

# 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference - Highlights

April 19 - 25, 2015 – Crowne Plaza Hotel, New York, NY

## Literature Committee



### Advisory Actions

- Trustees to develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues.
- *Revise* these current pamphlets
  - "AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic"
  - "AA for the Woman"
  - "Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services"
  - "Your AA General Service Office"

### Considerations

- Took no action on combining the *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions* with the Twelve Concepts, deciding the current location of the Twelve Concepts in the *A.A. Service Manual* is appropriate.

## CONTENTS

### Page 1

- \* Literature
- \* Trustees

### Page 2

- \* Finance
- \* Agenda
- \* Delegate Stats

### Page 3

- \* Public Info
- \* Grapevine and La Vina

### Page 4

- \* Report & Charter
- \* Electronic Voting
- \* Inventory
- \* Other Committee Considerations



2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous  
July 2 - 5, 2015 – Atlanta, Georgia

## **New Trustees**

### Class A (Non-Alcoholic) Trustees

**Leslie S. Backus, B.A.**  
**Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C**

### Class B (Alcoholic) Trustees

Canadian Trustee-At-Large.....**Scott H.**  
Northeast Regional.....**Richard P.**  
Southwest Regional.....**Yolanda F.**

**Pat F. - 33<sup>rd</sup> Delegate, 8<sup>th</sup> Woman for Eastern Pennsylvania**





**Finance Committee**



**Advisory Actions**

- Proceed with Phase 1 of the G.S.O. plan to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French beginning with the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. Estimated cost is \$80,000 to \$120,000.
- Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference will create a plan to translate all Conference material and provide a progress report at the 66<sup>th</sup> GSC

**Considerations**

- Took no action on increasing the area contribution [currently \$1,600] for the delegate expense to the Conference

**Failed Recommendation:** To increase limit for individual contributions from \$3,000 to \$5,000. [Vote was 67 for and 59 against; substantial unanimity would be 84]

**TRENDS**

- Membership levels are flat
- Contribution levels are flat
- Literature sales show slow to no growth
- Expenses continue to grow slowly – 2-3% per year



**Agenda Committee**

2016 General Service Conference

**Theme:** *“Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts”*

**Presentations:** a) Connecting with the Newcomer, b) Connecting with Each Other, and c) Connecting With A.A. as a Whole

**Workshop:** *“Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation”*

**Considerations:** 1) Asked the trustees to explore ways to include the Conference [delegates] in selecting conference agenda items, and 2) Provide delegates who are conference committee chairs with full background materials for the last quarterly board meeting prior to the GSC.



***Delegate Statistics***

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sobriety</u>	<u>Service</u>
Average....57 years	Average....22 years	Average...18 years
Oldest.....78	Longest....42	Longest... 37
Youngest..32	Shortest... 8	Shortest... 5

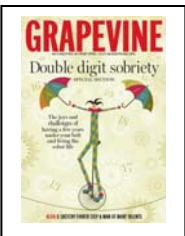
**Public Information Committee**

**Advisory Actions**

- Approved “Doors”, a video PSA, providing for a dialog voice-over using professionals, not to exceed \$24,000. The PSA will be centrally distributed.
- Approved the 2014 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey pamphlet and display, with minor edits.
- Discontinued the video PSAs “A Force of Nature” and “Testimonials.”
- Authorized the A.A.W.S. board to produce and post audio/video service material on the aa.org website, provided certain conditions are met.

