

## *2017 Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session Delegate's Summary*

Area 59's Pre-Conference Sharing Session was held on April 2, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA. Panel 55 Delegate J Gary L was the moderator.

During the morning, ten subcommittees, each consisting of 10 voting members, an advisor and a secretary, discussed and voted on agenda items for the upcoming General Service Conference that had been previously assigned to them.

In the afternoon, the subcommittees presented the results of their discussions to the entire body of the Sharing Session. Gary briefly explained that AA uses a simplified version of Robert's Rules. All AA members present may participate and vote. Votes will generally be based on substantial unanimity (2/3 of the vote). He explained how the discussion would be done. If a vote was not unanimous the non-prevailing side would be given the opportunity to voice a minority opinion, in accordance with Concept V. The order of presentations from the subcommittees was done by random draw, as is done at the General Service Conference.

Please note that this was done to give our Delegate (Paul M) a sense of the Area Conscience when he represents us at the General Service Conference. Paul will present two Delegate Conference Reports on June 10 in Spring Brook Township, PA (near Wilkes-Barre) and June 24 in Unionville, PA (near Kennett Square). A written report will be provided after the second DCR.

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Agenda Item	Area 59 Results	Pros/Cons	Other Notes	Delegate Conf. Vote
<p><b><i>Treatment and Accessibilities Item A.</i></b> Review the revised draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs."</p>	<p><b><u>Recommended:</u></b> "that revisions to the pamphlet A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs be approved."   <b><u>Motion carried with only two opposed.</u></b>                       No minority Opinion</p>	<p>Question about what the revisions were. They mostly dealt with changing the term "Special Needs" to "Accessibilities".                       Why are they changing the term "Special Needs" within the pamphlet, but not changing the title? This pamphlet will be renamed Accessibility for All Alcoholics.</p>	<p>Gary noted that only the Committees reviewing changes to literature get the background material for that.</p>	
<p><b><i>Treatment and Accessibilities Item B.</i></b> Discuss the accessibility of the A.A. message for Armed Services veterans.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommended:</u></b> "that the pamphlet AA and the Armed Services be translated into Spanish and French."   <b><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</u></b>                       No minority Opinion   <b><u>Consideration:</u></b> Have PI and/or CPC oversee distribution of AA information to military</p>	<p>Why does the pamphlet need to be translated into Spanish and French? Does the US military require everyone to be able to speak English?                       This pamphlet is for the US and Canada, which includes French speaking people.</p>		

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	bases, domestic and overseas.			
<b>Literature G.</b> Review progress report on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them	Reviewed – no action			
<b>Policy/Admissions D.</b> Consider request that an anonymity-protected, digital Final Conference Report be published, starting with the 67th General Service Conference.	<p><b>Recommended:</b> “that an anonymity-protected, digital Final Conference Report be Published starting with the 67th General Service Conference.</p> <p><b><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</u></b></p> <p>No minority Opinion</p>	How would the electronic copy be made available?	It would not replace the print version.	
<b>Policy/Admissions J.</b> Consider a request to add a “YPAA Subcommittee” to the service structure.	Took no action.	The point was made that at the General Service Conference, if a Committee took no action there would be no discussion. It was noted that it could later be brought up as an additional consideration, which we could not do at this sharing session. Gary said he would allow questions. There were none.	<p>Currently YPAA (Young People in AA) are outside the service structure.</p> <p>ICYPAA (International Conference of Young</p>	

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			<p>People in AA) has been in operation since 1958.</p> <p>There have been over 70 agenda items since 1951 that concerned young people.</p> <p>Potentially reach more young people.</p> <p>The agenda item is vague.</p>	
<p><b>Finance C.</b> Consider request to change the committee's current annual review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$3,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member to every other year.</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> "that annual review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$3,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member to every other year."</p> <p><b>Motion Failed. Most people voted against it.</b></p> <p>There was a minority opinion, but no one changed their vote. <b>Motion Failed</b></p>	<p>When did it become policy for the review become annual? There is no record of it in past Final Conference Reports. They have been reviewing it every year recently and taken no action. This is an attempt to spend less time talking about it at the Conference.</p> <p>We should not tell the conference what to vote on.</p> <p>Does this mean an individual AA member cannot contribute every year? No. It means they do not want to have the Conference talk about it every year.</p> <p>Minority Opinion: They are trying to streamline the Conference</p>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Area 59 Results</b>	<b>Pros/Cons</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>	<b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b>
<p><b>Finance F.</b> Review Self-Support Packet</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Also include GSO Contribution Envelopes (FR-2) and</p>	<p>No discussion</p> <p>Minority Opinion: People should use the Birthday Envelope</p>		

