fillable PDF. The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference modify the questions regarding presentations to focus more on the value of presentations as part of the Conference Week Schedule and the presentation topics, and less on evaluating the presentation or the presenter.
- The committee discussed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference. Committee members expressed appreciation for the additional communication and larger role for area delegate members of the Conference members in the selection of Agenda Items. The committee requested that information on the implementation and effectiveness of the plan be gathered from the 2018 Conference committee chairs and included in a report for the 2018 Conference Agenda Committee. The committee also encouraged the General Service Board to continue looking for ways to enhance the role of delegates in the Agenda item selection process.
- The committee expressed appreciation for the posting and updating of the grid of proposed Conference agenda items on the dashboard.
- The committee requested that the grid, updated to show the disposition of items by the trustees' committees, and the list of items that had not been forwarded to a Conference committee, be posted to the dashboard as soon as possible following

the January Board Weekend.

- The committee considered a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action, noting that the committee already has this prerogative.

### **Archives**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and suggested that the "Shared Experiences" section be refreshed with new stories from local archivists.
- The committee suggested that a section be added to the "Archives and History" portal of the G.S.O. website, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), to include any updates from G.S.O. Archives at the discretion of the Archivist.

### **Cooperation with the Professional Community**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed development of a LinkedIn page for Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) committees and requested that the Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities continue to explore establishing a presence on LinkedIn as a tool for C.P.C. efforts. The committee requested that the trustees develop a full report that includes a complete exploration of all aspects of this social media tool as outlined in the minutes of the September 16, 2016 conference call of the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities subcommittee, and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide an implementation plan to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community that addresses the overall implications of such a presence, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance.

The committee further requested that the trustees' report address the following items:

- Clarify what type of presence, for example, a "company" page for A.A. and/or some type of page for C.P.C. committees, would be the most effective C.P.C. tool(s).
- Determine if LinkedIn is the optimal platform for area and district committee nonpublic group page(s) to interact with each other.
- Clarify how "messaging" works for the type(s) of presence suggested.
- Explore premium options and the associated costs.

- Determine how to reach non-followers, and how to get “followers.”
  - Fully explore the Traditions issues presented by LinkedIn actions including “endorsements,” “followers,” “comments” and “pushing sponsored links” and determine if these actions can be accomplished within the Twelve Traditions.
  - Determine whether or not comments can be disabled or blocked and if not, the feasibility of effectively moderating comments.
  - Explore if and how the Fellowship and/or C.P.C. committees might be asked to interact with the LinkedIn page.
- The committee discussed ways of improving communication about A.A. with professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services and suggested that:

The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop materials to aid and encourage C.P.C. committees to reach out to professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services.

The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities update the C.P.C. Workbook to include information about carrying the A.A. message to professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services. The committee suggested that updates to the C.P.C. Workbook include, but not be limited to, adding one or more bullet points to the section, “Suggested C.P.C. Committee Goals and Projects” (page 19-20) as well as adding experience with military professionals to the section, “Shared Experience for One-On-One C.P.C. Contact with Professionals” (page 25). The committee also suggested sample guide letters be developed which address military command personnel, chaplains, and veterans’ affairs, medical and/or counseling centers.

- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestion:

That the sample guide letters to various professionals in the C.P.C. Workbook be reviewed and updated to insure that the language used is current and relevant to the professionals to whom they are addressed.

## **Corrections**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that the Corrections coordinator at G.S.O. work with the trustees’ Committee on Corrections to create a letter to be sent to corrections professionals in Canada raising awareness about the Corrections Correspondence

Service (CCS) in Canada and summarizing its benefits.

- The committee discussed progress made on the implementation of the CCS in Canada and noted the benefits of having an appointed committee member from Canada on the trustees' Committee on Corrections.
- The committee discussed several possibilities for reducing the initial postage cost for "inside" Canadian members to sign up for the CCS, including providing postage-paid envelopes and forwarding mail to the General Service Office from a Canadian P.O. Box. The committee asked the trustees' Committee on Corrections to research other options that could encourage more "inside" Canadian members to consider utilizing the CCS.
- The committee suggested that the Corrections coordinator at G.S.O. send quarterly updates to area delegates and area Corrections chairs about the status of the CCS and the current need for volunteers.
- The committee suggested adding the CCS form for "inside" members to the corrections committee page on G.S.O.'s A.A. website, in order to make it more accessible to corrections committee members.
- The committee discussed the benefits of Corrections Correspondence by email for "inside" and "outside" members. The committee suggested the General Service Office corrections coordinator explore ways to offer "inside" and "outside" members the option of participating in the CCS via email when possible.
- The committee discussed carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People and agreed that local committees were best able to handle this important work. To aid in carrying the message, the committee suggested adding the pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality" to the Corrections Kit and to the Corrections Group Handbook.
- The committee noted that some incarcerated French and Spanish members found it difficult to follow the subtitles in the video "A New Freedom." The committee requested that A.A.W.S. produce versions that are dubbed in French and Spanish to make the A.A. message more accessible.
- The committee suggested that a service piece be developed to accompany the video "A New Freedom."

