

## **ELECTRONIC SERVICE PIECE**

# **ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

**1951-2012**

**From the minutes of the January 26, 2012 Meeting of the  
A.A. World Services, Inc. Publishing Committee:**

“...A PDF of *Conference Advisory Actions 1951-2009*, anonymity protected, be made available in an electronic service piece which can be sent to A.A. members upon request.”

### **ANONYMITY PROTECTION**

All names have been deleted from this electronic service piece except for references to “Bill,” “Bill W.,” “Dr. Bob,” and “Lois.” For research purposes names can be found in the print version of the Confidential 1951-2009 Advisory Actions booklet.



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**“While no one can speak for A.A. officially, the Conference [through its Advisory Actions] comes close to being A.A.’s voice. It cannot be an A.A. authority, but it can bring into free discussion problems and trends and dangers that seem to affect Fellowship harmony, purpose, and effectiveness.”**

*—The A.A. Service Manual*  
(page S81, 1998-99 edition)

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# INTRODUCTION

From the Report of the first annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (1951):

## The Sense of the Meeting

“‘Genuine faith,’ a thoughtful spiritual leader tells us, ‘is more than insight. It is always the “beginning of action.” It is propulsive. It fortifies the will. *It begins as an experiment and ends as an experience.*’ The first General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous fulfilled each particular of that definition. It was an unbounded expressions of faith in the future of Alcoholics Anonymous.

“The Conference reflected the *insight* of the earliest members into the crucial problems of continuing A.A. unity, continuing service to individuals and groups already in A.A., and the compelling need to reach and help ‘the million who still don’t know.’

“The Conference was, in truth, *the beginning of action*, designed to preserve and strengthen A.A. This constructive action was expressed in two ways. Through the Conference, the founders and their friends, who have sustained A.A. from the beginning, delivered to the membership the legacy of service which began in Akron, Ohio, sixteen years ago. Through the Conference, the total membership is acquiring new knowledge of, and responsibility for, this legacy.

“The General Service Conference was evolved not to govern A.A. in any sense but to serve the entire movement. The Conference serves A.A. by assuming responsibility for basic direction of the General Service Office in New York and by advising the Alcoholic Foundation,<sup>1</sup> the custodian of A.A. policy and tradition at the national level. . . .

“One of the problems facing the Conference from the moment it convened was how to get ‘the sense of the meeting’ on the most important matters presented to the Conference. . . . The need for a minimum number of committees to review various subjects considered during the meeting and prepare reports for approval (or rejection) by the full Conference soon became apparent. By common consent, it was agreed committees on the following should be constituted:

1. Advisory Committee on the Budget
2. Committee on Agenda (to select issues for consideration by the Conference at its final meeting.)
3. Committee on the Conference Report
4. Committee on New Trustees”

At the Fourth General Service Conference in 1954, a summary of previous Conference activity was reported. The six basic reasons underlying the co-founders’ 1950 proposal for a General Service Conference were reviewed. They were:

- “1. Realization that Dr. Bob and Bill ‘could not last forever.’

2. The fact that the trustees were generally unknown to the movement.

3. Recognition that the trustees would need future guidance from the movement itself.

4. Appreciation that A.A. was ‘growing up’ and was able to assume rightful responsibility for its Headquarters<sup>2</sup> and services.

5. The importance of bringing the trustees into closer contact with the movement.

6. The need to be as completely prepared as possible to face some potentially grave crisis with action in the best interest of all A.A.s. . . .

“Major developments at each of the three previous Conferences were outlined. It was recalled, for example, that the first Conference in 1951, representing only half of the Conference territories, had wisely deferred making a number of decisions until full representation would be on hand the following year. The 1951 sessions were notable for providing patterns for conducting future meetings, particularly in the matter of devising simple means of selecting Conference committees and in developing Conference Advisory Actions for the information and guidance of the trustees.

“In 1952, with full representation, the Conference reviewed and considered a number of policy problems affecting the movement as a whole and initiated a planned program of Conference-approved literature service.

“The 1953 Conference, emphasizing ‘maturity,’ marked a further step toward full participation by the delegates in all matters of general interest. Special provision was made for full consideration of questions, comments and criticisms from A.A. areas. Nearly 40 topics were placed on the agenda anonymously, through a convenient question box.”

## Full Participation

“It was pointed out that the 1954 Conference represented a further extension of the ‘full-participation’ policy, since nine policy matters had been submitted to the movement for discussion prior to the meeting and a full Conference session had been set aside ‘for Delegates only.’

“Experience of the past three Conferences has demonstrated, the secretary said, that ‘the Conference truly is not a governing or legislative body. Instead it is a service group which in its actions, or even lack of action, faithfully reflects the collective conscience of the movement itself.’”

In time, as other Conference Committees were formed, items from the various trustees’ committees were submitted to the appropriate Conference Committees for consideration by the Conference, leading to how the Conference functions in the present.

<sup>1</sup> Now the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

<sup>2</sup> Now known as the General Service Office.

For many years, the General Service Office distributed "A Summary: Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous." It was a matter of editorial decision to select actions for inclusion and they were often reworded for clarity.

With the conclusion of fifty General Service Conferences, the time has come for a comprehensive book of Conference Advisory Actions. An attempt has been made to include every Advisory Action of every Conference. The only omissions were expressions of gratitude to the General Service Office and members of the staff. In years when there were no Actions from a particular committee, the year has been omitted. The original wording of the Advisory Actions has been used as much as possible. Rather than revise the wording for the sake of clarity, it was the consensus that the actions as originally written are preferable for credibility as well as for historical and sentimental reasons.

In reviewing early Conference Reports, it is sometimes difficult to determine if an action was truly an "Advisory Action" as many actions were taken on the Conference floor in policy sessions rather than as committee recommendations and the wording was somewhat vague.

Since Admissions to the Conference are now a function of the Conference Committee on Conference Policy and Admissions, all actions relating to Conference Admissions are in that section, although in the early years Admissions comprised a separate committee and later became part of the Conference Agenda Committee.

Although Conference recommendations are no longer made at the Delegates Only Meeting, early Conference Reports indicate that at some Conferences, recommendations from the Delegates Only Meeting were considered Advisory Actions.

Since Conference Committees sometimes make recommendations relevant to other committees, many actions have been listed under the committee of origin, the relevant committee and in the General Category section, if applicable. This is also true of Floor Actions. The many duplications are an attempt to make this information as useful as possible.

This document reflects the group conscience of the Fellowship as it has emerged in the form of Conference Advisory Actions.



## AGENDA

### Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

**1951** It was recommended that:

Non-alcoholics should continue to serve on the Board of the Alcoholic Foundation.

In future years A.A. textbook literature should have Conference approval. (Prior to the vote on this subject, it was pointed out that adoption of the suggestion would not preclude the continued issuance of various printed documents by “non-Foundation” sources. No desire to review, edit, or censor non-Foundation material was implied. The objective was to provide in the future a means of distinguishing Foundation literature from that issued locally or by non-A.A. interests.)

The alcoholic members of the board of trustees ought to have a fixed term of office.

Attendance at next year’s Conference sessions be limited to members only. (In addition to delegates, Conference members include trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation and accredited staff members of the General Service Office and the Grapevine.

The subject of A.A. auxiliaries or family groups should be taken back to local groups for further discussion and should be considered at the 1952 General Service Conference.

Our temporary charter, as outlined in the Third Legacy pamphlet, is suitable for the coming three years and that the general principles guiding assemblies are also approved.

**1952** It was recommended that:

Before recommending topics for the 1953 Conference, the committee will correspond with all Conference committees, the board of trustees, and the General Service Office.

**1953** It was recommended that:

The panels conducted by the secretaries and including various delegates’ remarks were a highlight of this year’s agenda and should by all means be carried into next year’s program.

Whenever controversial issues arise after due discussion and to avoid needless hassling on the Conference floor and to avoid postponement and where apparently no conclusion is imminent, the chair should immediately select a committee of second-year delegates from the hat and ask them to retire to another room, talk the matter over, and come back with a recommendation.

**1954** It was recommended that:

Delegates having suggestions for the agenda for the closed or “unchaperoned” Conference session send such suggestions to the Conference secretary at least 90 days prior to the next Conference.

The first business session of the Conference open with a reading of the Preamble from Chapter V of the Big Book, together with the Twelve Suggested Steps and the Twelve Traditions. (Floor Action)

The opening session of each day would begin with some form of prayer, as may be suggested by the delegates. All other sessions to open with a brief period of silence. (Floor Action)

The Conference would adjourn its final session with the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer. (Floor Action)

A 2nd-year delegate serve as Chairman of “Area Delegates Only” sessions, with the vice-chairman a 1st-year delegate, succeeding to the chairmanship in the subsequent year. (Floor Action)

**1957** It was recommended that:

G.S.O. continue the briefing sessions for new delegates prior to the opening of Conference deliberations.

**1958** It was recommended that:

One full afternoon is too much time to devote to the *Grapevine*. The *Grapevine* report should be condensed to cover important facts concerning finances, circulation, the trends of both and what we can do about them.

G.S.O. continue briefing sessions for new delegates prior to opening of Conference deliberations.

**1959** It was recommended that:

The G.S.O. staff reports be given more time to provide more human-interest anecdotes, and that they be scheduled as the first order of business, one after the other, and not with other reports. Ten minutes is suggested for each report.

The selection of Conference Committees again be the second order of business in the opening morning session.

The General Service Board report and those of its committees be limited to five minutes each and scheduled with other business for the second Conference session in the afternoon, or in later sessions if desirable.

G.S.O. briefing session for new delegates prior to the opening of Conference deliberations be continued.

Delegates speaking from the floor limit themselves to three minutes.

The Puerto Rican flag be displayed with the American and Canadian flags at future Conferences.

**1960** It was recommended that:

An agenda similar to the 1960 Conference agenda be continued.

**1961** It was recommended that:

Area highlights be reported half by first-year and half by second-year delegates.

That all Conference participation be limited by clock to the following schedule: 10 minutes Panel Chairman, 5 minutes Panel Speakers & Reports, 3 minutes Area Highlights, 2 minutes from the floor.

**1962** It was recommended that:

The Area-Delegates-Only meeting be scheduled earlier in the Conference; that it be held on Thursday evening.

Area Highlights continue to include specific subjects relating to the 1963 Conference theme.

**1963** It was recommended that:

Subjects should be submitted to Agenda Committee throughout the year as they come up; suggest July and October Policy Committee meetings also review Conference discussion subjects.

If any vital or more important agenda subject comes to the attention of A.A.W.S. after approval of tentative agenda in October, it is requested that it, as well as an indication of which previously approved subject is to be eliminated, if any, be brought to attention of Agenda Committee for reaction prior to G.S.B.’s final determination.

Agenda Committee suggest specific subjects before finalizing the agenda.



G.S.O. review throughout coming year appropriate expression of gratitude to Bill and Lois—for presentation to 1964 Conference.

Any items not included on current agenda be offered to the succeeding committee.

Area highlights be continued around a central theme.

**1964** It was recommended that:

The 1965 Conference cover a six-day period.

The “Area Delegate Only” meeting be held on the third evening of the 1965 Conference.

The responsibilities and functions of Conference committees be explained thoroughly, prior to the selection of committeemen at future Conferences.

All members of the committee receive copies of all correspondence on agenda matters in which G.S.O. staff members and committee members are involved.

Committee members be informed of the action taken on their recommendations to the Policy Committee.

Committee members be notified of the dates of all General Service Board meetings and G.S.B. Policy Committee meetings so that suggestions may be forwarded in time to assure proper consideration and action prior to the 1965 Conference.

Committee members review background material on previous Conferences’ actions, as a guide in preparing recommendations for the 1965 Conference agenda.

Consideration be given to scheduling panels on “Attraction versus Promotion” or on “Affiliation versus Cooperation.”

A “Sharing Session” involving delegates and the G.S.O. staff be scheduled in 1965, and that the possibility of joint meetings of such Conference committees as “Agenda” and “Policy” be considered.

Consideration be given to the possibility of permitting ex-delegates to attend future Conferences at their own expense as spectators.

Consideration be given to the possibility of scheduling a workshop session on the functions of Conference committees.

**1965** It was recommended that:

Area Highlights be retained for next year’s Conference, with recommendation that diversified topics be given to incoming panel delegates in order to avoid repetitious presentations.

The present Chairman retain his chairmanship until the following Conference, at which time the elected Co-Chairman will take over.

Committees include all delegates as active voting members and that alternates or observers be dispensed with.

The present method of choosing committee members be retained.

The Policy Committee and the board of trustees inform the Agenda Committee members of actions taken on proposed agenda subjects. A brief reason be given for rejections, if any.

Subjects approved for the agenda by Policy and board be made available to delegates through the *Interim Report [Quarterly Report]*, following the January quarterly meeting.

The workshops be retained.

The following items be considered by the Policy Committee of the board for next year’s agenda:

Consideration be given to a review of the exclusion of a candidate for nomination of a Class B trustee within a 75 mile radius of the New York area.

The Delegates’ Only Meeting be held before any consideration of the 5-Year Plan.

A presentation, discussion and guidance be given on the topic of bringing back the “Old Timers” to participate in group and area activity.

Consideration be given to arranging “Interview Time” at next Conference by staff territorial assignments.

**1966** It was recommended that:

The Agenda and Admissions Committees be combined, to be called the Conference Agenda-Admissions Committee.

“How do you present the spiritual side of the program to a newcomer?” be a discussion subject for the 17th (1967) General Service Conference.

Panel 17 delegates be asked to give 3-minute “Area Highlights” in 1967, each to choose his own subject.

“Interview Time,” with Conference members divided into six regional groups, be used again in 1967.

“Workshops and Sharing Sessions” on Third Legacy structure and procedures be repeated in 1967, but with Conference members divided alphabetically into four groups instead of two.

When the Third Legacy Manual is updated, it should carry a glossary of terms such as *Area*, *District*, *Assembly*, etc. so terms can become more uniform throughout the continent.

**1967** It was recommended that:

The following subjects be considered for next year’s agenda: how we can make A.A. more attractive to young people; duties and responsibilities of Committee members; keeping oldtimers active; “Fellowship—the Spirit of A.A.” as possible theme; sharing A.A. inside and outside the Fellowship; keeping the faith; service to A.A.—what it means; and “my personal obligation outside A.A.”

A review be made of Third Legacy electoral procedures.

More emphasis be placed upon workshops, and that we explore the possibility of breaking up into smaller groups after presentations; also, that a fresh look be taken at the method of forming workshops, using area size and population as criteria rather than region.

Delegates send agenda recommendations to G.S.O. before October.

**1968** It was recommended that:

A study of admissions procedures be conducted and that the Agenda/Admissions Committee meet in the fall of 1968 in New York after preliminary exploration through correspondence.

Delegates be informed of important issues so they can read prepared material and perhaps discuss before voting.

**1969** It was recommended that:

The committee continue to advise G.S.O. on agenda content and format and its broad approval of same following the board’s approval in January.

The Conference format rotate emphasis on workshops and presentations on a yearly basis, with greater emphasis upon workshops.

The Sunday afternoon delegates’ reception be continued as a hospitality fellowship reception of an informal nature, rather than as a more formal planned or pre-arranged meeting. (Delegates Only Meeting)

**1970** It was recommended that:

All Conference agenda subjects received during the year, where time permits, be referred to the Agenda/Admissions Committee before presentation to the Policy and board Committees for final approval.

A separate, one-page agenda be printed for the convenience of the delegates. (Delegates Only Meeting)

**1971** It was recommended that:

The Agenda/Admissions Committee remain Agenda/Admissions; that the "Admissions" part of this committee *not* become a part of the Committee on Conference Policy, as suggested by a former delegate.

The A.A. meeting on Monday night be retained, and that the G.S.O. staff be presented for short A.A. talks every other year, with a delegate chairman; also, that there be two delegate speakers with a delegate chairman on alternate years. This format to be reviewed *every year* by the Agenda/Admissions Committee.

The same format be used for workshops for next year's Conference, and the number of workshops be a minimum of two—more if possible.

Specific time be allotted to all speakers, and the "bell" rung no matter who is speaking; presentations be kept in brief form; nothing vital be scheduled after a presentation or session which may become controversial; gripe sessions be held between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. when they can run into the evening session and not interfere with an important session; priorities be established as to which subjects are best for the groups as a whole; and Agenda/Admissions members send in opinions as to what modifications of present agenda should be made for next year's agenda prior to November 1, 1971.

In view of the heavy agenda this year and the apparent problem in completing it on time, some items (possibly of lower priority) be shown as optional subjects. These should be so placed on the agenda that if we run out of time on earlier subjects, the optional items could be eliminated for that specific year.

It is the primary responsibility of the duly elected delegates to see that the heretofore agreed-upon contribution of \$150 toward Conference expenses be paid by March 1; if not received by March 1, a letter be sent directly to the delegate, pointing out that unless this area shares in the expenses of the Conference, said delegate will be referred to the Agenda/Admissions Committee for discussion.

The subject of clubs be a major item on the 1972 Conference agenda. (Floor Action)

The idea of considering February 14 or the month of February as a permanent special memorial time for Bill and others who have departed be placed on the agenda of the 1972 Conference. (Floor Action)

**1972** It was recommended that:

We follow the guidelines that we set up at last year's Conference: that the A.A. meeting on Monday night be retained, and that in even years we have delegate participation, and in odd years, we have G.S.O. and Grapevine staff participation for short talks with a delegate chairman. This format to be reviewed every year by the Agenda/Admissions Committee.

All motions that are to be acted upon by the delegation be, *as much as possible*, submitted in writing beforehand and, if time permits, be distributed to the delegates by mail.

Delegate participation in some way be scheduled on Monday.