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	<p>Birthday Contribution Envelopes (FR-5) with the Self-Support Packet</p> <p><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</u></p> <p>Minority opinion was given. There was a motion and second to reconsider. This vote would have been based on the majority, rather than substantial unanimity. The motion to reconsider failed.</p> <p><u>Motion Passes</u></p>			
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Area 59 Results</b>	<b>Pros/Cons</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>	<b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b>
<i>Literature D.</i> Pamphlet "Young People and A.A."	<u>Recommended:</u> "add the language "Young People's Conferences are held in the United	Young People in AA are not part of Service Structure.	One person on subcommittee was against adding language.	

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<p>1. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet. 2. Review draft language about young people's conferences, for inclusion in the pamphlet.</p>	<p>States and Canada and around the world. For information consult your local AA area or intergroup office" to the pamphlet."  <b><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</u></b>  No minority opinion</p>	<p>There is a difference from being part of the Service Structure and being part of AA.  There was an amendment to remove reference to Area and Intergroup and replace it with a reference to the ICYPAA web site. It failed. There was a minority opinion, but no one changed their vote. The original motion was voted on.  The fact that YPAA is not part of the Service Structure is true, but irrelevant.</p>		
<p><b>Grapevine A.</b> Discuss the spiritual value of Grapevine and La Viña in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.</p>	<p>Reviewed – no action</p>	<p>No discussion</p>		
<p><b>Agenda Item</b></p>	<p><b>Area 59 Results</b></p>	<p><b>Pros/Cons</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>	<p><b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b></p>
<p><b>Grapevine B.</b> Reconsider the 2010 Advisory Action regarding La Viña.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommended:</u></b> "reconsider the 2010 Advisory Action regarding La Viña."</p>	<p>Why are we reconsidering this? It's already history. Subscriptions were approximately 8700. Subscriptions went up to about 10,300. Cost of La Viña went up from about \$75,000 to \$146,000. The</p>	<p>From the 2010 Advisory Action: After thoughtful and lengthy discussion, the Committee recommended that La Viña</p>	

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	<p><b><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</u></b></p> <p>Minority opinion was given. No one changed their vote.</p> <p><b><u>Motion Passes</u></b></p>	<p>purpose is to reexamine it to make sure that the recommendation made in 2010 still makes sense.</p> <p>The question about La Viña being self-supporting was brought up. It was noted La Viña is a service piece and is not intended to be self-supporting.</p> <p>If we vote not to reconsider La Viña would continue as it is.</p> <p>Minority Opinion: There is no value in telling them to reconsider. The Conference should always reconsider what they did.</p>	<p>achieve spiritual parity with the AA Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year beginning in 2011 followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine.</li> <li>• Content and substance be of primary importance.</li> <li>• An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Grapevine F.</b> Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Google for Non-Profits account.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommended:</u></b> "continued exploration of a Google for Non-Profits account."</p>	<p>No discussion</p>		

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	<u><b>Motion carried unanimously.</b></u>			
<b>Literature B.</b> Consider request to retire the pamphlet "Too Young."	<p><u><b>Recommended:</b></u> "Do not retire the pamphlet."</p> <p><u><b>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</b></u></p> <p>No minority opinion was given.</p> <p><u><b>Consideration:</b></u> Change the name of pamphlet so it isn't just for young people.</p>	<p>This pamphlet could touch on other age groups.</p> <p>Pamphlets not useful for youth correctional facilities.</p> <p>Pamphlet is degrading to young people.</p> <p>The cartoon pamphlets do work. They are good for people who are not good at reading. There are other cartoon pamphlets.</p> <p>Consider changing name of pamphlet so it isn't just for young people.</p>	At the Conference, this would be considered "Take No Action". For purposes of informing the Delegate we did discuss it.	
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Area 59 Results</b>	<b>Pros/Cons</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>	<b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b>
<b>Public Information E.</b> Review report from the trustees' Public	<u><b>Recommended:</b></u> "adopt the plan for the Implementation of a	This will not be used for fundraising. It will be used as a PI tool.		

