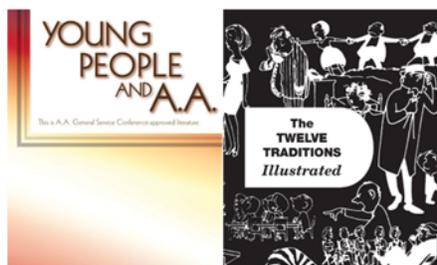


66th General Service Conference - Highlights

April 17 - 23, 2016 – Crowne Plaza Hotel, New York, NY



LITERATURE COMMITTEE



Why We Need a Conference

One of the last things that Bill W. and Dr. Bob agreed on before Dr. Bob died was the need for a General Service Conference to provide final responsibility and ultimate authority to the groups themselves for the future of our Fellowship. Page S-20 of our A.A. Service Manual:

“...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 the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.”

Bernard H. Smith, nonalcoholic, past Chair Board of Trustees

Conference Approves “Young People and A.A.” Update

The trustees’ Literature Committee will revise the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” to include information about young people’s conferences as part of a complete update to better reflect the experiences of young people in AA today.

Full Review and Update to “Twelve Traditions Illustrated”

The trustees’ Literature Committee will undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience.

Plain Language Big Book...Not This Conference

While sympathetic to the spirit of the request, the committee agreed that developing a plain-language Big Book was not appropriate at this time.

However, in an additional consideration, the committee asked the Trustees to explore expanding the availability of “plain-language” recovery literature.

Pat F., Delegate Panel 65

Area 59, Eastern Pennsylvania



Delegate@Area59aa.org



Finance Committee



Recommended but Not Approved:

- That the maximum **annual limit for individual contributions** to the General Service Board from A.A. members be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Considerations:

The committee reviewed the Suggested Delegate Area Contribution to the General Service Conference of \$1,600 and after considerable discussion **took no action** as the committee did not feel an increase was appropriate at this time.

- The committee reviewed the maximum one-time limit of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and after considerable discussion **took no action**.
- The Conference Finance Committee requests that the General Service Board/A.A.W.S. consider measures that would assure that all future International Conventions are self-supporting through registration activities. The G.S.B./A.A.W.S. might consider the feasibility of a separate ongoing Convention Fund, transportation requirements, hotel accommodations, cut-off dates, and other appropriate items.
- The committee suggests the General Service Board consider the spiritual message of self-support in our spending priorities when dealing with items such as World Service Meeting

TRENDS

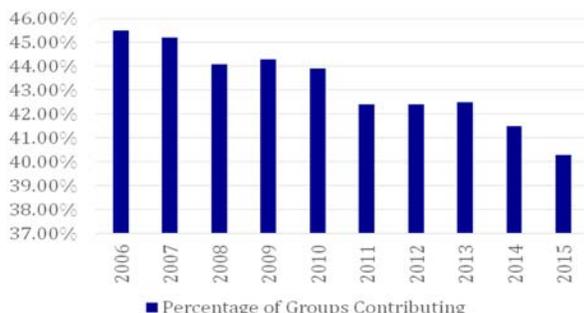
- Membership levels are flat
- Contribution levels are flat
- Literature sales show slow to no growth
- Expenses continue to grow slowly – 2-3% per year

A DOLLAR IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE:

A dollar in 1945 had the buying power of \$13 in 2015 while the buying power of one dollar in 1945 is worth only 8 cents in 2015.

Percentage of groups contributing General Service Office at an all-time low!

This is a chart of the percentage of listed groups that contributed to our G.S.O. over the last decade. It shows that **only 40.3%** of the groups contributed in 2015, specifically 26,500 contributing groups out of 65,741 total groups.



Area 59 came in above the average with 47.2% of our groups contributing to G.S.O. in 2015.

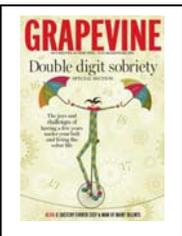
Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee

New Section Added to “If You are a Professional”

A new section will be added to the pamphlet “If You are a Professional” noting that “A.A. does not provide medical advice; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified health care professional. The suggestions provided in the pamphlet “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs” may help A.A. members minimize the risk of relapse.”

Committee Says “Don’t Discontinue Three Talks”

The committee considered a request to discontinue the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” and took no action. Agreeing the information in the pamphlet was outdated and did not accurately or appropriately describe the A.A. program of recovery for C.P.C. use, they believe that the pamphlet may have value to A.A. members as a marker of historic A.A. moments.



Grapevine Committee

Consideration: The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2017 or later:

1. **Stories by Atheist and Agnostic A.A. members** (working title) A collection of stories by A.A. members who are atheist or agnostic, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
2. **Steps Four and Five** (working title) Members tell helpful, hopeful stories about how they did Step Four and/or Step Five and how it changed their lives—from previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.



Corrections Video “A New Freedom” is a Go

With a runtime of 30 minutes, this powerful video was approved and will replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell”. The video will be available with Spanish subtitles. The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Corrections explore creating additional versions in varying lengths to effectively carry the message to different audiences in different settings.

Grapevine Advisory Action

Grapevine Delegate Chair be allowed the same participation at January AA Grapevine Board Meeting.

Report & Charter Committee



Conference Committee on Report and Charter - Approved

- A new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board of the A.A. Service Manual) after the “Regional Forums” section.
- The following text be removed from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of *Twelve Concepts for World Service* by Bill W.:

*“Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man’s world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women’s superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. ...It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they **are** men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they **are** women.”*

- Endnote 10 on page 59 in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the Concept XI essay be revised by the Publishing Dept noting the two paragraphs have been removed and are available upon request from the GSO Archives Department as a reference to A.A. History.
- The AA Structure Manual be revised per existing schedule and be published bi-annually (every two years) beginning in 2017 at a savings of approximately \$45,000 - \$50,000. Next edition will be published in 2018 after the conference.
- The category title “Online Meetings” be changed to “Online Meetings/Online Groups” on page vi and vii in the A.A. Directories.

Legal Update

Last year AAWS, Inc. was a defendant in two lawsuits. In California the trial court dismissed the allegation of liability for wrongful death, and in Toronto an action for violation of the Human Rights code remains pending.

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

As we said farewell to three Trustees: Class A’s (non-alcoholic) Michele Grinberg and Dr. John Fromson and Class B (alcoholic) Andrew W., we welcomed five new Trustees: Two Class A’s: Nancy McCarthy and Hon. Christine Carpenter; along with three Class B’s: General Service, Carole B., West Central Regional, Thomas A., and Western Canada Regional, Cate W. Joining us as Non-Trustee Directors are Homer M. (AAWS), and Josh E. (AAGV).

Numerous Key Projects in 2015

To improve coordination and collaboration between our two corporate boards, Grapevine and GSO staff are now located together at 475 Riverside Drive.

P.S.A. “Doors”

Continues to be very popular, airing more than 32,000 times, with 250 million audience impressions and over 9 million in donated media. The “Doors” campaign has generated 50% more airings than the industry average. AAWS initiated a customer satisfaction survey in 2015.

Public Information

Implement a Google-for-Non Profits Account

Implement a Twitter Account

English and French version of PSA “Tengo Esperanza” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated (all brought back to review in 2017)

Delegate Stats

Average Age – 57 years
Oldest – 78 years
Youngest – 33 years
Average Length of Sobriety – 22 yrs
Longest – 50 years
Shortest – 9 years
Average Length of Service – 17
Longest – 49 years
Shortest – 6 years

Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities

The term “Special needs” be removed from the name of the conference Committee and throughout the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure. The new name of the committee will be the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.