Consideration be given to the following suggested agenda item: A scheduled workshop on inactive members be on the agenda for the 1973 Conference, and that there be no outline material (no scheduled questions).

**1973** It was recommended that:

We follow the guidelines set up at last year's Conference: that the A.A. meeting on Monday night be retained, and that in even years, we have delegate participation, and in odd years, we

have G.S.O. and G.V. staff participation for short talks with a delegate chairman. This format to be reviewed every year by the Agenda/Admissions Committee.

In order to improve the functioning of the Agenda/Admissions Committee, it was suggested that:

Members of that committee, when writing to G.S.O., indicate on their letters when they wish copies to be sent to the other members of the committee.

Background material be sent to members of the Agenda/Admissions Committee on suggestions received for Conference agenda items.

Results of the Conference evaluation questionnaire be sent to members of the Agenda/Admissions Committee.

A discussion of special purpose groups be an agenda item for the 1974 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1974** It was recommended that:

The A.A. meeting at the opening dinner be retained, and G.S.O. and G.V. staffs be presented for short talks every other year, with one delegate speaker. That there be delegate speakers with a delegate chairman on alternate years, and that this format be reviewed every year by the Agenda/Admissions committee.

The "admissions" function of the Agenda/Admissions Committee be transferred to the Committee on Conference Policy, if agreeable to that committee. (Note: In the future the Agenda/Admissions Committee will be called the Committee on the Conference Agenda, and its Scope and History will be amended.)

This recommendation from the Committee on Conference Policy be considered: that as many Conference agenda items as possible be finalized for approval at the October Policy Committee and board meeting, so the November *Quarterly Report* will reflect this approval and allow for early assembly discussions, and that further agenda items be forwarded to the delegates as soon as the items have been approved.

The 1975 Conference theme be built around unity, love, and service, and these suggestions are offered for possible 1975 Conference themes:

- Unity Through Service
- Unity Through Service—Gateway to the Future
- The Traditions—Our Security
- Unity—Through Love and Service

The following agenda topics be considered for the 1975 Conference:

- a. Discussion or workshop on the growing trend of holding regional get-togethers for the past and present delegates and trustees
- b. Presentation followed by a workshop on the Twelve Concepts
- c. Presentation on "Understanding and Living the A.A. Traditions—Delegates Share Their Experience"
- d. Workshop on understanding the role of A.A. members who wear "two hats"
- e. Workshop on the responsibilities of district committee members
- f. Presentation on "Group Support for Group Service."

The midweek A.A. meeting continue to be scheduled, with the understanding that it may be omitted if time is needed to discuss unfinished Conference business.

**1975** It was recommended that:

The A.A. meeting at the opening dinner be retained, and the

G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs be presented for such talks every other year, with one delegate speaker. On alternate years, there be delegate speakers with a delegate chairman, and this format be reviewed every year by the Agenda Committee. The committee reviewed the recommendation received from the Committee on Conference Policy and Admissions that the opening-night A.A. meeting should always include the G.S.O. and G.V. staff members, but the committee prefers the original recommendation.

In view of the fact that the 1974 Conference spent many hours discussing the question of special purpose groups, it is the feeling of the committee that the Conference should concern itself with other matters, and that further discussion of this subject would *not* be productive at the present time. Therefore, it is the unanimous recommendation of this committee that a two-year moratorium (until 1977) be placed on discussion of special purpose groups.

The following suggestions for the 1976 Conference agenda be considered:

- a. Presentation followed by a workshop on sponsorship of the new member.
- b. Public information presentation and workshop with emphasis on the importance of carrying the message in this way.
- c. The suggestion from the Conference Institutions Committee that the subject of A.A. in hospitals be discussed at the Conference was accepted, and the committee suggests that the subject can best be discussed in a structured workshop.
- d. One unstructured workshop be retained for the 1976 Conference.
- e. A presentation and discussion on A.A. literature.
- f. The Ask-It Basket be retained in a one- to one-and-a-half-hour session
- g. Visit to G.S.O. and Grapevine be continued unless the time is needed for Conference business.

The delegates make every effort to send to G.S.O. no later than October 1 their suggestions for the 1976 Conference agenda, and those of their G.S.R.s and area committee members, for consideration.

The same basic format for the Conference agenda be retained.

The 1976 Conference theme be built around sponsorship; the following are suggestions for possible themes: (a) Sponsorship—the Language of the Heart; (b) Sharing Through Sponsorship; (c) Sponsorship—the Hand of A.A.; (d) Sponsorship—Sharing Our Way of Life; (e) Growth Through Sponsorship; (f) Sponsorship—Our Primary Purpose; (g) Love for One Another Through Sponsorship; (h) When Anyone, Anywhere. . . .

**1976** It was recommended that:

The A.A. meeting at the opening dinner be retained, and the G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs be presented for talks every other year with one delegate speaker. On alternate years, that there be delegate speakers with a delegate chairman, and that this format be reviewed every year by the Agenda Committee.

The following suggestions for the 1977 General Service Conference be considered:

- a. The 1975 General Service Conference recommended a two-year moratorium be placed on the discussion of special purpose groups. The 1976 Agenda Committee, after much discussion, recommended that at this time there is no need for further discussion of this subject.
- b. Presentations followed by a workshop on the importance of rotation throughout the Fellowship.

- c. Cooperation and communication among all levels of service.
- d. Report on the A.A. directories.
- e. The word “Reports” be added to Area Service Highlights.
- f. A roll call of the Conference members be taken at the opening session of the Conference.
- g. A presentation followed by a workshop on the Conference Charter and Warranties.
- h. The importance of the role of the alternate in service.

The 1977 Conference theme be built around the A.A. group. The following are suggestions for possible themes: (a) “The A.A. Group—the Heart of Our Fellowship”; (b) “The A.A. Group—Foundation of Services”; (c) “The A.A. Group—Where It Begins”; (d) “Service—Our Assurance of Survival”; (e) “Our Group—Our Service—Our Life”; (f) “Group Responsibility”; (g) “Our Responsibility to the Group”; (h) “Group Leadership.”

The delegates make every effort to send to G.S.O., no later than October 1, their suggestions for the 1977 Conference agenda and those of their G.S.R.’s and area committee members for consideration.

**1977** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting be reviewed every year. It was further recommended that in 1978 the A.A. meeting be chaired by a G.S.O. staff member with three delegate speakers.

The following be subjects for presentations at the 1978 Conference:

- a. Finance
- b. Let’s Carry the A.A. Message
- c. How Our General Service Office Serves Us
- d. The Participation of the G.S.R., the Vital Link Between the A.A. Group and the General Service Conference

The following be subjects for discussion at the 1978 Conference:

- a. Are We Letting Others Do Our Work?
- b. Who Establishes Policy in A.A.? You, That’s Who

The following be topics for workshops at the 1978 Conference:

- a. A.A.—What *We* Can Do for the Alcoholic
- b. Working with Others Inside and Outside A.A.

The theme for the 1978 Conference be built around “The Individual and the Group: Growth Through Participation”; it was further recommended that the Twelve Steps, with emphasis on the Twelfth Step, be incorporated into the 1978 Conference agenda.

All Conference mailings and the monthly letter to delegates be sent to alternate delegates.

**1978** It was recommended that:

The theme of the 1979 General Service Conference be built around “The Legacies: *Our* Heritage and *My* Responsibility.”

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1979 Conference consist of six speakers—three delegates and three members of the G.S.O./G.V. staff—and that all members of the G.S.O. and G.V. staff be seated on the dais. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

The following be subjects for presentations at the 1979 Conference:

- a. Archives
- b. The Three Legacies
- c. Let Gratitude Be Our Attitude
- d. Are We Building a Class Distinction in Service?
- e. The Vote and the Voice—Who Is in Control?
- f. Our Responsibilities to the Future
- g. How Do Roundups, Jamborees, Cruises, Rallies, etc., Fit Into A.A. Tradition?

A topic for a workshop at the 1979 Conference be “Group Autonomy and A.A. Unity,” and a question be included in this workshop concerning the difference between an A.A. group and an A.A. meeting.

The subject of listing special interest groups in the A.A. directories not be included on the agenda of the 1979 Conference.

In response to a request from a past delegate that levels of service (group, district, and area) be explored to try to determine if the current structure provides maximum opportunity for the best possible service in the Fellowship, the committee felt that the current structure does provide such opportunity.

**1979** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1980 General Service Conference be built around “Participation—the Key to Recovery.”

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1980 Conference consist of one leader and five speakers—three delegates and two staff members (one G.S.O. and one Grapevine). It was further recommended that the format of the meeting should be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

With regard to the committee’s recommendations for presentation/discussion topics (among them: “Working With Others,” “The Role of the Alternate at All Levels of Service,” “The Cornerstone of Structure—the G.S.R.,” “Where There Is Good Service Structure, There Is Growth in A.A. Membership,” and “Let’s Not Squander Our Inheritance”), the Conference retain the general idea of the topics, but the Conference Agenda Committee make additional suggestions.

At the 1980 General Service Conference, there be three workshops: two structured and one unstructured. It was further recommended that one of the workshops be on the topic “Working With Others.”

During the roll call at the 1980 Conference, Conference members should stand when their names are called.

In response to a request from members of one of the workshops, a discussion on “How are expenses for service workers at all levels of service met in your area?” be included on the agenda of the 1980 General Service Conference.

**1980** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1981 General Service Conference be built around “A.A. Takes Its Inventory—General Service Conference Structure.”

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1981 Conference consist of five speakers—three delegates and two staff members (one G.S.O. and one G.V.)—and one leader. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting should be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

The following presentation/discussion subjects be considered for the 1981 Conference:

- a. The Spiritual Meaning of Anonymity (on opening day if feasible)
- b. Let’s Examine Our Committee System
- c. Should Clubs be Entitled to the A.A. Group Discount on Literature?

At next year’s Conference, we have two structured workshops, with one workshop topic to be “Let’s Examine Our Committee System.”

There be a “What’s on Your Mind?” session or sharing session scheduled for the full Conference body instead of a third workshop.

**1981** It was recommended that:

Suggestions for a possible theme for the 1982 General Service Conference be built around one of the following:

- a. Equal Voice—Equal Responsibility
- b. Equal Authority—Equal Responsibility
- c. The Traditions—The Way to Unity
- d. A.A.—Its Structure

The following presentation/discussion subjects be considered for the 1982 Conference:

- a. Equal Authority—Equal Responsibility (on the opening morning if feasible)
- b. How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Outside Agencies

At next year’s Conference, we have two structured workshops:

- a. How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Outside Agencies
- b. Why A.A. Works—The Traditions

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1982 Conference consist of five speakers—one trustee, two delegates, and two staff members (one G.S.O. and one G.V.)—and one delegate chairing. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting should be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

**1982** It was recommended that:

The following be considered for the 1983 Conference theme:

- a. Group Responsibilities in Service—Back to Basics
- b. The A.A. Member—Service, Privileges, and Responsibilities
- c. Anonymity—Our Spiritual Foundation

The following presentation/discussion subjects be considered for the 1983 Conference:

- a. How Is the A.A. Member’s Voice Heard at the General Service Conference?  
Through an Informed Group Conscience  
Through Correspondence to G.S.O.  
Through District Activity  
Through His/Her Delegate
- b. The Member, the Group, and Their Money  
The Cost of Involvement in Service  
How Are District Activities Funded?  
What Will a Dollar in the Basket Do Today?
- c. Sponsorship  
In Recovery  
In Service

At next year’s Conference, the following structured workshops be considered

- a. Communications: Group—G.S.R.-D.C.M.
- b. Informed Group Conscience
- c. Rotation in Service

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1983 Conference consist of five speakers—one trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one G.V.)—and one delegate chairing. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

**1983** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1984 Conference consist of five speakers—one trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one G.V.)—and one delegate chairing. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

The following be considered for the 1984 Conference theme:

- a. Our Primary Purpose
- b. The Frontier for A.A.'s Future—The Group
- c. Gratitude—The Language of the Heart

The following presentation/discussion topics be considered for the 1984 Conference:

- a. How Does A.A. Respond to a Changing World?  
Are We Listening to the Newcomer?  
Open-Mindedness  
Working With Third Parties
- b. The Informed Group Conscience—My Obligation  
To Understand the Steps  
To Understand the Traditions  
To Understand the Concepts
- c. Sobriety—What Is It?

At next year's Conference, the following structured workshops be considered:

- a. Solutions for Everyday Problems in A.A.
- b. How Does A.A. Respond to a Changing World?

The Conference Agenda Committee secretary outline the procedure for selecting Conference items and send it to the Agenda Committee members with their February letter.

Conference Agenda Committee members wait seven days from the date of the postmark before replying to the Agenda Committee secretary's request for approval of the trustees' Conference Committee recommendations regarding the next year's Conference agenda.

**1984** It was recommended that:

At the dinner of the 1985 General Service Conference, there be a light system on the podium and the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the meeting.

In addition to the meeting chairperson, the format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1985 Conference remain the same as 1984, consisting of a delegate leader to introduce five speakers—one trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one G.V.).

The following suggestions be made for a possible theme for the 1985 Conference with grateful recognition that we will celebrate A.A.'s 50th Anniversary in 1985:

- a. Service—The Golden Key

- b. Love and Service
- c. Golden Moments of Reflection

The following presentation/discussion and/or workshop topics be considered for the 1985 Conference:

- a. Will the Hand of A.A. Always Be There?  
The Middle Years of Sobriety—A Dangerous Time  
Are We Diluting Ourselves?  
Communication Within the Fellowship
- b. The Warranties
- c. Beyond the Seventh Tradition—Group Responsibility  
In the Meeting Place  
To the Newcomer
- d. Fifty Years of Caring and Sharing  
In Treatment Centers  
In Correctional Facilities  
With Young People  
In the Group
- e. The G.S.R.—The Key Role  
Obtaining the Most Qualified Member  
The Service Sponsor

**1985** It was recommended that:

At the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 36th General Service Conference, there be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the meeting.

In addition to the meeting chairperson, the format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 36th General Service Conference remain the same as 1985, consisting of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers—one trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one Grapevine).

For a possible theme for the 36th General Service Conference, the following suggestions be made:

- a. Service: Our Legacy of Life
- b. The Third Legacy: Hope for the Future
- c. A.A.'s Future: Our Responsibility

The following presentation/discussion topics for the 1986 Conference be considered:

- a. The Committee System  
Do We Trust It?  
Does It Eliminate Conflict?
- b. Responsibility In Service  
Why Are You a General Service Representative?  
Why Are You a District Committee Member?  
Why Are You an Area Officer?  
Why Are You a Trustee?
- c. Trusted Servants  
Do We Trust Them?  
Ultimate Authority—Are We Listening?  
Are Trusted Servants Informed?  
The Importance of Rotation

The following two workshops be considered for the 36th General Service Conference:

- a. Letting Go of Old Ideas  
Suggesting that the following be specifically addressed in the workshop questions:  
New Ways of Carrying the A.A. Message  
Are We Getting Too Rigid?

- b. A.A.'s Impact On the World  
With emphasis on:  
Are We Being Friendly With Our Friends?  
How A.A. Cooperates

**1986** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 37th General Service Conference consist of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers—one Class B trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one G.V.).

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the meeting.

The microphone be checked before the A.A. meeting and the speakers be advised to speak clearly into the microphone and limit their talks to ten minutes each.

One of the following four suggestions be the theme of the 37th General Service Conference:

- a. Our Primary Purpose—The Second Fifty Years
- b. The Promises: Our Today—Their Tomorrow
- c. The Seventh Tradition—A Turning Point
- d. A.A.—A Spiritualized Society

The presentation/discussion topics for the 1987 Conference be:

- a. Are We Carrying the Message to All?
- b. Area Structure  
General Service Representative  
District Committee Member  
Area Committee  
Delegate
- c. Finance  
Can G.S.O. be Self-supporting Through Group Contributions Only?  
What About the Birthday Plan?  
Could Groups Pledge Contributions?  
Group Support to District, Area and Intergroup
- d. Publishing—Too Much?  
A.A. World Services  
A.A. Grapevine
- e. Maintaining the Basics—A.A.'s Principles  
Our Primary Purpose  
The Twelve Steps  
The Twelve Traditions  
The Twelve Concepts—How Can We Live the Concepts in Service?
- f. Right of Decision  
Two Workshops for the 1987 Conference be:  
Unity—Let's Talk About It  
Living Sober—Growing Together or Growing Apart?

**1987** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner of the 38th General Service Conference consist of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers: One Class B trustee, two delegates, two A.A. members rotating from the following (G.S.O staff, Grapevine staff, Archives or of the corporate boards); and that their talks be limited to ten minutes each.

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated as chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited

to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the A.A. meeting.

“Self-Support” be a presentation/discussion topic for the next five years, in keeping with the spirit of the Seventh Tradition.

The theme of the 38th General Service Conference be “Our Singleness of Purpose—Key to Unity.”

A workshop topic be on the theme “Our Singleness of Purpose—Key to Unity.” A second workshop be scheduled, if time permits, with the subject to be determined at the trustees' Conference Committee's discretion.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1988 Conference:

- a. Self-support
- b. Singleness of Purpose—Key to Unity  
Groups vs Meetings  
Are We Being *Too* Friendly with Our Friends?  
Our Primary Purpose—Is Our Message Clear?
- c. Focus on the Positive  
Communications—Challenges  
What Are We Doing Right?  
Spirit of Rotation

The consideration of inviting intergroups and central offices into the general service structure be referred to the Agenda Committee for the 1988 Conference. (Floor Action)

**1988** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner of the 39th General Service Conference consist of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, two A.A. members rotating from the following (G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, Archives or of the corporate boards); and that their talks be limited to ten minutes each.

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated as chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the A.A. meeting.

