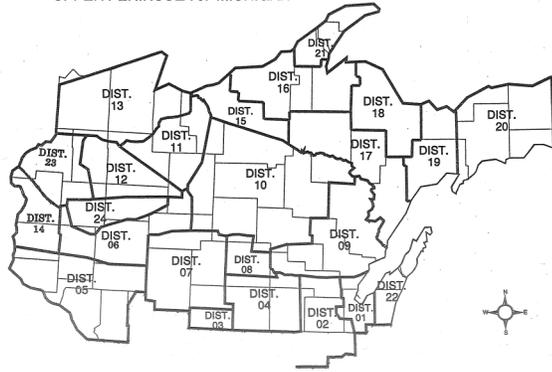


AREA 74 - NORTHERN WISCONSIN and
UPPER PENINSULA of MICHIGAN



2014 DELEGATE'S CONFERENCE REPORT OF THE 64TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World



APRIL 27—MAY 3, 2014

Mary Jo R, Panel 64—Area 74, Northern Wisconsin / Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Serving on the Conference Committee of Policy / Admissions.

Good Morning, as I look out over the room, I see many, many friends: some long-time, some new, and some that I have not met yet and I am overwhelmed by the privilege you have given me to serve as delegate of Area 74 and to attend the 64th General Service Conference. The Conference was held in Rye Town, New York the week of April 27th through May 3, 2014.

Today I would like to share with you in 3 ways: 1st – how the week affected me personally, 2nd – things that our members, groups, districts and area should be talking about and sharing our experience on these topics with each other, our Trustees, and our GS & GV offices; 3rd – the Committee reports and actions taken at the Conference, I will finish by taking questions from the floor.

First – my personal experience - I want to begin by thanking Area 74 for doing a great job at preparing me for the Conference. The years that I have attended our delegate workshops, Assemblies, serving as a member of several different standing committees and my time as Area Chair provided me a solid foundation. I felt at ease and knowledgeable from start to close of the Conference. Even the social aspects of our Area Conference, helped me to feel comfortable introducing myself to the other delegates, trustees, and staff. I have often been one of the people who feel like our groups, districts and area should not be paying for us to socialize – we should come and take care of our business and go home. The thing I realized during Conference week is that General Service is much more than doing business, it is about bringing us to full participation and the wholeness our Higher Power means for us to enjoy. Every person in this room is capable of serving as Delegate. Only old ideas and contempt prior to investigation stands in our way. Don't let those things stop you. I would never be standing here today giving a report about what happened at the General Service Conference if I listened to my head instead of my Sponsor, Homegroup and God.

At the Conference I experienced a fuller appreciation of the idea that nothing we do is insignificant, that what we do and the decisions we make that effect our world services –

impacts remote groups in places like Alaska, Puerto Rico, northern Canada; Loners who do not have a group to support them; alcoholics who are isolated from society because of crime or health; and the many international GSO's that follow our lead. Each of us are servants not only to our groups, but also to the world-wide fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I met delegates that have to fly into an assembly or conference – because of distance or because there is not road system available to travel. What we do here may seem like such a small piece but when God weaves it together with the other 92 delegates areas, the experience of our Trustees, GSO, Grapevine & LaVina staffs it is a huge picture of hope and recovery—we should never lose sight of that.

As you might imagine the days were full and the schedule was tight. The Conference did not officially begin until Sunday, but with so many members arriving on Saturday, there were some unofficial events that kept us busy (meet & greet/1728 meeting/remote communities meeting/delegates only meeting). The atmosphere was filled with positive energy – so at the end of each day I felt tired but not drained – every night when I thanked God for the day, my heart was full.

The Area Highlights were one of my favorite parts of the week. It helped to become better acquainted with the other Panel 64 Delegates and the “largeness” of Alcoholics Anonymous in the US & Canada. For myself it gave me the same sense of belonging that I experienced when I finished my 5th Step.

The Conference as a whole exposed me to the depth of our fellowships diversity and to the challenges that go with that diversity. This year we celebrated not only the 64th year of the Conference, but also Grapevine's 70th Anniversary, the 75th Anniversary of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and 79 years of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Preparing my report for today has helped me process much of what happened during Conference week. Things can happen pretty fast on the Conference floor and I felt like I had plenty of notes, but as I put my report together I realized there are some holes! If you have questions that I am unable to answer immediately, please know that I will find the

answer and get back to you. So, in advance, I would like to thank you for your patience.

The Conference officially closed on Friday once we completed our Floor Actions. On Saturday morning we enjoyed a brunch and the three Trustees that were rotating out had time to give some reflections on their time as Trustee. They were Rod B. – Pacific Regional Trustee; Donald C. – Eastern Canada Regional Trustee; and Roberta L. – General Service Trustee.

Rod B. – Pacific Regional Trustee

- ⇒ Class A Trustee's are a treasure, they serve our fellowship purely out of the love in their hearts for AA.
- ⇒ Hoping to have the oral translation of the big book in Navajo finished by next spring to present to the Red Road A.A. Convention in New Mexico. Navajo is not a written language. There are 2 links for a video of the 12 steps in Navajo. It is a very touching video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYwMeZkei9o&feature=youtu.be> and <http://youtu.be/cYwMeZkei9o>
- ⇒ We need to be very careful with our behavior and how we conduct ourselves – our work is too vital – we can't afford to run anyone off, alcoholic or non-alcoholic.

