

**May 2019**

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

## **CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 69th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 69th General Service Conference:

### **Floor Actions**

It was recommended that:

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.

### **Agenda**

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2020 General Service Conference be: “2020: A Clear Vision for You.”
5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference:

Recovery - Who Is Missing in Our Rooms?  
Unity - Practicing Our Principles  
Service - Keeping A.A. Relevant

6. The workshop topic for the 2020 General Service Conference be:

Attraction Through Action

### **Archives\***

7. 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.

\*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

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

It was recommended that:

8. 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."

### **Corrections**

No recommendations.

### **Finance**

It was recommended that:

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

### **Grapevine**

No recommendations.

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

It was recommended that:

10. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2020 International Convention.
11. An anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

12. 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.

\*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

## **Literature**

It was recommended that:

13. The pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised to add the following text regarding anonymity:

1. Under the section, “What does a sponsor do and not do?” (p. 13), after the current bullet “Impresses upon the newcomer the importance of all our Traditions,” add a new bullet with the following language:

Emphasizes 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”).

2. Under the section, “How can a sponsor explain the A.A. program?” (p. 15), add a 6th paragraph:

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.

14. The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.

15. 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.

### **Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

16. To allow time for discussion, the "Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings" which currently reads:

#### *Timing*

In keeping with the G.S.B. Bylaws, Conference members will be given two weeks from the time the poll is emailed to respond with their vote. Dates for all votes and motions will be included with the poll, using a form similar to the "Timeline for Polling Conference Between Meetings." All times listed are Eastern Time.

The original poll will be emailed by 2 p.m., and voting will open that day and remain open for two weeks.

Voting will close at 2 p.m. two weeks after the poll was emailed. By 5 p.m. on the day the poll results are due, Conference members will be notified of the results by email. A request for any minority opinion will be included with the poll results.

Be replaced with:

#### *Timing*

In keeping with the G.S.B. Bylaws, Conference members will be given two weeks from the time the poll is emailed to respond with their vote. Dates for all votes and motions will be included with the poll, using a form similar to the "Timeline for Polling Conference Between Meetings." All times listed are Eastern Time.

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

Voting will close at 2 p.m. two weeks after the poll was emailed. By 5 p.m. on the day the poll results are due, Conference members will be notified of the results by email. A request for any minority opinion will be included with the poll results.

## Public Information

It was recommended that:

17. 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.
18. The video PSA "My World" be discontinued.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. The text addressing anonymity and safety be included in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" as follows:

Q. Is it okay to tell someone if I witness or experience inappropriate behavior that happens either during or outside meeting times?  
Can I alert the proper authorities if there is criminal behavior?

A. 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, it is not intended to be a cloak protecting inappropriate or criminal behavior. Saying something about inappropriate behavior or calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is meant to preserve the safety of all members.

22. 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.**

23. 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.

24. All current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes.
25. A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. apply for “LegitScript” certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants.
26. A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for Google AdWords/Grants, for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public.
27. A.A. World Services, Inc. implement Google AdWords/Grants 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.

### **Report and Charter**

No recommendations.

### **Treatment and Accessibilities**

It was recommended that:

28. 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.
29. The pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late” be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated “How Do I Find A.A.?” section. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.
30. 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.

### **Trustees**

It was recommended that:

31. The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus  
Hon. Christine Carpenter  
Michele Grinberg, J.D.  
Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, FACHE  
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C  
Nancy McCarthy  
Al J. Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM

Class B Trustees

Thomas Ardolf  
Cathy Beckham  
Carole Boerner  
Beau Bush  
James Dean  
Mark Everett  
Kathi Fowler  
Francis Gilroy  
Patricia LaNauze  
Jan Lembke  
David Noll  
Newton Pritchett  
Ginger Rhoades Bell  
Cate Wittig

32. The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson	Michele Grinberg, J.D.
First Vice-Chairperson	Nancy McCarthy
Second Vice-Chairperson	Newton Pritchett
Treasurer	Leslie S. Backus
Secretary	Ginger Rhoades Bell
Assistant Treasurer	Bob Slotterback*
Assistant Secretary	Mary Cumings*

*\*G.S.O. employees*

33. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Beau Bush	Homer Moeller
Cathy Beckham	David Noll
Mary Cumings*	Gregory Tobin*
Deborah Koltai	Carolyn Walsh
Jan Lembke	

*\*G.S.O. employees*

34. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Carole Boerner  
Josh Eggleston  
Mark Everett  
Ino Fernandez  
Kathi Fowler

Tommi Hanley  
Nancy McCarthy  
Ginger Rhoades Bell  
Albin Zezula\*

*\*AA Grapevine employee*