The theme of the 39th General Service Conference be “Anonymity—Our Past, Present and Future” or “Anonymity—Living Our Traditions.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1989 Conference:

- a. Self-support
- b. G.S.O. Finances
- c. Anonymity  
How it Developed  
Its Necessity Today  
Principles Before Personalities
- d. Back to Basics  
The Group in the Structure  
Sponsorship in Recovery and Service  
A.A. Literature—Tool or Mandate

A workshop topic be on the Conference theme and a second workshop on “Love and Service” be scheduled if time permits.

A “What's on Your Mind?” session continue to be scheduled in the beginning of the week.

We continue the practice of allowing more time for Committee meetings.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner of the 40th General Service Conference consist of the alternate

chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, two A.A. members, alternating from among the A.A. staff, Grapevine staff, Archives and corporate boards.

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated as chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the A.A. meeting.

The following themes be considered for the 1990 General Service Conference:

- a. Home Group—Where Love and Service Begin
- b. Home Group—Our Link to the Fellowship
- c. Home Group—Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.'s Future.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1990 General Service Conference:

- a. The Importance of the Home Group  
In Recovery  
For Unity  
For Service
- b. Sponsorship  
In Recovery  
For Unity  
For Service
- c. Self-support
- d. G.S.O. Finances

One workshop be held at the 1990 General Service Conference and the topic be on the Conference Theme.

**1990** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1991 General Service Conference be as follows: the Chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be chair of the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the Alternate Chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers, one Class B Trustee, two Delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the A.A. staff, Grapevine staff, Archivist, and corporate boards.

In order of preference, the theme for the 1991 General Service Conference be selected from among the following:

- a. Sponsorship: Gratitude in Action
- b. Sponsorship: Our Three Legacies
- c. Sponsorship: The Hand of A.A.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1991 General Service Conference:

- a. Sponsorship  
Help and Hope  
I Am Responsible  
A Way of Life
- b. Our Collective Humility  
How We Identify Ourselves  
Anonymity—Our Spiritual Foundation  
In All Our Affairs  
Self-support Project—Five Years Later  
G.S.O. Finances

One Workshop be held at the 1991 General Service Conference, with the topic to be on the Conference theme.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1992 General Service Conference be as follows: the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be chair of the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the A.A. staff, Grapevine staff, archivist, and corporate boards.

The theme for the 1992 General Service Conference be: The A.A. Message in a Changing World.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1992 General Service Conference:

- a. The A.A. Message in a Changing World  
Our Common Welfare  
Unity: Together We Can  
The Language of the Heart Worldwide
- b. The Joy of Living  
The Newcomer: A.A.'s Future  
Principles Before Personalities  
Humility Through Rotation
- c. Love and Service
- d. G.S.O. Finances

There be one workshop for the 1992 General Service Conference, with the topic to be on the Conference theme.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1993 General Service Conference be as follows: the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be chair of the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the A.A. staff, Grapevine staff, archivist, and corporate boards.

The theme for the 1993 General Service Conference be: A.A. Takes Its Inventory—The General Service Conference Structure.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1993 General Service Conference:

- a. A.A. Takes Its Inventory  
The Purpose of the General Service Conference  
The Conference Relation to A.A.  
The General Service Conference and Its General Procedures
- b. A.A. Takes Its Inventory  
Conference Relation to the General Service Board and Its Corporate Services  
The General Service Board: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities
- c. The General Warranties of the Conference
- d. A.A. Takes Its Inventory: Finance
- e. A.A. Takes Its Inventory: The Grapevine

There be two workshops for the 1993 General Service Conference: one workshop to be on the Conference theme with the focus to be on the other six articles of the Conference Charter; and another workshop to be titled "A Vision for Us—Where Are We and Where Are We Going?" with questions to be gathered from the Fellowship.

The proposal of the General Service Board to directly manage A.A.W.S./G.S.O. on an experimental basis for nine months not be implemented.

Members of a Conference Committee be informed as soon as practical after it becomes known that an item will be on the agenda of their Conference Committee, rather than waiting until January.

The 1993 Conference Agenda Committee investigate the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee similar in intent to the inventory committee proposed by Area 36 in their April 7, 1992 letter.

**1993** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1994 General Service Conference be as follows: The chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee chair the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, archivist, and corporate boards.

The theme for the 1994 General Service Conference be: Spirit of Sacrifice.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1994 General Service Conference:

- a. Spirit of Sacrifice: Bill's and Dr. Bob's Farewell Messages:  
Bill's Message  
Dr. Bob's Message
- b. Spirit of Sacrifice in the Long Form of the Traditions:  
Traditions One, Two and Three  
Traditions Four, Five and Six
- c. Spirit of Sacrifice in the Long Form of the Traditions:  
Traditions Seven, Eight and Nine  
Traditions Ten, Eleven and Twelve

The following be the workshop for the 1994 General Service Conference: The Twelfth Step in Action:

- a. Where have we been?
- b. Where are we now?
- c. Where are we going?

**1994** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the General Service Conference be as follows: The chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be chair of the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the A.A. staff, Grapevine staff, archivist, and corporate boards.

The theme for the 1995 General Service Conference be: Pass It On—Our Three Legacies.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1995 General Service Conference:

- a. Pass It On: Recovery—Our First Legacy
- b. Pass It On: Unity—Our Second Legacy
- c. Pass It On: Service—Our Third Legacy

The following be the workshop for the 1995 General Service Conference:

How We Pass It On:

- a. Our Basic Message
- b. Sponsorship in Recovery and Service
- c. Communication—The Language of A.A.

**1995** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1996 General Service Conference be: Preserving Our Fellowship—Our Challenge.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1996 General Service Conference:

- a. Preserving Our Fellowship—Let It Begin With Me
- b. Preserving Our Fellowship—Carrying Our Original Message
- c. Preserving Our Fellowship—Unity and Spirituality in All Our Affairs

The following be the Workshop Topic for the 1996 General Service Conference:

Preserving Our Fellowship—Our Challenge:

- a. Through Your Home Group
- b. Through Your District
- c. Through Your Conference Area

**1996** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1997 General Service Conference be: Spirituality—Our Foundation.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1997 General Service Conference:

- a. Group Conscience—Seeking Our Ultimate Authority
- b. Carrying A.A.'s Message Around the World
- c. The Hat—Where Money and Spirituality Mix

The following be the workshop topic for the 1997 General Service Conference:

Spirituality—Our Foundation:

- a. Spirit of Rotation
- b. Working with Faith, Serving with Love
- c. Unity—We Are Responsible

**1997** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1998 General Service Conference be: "Our Twelfth Step Work."

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1998 General Service Conference:

- a. Our Twelfth Step Work:
  1. Reaching the Newcomer
  2. Carrying This Message
  3. Back to Basics
- b. Tools for Twelfth Stepping:
  1. The A.A. Member
  2. Sponsorship
  3. Literature
- c. Diversity of Twelfth Step Work:
  1. Home Group
  2. Service Structure
  3. Around the World

The following be the workshop topic for the 1998 General Service Conference:

- a. Our Twelfth Step Work:
  1. In the Home Group
  2. In the Service Structure
  3. Around the World



**1998** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1999 General Service Conference be: "Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility."

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1999 General Service Conference:

- a. Our Responsibility to A.A. Unity:
  1. Home Group
  2. A.A. Service Structure
  3. A.A. Worldwide
- b. Many Faces—One Fellowship:
  1. Accepting Our Differences
  2. I Am Responsible . . .
  3. Principles Before Personalities
- c. Our Future Together:
  1. Sponsorship
  2. A.A. Literature
  3. Tradition Seven

The following be the workshop topic for the 1999 General Service Conference: Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility:

- a. Harmony in the A.A. Community
- b. Principle of Rotation
- c. Spiritual Significance of Anonymity

**1999** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2000 General Service Conference be: "Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles."

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2000 General Service Conference:

- a. Recovery:
  1. Trust the God of Your Understanding
  2. Clean House
  3. Work With Others
- b. Unity:
  1. Our Common Welfare
  2. The Informed Group Conscience and Substantial Unanimity
  3. Practicing Genuine Humility Through Anonymity
- c. Service:
  1. I Am Responsible . . .
  2. Our Primary Purpose
  3. Spirit of Rotation

The following be the workshop topic for the 2000 General Service Conference: Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles.

- a. Twelve Steps
- b. Twelve Traditions
- c. Twelve Concepts

**2000** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2001 General Service Conference be: "Love and Service."

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2001 General Service Conference:

- a. Sponsorship:
  1. The Home Group
  2. Sponsorship into Service
  3. Never Too Late to Get a Sponsor
- b. Language of the Heart:
  1. Listening to the Language of the Heart
  2. Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope
  3. Passing On Our Three Legacies

- c. The G.S.R.'s Role in A.A.:
  1. In the Home Group
  2. Link to the District, Area and G.S.O.
  3. Guardian of the Traditions

The following be the workshop topic for the 2001 General Service Conference: "Love and Service."

- a. Carrying the Message of Service
- b. Living the A.A. Principles in All Our Affairs
- c. Maintaining the Spirit of Anonymity

**2001** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2002 General Service Conference be "Sharing the Steps, Traditions and Concepts."

The following be Presentation/Discussion topics for the 2002 General Service Conference:

- a. Unity:
  1. Spirit of Rotation—Letting Go!
  2. Does Our Committee System Work?
  3. The Internet—A Part of or Apart From?
- b. Inventory:
  1. A.A. Literature—Is It Being Utilized or Collecting Dust?
  2. Seventh Tradition and Spirituality—Do They Really Mix?
  3. The following be the Workshop Topic for the 2002 General Service Conference: "Using the Steps, Traditions and Concepts in Our Daily Lives."

**2002** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2003 General Service Conference be: "Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship."

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2003 General Service Conference:

- a. Sponsorship:
  1. Responsibilities of Sponsorship.
  2. Is Sponsorship Fading Away?
  3. Working with Medical Practitioners, Other Professionals and Friends.
- b. Principles:
  1. What are the Principles?
  2. Living the Principles, Accepting Our Differences.

The following be the workshop topic for the 2003 General Service Conference: "Sponsorship – Remembering to Practice Our Principles."

**2003** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2004 General Service Conference be: "Our Singleness of Purpose — The Cornerstone of A.A."

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2004 General Service Conference:

- a. Our Singleness of Purpose:
  1. Our Responsibility to the Newcomer
  2. Communicating Our Singleness of Purpose
- b. The Cornerstone of A.A.:
  1. Safeguarding Our Unity
  2. The Role of the Home Group
  3. Traditions Three and Five: Our Members, Our Message

The following be the workshop topic for the 2004 General Service Conference:

"How is Singleness of Purpose Important to the Individual, Group, District, Area, G.S.O. and Grapevine Office?"

**2004** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2005 General Service Conference be: “Basics of Our Home Group — Recovery, Unity and Service.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2005 General Service Conference:

- a) Recovery:
  1. “How It Works” in Our Home Group
  2. Carrying the Message Through Practicing the Principles in Our Daily Lives
- b) Unity:
  1. “Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code” (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 84)
  2. The Basket — Where Money and Spirituality Mix
  3. The Spiritual Principle of Our Twelfth Tradition
- c) Service:
  1. Concept One — Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority
  2. Concept Five — Minority Opinion — Are We Listening?
  3. Leadership — Responsibility for A.A.’s Future — Concept Nine

The following be the workshop topic for the 2005 General Service Conference: “Do I Carry the A.A. Message Or My Own?”

**2005** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2006 General Service Conference be: “Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2006 General Service Conference:

- a. Sponsorship:
  1. Presenting A.A. to Newcomers
  2. Changes in the Alcoholic Coming to A.A.
  3. Sponsorship Into Sobriety, Into Service
- b. Service:
  1. Performing Service Without Expectations
  2. Leadership — An Ever Vital Need
  3. Responsibility With Accountability
- c. Self-Support:
  1. An Informed Group Conscience
  2. Gratitude Through Self-Sacrifice

The following be the workshop topic for the 2006 General Service Conference: “Passing It On in a Changing World.”

**2006** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2007 General Service Conference be: “Our 12th Step Responsibility—Are We Going to Any Length?”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2007 General Service Conference:

- a. Inclusiveness in A.A.:
  1. Our 3rd Tradition
  2. Growth of the Fellowship
  3. Reaching Out to All Who Want It
- b. Our Primary Purpose:
  1. Attraction Rather Than Promotion
  2. Working with Wet Drunks
  3. Practicing These Principles in All Our Affairs
- c. Humility and Responsibility:
  1. Expressed by Anonymity
  2. Are We Resting on Our Laurels?
  3. Raising Literature Prices or Footing the Bill?

The following be the workshop topic for the 2007 General Service Conference: “Spiritual Value of Our A.A. Dollars.”

**2007** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2008 General Service Conference be: “Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity and Self-Support.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2008 General Service Conference:

- a. Communication and Participation:
  1. Sharing the Message of Service
  2. Our Key to Keeping A.A. Strong
  3. Leadership in A.A.: Building Communication
- b. Unity:
  1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First
  2. Principles Before Personalities
  3. Diversity: Reaching Out to All Alcoholics
- c. Self-Support:
  1. Self-Supporting Through Members’ Voluntary Contributions Only
  2. Contempt Prior to Investigation
  3. Responsibility to Communicate and Participate

The following be the workshop topic for the 2008 General Service Conference: “Love and Tolerance, Now More Than Ever.”

**2008** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2009 General Service Conference be: “Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s Message—Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2009 General Service Conference:

- a. Humility and Sacrifice:
  1. Setting an Example
  2. Changing Our Perceptions
  3. Anonymity—Sacrificing Our Egos
- b. Enthusiasm and Gratitude:
  1. Hope and Purpose from Defeat and Despair
  2. Happy, Joyous and Free
  3. Enthusiasm—A Gift of Inventory
- c. Spiritual Program in Action:
  1. Maximum Service—Our Spiritual Benefit
  2. Persistence—The Key to Progress
  3. Living the Traditions

The following be the workshop topic for the 2009 General Service Conference: “Language of the Heart—Keeping It Simple.”

**2009** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2010 General Service Conference be: “Practicing A.A.’s Principles—the Pathway to Unity.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2010 General Service Conference:

- a. Practicing These Principles in All Our “Service” Affairs:
  1. What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?
  2. Love and Tolerance is Our Code.
  3. Setting an Example—Attraction to Service.
- b. Unity Through Inventory:
  1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First.
  2. This We Owe to A.A.’s Future.
  3. What Happens After Inventory.
- c) General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:
  1. How it Works.
  2. Collective Participation.
  3. Communication—The Key to an Informed Decision.

The following be the workshop topic for the 2010 General Service Conference: “Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process” and that all background provided to the 2009 Conference Agenda Committee regarding the “General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process,” be sent to the members of the 60th General Service Conference in February 2010 as background for the 2010 Conference workshop session along with any additional related background material that may be compiled by the General Service Board, the trustees’ Committee on the Conference, the General Service Office or other resources.

**2010** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: “We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future—Let it Begin With Us.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2011 General Service Conference:

- a. Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:
  1. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age.
  2. Carrying A.A.’s Message Online.
  3. Grapevine—“A.A.’s Meeting in Print” and More . . .
- b. An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:
  1. Self-Support—Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
  2. Humility—Accepting the Group Conscience.
  3. An Informed Group Conscience—Using the Three Legacies.
- c. Diversity in A.A.:
  1. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here.
  2. The Hand of A.A.—Inclusive Never Exclusive.
  3. Tradition Five—Our Primary Purpose.
- d. Sponsorship:
  1. Importance of a Home Group.
  2. Leading by Example—Attraction Not Promotion.
  3. Recovery, Unity, Service.

The following be the workshop topic for the 2011 General Service Conference: “How to Increase Participation in A.A.—Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs.”

**2011** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2012 General Service Conference be: “Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2012 General Service Conference:

- a. Carrying the A.A. Message:
  1. Still Our Primary Purpose.
  2. Social Web Sites.
  3. Young People in A.A.
  4. Importance of Sponsorship.
- b. Change — Essential to A.A.’s Growth:
  1. Service: Our Third Legacy.
  2. Spirit of Rotation.
  3. Diversity — Let’s Keep Our Doors Open for any Who May Suffer from Alcoholism.
  4. Archives — Where the Past Meets the Present.

The following be the workshop topic for the 2012 General Service Conference: “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.”

**2012** It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2013 General Service Conference be: “The Conference Takes Its Inventory—Our Solution in Action.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference:

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a. The Triangle – More Than a Shape.
- b. The General Service Conference Inventory – Why is it Necessary?
- c. Self Support – What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?
- d. Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message

The following inventory questions listed in the “INVENTORY PLAN,” which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C., be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences:

2013

- a. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall
  1. Reflecting on Concept One, how does the Conference ensure that it is the conscience of A.A. as a whole?
  2. How well is the use of floor actions serving us?
  3. Reflecting on Concept Ten, how well is the authority of the Conference defined?
  4. How well does the Conference fulfill the General Warranties of Concept Twelve?
- b. Composition of Conference
  1. Should delegate areas be more consistently based on actual membership numbers?
- c. Committee System
  1. Could the committee process be improved to more effectively introduce change in the Fellowship, and if so, how?
- d. Yearlong Process Effectiveness
  1. What improvements could be considered to make sure the agenda selection process is more effective?
  2. How well do all Conference members communicate to the Fellowship about why we have a Conference and how the committee system works? How could we improve this communication?
- e. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)
  1. How well do the delegates balance their preparation for the Conference, especially in keeping with Concept Three and Article Three of the Conference Charter? How could we improve in the practice of our rights and responsibilities under Concept Three and Article Three of the Conference Charter?
- f. Conference Week Schedule
  1. How can we improve the way is allotted during Conference for reports, presentation/discussion/workshop topics, and thorough discussion of agenda items?
  2. How are leadership and participation affected by late night work sessions?
- g. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)
  1. Is the current makeup of the board (numbers and proportions) still the most effective? If not, what changes should we consider?