Donald C. – Eastern Canada Regional Trustee

- ⇒ It is important for us to know our Trustee's
- ⇒ Invite them to our Area events, tell them what we need. They have the ability to bring something to the Board's to discuss and try.

Roberta L. – General Service Trustee

- ⇒ Trustee's work together in cooperation with the good of AA as their mission.
- ⇒ Their role is to look at strategic planning and future vision, not micro-managing the General Service Office.
- ⇒ Talk about self-support: everywhere, all the time

I have thank you cards for these individuals if you care to sign them they will be on the table.

“Hot Topics” these are a few of the items that were underlying a lot of the discussion that happened during the week. Topics I think are worthy of our on-going conversation.

- ◆ Inclusion: what can we do to be sure that every person that comes to AA can fully participate? Individuals with special physical needs, linguistic considerations, spiritual beliefs. Always asking ourselves, “Is this the best we can provide?”
- ◆ Many people no longer carry cash with them. How is that effecting contributions at all levels – how does your group handle this changing practice?
- ◆ 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, GA, talk about it and encourage attendance.
- ◆ Group safety – GSO would like input on this topic and how groups handle issues of personal safety within your group – we need to get the fellowship talking about this.
- ◆ Anonymity (websites / email / social media – Facebook, twitter)
- ◆ Our use of phrases like “dark districts”. The Conference felt it was extremely inappropriate to use the working title “People of Color” we were not closing the Conference without that changed.
- ◆ A search for 2 Class A Trustees will begin immediately following the GS Conference, so if you know of a non-alcoholic who would be a good candidate – invite them to submit their resume for consideration.
- ◆ New GSO website has been postponed because they want it to be as clean as it can be before launching it. We did get to see some hard copy print outs of some of the pages – it is extremely different than what we currently have, and should be much more user friendly. Q. Will the new website effect the links that District & Area website have? A. No, it is intended to be a seamless transition.
- ◆ Liability Insurance – groups being requested to carry to meet. One of our Trustees knows of an insurance group who writes policies for AA groups. Talk to me if you need more information on this. (Chet P, Trustee)

Who makes up the Conference?

This year there are 133 voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A.'s World Services and of the Steps and Traditions. They are composed as follows:

Delegates Statistics

Avg. Age	59
Oldest	78
Youngest	32
Avg. Sobriety	21
Longest Sobriety	41
Shortest Sobriety	7
Avg. Service	17
Longest Service	37
Shortest Service	7

69.9%

93 Delegates

Function: Represent A.A. groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for A.A.'s World Services. Traditionally, Delegates constitutes at least two-thirds of the voting membership.

18.8%

25 Trustees,
AAWS Directors,
GV Directors

Function: Responsible for policy and implementation.

11.3%

15 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff
Function: Carry out policies of and report to the General Service Board and Conference.

Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.

I. Agenda Committee (ALL 4 OF THESE PASSED)

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2015 General Service Conference.

The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference be: “Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future

Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2015 General Service Conference.

“Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action”

Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion

Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group

Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology

Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead

Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

The Conference Evaluation Form be available in English, French and Spanish beginning in 2015

Review the revised description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, Conference Committees in the 2013-2014 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Approved the following revision: AGENDA (*trustees’ committee: General Service Conference*): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes, presentation/discussion topics **and Conference Evaluation Questionnaire**.

II. CPC Committee

Consider changes to the section, “Referrals from Court and Treatment Facilities” on page 4 in the pamphlet, “If You Are a Professional...”

It was recommended that to be revised to read: MOTION PASSED

Referrals from Judicial, Health Care, or Other Professionals

*Today numerous A.A. members come to us from **judicial, health care, or other professionals**. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.*

A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern.

*Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a **referral source** asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.*

Groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group’s involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.

Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source.

The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance

The statement in the section *How to Make Referrals to A.A.* on page 5 in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional... Be revised to read: MOTION PASSED

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at www.aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’ or ‘A.A.’ (Some professionals ask the person they are referring to call the local A.A. number while still in the office, thus offering an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)

Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G.S.O.’s A.A. website www.aa.org can aid in finding local resources.

P.O. Box 459 / Grand Central Station / New York, NY 10163

(212) 870-3400 / www.aa.org

(ADDRESS FORMAT WAS ADJUSTED BY ME FOR SPACING – WILL BE 5 LINES IN PAMPHLET)

B. Consider changes to the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional.”

Approved to be removed: *“I can’t stand the smoking.” There are nonsmoking meetings available. Check the local meeting book for them or contact the local A.A. central office which is listed in your telephone directory.* **MOTION PASSED**

C. Review contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook – **Additional Committee Consideration**

The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation with the Professional Community Kit and Workbook and suggested:

Adding an index of past issues of *About A.A.* to the publications tab.

Including a copy of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in each Kit, subject to cost considerations.

Include a copy of the April, 2010 A.A. Grapevine article entitled, “Spirituality and ‘God Talk,’” by former Class A chair of the General Service Board, Ward Ewing, and a copy of the Fall 2003 *About A.A.* newsletter entitled, “The A.A. Program – Spiritual But Never ‘Religious.’”

