



The 69th General Service Conference

Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages

Report Back – Area 93

Hello everyone and welcome. My name is Jeff and I'm an alcoholic. I am also blessed to have the honor of representing Area 93 as their Panel 69 Delegate. I'd like to thank you for attending today and for your service to Area 93 and A.A.

I am about to embark on reporting to you the facts, the feelings and the spirit that were my experience of attending the 69th General Service Conference, May 19th through 25th in New York. The sense of duty I feel; I have to say is a bit overwhelming. What a tremendous responsibility I've been given. I will do my best to convey my experience to you. I'd also like to thank you all for the wonderful job you did in preparing me for the 69th General Service Conference, Our Big Book – 80 years, 71 languages at our pre-conference workshop in March and with your responses to the Opinion Poll. I certainly brought your collective conscience with me and that conscience was part of my decision making process at the conference.

What you have been looking at (during lunch) are some the images of my trip. My wife and I arrived in New York on Friday morning May 17th. We spent Friday and part of Saturday doing a lot of walking around Manhattan. The pictures show Hudson Yard and the Vessel sculpture. One of our goals was to walk to the top and we did. An entire mile of walking. There were also pictures of our Circle Line cruise which the Pacific Region took together on Saturday morning. It circumnavigated Manhattan Island. There were pictures of the General Service Office and numerous other items I experienced on my trip. Some of these pictures you will see again as part of my report back.

Speaking of which lets get started.

Slide 1

I want to begin by saying thank you again! For this experience. For your help in preparing me and for your service. The work you did in studying the background material, giving your presentations at the workshop, your opinions and your ideas were invaluable. I want you to know that you were with me every step of the way on this journey!

Slide 2

How many GSRs here are attending their very first assembly (service event)? Welcome! If you have any questions or comments during (or even after) my presentation, please don't hesitate to ask. As Bill W. said, "The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representatives the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the GSR's importance."

Slide 3

Bill W.'s vision for our service structure laid out in our service manual plays a vital role in keeping us united so we can continue to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We lovingly call that structure the upside-down triangle. Where every member has a voice! As your delegate I have been given the privilege of carrying yours to the Conference and then reporting back to you what took place.

Slide 4

"Why Do We Need A Conference?" From the late Bernard B. Smith Class A Trustee : *"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism..."* After all, isn't that why we're all here? To carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Slide 5

The makeup of this year's conference has 93 Delegates from the US and Canada, 15 GSO and Grapevine Staff members, 21 Trustees, and 6 Directors for a total of 135 voting members.

Slide 6

We came from all over the US and Canada to do what Bill had envisioned with his 'experiment' beginning 69 years ago...I think he would be proud!

Slide 7

The official start of the conference was Sunday morning at 10:30am with Michele Grinberg, chair of the General Service Board welcoming us to the 69th Annual General Service Conference: Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages! This was my first spiritual moment. Realization of where I was and what I was about to become part of. Then Greg T., general manager, General Service Office, conducted the roll call. The roll call was another powerful reminder and was emotional for me. Each conference member standing up to announce who they are, their position, and for the Delegates, what Area they represent. It was surprisingly easy for me when it came my turn. Maybe the whole environment and atmosphere had not thoroughly hit me yet.

Slide 8

We then broke for our Regional Lunches and all of the Pacific Region Delegates got to meet with our new Pacific Regional Trustee, Kathi F. It was like a reunion coming off of PRAASA just a short 11 weeks prior.

Slide 9

After lunch, we reconvened in the main hall and the new Panel 69 Delegates began their Area Service Highlight presentations. They are done by region. The Northeast Region was up first. Fortunately, the Pacific Region was not until Monday afternoon so I got to listen to a number of presentations before it was my turn to present. I'm so glad we rehearse the presentation at our February Assembly and again at PRAASA. When I was up on stage with the rest of the Pacific Region Panel 69 Delegates, it was actually much more comfortable than I expected. Yes, the entire General Service Conference was staring at me, but it occurred to me, these are A.A. trusted servants just like me. This was another moment I will never forget.