2. How could we improve the methods used to solicit trustees and directors to get the most appropriate people interested in the positions?
3. What more could be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship?

#### h. Leadership

1. Reflecting on Concept Nine, are the qualities of leadership, as identified in the leadership essay in the Service Manual, still the qualities that we should try to encourage in Conference members? If so, how successful are we in encouraging those qualities? If not, what changes should we consider?

### 2014

#### a. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall

1. Reflecting on Concept Four, how effective are we in treating all Conference members as equals (no one regarded as second class)?
2. Reflecting on Concept Five, how well does the Conference facilitate the hearing and resolution of minority appeals/report? How could it be improved?
3. Does the structure encourage each individual in the Fellowship to feel and act as a member of a “society of alcoholics in action?” If not, how could we improve?
4. Does the yearlong Conference process effectively encourage all Conference members to lead (or serve) in the spirit of our upside-down service structure? If not, how can we encourage all Conference members to do so?

#### b. Composition of Conference

1. Should regional divisions be based on membership numbers, the number of areas contained in each region or some other criteria? Please explain.

#### c. Committee System

1. What is the right balance of participation among committee members (delegates, staff) and how can we best achieve that balance?

#### d. Yearlong Process Effectiveness

1. How well is the message of the Conference theme being carried out throughout the year?
2. What other suggestions do we have for how to improve the effectiveness of the yearlong process?

#### e. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)

1. How can we improve the manner in which Conference background material; is developed and distributed?

#### f. Conference Week Schedule

1. At the Conference, what is the difference between being a leader or being a reporter? Can a person be both at the same time?

#### g. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)

1. Reflecting on Concept Eleven, does the General Service Board exercise serious care in having the best possible assistance in carrying out their duties? How can this process be improved?

2. Does the current role of the board most effectively address the needs of the Fellowship? If not, how should their role be changed?

3. Is the selection/election process for trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would change it?

#### h. Leadership

1. How can we improve the methods of selecting effective leaders and nurturing leadership qualities in our trusted servants?
2. What more could be done to ensure broad diversity of representation in our A.A. leaders?

### 2015

#### a. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall

1. Reflecting on Concept Two, how can we better serve as the actual voice and be an effective conscience for our whole society?
2. Reflecting on Concept Three, how can we effectively balance the freedoms and responsibilities that come with the right of decision?
3. How might any one of the Concepts be revised in essence or wording to more effectively and relevantly guide our leaders?

#### b. Composition of Conference

1. Is the size and structure (proportions of delegate/trustee/staff) of the Conference the most effective for conducting the work of the Fellowship? If not, how could it be made more effective?

#### c. Committee System

1. Committee system (Structure, Composition, Effectiveness, etc.): Does the Conference committee system function in accordance with our principles? If not, what changes should we consider regarding: a) structure b) composition c) effectiveness?

#### d. Yearlong Process Effectiveness

1. How can we better communicate that the Conference process is more than one spring week in New York?
2. How do the delegates and regional trustees support the yearlong process effectiveness?

#### e. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)

1. What more could be done to prepare delegates for the Conference?

#### f. Conference Week Schedule

1. What Conference activities give participants the most opportunities to be leaders?
2. Does the time allotted and the manner in which information is communicated from the trustees and board members allow delegates to adequately understand and/or question their reports? How could this be improved?

#### g. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)

1. Reflecting on Concept Six, how can the Conference ensure that the authority we delegate to the General

Service Board is commensurate with the responsibility we have entrusted to them?

2. Reflecting on Concept Eight: (a) How well is the General Service Board exercising custodial oversight and how effectively are they serving as the principle planners and administrators of policy and finance? (b) What are the boundries between oversight vs. delegation? When is each practiced?

3. Should the Fellowship have more direct influence in the selection of Class A trustees, corporate directors, and General Service trustees? If yes, how might that be accomplished?

h. Leadership

1. How well is the Third Legacy Procedure serving us? How could it be improved?

## ARCHIVES

### Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Conference Archives Committee first met at the 1999 General Service Conference. It is a secondary committee assignment and the committee meets jointly with the trustees' Archives Committee.

**1952** It was recommended that:

Facsimile reproductions of the Lasker Award be made available to all A.A. Groups in suitable form for framing where desired. (Literature)

**1980** It was recommended that:

The archives filmstrip "Markings on the Journey" be Conference-approved. (Floor Action)

**1981** It was recommended that:

The filmstrip "Markings on the Journey" be shown within the Fellowship only. (Floor Action)

**1986** It was recommended that:

The 1987 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee consider the formation of a Conference Archives Committee. (Floor Action)

**1987** It was recommended that:

While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of area Archives and Archives committees, with the resulting benefit to General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives Committee should not be formed at this time because the needs of local Archives committees are being well served by the trustees' Archives Committee and the General Service Office Archivist. (Policy/Admissions)

**1988** It was recommended that:

The A.A. Archives continue to protect the anonymity of deceased A.A. members as well as other members. (Public Information)

**1989** It was recommended that:

The description "What Is an A.A. Group" contained in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be added to the *The A.A. Service Manual*, and that, when adding the material, the circular structure chart of the group be amended to include "Archives Representative." (Report and Charter)

**1993** It was recommended that:

In response to the proposal to create a Conference Committee on Archives, the 1987 General Service Conference Action #45 be reaffirmed as follows: (Policy/Admissions)

"While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of area Archives and Archives committees, with the resulting benefit to General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives Committee should not be formed at this time because the needs of local Archives committees are being well served by the trustees' Archives Committee and the General Service Office Archivist."

**1998** It was recommended that:

A Conference Archives Committee, composed of nine delegates (five from Panel 48 and four from Panel 49), meet at the 49th General Service Conference as a secondary committee assignment and that the committee meet jointly with the trustees' Archives Committee. (Policy/Admissions)

**1999** It was recommended that:

The trustees' Archives Committee review the Archives Handbook and consider the need for any changes and/or an Archives Kit.

**2002** It was recommended that:

The video "Markings on the Journey" be approved by the General Service Conference.

**2007** It was recommended that:

Any future proposed project involving widespread distribution of archival recordings be submitted to the Conference Archives Committee so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production.

## COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)

### Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

**1959** The Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies recognized the need for clarifying the relationship of the A.A. movement with outside alcoholic agencies and for providing material which will assist Delegates in the solution of problems which may arise in such relationships.

The committee recommended that the Conference take the following actions:

Provide a Conference resolution reaffirming the principles involved in such relationships.

Approve the preparation of an Information File on the subject which will be made available to Delegates and others interested.

Approve the preparation of a pamphlet or reprint to be offered to the membership through the publishing company.

The committee suggested that the resolution be worded as follows:

A Resolution of the 1959 General Service Conference

Be it hereby resolved that: It is the sense of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous that its membership is deeply appreciative of the spirit and assistance manifested by various agencies in dealing with the problem of alcoholism, and it is further the sense of this Conference that its membership is willing and

anxious to cooperate in all efforts to assist the suffering alcoholic short of affiliation with outside agencies in any way, and it is further the sense of this Conference that although our Fellowship does not operate or finance facilities of the nature provided by national, state and local agencies and committees, it is deemed entirely proper that some of its members, acting solely as citizens, may take position with these agencies or commissions, but in no way acting or speaking as representatives of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The committee suggested that the Information File contain:

1. A statement of the A.A. principles involved and a review of the critical areas which A.A. individuals and groups should recognize in their relationships with outside agencies.
2. Press releases and radio and TV scripts clarifying A.A.'s proper relationship.

It was recommended that:

A pamphlet to inform clergymen of A.A.'s sole purpose and how they can help the alcoholic find sobriety in A.A. be prepared. (Literature Committee)

The Delegates to the 1960 Conference be surveyed for information about industrial and business programs in their areas, and suggested that information be obtained from outside sources as well, so that G.S.O. material can be brought up-to-date and the pamphlet "The Alcoholic Employee" can be revised. (Literature Committee)

The recommendation of the Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies for a brief folder on *cooperation but not affiliation* with outside agencies be handled as a *Grapevine* article and reprinted and made available to A.A. members and outside agencies by G.S.O. (Literature Committee)

**1960** The Special Study Committee on Relation with Outside Agencies took the following actions:

Approved the questions and answers as revised on April 22, 1960 and recommended that this Fact File be made available to groups in loose-leaf form.

Referred the final draft of the Fact File to the Literature Committee for such action as it may wish to take in the publication of a pamphlet.

Recommended to the Conference that it authorize another Study Committee which will report to the 1961 Conference any essential revisions or additions to the currently approved Fact File.

The Conference approved unanimously a report of the Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies which reaffirms and documents the traditional A.A. policy of cooperation, but non-affiliation, with A.A.'s many friends in outside agencies. (Floor Action)

The Conference recommended that the Study Committee's "Fact File" be made available to the Areas as soon as possible and that the Committee be continued on an interim basis so that necessary changes or revisions may be adopted to make the "Fact File" increasingly useful to the Areas. (Floor Action)

Recognizing that the material compiled by the *Study Committee on Outside Agencies* will be distributed in mimeographed form shortly after the Conference, the Literature Committee recommended that the material be considered as incomplete, so that additional supplements may be added as the need for them is manifested. (Literature Committee)

The Literature Committee reaffirmed the need for the pamphlets approved by the 1959 Conference, namely: for the Clergy, the Inmate, a revision of "Young People and A.A." and "The Alcoholic Employee." (Literature Committee)

**1961** The Special Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies recommended that:

Questions and Answers Number 19, 20, and 21 submitted to the 1961 Conference be added to the report, "A.A.'s Relations with Outside Agencies" approved by the 1960 Conference.

Ever mindful of A.A.'s traditional policy of "Cooperation: Yes—Affiliation: No," the Public Information Committee, when requested to do so, continue to meet with organizations outside A.A. concerned with the problem of alcoholism, for the purpose of improving communications and understanding and discussing mutual problems.

The Delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with the Directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies within their respective Areas.

The Study Committee be made a permanent Conference Committee. Note: The Committee was called the Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies.

**1962** It was recommended that:

The new policy recommended by the G.S.B. Public Information Committee that the A.A. exhibits be available for display at meetings of appropriate national professional groups without restriction as to the geographic areas they represent be approved.

The following 1961 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed:

- a. That, ever mindful of A.A.'s traditional policy of "Cooperation, YES—Affiliation, NO" the Public Information Committee, when requested to do so, continue to meet with organizations outside of A.A. concerned with the problem of alcoholism for the purpose of improving communications and understanding and discussing mutual problems.
- a. The delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with the directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies within their respective areas.

**1963** It was recommended that:

The following questions and answers on Retreats be approved for addition to "Cooperation But Not Affiliation."

Q. What is the relationship of A.A. to retreats or other meetings for alcoholics held under the auspices, or in connection with the activities, of religious denominations?

A. There is no formal relationship. Movement-wide experience might be summarized as follows:

1. Traditionally, A.A. does not sponsor such gatherings. There is no such thing as an "A.A. retreat" any more than there is an "A.A. hospital" or an "A.A. clinic." Members participate in such activities as individuals.
2. Since the Fellowship does not affiliate with other organizations, the A.A. name cannot properly be used to identify or publicize retreats or activities sponsored by others. This applies even when most of the participants (perhaps all of them) consider themselves members of A.A. The objective is to minimize public misunderstanding of A.A.'s purpose and functions.
3. If reference to the participation of A.A. members seems unavoidable in advance notices or in reports, such reference should also emphasize that A.A., as a movement, does not sponsor retreats or religious activities and members attend as *individuals*.

The following actions be reaffirmed:

- a. That a member of P.I.C. represent the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting of the North American

Association of Alcoholism Programs.

- b. That ever mindful of A.A.'s traditional policy of "Cooperation But Not Affiliation" the Public Information Committee, when requested to do so, continue to meet with organizations outside of A.A. concerned with the problem of alcoholism for the purpose of improving communications and understanding and discussing mutual problems.
- c. That the Delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with Directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies in their respective Areas. Addresses are available from G.S.O.

**1964** It was recommended that:

The statement prepared by the Public Information Committee defining A.A.'s position in the field of alcoholism be accepted by the Conference.

G.S.O. put into effect, in cases involving possible misunderstanding of A.A.'s relationship to retreats, a procedure similar to that followed in cases of anonymity breaks.

(Persons believed to be responsible for creating an erroneous impression that A.A. as a Society sponsors retreats should be advised that this is not the case and their attention should be directed to the section, "Questions and Answers on Retreats" in the brochure entitled "Cooperation but not Affiliation.")

Copies of such communications should be sent to the area delegates involved.

G.S.O. correspondence concerning outside organizations and Traditions be shared with the area delegate.

Delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies in their Areas.

**1965** It was recommended that:

Delegates establish lines of communication with directors of tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas.

The Conference reaffirm the comment on question 16 in the pamphlet "Cooperation But Not Affiliation" and request publication of the following in the A.A. Grapevine:

Experience shows that A.A. groups and intergroups or central committees should not operate or manage these ventures. Individual A.A.s frequently set up such related facilities, being careful not to use the A.A. name on solicitation, advertising and publicity. These ventures are usually set up on a nonprofit basis, incorporated under the charitable and educational laws of the state and excluding "Alcoholics Anonymous" from their names.

Hospitals and rest homes and other community rehabilitation aids bear the same relationship to A.A. groups, intergroups or central committees as do any other outside agencies. With full cooperation of the groups in the community they are used for referral, provided A.A.'s tradition of nonendorsement and nonaffiliation is made clear.

Since these ventures are separate from the Fellowship, it is advisable that they operate under names which do not link them to A.A.—under names other than "Twelve Step House," "Alanon House," etc.

In accordance with past procedure, the "World Directory" should not be made available to other organizations because of its confidential nature.

The title of the Conference "Committee on Relations with Outside Organizations" be changed to the Conference "Committee on Relations with Other Agencies."

**1966** It was recommended that:

The "Committee on Relations with Other Agencies" change its name to the "Conference Committee on Public Information."

The new pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community" produced to replace "Helpful Ally" be approved.

All Delegates be urged to establish good lines of communication with tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas.

Delegates screen requests for the World Directory from outside A.A.

Reaffirmation that the color-sound film, "Bill's Own Story," is for use by A.A. Groups only, not for outside agencies.

When problems of A.A. relationships with other agencies arise in one area, all members of the new Conference P.I. Committee be informed.

**1967** It was recommended that:

Delegates continue to establish lines of communication with tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas.

G.S.O. refer requests for the *World Directory* from other agencies to the area delegate for follow-up.

Ways were discussed regarding how A.A.s can best participate in the Annual Alcoholism Information Week, such as holding public meetings and appearing on programs when invited, provided anonymity is preserved; and it was suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee provide information concerning A.A. policy on this matter one month in advance of the event.

Trustees' P.I.C. seek opinion of International Doctors Group in A.A. on how groups can improve relations with doctors in their communities.

A position paper on rehabilitation centers to the effect that such rehabs, rest homes and hospitals are *not* part of A.A., and therefore are not responsible for adhering to the Traditions of A.A. be approved. The position paper also suggested that the name of such an institution in no way involve A.A. or any terms identified with A.A. (Floor Action)

**1968** It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved with minor changes and carry the seal.

"Suggestions for Improving A.A.'s Relations with the Medical Profession in the Community," be approved and recommended that it be made available to all A.A. groups.

Confirmed Tradition of self-support by agreeing that Telephone Meetings in which the Telephone Company makes its facilities available without charge are not within this Tradition.

**1969** It was recommended that:

No special material for judges, law enforcement people, or teachers be considered at the present time.

G.S.O. consider sending a questionnaire to delegates and public information committees on the subject of cooperation between A.A. members and affiliates of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs.

**1970** It was recommended that:

The Fellowship go on record as opposing the use of the title, "A.A. Counselor." (Floor Action)

**1971** It was recommended that:

We accept the recommendation from the Conference Committee on Public Information for the formation of a

Conference Committee on Professional Relations to correspond with the Trustees' Committee on Professional Relations; that five delegates from Panel 22 be drawn by lot for the Conference Committee on Professional Relations, that four members from Panel 23 will be added to the committee to bring it up to its full complement of nine. The Conference will then have ten Conference Committees comprised of nine members each at the present Conference size. (Policy)

**1972** It was recommended that:

A.A. members approach the professional community without anxiety or fear, but with confidence that we have something to offer the alcoholic through the professional.

A.A. members approach the professional with the point of view that we have a mutual interest in helping the alcoholic, and with the idea of sharing our 37 years of experience as a resource for alcoholics.

The pamphlet "If You Are a Professional . . ." be approved with minor editorial changes.

The secretary send each member of the committee a copy of the monthly report of Professional Relations activity.

**1973** It was recommended that:

The question of attempting to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the U.S.S.R. should be referred to the Third A.A. World Service Meeting.

In view of the impact of strong agencies and facilities on our Fellowship, as evidenced by increased membership, increased need for Twelfth Step workers, and forecast of continuing increase, we should be mindful at every level of the increasing importance of the understanding and applications of our Twelve Traditions.

The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as the members of the Fellowship cooperate with agencies dealing with alcoholism—welcoming referrals, being guided by applicable Traditions, and keeping in mind as our primary purpose the welfare of the alcoholic and his recovery.

The Conference reaffirm that the furnishing of information about, and explanation of, Alcoholics Anonymous to professional societies is not in violation of the Traditions.

We encourage the use of all present means of communication (Grapevine, Box 4-5-9, and appropriate literature) to communicate to A.A. members an understanding of professional relations with emphasis on availability and value of the Guidelines.

Consideration be given to the compilation of Guidelines for Professional Relations Committees.