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<p>Information Committee on the Implementation of a Google for Nonprofits account</p>	<p>Google for Nonprofits account.</p> <p><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</u></p> <p>No minority opinion was given.</p>	<p>There would be no cost to AA. Google makes its money by placing ads. Will that be considered affiliation? We will have no control over those ads.</p> <p>A legal review was done by AA.</p> <p>We live in an age where we're going to be inundated with advertisements. AA is in the Yellow Pages, surrounded by ads. People do not perceive this as affiliation.</p>		
<p><b>Agenda Item</b></p>	<p><b>Area 59 Results</b></p>	<p><b>Pros/Cons</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>	<p><b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b></p>
<p><i>Corrections A.</i> Discuss the Corrections Correspondence</p>	<p><u>Consideration:</u></p> <p>1. Find a word to use instead of "inmate" in</p>	<p>The App is something that can be used on a cell phone.</p>	<p>There is a barrier between AA members on the inside and AA</p>	

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<p>Service (C.C.S.) in the U.S. and Canada.</p>	<p>our literature to dismantle the wall between us and them.                  2. GSR's and DCM's should discuss the need at District meetings and use as a topic for workshops.                  3. Continue to expand the use of Emails for future communication.                  4. JP App is another way to communicate that would eliminate address exchanges.</p>		<p>members on the outside. The word "Inmate" is used 8 times in the Corrections Correspondence Service pamphlet.</p> <p>The use of Emails and JP App is new, but could become an effective tool in the future.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item</b></p>	<p><b>Area 59 Results</b></p>	<p><b>Pros/Cons</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>	<p><b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b></p>
<p><i>Corrections B.</i> Discuss carrying the A.A. message to</p>	<p><b>Consideration:</b> Find Native Americans to</p>	<p>No discussion</p>	<p>Trust is an important issue.</p>	

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incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People.	carry the message into these facilities.			
<b>Corrections C.</b> Consider 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.	<b>Recommended:</b> "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."  <b>Motion carried unanimously.</b>	All of the committees have this as an agenda item.	The purpose of this agenda item is to get some of the Conference Committee procedures organized ahead of time to leave time for more important business.	
<b>Report &amp; Charter A.</b> Consider 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.	<b>Recommended:</b> "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."  <b>Motion carried unanimously.</b>	No discussion		
<b>Report &amp; Charter B.</b> The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World	<b>Recommended:</b> "add text regarding area websites to Chapter Four of The A.A. Service	Was there anything contentious in those paragraphs? No.  Why did the subcommittee take no action on B3? It was because the information is	B4 was confusing.	

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<p>Service, 2018-2020 Edition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review list of editorial updates.</li> <li>2. Consider request to add text regarding area websites to Chapter Four of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.</li> <li>3. Review request to add the bylaws of A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. as appendices.</li> <li>4. Review request to add a footnote to Concept VIII to accurately reflect the current ownership of the service corporations.</li> </ol>	<p>Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service (B2).</p> <p><u>Motion carried unanimously.</u></p> <p>Took no action on adding bylaws to Service Manual (B3).</p> <p>Took no action on adding a footnote to Concept VIII (B4).</p>	<p>readily available upon request and adding it would make publishing the Service Manual more expensive.</p>		
<p><b>Agenda Item</b></p>	<p><b>Area 59 Results</b></p>	<p><b>Pros/Cons</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>	<p><b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b></p>
<p><i>Report &amp; Charter C.</i></p>	<p><u>Recommended:</u> "changes to The A.A.</p>		<p>The Service Manual has been revised every</p>	

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Consider request that changes to The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published.	Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published.”  <u><i>Motion carried unanimously.</i></u>		year, but is now being revised every two years as a cost savings measure. This agenda item is to make any changes that may be made on the years that do not have a new addition available to the Fellowship.	
<b><i>Cooperation With the Professional Community C.</i></b> Consider development of a LinkedIn page for C.P.C. committees.	Took no action	No discussion	There could be implied affiliation.  There would be logistical difficulties to maintain the site.  There is an existing CPC page on LinkedIn.	
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Area 59 Results</b>	<b>Pros/Cons</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>	<b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b>
<b><i>Cooperation With the Professional</i></b>	Took no action	No discussion	The pamphlet is not directed at alcoholics.	