**Considerations**

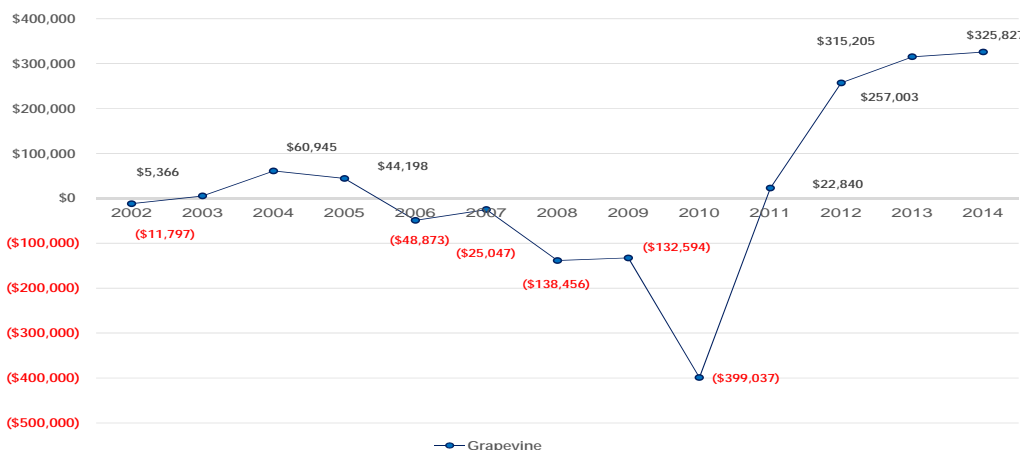
- Need for guidance on the use of social media by A.A. members. Distribution of literature should correspond with the launch of the Anonymity Resource Page.
- Explore new forms/channels of presenting and distributing content using such platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Google+.



**Grapevine Committee Considerations:**

- La Vina is published as cost effectively as possible.
- Implement a communication plan to the fellowship clarifying La Vina's unique status as a service that strives to be self-supporting.
- Encouraged ***purchase of Subscription Gift Certificates*** by local service committees, groups and members to provide magazines to people in prison, treatment centers and nursing homes.
- Suggested that the AA Grapevine board produce two books:
  - Armed Forces Members’ AA Stories (working title)
  - Voices from Early AA (working title)

**AA Grapevine Annual Operating Results**



**Grapevine Advisory Action**

Revise the pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Vina: Our Meeting in Print.”

**Report & Charter Committee**

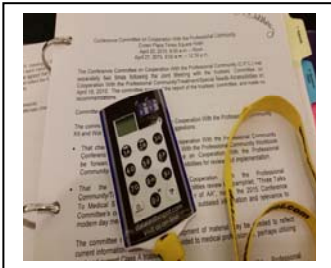


**Advisory Actions**

- Two revisions in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) clarifying nominating procedures.
- Revisions in Chapters 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.), Chapter 3 (The District and the D.C.M.), and Chapter 5 (The Area Committee) about the G.S.O. database. Specifically, who has access and where the information is stored.
- A new subsection in Chapter 1 called **STIMULATING INTEREST IN GENERAL SERVICE.**
- Two new sections in Chapter 9 on “Regional Forums” and “Local Forums.”
- Restore the table of contents of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the same order as published in the 1990-91 Edition.
- Print a limited number of AA Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern US and Western US) annually for purchase upon request.

**Considerations**

- Took no action on a request to include a chart in the section “Working with Local Intergroups” noting that since local intergroups and central offices are not part of the general service structure, a chart could be misleading. It is adequately expressed in the text.



*The 65<sup>th</sup> GSC uses electronic voting devices for the first time.* Committee recommendations were voted on Thursday only, without problems. The 66<sup>th</sup> G.S.C. will use the devices on Friday only. Future use will be determined in 2017.

**Conference Inventory**

The G.S.C. completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of inventory questions. Look for bound report later in the year.

**Other Committee Considerations:**

- **CPC** – Review the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W., Co-Founder of AA.” for outdated language.
- **Corrections** – Discussed the Corrections Correspondence Service and asked trustees to review effectiveness. One concern is distance requirement of correspondents.
- **Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities** – 1) Asked trustees to consider posting content of AA literature in audio format on aa.org, 2) expressed appreciation by AAWS, Inc. publishing to consider producing the Twelve Concepts in ASL, 3) change all references to “Special Need-Accessibilities” to “Accessibilities.”
- **Trustees** – encourage the Board and the Fellowship to identify, attract, and recruit candidates to serve as trustees.