Consideration be given to a presentation to the 24<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, "How One Area Developed an Effective Professional Relations Program."

The Conference reaffirm the need at all levels to recognize interested A.A. members and develop an understanding of professional relations within the framework of our Traditions, keeping in mind our primary purpose.

No special literature addressed to law-enforcement officials is needed at this time, because current A.A. material is suitable for this purpose.

**1974** It was recommended that:

Information to A.A.s about what is being done in the field of alcoholism is adequately covered in the gray pages of the Grapevine and no additional publication is needed. Some members felt that a well-informed A.A. member is a better servant.

Understanding of the role of the A.A. member who wears "two hats" would be advanced by discussion at assembly or commit-

tee meetings. It was also suggested that a workshop on "Live and Let Live" could be helpful in understanding this subject.

The action of previous Conferences be reaffirmed, namely, that A.A.s employed in the alcoholism field be eligible for election as trusted servants at all levels of service. It is up to the individual to assess his or her availability for the time and effort required. The criteria for choosing a trusted servant should be based on A.A. activities rather than on personal employment.

Where possible, A.A. members of an area cooperate with alcoholism counselors in starting A.A. meetings in treatment centers, rather than leaving this responsibility to the counselors

On the question of professionals' making A.A. contact, in some areas it is common knowledge how to reach A.A. In others, A.A. contacts are provided to professionals through intergroup offices, answering services, personal contact, etc.

Area committees on cooperation with the professional community would improve understanding and cooperation in the area.

The name of the Conference Committee on Professional Relations be changed to Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, and that the full title be used instead of the initials.

**1975** It was recommended that:

The film "Bill's Own Story" may be shown at A.A. orientation sessions in rehabilitation facilities provided it is under the control of an A.A. member.

Although most A.A.s understand the difference between Twelfth Step work, sponsorship, and referral to A.A., there is still a big need for sponsorship in some areas.

Attitudes and not titles are the problem with the "two-hatter." If changing the title could change attitudes, a change could be considered.

We continue to cooperate with the professionals, because doing so helps us to fulfill our primary purpose of carrying the message of A.A. to the alcoholic. As Bill suggested, "Let's be friendly with our friends."

More sharing of the results of cooperation between professionals and A.A.s might improve understanding of professional efforts in the field of alcoholism.

More time be spent on the study of the Traditions by all A.A. members, including those working as professionals in the field. The Traditions enable us to better our relations with the professional community and with each other.

We drop the term "two hatter" in our official literature and use instead "A.A. member employed in the field of alcoholism" or the equivalent. (Floor Action)

No further discussion of John O's letter concerning St. Luke's Hospital in Phoenix is necessary, and a vote of confidence was unanimously given to Milton Maxwell, Class A. trustee. (Floor Action)

**1976** It was recommended that:

More effort be directed toward utilizing the service structure we have available to implement our recommendations.

We, as A.A. members, give to A.A. members interested in working or volunteering in the alcoholism field the following suggestions:

- a. Take advantage of the literature already in existence.
- b. Get adequate training.
- c. Have three to five years of good, stable sobriety.
- d. Get and keep a sponsor who does *not* work in the alcoholism field.



- e. Be thoroughly familiar with *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Carefully consider whether or not you are suited to work in the field of alcoholism.

To alleviate some of the problems involved in sponsoring people coming to A.A. from treatment centers, court/A.S.A.P. programs, etc., we should:

- a. Establish greater communication between the referral sources and local A.A. groups.
- b. Recognize the necessity of meeting the new member where he presently is, listen to him, try to determine what he really knows about the A.A. program.
- c. See that specific programs are set up for sponsoring people from treatment centers into local A.A. groups.

G.S.O. prepare a paper, consolidating existing information, for prospective members sent to us by the courts and other referral agencies, explaining our position on signing forms and describing the different types of A.A. meetings available, and that this paper should be directed particularly to the courts and other referral agency personnel, and to the new member, so that all concerned will know what A.A. can do and what A.A. cannot do.

In order to improve communication between A.A. and the professional community, we encourage A.A. members to become active on cooperation with the professional community committees. Where there are existing public information and institutions committees, encourage cooperation among members of all committees, keeping always in mind that our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

*Specific suggestions:* Sponsor your doctor; sponsor your clergyman; sponsor your employer; communicate with the academic world; hold workshops at all service levels.

**1977** It was recommended that:

In the spirit of cooperation, we respond to all calls for help with information about A.A., whether the call comes from the alcoholic or from the professional who is calling for his patient or client. As members of A.A. it is our responsibility to try to carry our message of recovery wherever we can.

We reaffirm the 1976 C.P.C. Conference Committee's recommendation to "Recognize the necessity of meeting the new member where he presently is, listen to him, try to determine what he really knows about the A.A. program," and we reaffirm, not only this agenda item, but the entire 1976 C.P.C. Conference Committee report.

A joint meeting of the Conference and trustees' Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions would not be practical. However, the committee recommended that the General Service Board consider the possibility of holding a joint meeting (between the 1977 and 1978 Conferences) of the trustees' Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions. It was the committee's feeling that while there is bound to be some overlapping of the responsibilities of the three [now four] committees, more specific guidance on who does what is needed. It was also felt that we should do all we can to eliminate any competition so that each committee can function in unity and do the job of carrying the message in the best way possible.

In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of all three [now four] trustees' committees be distributed to the delegate members of the three [now four] corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting.

**1978** It was recommended that:

A.A. members who meet with the administration of a treatment facility concerning the formation of an A.A. group on its

premises should explain group autonomy, as well as what A.A. can and cannot do (Traditions) and also have a good understanding of the facility's rules and regulations. After mutual agreements are reached, it is important that this information be shared with the A.A.s who will be attending the group's meetings. It was suggested that groups meeting in treatment facilities try to abide by the self-support tradition. If money for rent is not accepted by a facility, groups should contribute in some other way. It was also felt that the A.A.s employed by the facility should not run the groups at the facility.

**1979** It was recommended that:

A.A. members, through their C.P.C. committees where feasible, assume the responsibility for communicating with treatment facilities and court programs, letting them know which meetings are available for prospective members, including beginners meetings, where possible. Each group's autonomy should be kept in mind. It was further suggested that sponsorship be made available for those new members coming from treatment facilities. (The committee noted that it did not want to detract from the help provided to alcoholics by the professional community, but wished to be of maximum service through cooperation in helping the alcoholic get involved in group life and understanding of the A.A. program.)

The 1976 Conference C.P.C. Committee's recommendation be reaffirmed: "That in order to improve communication between A.A. and the professional community, we encourage A.A. members to become active on C.P.C. committees. Where there are existing public information and institutions committees, encourage cooperation among members of all committees, keeping always in mind that our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Specific suggestions: (a) Sponsor your doctor; (b) sponsor your clergyman; (c) sponsor your employer; (d) communicate with the academic world; (e) hold workshops for all service levels.

"Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends" continue to be available as an A.A.W.S. reprint of a Grapevine article.

"Problems Other Than Alcohol" be Conference-approved.

**1980** It was recommended that:

In keeping with our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions, A.A. members who are requested to videotape talks and meetings preserve anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, and videotapes, realizing that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. The committee further recommended that talks by A.A. members be given in person rather than videotaped, in view of the temptation for videotaping to place personalities before principles.

The pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate" be revised to include information in regard to the functions of area and local committees on cooperation with the professional community.

The recommendation of the 1976 General Service Conference in regard to A.A. members working in the field of alcoholism be reaffirmed. "That we, as A.A. members, give to A.A. members interested in working or volunteering in the alcoholism field the following suggestions: (a) Take advantage of the literature already in existence; (b) get adequate training; (c) have three to five years of good, stable sobriety; (d) get and keep a sponsor who does *not* work in the alcoholism field; (e) be thoroughly familiar with *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*; (f) carefully consider whether or not you are suited to work in the field of alcoholism.

A renewed effort be made to inform A.A.s working in the alcoholism field of our Twelve Traditions, and that they be thoroughly familiar with A.A. Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

A.A. continue to devote effort toward cooperation with the professional community. Recognizing that our Fellowship is experiencing a rapid influx of new members, it was further recommended that A.A. groups remember their primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic by:

- a. Providing greeters to welcome new members and visitors
- b. Emphasizing and accepting the responsibilities of sponsorship
- c. Taking group inventories periodically to determine if the group is fulfilling its primary purpose

The pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous and the Medical Profession" be condensed and rewritten to reflect current information about A.A.

The topic "Is A.A. Devoting More Attention To Our Relationships Outside A.A. Than We Do To What Is Going On Inside A.A.?" be referred to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for consideration as a workshop item at the 1981 General Service Conference.

The Conference reaffirm the recommendation of the 1977 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows: "In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees' committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting. (Policy/Admissions)

**1981** It was recommended that:

A.A. publish a leaflet addressed to labor and management.

The leaflet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community" be reinstated as General Service Conference-approved literature and put back into distribution as soon as possible.

**1982** It was recommended that:

The draft of a pamphlet directed to the medical profession be approved with some minor changes to be made in the editing stage, with the title "A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession."

**1983** It was recommended that:

The statement that "A.A. does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc." be included in the pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community," "If You Are a Professional," "How A.A. Members Cooperate," the flyer "A.A. at a Glance" and the A.A. Guidelines on Cooperating With Court, A.S.A.P., and Similar Programs.

**1984** It was recommended that:

A statement be included in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession" stating that when physicians recommend A.A. to their patients, the physicians not base their opinion of the effectiveness of A.A. on one or two meetings attended by the patients, but give A.A. a fair trial.

Cooperation with the professional community news be regularly included in *Box 4-5-9*, eliminating the *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*.

**1985** It was recommended that:

The following be inserted in the pamphlets "If You Are a Professional" and "How A.A. Members Cooperate":

The only requirement for membership in A.A. is a desire to stop drinking. If the person is not sure about this point, then he or she is most welcome to attend an open A.A. meeting.

If the person is sure that drinking is not his or her problem, then he or she may wish to seek help elsewhere.

The pamphlet "If You Are a Professional" be revised and that a draft of the revision of that pamphlet be returned to the 1986 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for their consideration.

The general manager designate a staff person to coordinate and pull together (at the General Service Office), all available information about spreading the A.A. message to the native North American population, including but not limited to (1) translation of their languages and dialects, (2) experiences of various A.A. groups in their contact with these populations and to explore with a view toward consolidating and expanding A.A.'s experience in these areas; to report back to the 1986 General Service Conference through whatever committee the general manager feels is appropriate. (Floor Action)

The Treatment Facilities, Correctional Facilities, and Cooperation With the Professional Community Workbooks be translated into Spanish. (Floor Action)

**1986** It was recommended that:

The guidelines for use of the Professional Exhibit be as follows:

That the C.P.C. staff person explore the possibility of seeking invitations to exhibit at conferences and conventions of professions outside the field of alcoholism where we've not exhibited before and we perceive a need for an awareness and knowledge of A.A.

That the trustees' C.P.C. Committee review the schedule for the Professional Exhibit annually at their July meeting in order to evaluate the ongoing effectiveness of the exhibit and make recommendations to the C.P.C. staff person for the following year; and that the C.P.C. staff person give a quarterly report to the committee about the Professional Exhibit.

That a letter be sent to delegates, alternates and C.P.C. chairpersons annually to make them aware of the Professional Exhibit.

When an exhibit is scheduled, the staff person notify the area delegate for the city in which it is booked, asking for their assistance in providing volunteers to staff the booth. There will be ample opportunity for local committees to raise any problem issues in connection with the exhibit.

In the pamphlet "A Clergyman Asks About Alcoholics Anonymous" in the fifth paragraph on page 8, the sentence which reads "Newcomers are encouraged to attend one or more meetings a week" be changed to "Newcomers are encouraged to attend meetings as frequently as possible."

No change is required in the wording of Item 3c on page 11 of the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate," since decisions about whether or not such information is provided is up to the group conscience of the A.A. entity involved in accordance with the Fourth Tradition.

The new "If You Are a Professional" pamphlet, with some design suggestions and editorial changes in the manuscript, be approved.

**1987** It was recommended that:

The C.P.C. staff person write to all area assembly chairpersons to gather information on their interest in having tabletop exhibits and the areas' desire to purchase them.

The title of the pamphlet "A Clergyman Asks" be changed to "The Clergy Asks" when it comes up for reprint.

**1988** It was recommended that:

The following sentence "Dually or multiply addicted persons

are asked to seek A.A. membership only if one of their addictions is to alcohol” be deleted in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional” under the section titled “Problems Other Than Alcohol” at the next printing.

After discussing in depth the need for carrying the A.A. message to the black community, the committee decided that the scope of the initiative be broadened to include all minorities with emphasis on the black community and recommended that the C.P.C. secretary and the Public Information secretary consider the suggestions listed in the *P.I./C.P.C. Bulletin*, Fall 1981, and use them as guidelines for carrying the message to all minorities.

A letter be sent to all area P.I. and C.P.C. chairpersons with these revised suggestions for carrying the A.A. message to minority group members.

In order to follow the progress of this initiative to minorities, the committee requested that the secretary send the committee members a full report of whatever action takes place at the trustees’ C.P.C. and P.I. Committees at the July board meeting and that discussion of the initiative be an item on the agenda of the 1989 Conference C.P.C. Committee.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The revised text of the pamphlet “A.A. and Occupational Alcoholism Programs” be approved with minor changes.

The title of the pamphlet “A.A. and Occupational Alcoholism Programs” be changed to “A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs.”

In carrying the A.A. messages to minorities:

- a. The focus and work of the C.P.C. trustees’ Committee, C.P.C. staff and all C.P.C. committees continue to gather information on how the A.A. message of recovery can better be carried to and through minorities, minority professionals, and all professionals who work with minorities.
- b. That any initiative to better carry the A.A. message to and through minorities media and media which focus on minorities readers, viewers or listeners, and in schools with high minorities populations, be referred to the appropriate public information committees for any continued consideration.
- c. That any further consideration of how minorities may better be reached within the A.A. Fellowship with the message of becoming involved in service, be through future consideration by the General Service Conference.
- d. That our minorities initiatives reflect our primary concern for helping all alcoholics.

A revised text of the pamphlet “The Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” be placed on the agenda for the 1990 General Service Conference C.P.C. Committee.

The trustees’ C.P.C. Committee and G.S.O. staff update the C.P.C. Workbook, giving consideration to including a service piece similar to one submitted by Southern Minnesota Assembly.

Consideration be given to development of a guideline for area C.P.C. committees to set up exhibits at state and local professional conventions.

Consideration be given by the trustees’ C.P.C. Committee to the development of a video which addresses the need to inform both professionals and A.A. members how our friends historically have helped the Fellowship and how we can cooperate within the framework of our purpose, experience and Traditions, and that discussion of the feasibility of such a project be placed on the agenda of the 1990 General Service Conference C.P.C. Committee.

**1990** It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” be published, with minor changes, once the present supply of the old pamphlet is exhausted.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The Preamble, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions be added to the following pamphlets: “A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs,” “A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession” and “If You Are a Professional,” when pamphlets are reprinted. Estimated cost: \$5,000.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Healthcare Professional” be approved, replacing “A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession,” because of the need to include information for all healthcare professionals.

The following changes be made in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional” when reprinted:

- a. Delete the words “self-help” in two places.
- b. Change the second sentence, third paragraph on page 5 to read “Consequently, while we welcome the opportunity to share our principles and methods with others, only they can provide the essential ingredient for success: their common bond.”

The Preamble, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be added to all C.P.C. pamphlets when reprinted, to provide consistent and uniform information.

The following paragraphs be added to all C.P.C. pamphlets when reprinted, to provide consistent and uniform information:

Many local A.A. service committees will, upon request, provide informational presentations for your organization. Sessions can be tailored to meet your needs. A typical agenda might include one or several A.A. films and a presentation by one or more A.A. members on “What A.A. Is and What It Is Not.”

Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**1993** It was recommended that:

At the next printing of the pamphlet “Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community” the following revisions be made:

- a. Change the heading “A.A.’s Position in the Field of Alcoholism” to “A.A. and Alcoholism.”
- b. Delete the subheading “How A.A. Views Alcoholism” and change “Alcoholism is, in our opinion . . .” to “From the beginning, many A.A. members have come to believe alcoholism is a progressive illness—spiritual and emotional (or mental), as well as physical.”

Because the phrase “A.A.’s position in the field of alcoholism” could imply a point of view or an opinion, consistency in our literature be maintained by changing that phrase wherever it appears in A.A. literature to “A.A. and Alcoholism” or similar wording that would remove the sense of a point-of-view or opinion when such material is due for reprint.

**1994** It was recommended that:

The changes to “How A.A. Members Cooperate with Other Community Efforts to Help Alcoholics,” prepared by the trustees’ C.P.C. Committee, be approved with these additional changes:

- a. This header be added to the contents page for the first page of text: “A.A. publications referred to in these pages are listed on the inside back cover.”

- b. Abbreviations and acronyms be spelled out or explained the first time or two each is used.
- c. On page 16 of the draft, question 17 “How can local A.A. groups and members help patients who are being discharged from treatment facilities?” be answered: “In order to bridge the gap, A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous. Many local groups and committees have established such temporary contact programs. (For more information, see the ‘Bridging the Gap’ pamphlet.)”
- d. On page 20 of the draft, the first line of the answer to question 4, “Why is C.P.C. activity important?”, be changed from “The professional can help the alcoholic *want* to hear the A.A. message of recovery” to: “The professional can help the alcoholic become willing to hear the A.A. message of recovery.”
- e. The pamphlet’s title be changed to “How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals” with the subheading “Cooperation, But Not Affiliation.”