Slide 10

Then we then had a couple of wonderful presentations around the topic of A.A. International. The picture you are looking at has our Big Book in 57 languages. Newton P., trustee-at-large/U.S. gave us the history of the World Service Meeting called "The 1969 Project" and Scott H., trustee-at-large/Canada, shared with us about the 25th World Service Meeting (or as he liked to say, "The World of A.A. Services did a 12th step call in Durban, South Africa"). There are 72 delegates from 45 countries in attendance. There were two first time attendees this year; one from Bolivia and one from Turkey. There were also two delegates from Iran and two from Cuba! He mentioned that in some countries, they have government employees or spies in their meetings. We are so blessed here in the US to be able to freely share at meetings without worry. This should never be taken for granted.

Slide 11

Next, were our Joint Trustee and Conference Committee meetings. Our chair, Don S., Area 48, New York and Christine C. (Class A Trustee), Chairperson for the Trustees' Committee on Corrections, opened the meeting with introductions, Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure, the History of the Conference Committee and a report from the Trustees' Committee. Each committee is assigned a secretary, who is a GSO Staff member and is also a voting member of the conference. We were extremely fortunate and blessed to have Julio E. as our secretary! The Conference Committee met twice more; Monday, May 20 from 9:00am – noon and Tuesday, May 21 from 9:00am – 11:45am. During this time, we reviewed the agenda

items thoroughly. Discussed, debated, and then voted on each. We then closed out our committee session with the Responsibility Declaration.

Slide 12

We viewed a Finance Presentation called “Around the Picnic Table” given by our General Service Board treasurer, David Morris. He is amazing with numbers! What a blessing to have him as one our GSO staff. I will go through some of the numbers he presented to us, but I’ll keep it limited. If anyone is interested in his entire presentation I’d be glad to get it to you; it’s 140 slides!

He shared with us that there was substantial growth in online contributions. Rising from \$86,000 in 2010 to \$880,311 in 2018!

He detailed the 2018 direct costs of each of the eight categories included in major functional service activity entitled “Group Services” of \$2,235,265. The 2018 amounts were essentially even with those of prior years. Each year, they receive a large number of questions about the cost of processing our Seventh Tradition contributions. The direct cost is \$679,383, which includes the people, who receive the contributions in the mail, process, and then send out thank you replies for the 82,229 individual contributions received, nearly 320 per day, with 89.4% being received in the mail.

He also shared that 30% of the budget is spent on staffing 5 people to process the contributions. 4 of them are for processing snail mail and 1 for the online. He asked us to keep in mind that most contribution need some research for verification, group #, individual contribution etc. Often times all the correct info is not given so they must track it down. Anyone who has been responsible for processing group contributions would be familiar with this issue. I know I am from my time as Area Treasurer.

Slide 13

So here is a brief summary of some of the other numbers for those interested:

- 7th Tradition of self-support contributions were \$8,385,009, down 0.3% from 2017
- Cost of services provided to the Fellowship were \$11,426,835, up \$1,204,185, or 11.8%, from 2017. Note, I circled this number as we will see its impact later.
- Shortfall between our 7th Tradition and cost of services provided was \$3,041,826, or 73.4%, compared to \$1,813,178, or 82.3%, in 2017
- AAWS publishing profit of \$3,436,507 covered shortfall between our 7th Tradition and cost of services. resulting in a profit of \$394,681
- Grapevine subscription levels declined in 2018. GV had a loss of \$149,167, primarily due to severance payments.
- General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$148,467, compared to \$126,440 in 2017
- Reserve Fund was \$15,935,331, resulting in a ratio of 9.7 months, compared to 9.5 months in 2017.

Slide 14

These are the costs of member services and the amount of contributions needed to be self-supporting. Remember the 11.4 million from the previous slide.