## **Finance**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and agreed that this was an appropriate amount at this time.

- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and suggested that the Self-Support Packet revert to the previous Self-Support Packet holder with the slot; put back the group registration card; and include only: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” pamphlet, “The A.A. Group Treasurer” pamphlet, A.A. Guidelines on Finance, Your Seventh Tradition Contributions flyer, Self-Support Card and a Birthday Plan envelope.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee develop a list of Conference-approved literature where the language to be added to “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” could also appear and report back to the Conference Finance Committee in 2018.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Finance Committee consider utilizing the Fellowship New Vision database to provide regular communication to the Fellowship about the spiritual message of Seventh Tradition contributions and the role they play in carrying A.A.’s message, being certain not to convey a solicitation of funds.
- The committee requested that the General Service Office (G.S.O.) consider adding the recurring contributions information to the area quarterly contributions report.
- The committee requested the G.S.O. consider research on how A.A. might utilize an app to further increase carrying the message of recovery and self-support.
- The committee requested that Publishing rework “The A.A. Group Treasurer” service piece to focus on online and recurring contributions.
- The committee requested that Publishing add language regarding online and recurring contributions to all appropriate service pieces as timely as possible and report changes made to the 2018 Conference Finance Committee.
- The committee requested that Publishing simplify the Self-Support Card, basing it on the 2006 Conference Finance Committee’s consideration as an example:

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

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

- The committee requested the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee develop a list of Conference-approved literature where adding language regarding online and recurring contributions is appropriate and report back to the 2018 Conference Finance Committee.

## Grapevine

### Committee Considerations

- The committee discussed the spiritual value of Grapevine and La Viña in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and agreed that the magazines are important Twelve Step tools, noting that they serve as a beacon of hope for alcoholics in treatment centers and prisons and alcoholics all over the world. The committee recognized that Grapevine and La Viña cannot accept contributions and are self-supporting only through subscriptions and sales of books and other items.
- The committee reconsidered the 2010 Conference Advisory Action regarding La Viña and took no action.
- The committee considered the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on outside sales and suggested that the Grapevine Board create a plan for outside sales of subscriptions, books and other items and report back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine.
- The committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an Instagram account and requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Facebook page and requested AA Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Google for Nonprofits account and requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The committee discussed ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Viña and suggested that all delegates consider it a part of their responsibility to inform the Fellowship about Grapevine and La Viña as tools of sobriety, either through their own efforts or by recruiting others through email and area websites.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2018 or later:
  1. *Stories of Recovery from Hispanic Women in AA* (working title). Previously published in LV magazine, a selection of stories written by the Hispanic women in A.A., sharing their experience.
  2. *Writing Together: Stories from LV Workshops* (working title). Hispanic A.A. members share their experience, strength and hope in stories extracted from LV magazine.

3. *Carrying the Message to the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers* (working title). A collection of LV stories about carrying the message into institutions.

- The committee reviewed the 2017 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy with appreciation and made the following requests:

That an update status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and a more definitive plan for the future be provided to the 2018 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.

- The committee reviewed the Grapevine workbook with appreciation and made the following suggestions:

Review the section Links to Other Sites for additional clarity.  
Update A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s location.

### **International Conventions/Regional Forums**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees, and suggested:
  - Communicating information to groups that are a car ride or day trip away from the Forum site;
  - Looking for attractive sites for Forums;
  - Forwarding any and all announcements from G.S.O., including when pre-registration opens;
  - Considering forwarding announcements to states which are in other regions when Forum sites are nearby;
  - Utilizing FNV for email blasts to communicate with trusted servants about upcoming Forums.

Additionally, one area through its Assembly Development Committee organizes ride sharing and room sharing for Forums; and one delegate shared that they bring a laptop to A.A. gatherings and use it for pre-registration.

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2030 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.
- The committee considered a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.

## Literature

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet “Too Young?” and took no action. The committee noted that there was not a widely expressed desire within the Fellowship to retire the pamphlet.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of “A.A. for the Woman” and offered additional suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of “Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic” (formerly “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”) and offered additional suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft copy or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed draft sample illustrations and corresponding revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee consider adding information related to safety to the pamphlets “A Brief Guide to A.A.” and “Understanding Anonymity.”
- The committee considered requests for the development of new literature regarding safety in A.A. and took no action. The committee agreed that shared experience regarding safety and A.A. would be best conveyed by revising existing literature, where appropriate. The committee also agreed that the new service piece, “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare,” has been found helpful in providing experience



from groups and members on challenges, resources and possible solutions in situations that may involve the safety of groups or individual members.