The policy on distributing A.A. confidential directories to outside organizations, treatment professionals and others requesting this information, when approved by the Area delegate, be changed as described below, because of the need to respect the autonomy and anonymity of other groups and members, as well as A.A. as a whole:

- a. The General Service Office no longer provide A.A. confidential directories outside the Fellowship.
- b. G.S.O. respond to future requests with a friendly letter of explanation enclosing the listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for United States and Canada; and, forward the request to the Area delegate for information and follow up.

The format of the C.P.C. Workbook be changed as described below to enable wider use of this information, and to reduce the costs to local committees:

- a. The format be changed to a soft-cover booklet, comparable to the Correctional Facilities Workbook, and the booklet enclosed in a folder with related C.P.C. materials.
- b. The booklet be available separately, as well as in the complete kit.
- c. The contents of the kit be addressed and discussed by the 1995 Conference C.P.C. Committee.
- d. The text be revised and condensed for clarity, and to eliminate inconsistencies and redundancies, and a draft sent as background to the 1995 Conference C.P.C. Committee for approval.

**1995** It was recommended that:

The soft-cover C.P.C. Workbook be made available as a single item, as well as in a simple binder labeled “C.P.C. Kit” containing related items suggested by the trustees’ C.P.C. Committee.

**1997** It was recommended that:

The following statement regarding Singleness of Purpose be added to the C.P.C. pamphlets: “Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community,” “A.A. and Employees Assistance Programs,” “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals,” “If You Are a Professional,” and “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” under the title “Singleness of Purpose and Problems Other Than Alcohol” at the next printing:

“Alcoholism and drug addiction are often referred to as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Alcoholics

and nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend *open* A.A. meetings. But only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings or become A.A. members. People with problems other than alcoholism are eligible for A.A. membership *only* if they have a drinking problem.”

The following items be added or replaced under the title “What A.A. Does Not Do” to the following pamphlets: “Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community,” “If You Are a Professional” and “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous,” at the next printing:

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; follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide drying-out or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services; 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.

The C.P.C. Kit and Workbook be designated as service material rather than “A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.”

**1998** It was recommended that:

The draft revision of the pamphlet to replace “A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs” be approved with the title “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” and the following changes:

1. In the section to the co-worker, delete the line: “Al-Anon is not affiliated with A.A., but its contribution to increased understanding of the A.A. recovery program has been substantial.”
2. In reference to Al-Anon in the text of the pamphlet, insert the text from the footnoted material on page 121 of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* as follows: “Though it is entirely separate from Alcoholics Anonymous, it uses the general principles of the A.A. program as a guide for husbands, wives, relatives, friends, and others close to alcoholics.”

**2003** It was recommended that:

The “Singleness of Purpose” statement in six designated C.P.C. pamphlets (“Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community,” “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” “How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals,” “If You are a Professional . . .,” and “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous”) be changed to read:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend *open* A.A. meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings.”

Three changes to the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals” (P-29):

- The sentence on page 14, Number 2, item F, which reads “G.S.O. staff members also have assignments in those fields,” be changed to read: “G.S.O. staff members also

have rotating assignments in those fields;”

- The sentence on page 15, Number 5, which reads: “If asked, individual members may recommend someone—but with the clear understanding that the reference is strictly personal, *not* made in behalf of A.A.,” be changed to read: “If asked, individual members may recommend someone—but with the clear understanding that the reference is strictly personal, *not* made on behalf of A.A.”
- The sentence on page 21, Number 19, first paragraph, which reads: “There is no formal relationship at all, any more than there is a structural or official relationship between A.A. and any church, temple, ethical or humanist or agnostic society, or medication centers that a member may attend,” be changed to read “There is no formal relationship at all, any more than there is a structural or official relationship between A.A. and any church, temple, ethical or humanist or agnostic society, or meditation centers that a member may attend.”

**2006** It was recommended that:

Three short video segments be produced that can be accessed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community, with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000. [See Floor Action]

To amend the Cooperation With the Professional Community Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that three short video segments be produced that can be accessed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields [with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000].

By inserting the following language into the Advisory Action after medical fields:

“and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community”

So that it would read:

The committee recommended that three short video segments be produced that can be accessed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice and medical fields, and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community, with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000. (Floor Action)

**2008** It was recommended that:

The video segments directed to professionals in the legal/criminal justice and healthcare fields to be streamed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site be approved with suggested changes and that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities oversee these changes.

**2009** It was recommended that:

The video segments directed to professionals in the employment/human relations field to be streamed on to G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site be approved.

**2012** It was recommended that:

The current statement regarding “Singleness of Purpose” in C.P.C. literature which reads:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A.

and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings”

be revised to read as follows:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings”

The text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section in the C.P.C. pamphlets “A.A. in Your Community”, “If You Are A Professional” and “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” be replaced with the text in the section “What A.A. Does Not Do” in the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer and the entire section read as follows:

#### **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” or special 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.

## **FINANCE**

### **Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **Advisory Committee on the Budget**

**1951** It was recommended that:

Each delegate report to his State or Provincial committee a summary of the financial report.

Each delegate advise his Committee of the film strip presentation approved for general issue, illustrating the services rendered by the Grapevine and the General Service Office.

The primary report to area groups and A.A. members consist of this visual presentation and the information that the services rendered by the Grapevine and the General Service Office should not be curtailed.

Following this description of services, it is suggested that all be acquainted with the projected 1951 General Service Office budget, which is \$107,000. In this connection, it is suggested that those groups wishing to participate in contributing to the Alcoholic Foundation give a minimum of two dollars per member for the year 1951. (As more groups participate it is hoped the succeeding annual request per member may be decreased.)

The Board of Directors of the Grapevine adopt some mild form of promotion for an increase in circulation. An illustration might be the distribution of a postage-free envelope in a distinctive color to provide for an initial trial subscription at a cost of \$1. for four months.

On October 1, 1951, the financial results of the operations of the Grapevine to that date be reviewed. If there is no considerable improvement, an increase in price is recommended to avoid further impairment of the Alcoholic Foundation reserve fund.

## **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**1952** It was recommended that:

The policy of seeking group contributions at the rate of \$2.00 a year for each member be continued in effect. It is suggested that groups provide for these contributions in monthly or quarterly budgets or schedules of expenditures.

As a means of informing the groups, a simple summary of General Office Financial operations be prepared, showing current conditions, including the Group Fund's accumulated indebtedness of \$24,000 to the Alcoholic Foundation.

Delegates and state committeemen make a special effort to enlighten their groups in respect to the position of the General Service Office as the functional center of the A.A. movement, operating as the support of the existing membership and the bearer of the message to those alcoholics who still do not know.

**1953** It was recommended that:

The policy of seeking contributions at the rate of \$2.00 per member per year be continued and that further efforts be made to bring to the attention of the non-contributing groups the position of the General Service Headquarters as the functional center of the A.A. movement as well as the remaining indebtedness of \$20,000 to The Alcoholic Foundation, Inc.

Delegates and state committeemen continue their fine work in emphasizing to the groups the importance of the General Service Conference in relation to the policies and responsibilities of the A.A. movement as a whole so that the need for the financial support will be understood.

For the time being, no reduction be made in selling prices of pamphlets. In view of the feeling expressed by the Conference in reference to any future need for increasing the reserve fund that the delegates and committeemen review with the groups in their areas, the possible question of selling books to the groups at the retail price should such future need arise.

The next appeal for contributions from the groups should be made in the form of a letter over the name of the General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1954** It was recommended that:

The policy of seeking group contributions at the suggested minimum rate of \$2.00 per member per year be continued, and that greater efforts be made by all delegates to increase not only the amount of group contributions but also the number of groups contributing. Furthermore, that the delegates are asked to have their groups remit their contributions quarterly to the General Service Board.

With regard to an unusual bequest, the trustees be instructed to execute an appropriate instrument transferring the interest acquired by A.A. under this will proportionately to the other beneficiaries named by the deceased person. (Floor Action)

**1955** It was recommended that:

More emphasis should be placed on our coming of age, on our responsibilities as A.A. citizens, on our gratitude to our services, and our desire to see to it that A.A.'s message can always be carried to the alcoholic who does not know, no matter where he may be.

Each delegate either through his committeemen or personally,

make an effort to reach the general service representative of each group so that the general service representative may personally follow through at the group level and individually, in making more members aware of these responsibilities.

Since there is no longer a Conference Fund, this decision having been reached by the delegates to this Conference, and since the Conference will be supported from over-all group funds in the future, it is further necessary that group contributions be increased. Therefore, it is suggested that over and above the customary group contributions which are based on the yardstick of \$2. per year per member, those delegates who care to, might also put into circulation in their areas the Birthday Plan which has been successful in Oklahoma. Additional suggested plans for increasing contributions consist of the following:

1. Earmarking specific meetings for Headquarters contributions.
2. Piggy banks possibly in the form of empty whiskey bottles with the notation "Pour it in, Don't pour it out" or "Are you a piggy backer or piggy banker?"
3. Take a percentage of each group meeting collection for group contributions.
4. Remind each member that 4 cents a week is more than \$2 per year.

The Conference Fund appeal be discontinued. (Floor Action)

**1956** It was recommended that:

In order to put Headquarters on a current financial basis, perhaps it would be possible to increase the weekly contribution to 10 cents per member for six months. This would mean that by October the estimated budget of General Service Headquarters would be covered. . . and current. Then by dropping back to 5 cents per week, if all groups would send in their contributions every three months, instead of six months, then General Service Headquarters would stay on a current basis.

General Service Headquarters designate Thanksgiving Week each year as "A.A. Gratitude Week" and that this action be noted in the annual pre-Thanksgiving appeals to the groups for funds to help support A.A.'s worldwide services. (Floor Action)

**1957** It was recommended that:

All delegates urge all of their committeemen to do everything they can to tell every member of every group what G.S.H. does, and what it uses the money for.

G.S.H. furnish each delegate with a summary of Headquarters' services and expenditures. Each delegate should have enough copies to furnish one copy to each committeeman and each group secretary.

Groups be urged to collect 20 cents per month per member and send it in to G.S.H. every month, rather than twice a year.

General Service Headquarters designate Thanksgiving Week as "A.A. Gratitude Week." In this connection, it is to be suggested to groups that a special appeal for funds to support A.A.'s world services be made at local meetings. (Floor Action)

The suggestion of the Finance and Budgetary Committee that contributions from individual members be limited to \$100. in one year be approved. (Delegates Only Meeting)

**1958** It was recommended that:

The following plan of the Finance Committee's be adopted: Each delegate member of the Finance Committee will fully instruct his Area committeemen and Group Representatives at meetings within the next few weeks that each member of each group will be expected to contribute 4 cents a week minimum, collectible quarterly, for the maintenance of A.A. World

Services at G.S.O. The general service representative will be responsible for sending the money to G.S.O. Each delegate will repeat this mouth-to-ear appeal during the year.

Several more delegates, both panel 7 and panel 8, help the Finance Committee meet the need for wider participation in group contributions.

All areas with Birthday Plan experience forward data to G.S.O. where a file will be opened to collate this material for presentation to the 1959 Conference.

A voluntary pilot plan of letters from A.A.s to their friends who no longer contribute to G.S.O. through their groups—close friends who are no longer as active in their group as formerly—should be cleared through G.S.O. to prevent duplications.

Accredited Delegates from U.S. Territories, possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico should receive the same financial considerations as the Delegates from the U.S. and Canada, as these delegates have been accepted by the Conference as a part of the Conference structure. (Floor Action)

**1959** It was recommended that:

The pilot plan for individual contributions continue to be explored.

Each Delegate choose a Group Fund Plan he believes is most likely to be successful in his area:

- a. Birthday Plan
- b. Monthly budgeted contributions
- c. Pint-a-Month donations
- d. Coin Folders
- e. Card or receipt for individual members
- f. Pass empty whiskey bottle at each meeting earmarked for worldwide Twelfth Step work.
- g. Tin can or piggy bank
- h. Five cents per member present at each meeting taken out of collection.

Delegates send list of their groups to G.S.O. quarterly and have contributions filled in when it will be helpful.

New pamphlet "Inside A.A." be utilized in informing our membership on "Getting Things Done in A.A. on a Worldwide Basis."

The over-all problem of providing sufficient funds be approached with an attitude of optimism.

\$3.00 per member replace the \$2.00 suggested as annual contribution to G.S.O. (Policy Committee)

Traditional A.A. policy of declining bequests in any form, from A.A.'s or non-A.A.'s be reaffirmed, and that all Delegates receive a copy of current letter used in declining such requests. (Policy Committee)

The pilot plan for individual contributions be continued on an exploratory basis. (Floor Action)

**1960** It was recommended that:

We continue to suggest \$3.00 per member per year as the yardstick for group contributions, bearing in mind that some areas of service can be expanded if we continue to increase our group contributions. *The committee suggests this might best be accomplished by:*

1. Continued effort on the part of the delegates, committeemen and G.S.R.'s to enlighten the members of their groups as to the need for, and the services rendered by, our G.S.O. which could not be done by individual groups or members.
2. By thanking and complimenting those groups already contributing their share.

3. By offering to groups having difficulty, the suggestions and plans of groups participating in the Legacy of Service. Participation creates a sense of unity otherwise impossible.

4. By recognizing that each local area may find a different method successful in stimulating contributions to G.S.O.

5. By reminding the groups that it is helpful to G.S.O. to have contributions quarterly or even monthly, rather than waiting until the end of the year.

The budget for 1960 submitted by the General Service Board's Budget and Finance Committee be adopted.

A new simplified manner of presenting financial data be approved. (Floor Action)

**1961** It was recommended that:

The Birthday Plan to provide "supplementary" support of A.A.'s world services be adopted and continued

The present contributions yardstick of \$3.00 per member per year be reaffirmed and maintained.

Delegates consider various plans to increase their support of World Services that may prove most adaptable to their own areas.

The adoption of any of these plans be reported to the Secretary of the Conference Finance Committee so that reports on them may be made available to the 1962 Conference.

\$5,000 be taken from the General Fund and earmarked to assist overseas groups in the preparation and translation of Conference-approved literature for the period of one year only.

**1962** It was recommended that:

Use of the Birthday Plan as adopted by the 1961 Conference to provide supplementary support of A.A. World Services be continued.

The present contribution yardstick of \$3.00 per member per year be reaffirmed and maintained.

Delegates consider various plans to increase support of world services that may prove most adaptable to their own areas, and that the nature and success of various plans used be shared with G.S.O.

Allocation of \$5,000 from the General Fund to assist overseas groups in the preparation and translation of Conference-approved literature in the coming year be renewed.

The area committee and assemblies continue to be responsible for the delegate's travel expense to the General Service Conference meeting in New York up to \$100, and that this amount not be increased to \$150 at the present time.

A study be made by the Finance and Budgetary Committee of the General Service Board on the savings which might be made if delegates traveled by Jet Tourist Class, when practical in their areas, and that consideration be given to use of this type of travel.

The General Service Board, in following the traditional policy of declining In Memoriam contributions from nonmembers, limit its standard letter of declination to an expression of gratitude and a statement of tradition on such matters.

**1963** It was recommended that:

In a joint meeting of the trustees' and Conference Finance Committees, it was agreed to reconvene on November 1 and 2, 1963, subject to the approval of the Chairman of the General Service Board, in accordance with the proposal of the 1963 Conference. The meeting will be for the purpose of examining suggestions and recommendations received from delegates to make G.S.O. self-supporting.

The combined Committee “looks with favor on increased participation by overseas A.A. units in the General Service Conference and recommends that a study of factors involved be made by the G.S.O. staff.

Any records of contributions received by G.S.O. in Canadian dollars be clarified with a footnote which would indicate that there is a difference in the exchange rate, so the reader will understand that contributions in Canadian dollars are larger than the amount shown.

A plan to explore the possibility of making General Services increasingly self-supporting by encouraging groups to contribute on the basis of monthly sharing (regular monthly contributions) be approved. (Floor Action)

**1964** It was recommended that:

General Service Agencies should not adopt a fiscal year.

The present pattern of book discounts (whereby the groups have waived a portion of their discount to permit creation of an adequate reserve fund) be deferred for such action as may be taken by the 1965 Conference.

A pension program for G.S.O. employees with possible linkage to income from book discount waivers be explored.

The 1964 General Service Budget, as presented by the General Manger of G.S.O., be accepted.

An agreement between Bill W., co-founder, and A.A. World Services, Inc., covering royalties derived from Bill’s writings be approved.

Under the terms of the contract, a royalty of 15 per cent is paid to Bill, except that no royalties are paid on “overseas editions.” Royalties are to be paid to Bill and Lois, his wife, during their lifetimes; following the deaths of Bill and Lois, royalties revert in shares of royalties to living heirs. These shares revert to A.A.W.S. upon the deaths of the beneficiaries. Not more than 20 per cent may be bequeathed to any heir under the age of 40 years as of the date of the agreement between Bill and A.A.W.S. (April 29, 1963). The contract provides protection of royalties against “cheap books” and protection of A.A.W.S. and Bill against fluctuations in general economic conditions. A.A.W.S. retains the right of “first refusal” on any future literary works of Bill’s.

Action on extending the scope of the Monthly Sharing Plan, after noting the encouraging results in the six test Areas during the first quarter of 1964 be deferred. (Contributions up 60%; participating Groups up 33%.)

**1965** It was recommended that:

Regarding the Book Discounts/Retirement Fund,

- a. The policy of book discounts being waived by groups, established by 1954 and modified by 1955 Conference actions, be continued.
- b. The Reserve Fund, which reached \$307,775.26 as of December 31, 1964, receive no more funds from book discounts waived.
- c. For the year 1965 and subsequent years, funds received from book discounts waived, together with funds, if any, determined each year by the Board of Directors of the Grapevine to be available for such purposes, be used to provide retirement income for regular employees of A.A. World Services, Inc., and of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., pursuant to a pension plan or retirement plan in form as may hereafter be adopted by the General Service Board.