Per person it is \$8.06, or 11.4 million divided by 1.4 million members (last year it was \$7.40).
Per group it is \$166.87 (last year it was \$152.90).

Only 28,353 groups, or 41.3%, actually contributed towards the 7th Tradition. This equates to an average amount of \$237.35 per group. Considerably higher than the amount per group if calculated directly from the total number of groups.

Slide 15

This is information many of us have seen before in prior years. It's the effects of how inflation has diminished the value or purchasing power of one dollar since the very first days of A.A. through today. It shows that \$1.00 in June 1935 is now equivalent to \$18.55 in 2019, regardless of what that 1935 dollar was spent on, whether it went for alcohol, coffee or put into the 7th Tradition Self-Support basket. Something we should all keep in mind when deciding upon your 7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions. We are Responsible...

Slide 16

Next we heard from Cate W., chair, AA Grapevine Board. In addition to publishing the 12 Grapevine and 6 La Vina Magazines, delivering 365 Daily GV and 52 Weekly LV quotes, two new compilations were published: "One Big Tent", which has been extremely popular with the Fellowship and "AA in the Military". Also, the book "*One on One*" was translated into Spanish and the book "*Emotional Sobriety*" into French.

If you will remember, at the 2018 Conference there was an advisory action to publish La Viña in full color. The first issue in full color was published in September and has been a real hit.

Also, in response to an advisory action from the 2018 Conference and with the cooperation of AAWS, AA Grapevine has initiated efforts into outside sales. AAWS customers have been contacted by AA Grapevine and informed of the availability for purchase of AA Grapevine books and related products and the first sales have started to come in from this initiative.

As a result of interest from the Fellowship, a decision has been made to translate the "*Grapevine Daily Quote Book*" into Spanish and French. At the same time a review of our translation policies was undertaken, making it easier to request and receive translations of Grapevine materials into Spanish and French.

In September AA Grapevine launched a Fellowship Feedback project both in English and Spanish, to find out the desires of the Fellowship. Over 4,000 responses were received, from both subscribers and non-subscribers. This valuable input will help guide AA Grapevine Inc. in their determination of future direction.

Slide 17

A NEW soft cover book!!! Jokes from the A.A. Grapevine! We received a copy prior to this presentation.

Slide 18

And now some information we received about AA World Services and the General Service Office. Here are some amazing things that are being done with your contributions to the General Service Board.

Day-to-Day Work

- 1,641 new groups listed
- Website received 15 million+ hits
 - Responded to 431 emails regarding the website
- Answered almost 100K emails and phone calls
- Coordinated more than 30 national CPC conferences
- Answered 1,600 requests for information from Archives
- Welcomed over 3,000 visitors to the office

Publishing Activity

- Completion of the Navajo translation of *Alcoholics Anonymous*
- 21 translations of our Big Book in process
- 265 licenses completed in 2018 compared to 73 in 2017
- *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks*
- Daily Reflections video project
- Audio/video strategy
- YouTube channel

Slide 19

Speaking of the General Service Office, as is customary, we all met Wednesday morning for the subway trip to the General Service Office! Conference members and guests if they wanted to come. I know my wife tagged along. It was quite a group.

Slide 20

When coming off the 11th floor elevator, one of the first things you saw was this wall, displaying the serenity prayer in 26 languages. Chills. This was going to be an exciting and memorable tour.

Slide 21

Here are a few pictures from the General Service Office tour. Anonymity protected picture in the Corrections Desk office, a map used in the early days to pin point meetings in the US, the Big Book in all languages, picture of the P.O. Box 459 (started using it on May 1, 1944 and still in use today!), The Archives room, and then we had cake for the Big Book's 80 birthday!! The cake was so pretty, seemed a shame to cut it, but I am a sucker for cake.