The committee suggested that changes be made to the service piece *Information on Alcoholics Anonymous* (F-2) under the section “Proof of Attendance at A.A. Meetings” to reflect changes proposed for the pamphlet “If You Are A Professional...”

III. Corrections Committee

Consider request for revisions to the section “What A.A. does NOT do” in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” to be consistent with similar text in C.P.C. literature.

Per Area 74’s concern I made an amendment that “or host/sponsor retreats” be removed from this revised text. The committee will not accept this as a friendly amendment. Even though some area sponsor retreats we (AA) does not promote or host – the amendment failed.

Be revised to read (additional text in **bold**):

What A.A. does NOT do

A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover; solicit members; engage in or sponsor research; keep attendance records or case histories; join “councils” of social agencies (**although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them**); follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide **detox, rehabilitation** or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services **or host/sponsor retreats**; engage in education about alcohol; provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or any other welfare or social services; provide domestic or vocational counseling; accept any money for its services or any contributions from non-A.A. sources; provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

Discussion on the original motion, **Vote Motion Passed** (I voted in opposition)

Consider the development of a new video to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” (DV-08).

A new video be developed to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” at a cost not to exceed \$70,000. MOTION PASSED

Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and suggested that the DVD, “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” (DV-06) be included in the Corrections Kit (MV-45).

Additional Committee Consideration

The committee noted from the trustees’ report that the number of requests from male inmates (U.S.) for Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) continues to increase at a rate significantly higher than the

number of “outside” male volunteers available. The committee discussed ways to increase participation in C.C.S. including:

Offer presentations on C.C.S. at A.A. events;

Communicate the importance of C.C.S. to area delegates;

Increase awareness of C.C.S. at A.A. meetings;

Make C.C.S. information and forms more accessible at the home group;

Use G.S.O. and Grapevine publications to encourage C.C.S. participation;

Consider the topic of C.C.S. for presentations at Regional Forums.

IV. Finance Committee

Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

The committee did not feel an increase was necessary at this time. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Review Self-Support Packet Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed the Self-Support packet and suggests that the following changes, as the Self-Support Card (F-42) is being updated by the A.A.W.S. Finance Committee:

Add the phrase “Your contributions help ensure the future of our Fellowship worldwide” in the “Some facts” section of the card.

Delete the phrase “Give until it feels good” under “Personal thoughts.”

In addition to reporting the average costs per member, add the year of the costs that are quoted so the reader will know how current the information is.

This was an Approved Advisory Action

It was recommended that:

Because all Conference members are considered equal, all members should have equal access to Conference material and that a plan be created by the General Service Office to translate Conference Material (background material, Conference Manual etc.) into French and Spanish for use during the Conference, with a report being presented to the 2015 General Service Conference. This plan may include coordinating the use of the volunteer network throughout the Fellowship, hiring professional translators or any other facilities that the office deems necessary. The report should include costs and any other considerations deemed necessary to allow timely translations to occur.

V. Grapevine Committee

A. Review Audio Strategy status update. Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed the 2014 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and requested that an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future, be provided to the 2015 Conference Committee on the Grapevine

B. Review A.A. Grapevine Board proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine to significantly reduce the La Viña deficit. Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board’s suggestion that a new business plan is required for La Viña and requested that a new business plan be developed for La Viña and be brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on A.A. Grapevine for review.

C. Review report from A.A. Grapevine Board on feasibility of producing one book in American Sign Language (ASL). Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed the report from the A.A. Grapevine Board on the feasibility of producing one book in ASL format. The committee agreed with the conclusion of the report that it is not feasible at this time to produce one book in ASL format due to cost considerations and a lack of expressed need.

- D. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2015 and later. **Additional Committee Consideration:** The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2015 or later: **Note – the working title “People of Color” was changed to “Diversity in AA”

- E. Reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine. The committee discussed the request to reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine and **took no action.**

Notes: The committee wanted to keep the section Alcoholism at Large, the vote was split. Discussion on current content. Staff was invited in for additional information on how the pages are vetted. It was discussed that subscriptions are effecting by this section. Was the background considered by the committee on the – some of these articles are in direct violation of our traditions.

This item came back as a Floor Action.

- F. Consider a request “to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the A.A. Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines.” **This item did not result in a Conference Advisory Action**

The committee discussed a request “to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the A.A. Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines.” The committee acknowledged that Grapevine and La Viña are valuable Twelfth-Step tools. The committee **recommended** that the A.A. Grapevine Board have the ability to exercise their right of decision for all formatting decisions in producing Grapevine and La Viña noting that this recommendation removes all formatting restrictions on Grapevine and La Viña.

After an hour and 20 minute discussion, the Question was called, vote taken
135 Total / 2/3 = 90 / in favor 76 / opposed 49... **MOTION FAILED**

This came back as a Floor Action

- G. Review suggested changes to pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” (P-52). **Additional Committee Consideration**

The committee reviewed suggested changes from A.A. Grapevine Board to the pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” (P-52) and made the following suggestions:

Re-edit the pamphlet for consistency and grammar.