That the system of quarterly acknowledgments of Group contributions be adopted by all the groups in the United States and

Canada be approved.

G.S.O. and Grapevine budgets be approved.

Regarding two motions and three recommendations stemming from the Finance Workshop, that all five be approved. They are as follows:

- a. The present method of choosing Conference committees be retained, i.e., drawing from the hat at the Conference.
- b. In future years, Conference Committee Co-Chairman be elected at the last meeting of the Conference Committee rather than the first, to provide a greater length of time for the Committee members to make a choice.
- c. It be reaffirmed that the Co-Chairman start to serve as Chairman immediately following the Conference.
- d. With respect to the Finance Committee, that the members serving this year as observers be incorporated as voting members immediately and that the sense of the motion be that the same recommendation be given to the Policy Committee to affect all Conference Committees (effective immediately 1965).
- e. Communications between Conference committee members and, if desired, with members of the General Service Board Committee members be improved and facilitated through the Conference Committee Secretary and Conference Committee Chairman throughout the year.

**1966** It was recommended that:

Groups be educated regarding the functions of G.S.O.

A pension plan for G.S.O. employees be approved.

The delegates’ expense allowance revision be studied by all Areas in assemblies during the next year, to find some fairer distribution of financial responsibility for the Conference, and that the 1967 Conference Finance Committee review findings and recommend such for the Conference Policy Committee.

The General Service Board can now accept a bequest of no more than \$100 left to it by an A.A. member and reaffirmed that G.S.O. should continue *not* to accept any bequest from non-A.A.’s. (Floor Action)

**1967** It was recommended that:

Delegates’ expense allowance remain unchanged.

The General Service Board make use of investment income from the Reserve Fund for whatever purpose the Board may authorize.

Some consideration be given to reversing the clauses in the preamble to read as follows: “We are self-supporting through our own contributions; there are no dues or fees for A.A. membership.”

The ceiling on the amount an individual can contribute to the General Service Office be increased from \$100 a year to \$200. (Floor Action)

**1968** It was recommended that:

The Regular Contribution Plan flyer be mailed again to all groups, strongly stressing that committee members, G.S.R.s, secretaries, etc., be kept well informed of any mailings such as this in order to help stimulate interest in contributing to the General Service Office.

The need for better communication between the delegates, committee members, G.S.R.’s and groups be stressed, pointing out that better informed groups will support G.S.O. without the need of a “hard sell” from the delegate.

**1969** It was recommended that:

The proposal to change the basis for area support of the General Service Conference be approved and recommended that the



Policy Committee give favorable consideration to this proposal. The folder last issued in 1963, called "What Happens When You Put \$3.00 in the Hat," be rewritten and brought up to date. All delegates show the G.S.O. filmstrip as often as possible, just prior to their discussion of the need for contributions and support.

The Conference look with favor on the proposal "that each Conference area contribute \$150 every year to the support of the General Service Conference" and suggested the delegates take it back to their areas for consideration. It was further suggested that this item be placed on the 1970 General Service Conference Agenda. (Policy)

**1970** It was recommended that:

Better utilization of the G.S.O. filmstrip should be made and suggested that it be distributed in slide form to make it more convenient to use.

The area committees consider a symposium of services that would include an educational program for G.S.R.'s in the workings of their groups and their relation to G.S.O. The need to employ more articulate people, especially in the role of G.S.R., is stressed.

The Birthday Plan be extended to include the birthdays of individual groups as well as of individual members.

Area and state committees supplement regular group contributions by sponsoring a Gratitude Month, with special emphasis on participation by all groups. Arrangements to be made by the committee for each group participating to receive individual credit.

The idea of a Gratitude Month be incorporated into the next money folder.

These suggestions to increase group support of General Services be included in *Box 4-5-9* in future issues.

**1971** It was recommended that:

The General Service Board's authorization to A.A.W.S. Board of Directors to increase the price on books and literature, if and when necessary be confirmed, to be reviewed by the Conference Finance Committee two years from now.

The \$3.00-per-year, per member yardstick remain as is, and a concentrated effort to involve more groups be undertaken.

The Agenda/Admissions Committee arrange to have extensive sharing sessions on the matter of increasing contributions and finances on the 1972 Conference agenda.

The delegates obtain the thinking of their areas on the uses of the Bill W. Memorial Fund and communicate their findings to the trustees for guidance.

**1972** It was recommended that:

The Group Contribution Fund be combined with the General Fund. This fund is to be utilized for all expenses of the General Service Office, including those formerly charged to both the General Fund and Group Fund, and to be known as the General Fund.

Groups be informed as to how and where they can contribute as well as why they should contribute.

Delegates explain contribution needs to their committee members and to their groups.

Our regular contribution plan be continued with particular emphasis on non-participating groups.

A finance packet or kit be sent to all committee members and area chairmen. This kit to include a package of money folders, group contribution and birthday envelopes.

The limit on individual gifts and bequests be increased from \$200 to \$300 per year.

G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group. Letter to be sent to delegates explaining this decision so that they can inform the clubs in their areas. (Floor Action)

*Bill Wilson Memorial Fund:* It was agreed to defer the decision on the use of the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund so that the delegates may discuss with their groups the suggestion of a film about A.A., historical or for public information purposes, and come back next year prepared to make a decision on this or some other suggestion. (Floor Action)

**1973** It was recommended that:

The authorization granted to A.A.W.S., Inc., by the 1971 Conference Finance Committee to raise the prices on books and literature, if necessary, be reconfirmed.

The \$3.00 per year per member yardstick be changed to \$3.65, and be emphasized as a penny a day for sobriety.

To increase group participation, i.e., contributions:

- a. Mailings should be aimed at the G.S.R.s, giving them more information and asking for their cooperation (copies of correspondence to G.S.R.s to be sent to all delegates).
- b. Delegates ask groups to contribute, no matter how little.
- c. G.S.O. poll all delegates, asking them to contribute ideas about methods of informing groups regarding contributing regularly in their respective areas.
- d. The "G.S.R. Corner" in *Box 4-5-9* be reinstated to further communications with the G.S.R.s.

The General Service Board Reserve Fund ceiling be raised from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

The money in the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund be transferred to the General Fund as expeditiously as possible. (Floor Action)

**1974** It was recommended that:

The "money folder," "How Far Can \$3.00 Go?" be redesigned and rewritten as follows:

- a. Less copy.
- b. Use of a pie chart with appropriate footnotes.
- c. Suggested titles: "A Penny a Day for Sobriety"; "Is Your Sobriety Worth a Penny?"
- d. The section on "How to Contribute" to remain intact.
- e. Inclusion of a section on how groups might distribute their contributions after group expenses are paid: that is, 60%, 30%, 10%, divided between central office or intergroup, G.S.O., and the area committee.

There be better utilization of the slogan "A Penny a Day for Sobriety," maybe a brochure itemizing how little \$3.65 will buy today.

The current "Regular Contribution" flyer be updated, adding a footnote, "If you have any other questions, see your G.S.R."

The new flyer be sent in a mailing to groups.

G.S.O. prepare a guideline for delegates on how to approach committee members and G.S.R.s on the subject of financing, i.e., how one area tackled the problem.

There be a broader use and explanation of the In Memoriam contribution envelopes.

Delegates emphasize that the cost of G.S.O.'s service to the

Fellowship is not covered by contributions from the Fellowship; the deficit has to be made up by A.A.W.S.

The area contribution toward the General Service Conference expenses be raised from \$150 to \$200.

**1975** It was recommended that:

Delegates, in reports to their areas, place more emphasis on broadening the base of group support because the committee felt that the dependence on literature income could become detrimental to the Fellowship structure.

The 60-30-10 suggested group contribution formula be used, where applicable and practicable, as well as the \$3.65 per year per member plan; and that the 60-30-10 Plan should be encouraged by G.S.O. and all delegates: (60% to the intergroup/central office), 30% to G.S.O., 10% to the area committee.

The recommended \$10 maximum on birthday contributions be eliminated from the birthday envelope.

Delegates emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution dollar and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly.

A set of quarterly contribution statements be mailed to all delegates for their areas on a twice yearly basis rather than once a year, as is now the practice. These statements are to cover the six-month period ending June 30, and the 12-month period ending December 31.

Contributions continue to be listed in the A.A. directories, and the contributions from the previous calendar year be used.

Upon reviewing the G.S.O. salary structure, it was considered to be sound. This information is available to delegates upon request.

**1976** It was recommended that:

The Finance Committee of the General Service Board examine and restate the meaning of a "prudent reserve" as it relates to the G.S.O. structure, for possible consideration at a future Conference.

The General Service Board and A.A. World Services Board of Directors consider reducing the net income from the sale of literature by appropriate means, such as:

- a. Special consideration given to a substantial reduction in the price of the Big Book
- b. Liberalizing the discount structure
- c. Distribution of gratis or low-cost literature to public information committees, institutional committees, or new groups

Delegates should emphasize that the preceding recommendation was made in anticipation of increased group participation, and that further efforts to control literature costs to the Fellowship, the Conference structure, and A.A. unity depend upon a solid base of group support.

**1977** It was recommended that:

A prudent reserve be established equal to the preceding year's operating expense of the combined expenses of the General Service Board of A.A., A.A. World Services, Inc., and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. (with the exception of extraordinary expenses); and that the auditing firm be requested to review and comment annually on the availability, feasibility, and adequacy of this reserve.

After review of the board's proposal to return discounts donated to the group, the cost of the employees' retirement plan be charged to general operating expenses, and that the selling price of books be reduced by those amounts previously used for the retirement plan.

A suggested prudent reserve for a group be dependent on local

needs; and that a suggested prudent reserve for central offices, intergroups, and area committees preferably be one to twelve months' operating expense, depending on local needs.

Group contributions continue to be listed in A.A. Directories. (Floor Action)

**1978** It was recommended that:

A new pamphlet on finance, in at least two colors, be prepared and distributed to stress:

- a. Self-support through the 60-30-10 Plan
- b. How the 60-30-10 plan helps carry the A.A. message around the world.

The title of the pamphlet be "Self Supporting? The 60-30-10 Plan."

G.S.O. prepare and distribute a chart illustrating how money flows through the G.S.O. finance structure.

Group treasurers continue to be reached through the G.S.R.s and through the local service level; and further that contributions be acknowledged, as received, to group treasurers or to whoever the sender may be.

The delegate area contribution to Conference expense be increased from \$200 to \$300.

**1979** It was recommended that:

In line with the principle of broadening the base of group support, emphasis should continue to be placed on group contributions. However, it was further recommended that:

- a. The limit on individual contributions should be increased from \$300 to \$500 to compensate for the inflationary factor since the last increase.
- b. Bequests should be subject to the same limit as on individual contributions and be on a one-time-only basis and not in perpetuity.

**1980** It was recommended that:

The discontinuance of mailing contribution statements to Quebec, requested by Quebec delegates, be referred back to the 1981 Conference Committee on Finance for further study and consideration.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider advising the Canadian subscribers that, when possible, U.S. funds should be used when purchasing a subscription.

**1981** It was recommended that:

All future events, such as the International Convention, not be planned to operate on a deficit basis, and it was also recommended that all future events of this type be self-supporting.

The word "suggested" be added to the title of the 60-30-10 Plan folder, and that the words "where applicable and practicable" be added to the copy of panel 3 of the folder.

The graphics of the 60-30-10 Plan folder should indicate that the 60-30-10 formula is flexible and subject to local autonomy, and that the copy give illustrations reflecting the flexibility to meet local needs (for example, the needs of a D.C.M. for travel expenses). It should also give special emphasis to the Regular Contribution Plan.

Because it was felt that the increasing trend of A.A. financial dependence on publishing income was diminishing the Fellowship's traditional support by group contributions, in delegates' reports to their areas, emphasis should be placed on the basic spiritual need for self-support by communicating to their areas, districts, and groups the need to broaden the base of group support.

Contribution statements to groups in Quebec continue to be sent along with a letter written in both French and English thanking

those groups that had contributed directly to their district or area, which, in turn, sent its surplus to G.S.O. The letter is to be generated by lists of contributing groups supplied by the delegates from each of the four Quebec areas. The letter will acknowledge the actual amount received by G.S.O. during a designated period.

Item 3 of the ad hoc committee recommendations of February 3, 1978, which reads as follows, be deleted:

Income earned on that portion of the Reserve Fund attributable to the deferred subscription income will be retained by the General Service Board Reserve Fund as long as the Grapevine has income from operation. In the event of an operating deficit, such income would be credited automatically to the Grapevine to the extent of its deficiency or the limit of such income.

The following paragraph be substituted:

All income earned on that portion of the Reserve Fund attributable to the deferred subscriptions be credited to the Grapevine and reflected on the Grapevine financial statement. The contra amount of the increase in income will be added to the asset account of the General Service Board Reserve Fund.

The reporting and crediting of interest earned on Grapevine unexpired subscription income as originally recommended by the ad hoc committee report of February 3, 1978, be maintained.

Clubs not receive the literature discount available to A.A. groups. (Floor Action)

**1982** It was recommended that:

The following actions be taken in connection with the 60-30-10 pamphlet:

- a. A new concept for the pamphlet to replace the 60-30-10 piece be considered.
- b. All 1981 Advisory Actions, with the exception of the action requesting specific graphics, be incorporated into the new piece; also, emphasis on the Seventh Tradition and how it relates to the individual member be included.
- c. The General Service Office develop the necessary copy and title to further present the need for supporting the A.A. support system.

The Regular Contribution Plan be used to supplement the 60-30-10 Plan.

**1983** It was recommended that:

An earlier treatment of illustrating the Regular Contribution Plan in cartoon fashion be revised and reissued to supplement the pamphlet titled "Supporting the A.A. Support System," with the 1967 A.A. Grapevine article titled "A.A.'s Tradition of Self-Support," written by Bill, printed on the reverse of the flyer. Further, this flyer is to be produced in the English, Spanish, and French languages and distributed simultaneously.

The need to decrease dependence on publishing income and the needs for greater participation and increased contributions from the groups to accomplish this goal be simplified conceptually in graphic form.

In keeping with our Seventh Tradition at the group, area, and G.S.O. level, the Conference stress the importance and necessity of discussing self-support at area and local workshops.

**1984** It was recommended that:

Area contributions toward Conference expenses be increased from \$300 to \$400 effective with the 1985 Conference.

Copies of contribution statements sent to the groups be continued to be sent to all delegates on a twice-a-year basis as of June 30 and December 31, with only a list to be sent on the off quarters.

A change be made in the pamphlet titled "Supporting the A.A. Support System" as follows. Where it now reads, "Bequests in wills: acceptable only from A.A.s and only in the year of the A.A.'s death. The limit is \$500." To read, "Bequests in wills: acceptable only from A.A.s and only on a one-time basis and not in perpetuity. The limit is \$500." This change to be made in the next printing.

The past Advisory Action relating to the need for greater participation and increased contributions from groups, to reduce dependence on publishing income, be supplemented with an explanation aimed at the individual A.A. members regarding what happens to their individual contribution, at the group level, and how it helps carry the message worldwide.

**1985** It was recommended that:

A guideline on finances be developed by the General Service Office.

A cartoon treatment be approved illustrating need for greater group participation and how the individual contributions at the group level help carry the message worldwide.

**1986** It was recommended that:

The finance cartoon flyer be changed in the third panel to list: group expenses, district expenses, intergroup or central office, area committee and General Service Office, eliminating prudent reserve, numerals one to five, and the words "part of the remainder to" and "part to"; and that the second panel be changed to eliminate the numeral five and the words "part to."

The area delegates strongly consider implementation of the following suggestions to improve contributions to G.S.O., area assemblies, districts, and central or intergroup offices:

- a. G.S.O. make available to all delegates an itemized list of group service expenses and other expenses of the board, combined into one total, representing group services supported by group contributions.
- b. Area delegates contact groups quarterly, either directly or through the D.C.M., distributing self-support pamphlets and contribution statements.
- c. The delegates encourage each group to have a folder which includes a list of addresses to whom monthly contributions could be sent (District, Intergroup/Central Offices, Area Committees and G.S.O.).
- d. Each area affix a list of addresses or stamp addresses on finance flyers and distribute to groups to provide them with the information on "where to send their money."
- e. Areas could provide groups with pre-addressed envelopes as to where they should contribute to the area treasury.

A film on finance is premature (until the Guidelines on Finance are introduced.)

Because of the many facets, the proposal to have G.S.O. self-supporting through group contributions only not be considered at this time, especially in light of the continuing decrease in the percentage of groups contributing to G.S.O.

The limit contributed from individual A.A. members be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 and bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and be on a one-time-only basis and not in perpetuity.

The following changes be made to "Supporting the A.A. Support System" flyer:

- a. The example which includes "district" be made the first illustration in the flyer, reflecting 50% to intergroup/central office, 30% to G.S.O., 10% to area and 10% to district.

- b. The present 60-30-10 Plan illustration will move to a secondary position.

**1987** It was recommended that:

The "Supporting the A.A. Support System" pamphlet be revised as follows:

- a. On the first page, change the type style for "group expenses" to bold face.
- b. On the fourth page (the last illustration and description), change the current "40% to G.S.O." and "60% to Area Committee" to "30% to G.S.O., 30% to Area Committee, 40% to District."

The concept of the Self-support communications plan be approved; the plan is to provide Self-support information and tools to D.C.M.s and other service people in the Fellowship.

The objectives of the five-year plan be approved and reviewed monthly; the plan projects increased contributions and periodic literature price decrease, which would make A.A. self-supporting in five years or less.

No change in delegates' fees be made at this time, but that this matter be considered again by the 1988 Conference.