Slide 22

As we moved around the office, one of the moments that made an impression on me was in the office of David R. our publishing Director. First, he showed us an actual Big Book from Ghana in their language Twi. There were originally only 1,200 published but they needed covers. What to do? Sewing circles of women in Ghana formed to hand-sew leather covers on each book – and these hand-crafted books were, at last, distributed to A.A. meetings throughout the region in early 2015. So this is one of those books. WOW!

We also saw one of the original cassettes received during the arduous task of translating our book into Navaho. It contains some of the original audio that was used. This particular tape was, "How it Works".

Now I will move into reporting details of the committee work from the conference. I am going to stick to describing the slides, but the written report back, although it's shown by slide, it can stand on its own.

Slide 23

Agenda Committee

- A. The theme of the 2020 General Service Conference, "A Clear Vision for You"
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference.
 - * Recovery – Who is missing in our rooms?
 - * Unity – Practicing our principles
 - * Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference
 - * Attraction Through Action

Slide 24

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (CPC)

B. Consider request to remove text "They may help arrange hospitalization" from the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community."

RESULTS:

The committee recommended that the text "They may help arrange hospitalization" be removed from the section "What can you expect from A.A.?" in the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community." PASSED Yes 123 / No 4

Slide 25

- Discuss progress on implementation of A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page.

RESULTS:

Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee discussed the progress on implementing a static LinkedIn page and felt that the overall goal of the 2018 Advisory Action on creating a LinkedIn page had not yet been achieved. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities revisit the plan for implementing a LinkedIn page taking into consideration suggestions.

Slide 26

Corrections Committee

NEW ITEM:

Review Conference committee composition, scope and procedure.

"The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot, of their own free will, seek A.A. help."

Be revised to read:

"The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot seek A.A. help outside the walls."

FAILED - Yes 47 / No 84

Vote to reconsider FAILED Yes 61 / No 65

Corrections Committee (con't)

Slide 27

- A. Consider request for a review of all corrections related literature in order to make the language more modern and inclusive. More specifically the word "inmates". Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Slide 28

- B. Consider request that the General Service Office establish and help maintain a database of Correctional Facilities in each service area in the U.S. and Canada and the status of meetings held therein. Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Slide 29

Finance committee

- A. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference- Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Slide 30

- B. Review the Conference-approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.

RESULTS:

The committee recommended that the level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be raised to \$10,000.

PASSED- Yes 113 / No 18

Slide 31

- C. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member. TOOK NO ACTION

Slide 32

Grapevine

A. Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2020 and later.

1. The Early Days of AA
2. Getting Involved in General Service
3. Surrender and Hope

Slide 33

C. Consider request to remove the “Alcoholism at Large” section from AA Grapevine. **TOOK NO ACTION**

Slide 34

Literature

C. Consider requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

The committee recommended that a draft Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that:

The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion”, Dr. Bob’s Nightmare”, and the Appendices remain as is.

During debate and discussion; Call the question: Yes 112 / No 19

FAILED Yes 54 / No 78 (needed 88 votes to pass)

Slide 35

E. Review progress report on the update regarding text on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

- Under the section, “What does a sponsor do and not do?” Page 13 Emphasize the relevance and spiritual value of anonymity, both on a person to person basis, as well as at the public level including social media. (For more information see the pamphlet, “Understanding Anonymity”).

- Under the section, “How can a sponsor explain the A.A. program?” Page 15
Many sponsors discuss the significance of anonymity at a personal level and public level early on. Anonymity at a personal level provides protection for all members from the identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers. At the public level of press, radio, films and other media technologies, such as the internet, anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power, or personal gain. The sponsor is quick to point out the benefit of anonymity at this public level. Sponsors may provide examples from their own experience of maintaining public anonymity.

PASSED - Yes 121 / No 6

Literature (con't)

Slide 36

- Review proposed revision to A. A. World Services “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials”

In keeping with Concept Eight (The Trustees of the General Service Board capacities) and Concept One (The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship). The Committee stated - Not up to us to discuss A.A.W.S. policy.