- The committee considered a request to add a section “Why A.A. groups and members should respect the rental requirements of their landlords” to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” and took no action. The committee agreed that an A.A. group’s relationship with their landlord falls within the autonomy of the group.

### **Policy/Admissions**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to allow regional service committees to bid to host the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee considered a request that the Advisory Action delegating site selection for the General Service Conference to G.S.O. management be rescinded and took no action.
- The committee discussed a request to add a “YPAA Subcommittee” to the service structure and took no action. The committee recognized that YPAAs are A.A. entities comprised of members of Alcoholics Anonymous and encourage young people to continue their participation at all levels of service.
- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.

### **Public Information**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2016 annual reports from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan and accepted the 2017 Public Information Comprehensive Media plan.

After reviewing the report on Carrying the Message Online and on Social Media, the committee requested that the trustees’ committee continue to develop their ideas on the use of quick response (QR) codes; a video on anonymity and the Internet; and a daily text message.

The committee suggested the development of service material to address frequently asked questions regarding anonymity and a wallet card or bookmark addressing anonymity online and in social media.

The committee reviewed the trustees' committee suggestions regarding service materials with appreciation. The committee agreed that the service piece "Anonymity Online" was still a valuable resource and supports its continued availability.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the public service announcement "I Have Hope."
- After reviewing the trustees' Committee on Public Information's report on a Google Implementation Plan the committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information continue to research the feasibility of A.A.W.S. using Google AdWords and Google Grants and bring a report to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Implementation of a Twitter account and took no action owing to the Tenth Tradition's direction to avoid public controversy and concerns regarding the viability and modernity of Twitter. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information continue to pursue options for carrying the A.A. message to the public on social media.
- The committee reviewed the revised text for inclusion in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" and suggested that the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" be updated to include revised text regarding the source of information identifying one-third of A.A. members as women and adding website information as needed.
- The committee consider a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and, seeing no need, took no action.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook, and agreed that the current materials are adequately serving the needs of local P.I. Committees.

### **Report and Charter**

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2018-2020 Edition and the 2017 *Final Conference Report*.
- The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and accepted the updates.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service*

*Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed the updates from the General Service Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions. *Note: The committee suggested that the General Service Board reconsider a change that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.*

- The committee considered a request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action. The committee noted that the current procedure under Procedure 4 currently reflects the meeting and communication needs of the committee.
- The committee discussed the A.A. Directories and noted there were no requests for changes at this time.
- The committee considered a request that a summary of changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published and took no action. The committee noted that the biennial publishing process is still in its infancy and substantive changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* can be found in the *Final Conference Report* and the Report and Charter Conference Committee's History and Highlights of Actions.
- The committee discussed the complexities involved in a biennial production of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The committee requested that the General Service Office consider developing a plan with a revised editorial review process for *The A.A. Service Manual* to be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The committee requested that the report include additional information with suggestions on how changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* in non-printing years could be reported to the Fellowship.
- The committee considered a request that a footnote be added to *The A.A. Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service* in Concept VIII to reflect accurately the current ownership of the service corporations as is reflected in Footnote 3, Concept XI. The committee suggested that this footnote be added to Concept VIII for consistency. The committee also suggested that the year A.A.W.S., Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. became membership corporations in the state of New York be added to both footnotes.

### **Treatment and Accessibilities**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered the request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and took no action.
- The committee suggested that the Conference-approved pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers" be removed from the Treatment Service Kit.

- The committee suggested that staff review and revise service material in the Treatment Service Kit.
- The committee suggested that the title, menu and introduction to the DVD and CD currently titled “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” be revised to “Accessibility for All Alcoholics.” The committee suggested that the DVD be available with subtitles in French and Spanish.
- The committee discussed ways of incorporating shared experience in carrying the A.A. message with members of the Armed Services. The committee suggested that Remote Communities committees encourage A.A. members carrying A.A.’s message within the context of military life to share their experience, strength and hope including at the pre-Conference Remote Communities meeting.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities forward the pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services,” to the Publishing Department for translation into French and Spanish, and to add the pamphlet to the Accessibilities Kit.
- The committee requested that the General Service Office continue to explore strategies to provide more effective services to alcoholics who are veterans and active members of the Armed Services and provide a progress report to the 2018 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

## **Trustees**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for East Central Regional trustee, Southeast Regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S.
- The committee discussed the voting procedures for electing trustee-at-large/U.S. and a request to consider the need to restructure the number of regions and number of regional trustees serving on the General Service Board. After thoughtful discussion, the committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Nominating review all available historical information and the current regional geographical structure and, if changes are needed, provide all options for restructuring to be considered. The committee requested that the committee’s review include consideration of each regional trustees’ ability to effectively serve his or her areas; consideration of geographical factors and whether an equal or similar number of areas per region is desirable; as well as feasibility and cost analysis, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees.

###