Use the subtitle “Our Meetings in Print and Other Media” on the cover of the pamphlet and on page 5.

The committee requested that a revised draft be presented to the 2015 Conference Committee for review.

- H. Review Grapevine Workbook
Committee had no changes suggestions

VI. Literature Committee (Started this report at 9:00 am, broke for lunch, finished at 3:49 pm) J

- A. Review the draft revised pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service.”

The committee recommended the revised pamphlet be approved. **MOTION PASSED**

- B. Review revised draft of the proposed pamphlet on spirituality. **MOTION PASSED**
The committee recommended the pamphlet on spirituality with the title “Many Paths to Spirituality” be approved.

During discussion we had two different amendments addressing one sentence. After lengthy discussion on each, neither passed, so discussion was again opened to the original motion to approve the pamphlet. The motion passed with a clear 2/3’s majority. The minority did speak, no one in the majority wished to change their vote.

Conference members did have the opportunity to read the proposed pamphlet. I thought it was a good pamphlet except for the one sentence that generated concern. I voted in opposition of this motion.

The pamphlet should be available sometime in July. I would propose that we purchase copies of the pamphlet for review at the August Area Committee meeting. Agenda items for the 2015 General Service Conference will need to be submitted by December 15th this year, so an August review would give us time to go back to our groups and come back to either the September or October assembly for support to submit an agenda item.

- C. Discuss suggested change to the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated.”
The committee **took no action** on this item. Report and Charter had a similar item and they wanted to see what they did with this. Literature would like to revisit this item next year.
- D. Discuss suggested changes to the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship.”
The committee **took no action** on this item. They felt the language in the pamphlet is adequate.

Discuss suggested changes to *Living Sober*. . **MOTION FAILED**

The committee recommended removing the following text from page five in the *Living Sober* booklet: “Many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug alcohol; like addicts of any sort who want to maintain recovery, we have to keep away from the first dose of the drug we have become addicted to.” NOTE: The committee agreed that the current text added to confusion regarding A.A.’s Singleness of Purpose.

Vote 118 total / 2/3= 80 / in favor 50 / opposed 68. The motion Failed.

Consider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial A.A. service mark on Conference-approved literature.

The committee by unanimous vote **took no action** on this item

This came back again as a Floor Action.

Consider a request to create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness.

The committee **took no action** on this item. They felt that this subject is adequately addressed in current AA literature.

This came back as a Floor Action – The General Service Conference recommended that literature which focuses on Alcoholics in Recovery with Mental Health Issues be developed. The motion to decline to hear failed so discussion was opened. After considerable discussion the Question was called. Vote 126 total / 2/3=84 / in favor 77 / opposed 49, the motion failed. Minority spoke, someone in the majority wished to change their vote, seconded & passed. Discussion reopened; Question called. Vote 128 total / 2/3=86 / in favor 77 / opposed 51 – Motion failed.

Consider a request to add “Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the Primary Purpose (Blue) card. . **MOTION FAILED**

This is a bit of an anomaly – it is not a piece of “conference approved literature”, but it was created by the 1997 GS Conference. So even though permission to change it is not required, it was felt that it would be appropriate to seek the Conferences blessing. . After discussion a vote was taken. Vote 115 total / 2/3= 77 / in favor 60 / opposed 55.

Approve a correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices in the Preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. . **MOTION PASSED**

Inaccurate text correction – page XI (1st sentence) s/b 2nd printing of the 1st edition – if improving the accuracy of the big book – good, committee supported corrections be made.

It was recommended that: “The second edition added the appendices, the Twelve Traditions, and the directions for getting in touch with A.A.”

Be replaced with:

“The second printing of the first edition added the appendix ‘Spiritual Experience’; in the second edition, the appendices on A.A. Tradition, the ‘medical view’ and ‘religious view’ of A.A., the Lasker Award and information on how to contact A.A. were added, and the appendix on the Alcoholic Foundation was discontinued.”

The Conference recommended that the **following recommendation be returned to the A.A.W.S. Board for review and brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on Literature with full background:**
MOTION PASSED

The committee recommended that “The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature” be further clarified regarding “...needed editorial changes” as noted below by asterisk and bolded text:

“Unless otherwise specified in the Advisory Action of the Conference approving a new or amended piece of literature, A.A. World Services, Inc. will have the ~~full~~ authority, without need of further Conference action to (a) select the format or formats in which the approved literature will be produced, (b) make, from time to time, needed editorial changes*; provided, however, that no editorial change will be made to the Big Book’s Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ the first 164 pages (Chapters 1-11), ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ or the Appendices without prior Conference approval of such change, and (c) translate the approved literature into any language, and in connection therewith to modify or replace illustrations, photos, and other visual art in a manner reasonably designed to conform them to the culture of the expected readership.”

Editorial changes to be limited to factual, statistical, capitalization, punctuation and spelling; that any other changes made to the substance of the Conference-approved literature shall be through the Conference process.”

VII. Policy/Admissions Committee

There were 3 people approved to attend the Conference in place of a delegate who was unable to attend. . **MOTION PASSED**

Jim S – Area 1, Alabama/Northwest Florida in place of Craig M

Joyce S – Area 83, Eastern Ontario, in place of Mel C.