- Trust is the watch word.
- Conference Charter – GSB does not have the authority to dictate what the conference does
- Giving the authority to update items that do not change the meaning
- No retired pamphlets considered in the policy
- Who determines what is a major change?
- It is a temporary process because the conference is yearly
- Impact Collaborative report was an important piece of information in determining this decision.

Slide 37

M. Consider revising the Forward to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

ADD to Forward:

A.A.’s Twelve Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.’s world structure. The Concepts provide guidelines for carrying the message to thousands of suffering alcoholics yet to come. They aim to record the “why” of our service structure. They may be found in the “A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service”

The committee recommended that text be added to the forward of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as follows:

A.A.'s Twelve Concepts for World Service are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. The Concepts provide guidelines for carrying the message to thousands of suffering alcoholics yet to come. They aim to record the 'why' of our service structure. They may be found the A.A. Service Manual combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service."

FAILED - Yes 25 / No 106

Slide 38

O. Consider Request to update the pamphlet "Twelve Steps Illustrated".

PASSED - Yes 118 / No 9

Slide 39

N. Consider suggestion to add "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.

The committee recommended that "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" be added as the final sentence to the "Open Meeting" side of the Primary Purpose (Blue) Card.

FAILED - Yes 32 / No 100

Slide 40

P. Review matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

The committee noted in the review of the matrix of A.A. recovery literature that the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" has not been updated since 1986 and recommended that the trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.

PASSED Yes 116/ No 17

Slide 41

Policy & Admissions

Q. Review dates for the 2022 General Service Conference

The dates for the 2022 (72nd) GSC is April 24-30, 2022 in Brooklyn, NY
The dates for the 2021 (71st) GSC is April 18-24, 2021 in Brooklyn, NY
The dates for the 2020 (70th) GSC is April 19-25, 2020 in Ryebrook, NY

Slide 42

R. Consider revising the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings”.

The Committee recommended that to allow for discussion the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings.”

Currently reads:

The original poll will be emailed by 2pm and discussion will open that day and remain open for two weeks.

Replaced with:

The original poll will be emailed by 2pm and discussion will open that day and remain open for one week. Voting will commence on day seven at 2pm after discussion closes.

PASSED - Yes 125 / No 2

Slide 43

Public Information

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Committee on Public Information develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets that provide information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.

PASSED Yes -122 / No – 4

Slide 44

C3. Consider request that the video PSA “My World” be discontinued.

Committee recommended the video be discontinued.

PASSED – Yes 124 / No 6

Public Information (con't)

Slide 45

C4. Consider request to approve the development of a new PSA in video format that utilizes full-face actors (not members of A.A.).

The committee recommended that in keeping with the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates," that the policy be reaffirmed that full-face actors (not A.A. members) may be shown provided that the character being portrayed is not "a potential A.A. member" or A.A. member."

MOTION TO AMEND – PASSED - Yes 104 / No 19

The committee recommended that the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates be reaffirmed.

PASSED - Yes 101 / No 22

Slide 46

C4. Consider request to approve the development of a new PSA in video format that utilizes full-face actors (not members of A.A.).

The committee recommended that two PSAs be produced in 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each PSA and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an "actor portrayal" disclaimer on screen.

MOTION TO AMEND – PASSED - Yes 126 / No 4

The committee recommended that two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each PSA and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an "actor portrayal" disclaimer on screen.

PASSED - Yes 115 / No 13

Public Information (con't)

Slide 47

D. Review draft language addressing anonymity and safety proposed for the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity"

Add a Question and Answer on page 9 of the pamphlet.....

Q. Is it okay to call the proper authorities if I witness inappropriate or even criminal behavior at a meeting?

S. Groups strive to provide as safe an environment as possible in which members can focus on sobriety, and, while anonymity is central to that purpose, is it not intended to be a cloak protecting inappropriate or criminal behavior. Calling the proper authorities in such cases is a serious step, meant to preserve the safety of members and does not go against any A.A. Traditions.