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<p><b>Community D.</b> Consider request that the title of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" be changed to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?"</p>				
<p><b>Cooperation With the Professional Community E.</b> Discuss ways of improving communication about A.A. with professionals who come in contact with Armed Services veterans and men and women in the Armed Services.</p> <p>Continued:</p>	<p><b>Consideration:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find a way to address the stigma with the military.</li> <li>2. Develop a list of appropriate professionals and pertinent contact points for active military and veteran organizations.</li> <li>3. Develop information geared towards professionals in the military structure, especially in relation to anonymity.</li> <li>4. The current pamphlet meets the needs of the alcoholic.</li> </ol>	<p>No discussion</p>		

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<p><b><i>Cooperation With the Professional Community E.</i></b></p>	<p>5. Determine available resources and how appropriate professionals can access and distribute them to alcoholics in the military.          6. Once a listing of contacts is developed, send offers of workshops, meetings and supporting information (such as GSO contact for deployed alcoholics).          7. Offer training to AA members for ways to offer information.          8. Establish a “desk” at GSO for veterans and active duty military men and women.</p>			
<p><b>Agenda Item</b></p>	<p><b>Area 59 Results</b></p>	<p><b>Pros/Cons</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>	<p><b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b></p>

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<p><b>Literature J.</b> Consider requests for literature and/or language regarding safety.</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> literature to include language regarding safety</p> <p><b><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity with in favor and 24 against.</u></b></p> <p>Minority opinion was given. No one changed their vote.</p> <p><b><u>Motion Passes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Motion Passes</u></b></p>	<p>There should be a separate pamphlet. Adding language to an existing pamphlet would not reach as many people as a new pamphlet.</p> <p>Could outside entities use this against us?</p> <p>Minority Opinion: We haven't needed this in the past.</p>	<p>We need more literature than just a service piece.</p>	
<p><b>Literature K.</b> Discuss request for a revision to the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."</p>	<p>Took no action</p>	<p>No discussion</p>		
<p><b>Agenda Item</b></p>	<p><b>Area 59 Results</b></p>	<p><b>Pros/Cons</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>	<p><b>Delegate Conf. Vote</b></p>

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<p><b>Archives A.</b> Consider proposal for a new publication, Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 (working title).</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> publication of new, Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970</p> <p><b>Motion carried with only one opposed</b></p> <p>No minority opinion was given</p>	<p>Was there any argument against publishing this?</p> <p>You can never have too much of Bill W.</p>		
<p><b>Public Information B.</b> Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan: 1. Review the trustees' Public Information Committee report on the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan. 2. Review 2017 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan. 3. Discuss suggestion to update the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity."</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Accept and approve the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan. (B1 and B2)</p> <p><b>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</b></p> <p>No minority opinion was given</p> <p><b>Recommended:</b> update the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity." (B3)</p>	<p>Did the subcommittee agree with everything in the report? The committee did not agree with everything, but thought the plan should be approved as a whole. (B1 and B2)</p> <p>We don't need to keep revising the pamphlet. (B3)</p> <p>Minority Opinion: The revisions came from requests from the membership. Anonymity is very important.</p> <p>After discussion was reopened it was noted that it was important to discuss.</p>	<p>The change to the Anonymity pamphlet was: Update the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" to consolidate the items covering Tradition Eleven and to more thoroughly include the Tradition Twelve principles of humility as it relates to anonymity (B3)</p>	

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	<p><u>Motion failed. Did not have substantial unanimity.</u></p> <p>Minority opinion was given</p> <p>There was a motion to reconsider. It needed a simple majority and passed. Discussion was reopened.</p> <p><u>Motion carried with substantial unanimity.</u></p> <p>There is no minority opinion permitted after a motion has been reopened.</p>			
<p><b>Public Information F.</b> Review report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Implementation of a Twitter account.</p>	<p>Took no action</p>	<p>No discussion</p>		