Jennie H – Area 85, Northwest Ontario in place of Ken B

Review dates for the 2017 General Service Conference. . **MOTION PASSED**
The dates of April 23-29, 2017

The Committee recommended that: During a two-year trial period the General Service Conference include one day of electronic voting on all nonelection votes, on the Thursday of the 2015 General Service Conference and on the Friday of the 2016 General Service Conference, and that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference provide a report from data gathered from the 2015 and 2016 General Service Conferences, evaluating electronic voting to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration. . **MOTION PASSED**

There was a spirited discussion, if you are at this level of service you should be able to vote at a public level. How will we know who is in the minority. Support this as positive due to time saving. Positive views from both sides – there would be an element of spirituality that would be lost. Rent or purchase, do we anticipate shaving a day off the Conference – answer: the time savings would be only 4 hours. A staff member voiced that they never felt recrimination. Opposed because it would reduce the voting to a number. Opposed cost ratio to time savings. Important to change with new times. Against to send the message to the fellowship that we need to vote anonymously. What type of data would we be gathering – members of the conferences could express their opinions for committee review. This is the use of electronics that inhibits good communication. Warranty say we are democratic in process – to ask an employee to vote in front of their employers and bosses would not happen in any other democratic situation. Question called / passed

Vote 127 voted / 2/3= 85 / in favor 84 / opposed 43 motion failed

Minority wished to change their vote, vote to reconsider accepted – discussion opened

Need a conference action to change procedure. Are we taking out the word anonymous or are we taking out the spirit of anonymous. It is the ambiguity of the motion that is opposed. Would be the same as we are currently do, just would be more efficient.

Vote 131 total / 2/3 = 88 / in favor 94 / opposed 37 motion passed

Reconsider the 2008 Conference Advisory Action regarding responsibility for site selection of the General Service Conference.

In order to keep this in the hands of the Policy/Admissions committee and the Conference the committee made the following recommendation:

The committee discussed the 2008 Conference Advisory Action regarding responsibility for site selection of the General Service Conference and **took no action**. The committee considered that the current hotel site-selection process by the General Service Office management is appropriate. The committee suggested that, in the spirit of clear communication, reports describing the hotel site-selection process of all future General Service Conferences be provided to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their information.

VIII. Public Information Committee

Review 2014 Comprehensive Media Plan from the trustees' P.I. Committee. **Additional Committee Consideration**

The committee reviewed the 2014 Comprehensive Media Plan. Because this document will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, the committee asked the staff secretary to forward some suggestions to the trustees' P.I. Committee, including the follow

Clarification of some terminology since the plan is distributed widely to A.A. members who may be unfamiliar with media jargon.

Adding annual review of the plan by the Conference P.I. Committee to the cover memo under “process.”

Emphasis on items not only being “actionable” but also, whenever possible, “measurable.” The committee expressed strong support for the forward-looking vision of the Comprehensive Media Plan regarding seeking member-submitted content for future Public Service Announcements, similar to the model used for the Young People’s Video Project.

Consider report from the trustees’ P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site. **Additional Committee Consideration**

The committee reviewed the 2013 Annual Report from the trustees’ Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. website. The committee requested that when ongoing website projects have made further progress than what was reflected in the distributed background, that relevant updates be communicated to the committee prior to the Conference. Consider that the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.

The committee considered two proposed items from the report on the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey from the trustees’ Committee on Public Information regarding A.A. member awareness of services offered by G.S.O., and A.A. member awareness of the A.A. Grapevine, and **took no action**. The committee recognized the potential usefulness of gathering such information, but did not believe these questions fit the historical purpose of the A.A. Membership Survey

The committee strongly supported the idea of utilizing digital survey methods for future surveys, and looks forward to hearing from the trustees’ P.I. Committee regarding how such a transition might best be accomplished **Additional Committee Consideration**

The committee reviewed presurvey communications for area delegates and groups randomly selected to participate in the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey, and offered some suggestions to the staff secretary for how such communication might be most effective and helpful. The committee acknowledged that successful administration of the survey depends upon delegate participation in the process **Additional Committee Consideration**

Item 1 was taken an item at a time, for consensus and voted on for approval as a group. **MOTION PASSED**

The 2014 A.A. Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:

Item 3a be changed from “Married” to “Married or Life partner.”

Item 11e be changed from “Counseling agency” to “Counselor or mental health professional.”

Item 11f be changed from “Court order” to “Judicial system.”

Item 11g be changed from “Health professional” to “Medical professional.”

Item 13a be changed to “Before coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) **related to your drinking?** (If yes, answer question 13b)” [additional text in bold]

Item 14a be changed to “After coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) **related to your drinking?** (If yes, answer question 14b)” [additional text in bold]

Item 15 be changed from “Did a health professional ever refer you to A.A.?” to “Did a counselor, medical or mental health professional ever refer you to A.A.?”

The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey. **MOTION PASSED**

Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s): **Additional Committee Consideration**

The Conference Committee on Public Information expressed concern about possible inconsistencies between retiring certain P.S.A.s because of conflict with the current full-face policy, and posting video content on AA.org that may also be perceived to conflict with this policy. The committee asked that the A.A.W.S. Board consider offering the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* via a digital platform accessible by local committees, rather than displaying this content on publicly accessible pages of the AA.org website.

Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s.

The committee agreed with the assessment provided in the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s regarding the P.S.A.s "I Thought," "A Force of Nature" and "Testimonials," including the suggestion that as new P.S.A.s are developed that these three items be retired as quickly as practical.

Additional Committee Consideration

Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

The video public service announcements "Living in Chaos" and "We Know What It's Like" be discontinued. **MOTION PASSED**

Consider production of new video P.S.A.

A new public service announcement be produced in 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. **MOTION PASSED**

Review final report on the centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the video P.S.A. for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza." ??? No idea ???

E. Consider revisions to the Anonymity Card (F-20). **MOTION FAILED**

The Committee recommended changes to the Anonymity Card – there was a long discussion on this, the first voted passed the recommended changes (95 in favor / 30 opposed), the minority spoke and a vote to reconsider passed.

Discussion opened

Vote taken: Vote 116 total / 2/3=78 / in favor 55 / opposed 61

This came back as a Floor Action

F. Review progress report on development of a brief video on anonymity.

The committee reviewed a progress report on development of a brief video on anonymity for inclusion with the Annual Letter to the Media, and expressed support for the content and purpose of such a video. The committee requested that if such a video is created that it be brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on Public Information prior to posting or distribution. The committee recognized that this may mean delayed mailing of the Annual Letter to the Media until after the next Conference. The committee also expressed support for the idea of using both Class A and Class B trustees in the video, with the Class B trustees' anonymity carefully protected, to serve as an example of how A.A. members can share information about A.A. in the media within the spirit of our anonymity tradition. **Additional Committee Consideration**

G. Discuss how delegates might stimulate local discussions in light of ongoing anonymity concerns. **Additional Committee Consideration**

.In light of ongoing anonymity concerns, the committee suggested that delegates and other trusted servants utilize a variety of means, such as workshops, newsletters, panels, delegate reports, local A.A. websites, skits, presentations, etc., to stimulate A.A. members' discussion on how to maintain anonymity at the public level. Because the ranks of our ever-changing membership exist in an ever-changing world, the committee acknowledged that such efforts truly have no end-point, and might best be incorporated as a regular part of local A.A. discussions and events. The committee asked the staff secretary to explore both direct and indirect ways of sharing these concerns, and a list of A.A. resources on anonymity, with the A.A. Fellowship. The committee also asked the staff secretary to share the following suggestions with the 2015 International Convention coordinator for emphasis on anonymity at the International Convention via the following means:

Pre-Convention registration and communication materials, including AA.org.

Hospitality suite communication and materials.

Consideration of an anonymity booth or similar display.

H. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook **Additional Committee Consideration**

The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook, and suggested adding the following items:

Anonymity Online (SM F-197)

Anonymity Card (F-20)

IX. Report and Charter Committee

The A.A. Service Manual, 2014-2015 Edition:

Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.

Review revisions from the General Service Board.

Below are 2 **Additional Committee Considerations** to address items 1 & 2

The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of *The A.A. Service Manual* 2014-2015 Edition, and the 2014 General Service *Conference Final Report*. The committee noted that the "Report of the 2014 General Service Conference Inventory" in the *Final Report* may take longer to prepare than the other front matter and asked to review the page proofs of the inventory report as soon as possible prior to publication.

In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed the updates from the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions. The committee requested the General Service Board reconsider one item that they had forwarded.

Review list of editorial updates.

Consider draft text for "Advisory Action" and "Additional Committee Consideration" as additions to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19.

It was recommended that:

The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*: "**Advisory Action** – Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of a recommendation made by a

Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole.” **MOTION PASSED**

The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*: “**Additional Committee Consideration** – An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or made by the Conference as a whole.” **MOTION PASSED**

Consider draft text regarding duties and qualifications of “Secretary and Registrar” on page S45. After much discussion, a few amendments (that did not pass) the vote was on the original recommended motion. **MOTION PASSED**

Registrar

DUTIES: In many areas, *registrars* now develop and maintain records of all groups in the area, including group name, meeting location, time, and G.S.R. or group contact. Registrars may also be responsible for names, addresses, **e-mail addresses** and phone numbers of the G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, district and area officers and area committee members. They may provide mailing labels for area publications such as a monthly newsletter or a mailing of minutes. **Area registrars also assist the G.S.O. Records Department to keep their records up-to-date.**

QUALIFICATIONS: Registrars should be familiar with the area and district structure. For this job, an organized approach is important as there are many details that need to be recorded. Ideally, it would be very helpful if the area registrar possessed some practical, working computer knowledge, and were comfortable relaying information via e-mail to G.S.O. and within the local area.”

Consider request to modify Article III of the Current Conference Charter.

The committee considered a request to modify Article 3 of the Current Conference Charter and **took no action**. The committee agreed that the proposed modification was unnecessary, noting that the existing phrasing of Article 3 adequately addresses the process for making a change to Article 12 of the Charter, the Twelve Traditions of A.A., or the Twelve Steps of A.A.

Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.).