During debate and discussion; Call the Question - Yes 115 / No 12

PASSED – Yes 108 / No 20

Slide 48

E. Consider request to update language in the flyer "A. A. at a Glance".

The committee recommended that the wording of the last sentence in the section titled "How A.A. Members Maintain Sobriety" in the flyer "A.A. at a Glance" be changed -

From:

Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the suggested Twelve Steps for recovery from alcoholism.

To:

Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, which are suggested as a program of recovery.

PASSED - Yes 114 / No 14

Public Information (con't)

Slide 49

- T. Review the 2018 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account

The committee recommended that a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.

PASSED - Yes 94 / No 35

Slide 50

The committee recommended that all current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes.

PASSED - Yes 127 / No 1

Slide 51

- G. Review the 2018 trustees' Public Information progress report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the A.A. message.

The committee recommended that A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants.

AMENDMENT to add A.A. Grapevine, Inc. - Yes 100 / No 26

Motion to reconsider Yes 63 / No 63 so it stands

AMENDMENT to add 'separately' Yes 24/No 103

The committee recommended that A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. apply for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants.

During Debate & discussion; Call the question Yes 105/No 24.

PASSED - Yes 97/No 31

Motion to reconsider FAILED – Yes 59 / No 71

Public Information (con't)

Slide 52

U. Review the 2018 trustees' Public Information progress report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the A.A. message

- The committee recommended that A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for Google AdWords Grants, for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public.

PASSED Yes 91/No 36

- The committee recommended that A.A. World Services, Inc. implement Google AdWords for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.

PASSED Yes 101 / No 27

Slide 53

Report & Charter

2019 General Service Conference Final reports are expected mid-August.

Digital anonymity version comes after some time mid-July and early August.

The committee reviewed the progress report from the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department on the redesign of the A.A. Service Manual and forwarded their comments to the Publishing Department.

The committee requested that the General Service Office explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the A.A. Directories.

Slide 54

Treatment & Accessibilities

V. Consider adding a story from an A.A. member who is deaf to the pamphlet "Access to A.A. : Members Share on Overcoming Barriers"

The committee recommended that Ashley's story (an A.A. member who is Deaf) be added to the pamphlet "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers" and that the video version of the pamphlet be updated to reflect this change.

During Debate & discussion; Call the Question - Yes 127 / No 3

PASSED - Yes 111 / No 18

Treatment & Accessibilities (con't)

Slide 55

C. Consider updating the pamphlet "A. A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late"

Recommended to add:

- revised introduction
- updated military stories
- online meetings information
- an updated "How Do I find A.A.?" section
- A.A. Grapevine and aagrapevine.org information

PASSED - Yes 124 / No 0

Slide 56

D. Discuss the concept of posting anonymity protected interviews on aa.org with military professionals about their experience with A.A.

The committee recommended that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online.

During Debate & discussion; Call the question Yes 121 / No 5

PASSED Yes 122/ No 5

Slide 57

Trustees Committee

W. Review suggested procedure to reorganize the General Service Board

The committee reviewed the drafted procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A. World Services Board and AA Grapevine Board. The committee agreed that the procedure needed additional specificity, offered suggestions and requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating bring back a revised plan to the 2020 Conference Committee on Trustees.

Slide 58

We had our Trustee Elections!

ALL NAMES CAME OUT OF THE HAT!!

And the new class B Trustees are (drum roles please...) -
Northeast Regional Trustee
Francis G. (Area 30 – Eastern Massachusetts)

Trustee-At-Large-Canada
Trish L. (Area 83 – BC Yukon/Eastern Ontario)

Southwest Regional Trustee
James D. (Area 65 – Dallas, TX)

Slide 59

On the class A side –

Sr. Judith Ann Karam - Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Congregational Leader Sr. Judith Ann Karam accepted the 35 millionth copy of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous as a tribute to the late Sr. Ignatia Gavin and her work with the founders of AA.