The committee considered the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.) and requested that the General Service Office explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the contact information contained in the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.). **The committee requested that a report be brought back to the 2015 Report and Charter Conference Committee.**

Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*:

Reconsider the 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights

The committee reconsidered a 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights in the General Service Conference *Final Report* and **took no action**. The committee agreed that the entire *Final Report* should continue to be professionally edited and published, and noted that they had discussed the Area Service Highlights in 2013. The committee requested that the memo to first-year delegates regarding Area Service Highlights emphasize that the Highlights may be edited for the *Final Report*.

X. Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities Committee

- A. Consider proposal to revise the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity.

The committee thoroughly considered a proposal to revise the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity and **took no action**. The committee acknowledged the desire in some areas for a generic Conference-approved pamphlet about bridging the gap. While some areas have combined corrections and treatment bridging the gap activities, they remain separate in many others. The sense of the committee was that revising the current pamphlet to include both treatment and corrections might not adequately address the variety of bridging the gap programs that areas throughout the U.S. and Canada have developed to address their specific needs. Some of these areas have developed service material tailored specifically to explain their local programs.

The committee requested that the General Service Board consider whether there is a need to develop a Conference-approved pamphlet addressing bridging the gap activities for corrections.

- B. Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook.

The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook and agreed that the current contents adequately serve the needs of local committees.

- C. Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

The committee reviewed the Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook and expressed appreciation for the service material that is available to assist American Sign Language interpreters. They noted that the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are available in this format, and requested that a service piece be developed of the Twelve Concepts for World Service for signing purposes

The Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs also recommended the following Additional Considerations

The committee noted that the first line in Gloria’s Story in the pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” that says “I was 84 years old and 11 years sober (Although I’ve been in A.A. since 1962...)” might be confusing to newcomers. They requested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider whether this language might be clarified and bring back any suggestion for revision to the 2015 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.

The committee asked that the staff member on the Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities assignment explore ways to provide electronic versions of the Workbooks and other materials in the Kits to committee chairs as an alternative to automatically mailing hard copies.

XI. Trustees Committee

- A. Review resumes of candidates for: *nothing to review*

1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee – the new Trustee will be Richard B.
Pacific Regional Trustee - the new Trustee will be Joel C

- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics

Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

I have the list of all slates that were put forward – there was no opposition to any of the slates. Because of use of full names – I have not included that list in this report. However, if you

would like to see the slate you can contact me or wait for the 2014 General Service Final Report, where the complete lists will be available.

XII. Archives Committee

A. Review revised draft video *Markings on the Journey*. **MOTION PASSED**

It was recommended that: The video *Markings on the Journey* be approved. We did see the video – there was 1 person in opposition and who spoke. She felt that there were too many errors and inconsistencies in the subtitles. No one in the majority wished to change their vote

B. Review Archives Workbook

The committee like the workbook and didn't see any changes that need to be made. There was an **Additional Committee Consideration** made: The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and suggested adding sharing of experience with regard to preservation procedures, as well as on legal considerations for Archives collections.

XIII. International Conventions / Regional Forums Committee

Discuss anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2015 International Convention. **MOTION PASSED**

It was recommended that:

An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2015 International Convention

Consider a broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected delayed Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony. **MOTION PASSED**

It was recommended that:

An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees, and some of the suggestions were:

Having the Forum Flyer professionally designed so that it would be attractive, perhaps could be used as a table topper;

Sharing ideas among areas in a region or region-to-region;

Encouraging those who have attended Regional Forums to share their enthusiasm about their experience – word-of-mouth sharing is really powerful;

Bring information about the Regional Forum to every district and area event.

FLOOR ACTIONS

#1 – To add a single line item to the General Fund budget for La Vina

Unclear why this hasn't happened yet. Subcommittee has been established to look at what the implications of this action would be. **Motion to decline to hear passed – no action taken**

#2 – The 64th General Service Conference reaffirms the right of decision of the Grapevine Board to make formatting decision for the AA Grapevine and LaVina magazines noting: a) That right is already exercised by publication of LaVina in color and b) The 2010 Advisory Action recommended a beginning point in bringing LaVina to spiritual parity with the AA Grapevine.

We discussed this item for about 1 ½ hours – Motion and second to decline to hear the floor action – needs 2/3 I voted to decline to hear the floor action – I felt that through discussion took place during

the committee report and this did not need to be reopened. Vote 117 / 2/3 = 78/ in favor 65 / opposed 53 motion failed / discussion open

La Vina is not in color only the cover is in color / this keeps what is already in place / speak in favor of this because the item was confused / favor – believe in keeping with the principles – would send a strong message that we support / 2010 but a beginning / opposed – that the Grapevine board did not request it and the Grapevine staff has not spoken to this / trying to enhance verbiage to ensure spirituality parity / takes away all restrictions/guidelines and leaves it open to improving or not improving, prefers the

Talking about material parity / opposed – doesn't think it is necessary, 2010 is only a "beginning", why did we do this – LaVina was being stapled and Grapevine was beginning to be perfect bound – this was the main reason was to push publishing to ensure that La Vina would continue to be used in correctional facility / because we forget –

LaVina editor – speaks in opposition, unclear – wants to clarify after the action passed we would have the ability to start with visiting district, and start writing workshops.

I voted in opposition – motion failed

#3 – The Conference consider the use of the circle and triangle on Conference approved literature as a historical reminder of A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. **Motion to decline to hear passed – no action taken**

#4 – AA Grapevine discontinue publishing the Alcoholism at Large section of the Grapevine Magazine. The Grapevine staff uses guidelines when editing the stories that are submitted for publication like: if this was heard in an AA meeting would it be in line with our traditions? These pages are outside issues and violates our traditions. **MOTION FAILED**

Vote to decline: failed... Discussion opened....

It is a reoccurring agenda item, it has become a controversial within the fellowship

Respect the concern for our traditions – when the history is read, read what Bill wrote, we were encouraged to explore areas that might help

This causes disunity / many newcomers that were not disturbed by the grey pages, old-timer's are disturbed / new members are not!

We need current information about alcoholism and we need our friends – with the advent of technology we have much more access to outside information on alcoholism

The magazine would be complete without the gray pages, pages are not really necessary

The very first article on the first page of the first issue – I think we should let the Grapevine Board and Staff to continue doing their job

Strongly opposed had difficulty in differentiating between AA and outside issues / compared vs identified

Disclaimer is too small and easily missed

Not put stuff like drinking games in this section. / Use more articles from Class A Trustees and articles with more "meat" on alcoholism

Gray pages are inconsistent with our primary purpose

Articles are not being written by friends of AA, want to remove any reasons for not subscribing to the Grapevine

Gray pages would not be appropriate in meeting / liked the idea of using Class A for writing

Is there similar section in La Vina and LaVine (yes)

Support the Grapevine staff's ability to make this decision

Gray pages are "teasers" – how many people go to the sources?

Support to remove pages – Grapevine is our meeting in print, but does the Board, Director and Staff believe it is our meeting in print, but it is also more...it is the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. (Jon)

Is this our best? It is used a lot in CPC work?

Call the question-passed

Vote on Motion 123 total / 2/3 = 82/ favor 70 / opposed 53 motion failed

#5 – The General Service Conference recommended that literature which focuses on “Alcoholics in Recovery with Mental Health Issues” be developed. **MOTION FAILED**

Decline to hear...vote 118 / 2/3 = 79 / favor 54 / opposed 64. We will hear this motion: Discussion opened / hard work of general service work, the materials are not enough, our hope is that people who have mental health issue know that there is help in AA / challenges to adapting their behavior to our fellowship – we have pamphlets to address the many unique needs to individuals and this is also a real need. Favor to develop every piece of literature can offer a help / a publication dealing with this issue can help newcomers / opposed – we are not experts in this area / there is a lot of help available outside the fellowship, Bill himself was a depressive and he did not address this in our literature / AA is an expert in alcoholism and literature would let people who have this health issue know that they do have a place in AA / favor – in my homegroup have had a number of men that have asked for sponsorship it could maybe help those who are sponsor / there has been 3 times in the last 10 years requests for this type of information / we do not have to specify language to move forward / this is not for those who are already here it is for those who are coming in / one women who sponsors many who have mental health issues – it might help both the person asked to sponsor and the new person to see they are welcomed / for those who are in the fellowship and don't understand / we need a new way to communicate with mental health professionals and clients / Area 35 is opposed to any pamphlet at all / not in support, literature does not support or change attitudes of the fellowship / how do we stay sober in spite of our mental health issues, we do need more information / literature does serve as a roadmap to what we model and how we supply sponsorship / they need the most basic kind of help, if they could read themselves or help themselves or trust others, we would need this literature, but they can't. / how do we chose what is a mental health issue that needs to be identified within our fellowship, simply uncertain what we are defining mental health issues are in AA / spent many months in mental health units, today I don't suffer from those issues today, I've seen the damage done – if it were developed it would include addressing facilities by bringing in literature to places where people are locked in and unable to attend AA meetings. / We have people with other issues coming into our rooms – what can they benefit by coming into our fellowship – this can help give them a place, before some of these people can get help with their other problems they have to get sober first / always knew that the problem was in my head maybe if there was a pamphlet it may have gotten me to AA sooner.

Vote after lunch Vote 126 / 2/3 = 84 / favor 77 / opposed 49 (I voted in opposition)

Minority opinion

This would be very important so that other people who have mental health issues that can recover in AA / if better articulated / hope that we will consider will help the alcoholic who is still suffering and in no way to hurt our fellowship / this is an opportunity to start develop something / we can't help everybody, but we are supposed to help those we can / we are not approving a pamphlet, we are approving a concept of providing an avenue to support this issue / there are only one liners that are hard for a well person to find, much less someone who is sick / the Big Book, and the 12 x 12 did not make the connection with recovery – it would be nice to have that tool to take out to the suffering alcoholic.

Motion to reconsider with second – will reconsider, Open discussion –

Are we turning our backs on the mentally ill, I am responsible – promises vs ideals / not what it should be like, but do we need it / literature is not enough / offered a way to fill the oral holes that

have been displayed in this discussion / the fellowship develops it and the office helps to create that vision.

2:41 pm - Call the question /Vote 128 total / $2/3 = 86$ / in favor 77 / opposed 51 (I voted in opposition), motion failed

#6 – Anonymity Card (to replace F20): **Motion to decline to hear, passed – motion will not be heard.**