Dr. Mooney – Co-authored “The Recovery Book” which incorporates insights and neuroscience and was among the first physicians to be certified in Addiction Medicine.

Slide 60

Archives

X. Consider request to add the 1940’s home movie of the co-founders and their wives to the video “Markings on the Journey”

The committee recommended that the 1940s home movie of the co-founders and their wives be added to the Archives video “Markings on the Journey” at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

PASSED - Yes 134 / No 0

Slide 61

International Conventions & Regional Forums

2020 Detroit - Love and Tolerance Is Our Code

**2020 A.A.
International Convention**

Get Ready!

iPréparate! Préparez-vous!

61

ARE YOU READY!?! GET READY!!!!

Slide 62

International Conventions & Regional Forums

A. Discuss an anonymity protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2020 International Convention.

The committee recommended that an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2020 International Convention.

PASSED - Yes 130 / No 0

Slide 63

B. Consider a broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the anonymity-protected delayed internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.

The committee recommended that an anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

PASSED - Yes 130 / No 1

The committee recommended that an anonymity-protected video footage with highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the Convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2020 International Convention.

PASSED - Yes 126 / No 8

Slide 64

C. Consider ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

- Compiling notes from the first-timer sharing at a Forum for later distribution to encourage members to attend a future Forum
- Consider developing a Regional Forum app
- Consider developing a micro-site in addition to mail the Regional Forum flyers
- Increase awareness at the local level, including “intentional” outreach to different Populations (i.e., young people, Spanish-speaking communities)
- Encourage local welcome committees to create “Save the Date” flyers
- Consider inviting A.A.W.S./AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” A.A. events to increase awareness of regional forums
- Place information about Regional Forums in the AA Grapevine and La Vina

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Floor Actions Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions

1. The proposed floor action that “A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.
2. The proposed floor action that “The pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic’ be updated and a progress report and/or a draft be presented to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.
3. The “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee with an updated proposed policy to be brought back to the 70th General Service Conference.

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Friday night, we finished with all the committee reports and 7 Floor Actions. It was 8:14 PM. I’ll never forget looking at my phone to catch the time. Then, another moment that I will remember always. Michele Grinberg came to the mic on the stage and announced, “You have completed the work of the 69th General Service Conference”. I got chills. We did it, and I was a part of this amazing process. This was probably the biggest spiritual moment of the Conference for me.

Then, all of the Panel 68 Delegates said their goodbyes at the floor mics. The French speaking Area 90 Delegate, Eric P. from Northwest Quebec, shared his goodbye in English. That was another moment. For him to give that effort, and so successfully. Outstanding.

The Conference was officially adjourned just after 10pm.

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Saturday morning, we said goodbye to the rotating trustees at the closing brunch. There were three class B trustees, Yolanda F., Southwest regional trustee, Scott H., trustee-at-large/Canada and Rich P., Northeast regional trustee and two class A trustees, the honorable Ivan Lemelle and David Morris. I always love to hear what our trustees have to share and their messages were powerful. Up until the Conference I had heard Trustees speak at PRAASA. This was different. The main message these Trustees were conveying was we must stop operating in fear. Be bold! Bring your bold ideas to the fellowship! How can we creatively continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in this ever-changing world? Internet, radio, podcasts, YouTube, Skype and so much more! Even TV.

So, here is a challenge. If you have some bold ideas or if there is something that you would like to bring to next year's conference for consideration, please let us know. We can consider it as an Area and, if deemed pertinent and it is our unanimous consensus, present it to the Conference as a proposed agenda item. Area 93 is strong. We have great potential and many dedicated members. Don't ever hesitate to speak your mind. It is part of A.A.'s heritage that good ideas can come from anywhere.

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I would like to thank you all for my life today and for this incredible experience. For helping me stay sober and having the opportunity to serve this miraculous fellowship. You all have changed my life. I am forever grateful and I love you all!

With Love and Service
Jeff