The Conference Committee on Finance reviewed the auditor's report on the General Service Reserve Fund which states, in his opinion, "that the balance of Reserve Fund at December 31, 1986, is adequate to meet any adverse events which can be foreseen at the present time."

The Committee recommends the acceptance of the auditor's opinion that the Reserve Fund is adequate at this time.

The 1977 Conference Advisory Action which reads:

"It was recommended that a prudent reserve be established equal to the preceding year's operating expense of the combined expenses of the General Service Board of A.A., A.A. World Services, Inc., and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. (with the exception of extraordinary expenses); and that the auditing firm be requested to review and comment annually on the availability, feasibility, and adequacy of this reserve" be amended to replace the phrase "equal to" with the phrase "not to exceed."

And that a lower limit to the fund not be provided, inasmuch as the auditor is required to comment on the adequacy of the fund.

**1988** It was recommended that:

No change in delegates' fees be made at this time.

The list of possible demands on the Reserve Fund as presented by the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee be made available as a service piece and this list be attached to the finance presentation and made available to the current members of the Conference.

The trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee's proposal for handling possible excesses in the Reserve Fund be approved. The proposal would use literature price reductions as the primary mechanism in adjusting the relationship of the Reserve Fund to the Conference-approved limit of one year's operating expenses.

The statement of clarification recommended by the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee be approved. The statement says that when the auditor comments in his annual financial statements on the availability, feasibility and adequacy of the Reserve Fund, he is measuring the Reserve Fund as of the calendar year just ended, including transfers from such year's income of the operating entities, against the operating expenses of the consolidated entities (A.A. World Service, Inc., General Service Board of A.A., Inc., and the Grapevine, Inc.), for the same year then ended.

Subject to editorial review, the Self-support Committee's suggested revisions to the "Supporting the A.A. Support System" pamphlet be approved with the provision that:

- a. titles be indicated for the addresses of Districts, Intergroups/Central Offices, Area Committees, and G.S.O.
- b. a list of services provided to the Fellowship be included under the "Why" section.
- c. the message of the last panel of the cartoon supplement be incorporated.

The committee see the draft reflecting these recommendations.

The cartoon supplement of the pamphlet "Supporting the A.A. Support System" be discontinued immediately.

The 1988 financial reports be presented as a management report to the Conference, based on broad-based allocations. The committee acknowledges that the more detailed computerized general ledger system will provide more accurate allocation when available.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The need to send complete audited financial statements to each delegate as soon as they are available has not been demonstrated, but that they will be made available upon request. (Available about April 1st, each year.)

Three-part printouts, which are seen as a better working tool for delegates and D.C.M.s, be sent to the delegates every quarter instead of alternating copies of the contribution quarterly statements and quarterly contribution printouts.

Area contributions for delegate expenses for the Conference be increased to \$600 and that, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion of the Conference costs.

The Conference strongly reaffirms the 1986 Conference Advisory Action on self-support which reads:

"That the area delegates strongly consider implementation of the following suggestions to improve contributions to G.S.O., area assemblies, districts, and central or intergroup offices:

- a. G.S.O. make available to all delegates an itemized list of group service expenses and other expenses of the board, combined into one total, representing groups services supported by group contributions. (Now a part of the financial statements in the Final Conference Report.)
- b. Area delegates contact groups quarterly, either directly or through the D.C.M., distributing self-support pamphlets and contribution statements.
- c. The delegates encourage each group to have a folder which includes a list of addresses to whom monthly contributions could be sent (district, intergroup/central offices, area committees and G.S.O.).
- d. Each area affix a list of addresses or stamp addresses on finance flyers and distribute to groups to provide them with the information on 'where to send their money.'
- e. Areas could provide groups with preaddressed envelopes as to where they should contribute to the area treasury."

No change be made in the current literature pricing policy after considering a proposal to change the G.S.O. literature pricing from the existing procedure to one fixed price for everyone, including purchasers who buy in bulk.

The self-support pamphlet reflect the idea that the support of A.A. services (central/intergroup offices, area committee, G.S.O., and district) be a *commitment* by the individual member through his or her home group.

The commitment to the Seventh Tradition on the part of individuals through their home group be emphasized where applicable in other A.A. literature as it comes up for revision.

**1990** It was recommended that:

No change be made to the newly revised pamphlet, "Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions," which emphasizes the commitment on the part of the individual A.A. member; and any relationship to intergroups be left to the Conference, and the results of such actions then be reflected in the Self-support pamphlet.

There be a reaffirmation of the 1977 Conference Advisory Action which reads: "A suggested prudent reserve for a group be dependent on local needs; and that a suggested prudent reserve for central offices, intergroups, and area committees preferably be one to twelve months' operating expense, depending on local needs."

**1991** It was recommended that:

The format of the Finances presentation of the financial information at the General Service Conference be reviewed and that any revisions or changes be considered and forwarded to Conference Finance Committee members prior to the end of the year.

The pamphlet "Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions" not be changed at this time, as there was insufficient input; and that there be further input from the areas prior to any action.

The adaptation of the "Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions" pamphlet tailored to reflect the Quebec area's self-support system not receive Conference approval, because there is already existing Conference-approved literature dealing with the subject.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The new computer-monitored Happy Birthday Contribution Plan instituted in 1991 be discontinued immediately and that any database of A.A. members' names and addresses, together with sobriety birthday dates, that may have been created be destroyed.

The financial statements presented to the Fellowship do not show allocation of expenses between various funds and entities until the basis of such allocations can be justified.

The term "Shortfall of group services supported by group contributions" not be used until the basis of allocations resulting in the amount shown as shortfall can be justified.

The request that contributions to the General Service Office from conferences, conventions, and roundups be limited to the maximum amount an individual may contribute in a given year be forwarded to the 1993 Conference Finance Committee, as there was insufficient information, and that there be input from the areas prior to any action.

The general manager of the General Service Office and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Board devise an equitable system of pay for the G.S.O. staff that embraces the spiritual principles of Concept XI and complies with all applicable laws. (Floor Action)

**1993** It was recommended that:

Contributions from conferences, conventions, and roundups not be limited to the maximum amount an individual may contribute in a given year, and in accordance with our Seventh Tradition, only funds from A.A. members attending the event should be contributed to support A.A. services.

In light of declining contributions, a new self-support pamphlet be prepared deleting the charts and percentages, stressing the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, Bill's vision of self-support, a brief history of A.A. finances, the G.S.R.'s responsibility concerning the financial needs within the service struc-

ture, visual aids and description of the various services provided throughout the structure. It is requested that a draft be sent to the 1993 Conference Finance Committee following the October 1993 trustees' Finance Committee meeting, and brought back to the 1994 Conference Finance Committee meeting for approval.

No change be made at this time to delegate fees, but in the spirit of self-support, areas are encouraged to make a contribution, if possible, to defray the average cost per delegate. This statement should be incorporated in the annual Conference notification to delegates of fees due.

**1994** It was recommended that:

The first draft of the new Self-Support pamphlet not be approved and that the trustees' Finance Committee work with the Publishing Department to develop several (3-5, estimated total cost \$3,000 to \$5,000) comprehensive layouts including the long form of the Seventh Tradition, and definition of Prudent Reserve, keeping in mind that all service entities are equally important. It is requested that these layouts be brought to the 1995 Conference Finance Committee for review.

We not form an ad-hoc committee to relocate G.S.O. out of New York, because it is not financially prudent, and such a project is not needed at the present time.

The definition of the Prudent Reserve not be changed. The committee recognized that the new presentation of the financial statements excluding shipping and warehousing from operating expenses has effectively reduced the limit of the Reserve Fund by approximately \$800,000.

We adopt or continue use of the Birthday Plan to provide "supplementary" support of A.A.'s World Services.

Instead of the three-part green bar forms that are sent out on a quarterly basis, a simple 8 1/2 x 11 page listing district, group service number, group name, group city, date of last contribution, and contributions to date be used.

**1995** It was recommended that:

The draft of the pamphlet, "Self-Support Where Money and Spirituality Mix," which satisfies the 1993 and 1994 Conference Advisory Actions (to prepare a new self-support pamphlet stressing the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, Bill's vision of self-support, a brief history of A.A. finances, the G.S.R.'s responsibility concerning the financial needs within the service structure, visual aids and a description of the various services provided throughout the structure, the long form of the Seventh Tradition and a definition of Prudent Reserve), be accepted with editorial changes placing emphasis on the informed group conscience and, on page 13, for contributions to A.A. service entities contact your district committee, area committee, local intergroup/central office.

A heading, "Suggested Plans For Group Contributions Toward All A.A. Services," be included on page 14 (currently blank) of the draft, "Self-Support where Money and Spirituality Mix." The following five suggested contribution plans that would appear on page 14 (currently blank) will utilize pie charts and percentages to depict examples of contributions to various A.A. service entities to help arrive at a group conscience:

**Example #1:**

15% to district  
15% to area committee  
30% to G.S.O.  
40% to intergroup/central office

Or

**Example #2:**

- 20% to area committee
- 30% to G.S.O.
- 50% to intergroup/central office

Or

**Example #3:**

- 25% to district
- 25% to area committee
- 25% to G.S.O.
- 25% to intergroup/central office

If you have no intergroup/central office, suggested contributions might be:

**Example #4:**

- 50% to area committee
- 50% to G.S.O.

Or

**Example #5:**

- 40% to district
- 30% to area committee
- 30% to G.S.O.

Or

Whatever percentages are in accordance with your group conscience.

In addition, the Conference Finance Committee requests that each delegate advise G.S.O. on how funds are allocated by the groups in their area and return input to the 1996 Conference Finance Committee.

**1996** It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "Self-Support Where Money and Spirituality Mix" be revised to include only two pie charts, as follows:

Under the heading:

"Examples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities"

"Distribution of funds from groups that support four service entities"

District	10%
Area	10%
G.S.O.	30%
Intergroup/Central Office	50%

AND

"If you have no intergroup/central office, distribution of funds from groups that support three service entities"

District	40%
Area	30%
G.S.O.	30%

Also, information be added adjacent to the pie charts under a new heading, "After group expenses, what is your informed group conscience for distribution of excess funds?" which includes space for the group name, group service number, and

the percentage the group wishes to contribute to each entity. (Page 16 in the current pamphlet is suggested).

AN EXAMPLE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Distribution Plan of \_\_\_\_\_  
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

YOUR GROUP SERVICE # \_\_\_\_\_

District	_____	%
Area	_____	%
G.S.O.	_____	%
Intergroup/Central Office	_____	%
Other	_____	%
Other	_____	%

And further, space be provided for the group to list addresses of the various entities to which it wishes to contribute, along with G.S.O.'s address. (Page 18 of the current pamphlet is suggested).

In order to allow for a smoother and more understandable flow of the process that financially supports the Grapevine, beginning with fiscal year 1996, the interest income earned from the unfilled subscription investment with the General Service Board Reserve Fund, after adjustment to ensure that the liability is appropriately funded, be transferred to the Grapevine's operating cash on an annual basis.

**1997** It was recommended that:

The phrase "Any suggested prudent reserve for a group should be dependent on local needs. A suggested prudent reserve for central offices, intergroups, and area committees could be one to twelve months' operating expenses, depending on local needs" be substituted for: "At the group level, this usually means approximately two months' worth of group expenses which can be used to help the group through any unforeseen circumstances. Districts, areas and central offices/intergroups also maintain some percentage of their operating expenses in a prudent reserve fund" as the definition of a prudent reserve in the current Self-Support pamphlet. This would appear on page 9 of the September '96 printing of F-3.

The area contributions for delegates' expenses for the Conference be increased from \$600 (U.S.) to \$800 (U.S.) and that, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion of the Conference costs.

**1999** It was recommended that:

The annual limit contributed to the General Service Office from individual A.A. members be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and that bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and be on a one-time-only basis and not in perpetuity.

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board policy which states: "Whenever a discount or subsidy is that which would be offered to any other organization of similar size requiring a purchased service or product of similar character and magnitude, i.e., convention rates at hotels, it may be accepted. Whenever a discount or subsidy is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, it must be declined."

**2001** It was recommended that:

If the Reserve Fund exceeds the 12-month upper limit we allow a one-year period to review the Reserve Fund level, followed by a second year to formulate actions to adjust Reserve Fund below 12 months' operating expenses.

**2005** It was recommended that:

In the interest of self-support, area contributions for delegates'

expenses be increased from \$800 to \$1,200 effective with the 2006 Conference and that areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion of the Conference costs.

**Note:** The last increase was in 1997 from \$600 to \$800 at which time the requested area contribution covered approximately 26% of the direct costs. By 2004, the percentage has fallen to 17% and this increase will result in approximately 26% of the direct costs being covered.

**2006** It was recommended that:

The word “donation” be replaced with the word “contribution” in A.A.W.S. literature as it comes up for reprint.

The following be added to the end of the Q & A section of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”:

*Q* Does A.A. have any specific information for our group or group treasurer about how to handle our group’s finances?

*A* Yes. There are two excellent publications available from G.S.O., A.A. Guidelines on Finance and the pamphlet “The A.A. Group Treasurer,” that provide specific information to groups regarding practical matters related to their group finances, such as setting up bank accounts, obtaining tax ID numbers, and outlining the responsibilities of a group treasurer.

**2007** It was recommended that:

The annual limit contributed to the General Service Board from individual A.A. members be increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and that bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and continue to be on a one-time basis and not in perpetuity.

The following text: “G.S.R. travel expenses to attend service functions” be added to the sentence “Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, local meeting lists)” on page 7, paragraph 3, first sentence of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” (F-3) as these expenses are suggested in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**2008** It was recommended that:

The trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups and that this information be forwarded to the 2009 Conference Committee on Finance.

**2009** It was recommended that:

The trustees’ Finance Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance:

- a. If we continue to use literature profits to partially fund services, should there be a limit?
- b. If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?

(The committee requests that the statement of policy “Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous” be distributed as background.)

A discussion of additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about Self-Support be included on the agenda for the Conference Finance Committee for the 60th General Service Conference.

**2010** It was recommended that:

The following be added to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” where appropriate:

*Q* Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine?

*A* No. A.A. Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual A.A. members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.

In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading “How can groups participate?” in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”; the second sentence “(rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,...)” be changed to read “(for example: rent, refreshments, A.A. and A.A. Grapevine literature,...)”

The trustees’ Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

The request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix” be recommitted to the trustees’ Finance Committee and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Finance. (Floor Action)

**2011** It was recommended that:

The following changes be made to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:”

- “AND” be replaced with “OR” between the pie charts that start on page 12 and an additional “OR” added after the second pie chart.
- Insert an additional blank pie chart and distribution text as follows to the beginning of the pie chart examples:



District	_____ %
Area Committee	_____ %
G.S.O.	_____ %
Intergroup/Central Office	_____ %
Other A.A. Service Entities	_____ %
Other A.A. Service Entities	_____ %

- Other minor editorial changes.

**2012** It was recommended that:

The annual delegate’s contribution be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600.

The limit of one-time bequests from A.A. members to General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. (Floor Action)

**GRAPEVINE**

**Advisory Actions  
relevant to the  
CONFERENCE GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE**

**1951**

It is suggested to the Board of Directors of the Grapevine that some mild form of promotion for an increase in circulation be

adopted. An illustration might be the distribution of a postage-free envelope in a distinctive color to provide for an initial trial subscription at a cost of \$1. for four months. (Advisory Committee on the Budget)

It is suggested that on October 1, 1951, the financial results of the operations of the Grapevine to that date be reviewed. If there is no considerable improvement, an increase in price is recommended to avoid further impairment of the Alcoholic Foundation reserve fund. (Advisory Committee on the Budget)

## 1952

The Conference, in a special resolution, affirmed its support of the traditional "Grapevine" policy of carrying news of non-A.A. happenings when they relate to the interests of A.A. readers, directly or indirectly. (Floor Action)

## 1954

Following the adoption by the Conference of a resolution suggesting some affirmative action with respect to the Grapevine, a Grapevine Committee was selected to meet during the Conference. The committee felt that emphasis should be placed on the value of the Grapevine in carrying the message of recovery and the following further resolution was presented:

1. That the delegates on their return, incorporate in their report on the Conference, the suggestion that each group appoint a Grapevine reporter who will be responsible for subscription and bulk orders, and who will encourage members to submit articles and stories;
2. That each delegate contact those groups in his area which do not have the Grapevine available at meetings and draw their attention to the importance and advantages of obtaining copies for the group either through monthly or yearly bulk orders; and
3. That delegates emphasize the value of the Grapevine to the individual member.

## 1955

It was suggested that the Grapevine send out free sample copies of the issue carrying Convention news (August) to the groups that do not take bulk orders; the copies to be accompanied by a covering letter encouraging subscriptions.

The Committee heartily endorsed the appointment of a Grapevine representative at the group level as a method of getting the Grapevine into the hands of the members.

## 1956

It is suggested that a plan along the lines outlined in "The New Jersey Story" be inaugurated, with the goal of carrying the message to 5,000 new readers.

It is recommended that delegates also make an attempt to search out contributors and encourage the submission of manuscripts, in order to arouse wider participation in the Grapevine.

Asked that quarterly financial and circulation reports of the Grapevine be made available to Delegates. (Floor Action)

## 1957

The committee wholeheartedly endorsed the decision to increase the price of the magazine from \$.25 to \$.35 for single copies, and from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for yearly domestic subscriptions, with proportionate increases in foreign sales prices, as a necessity for the financial survival of the Grapevine.

**1958** It was recommended that:

Occasional use of 48 pages when feasible and necessary in the judgment of the Grapevine Board of Directors is permissible.

A middle-of-the-road plan of circulation stimulation be followed with the Delegate and his respective committees carrying the major portion of the effort.

The three-fold card for individuals be used in a test area with Delegates and their Committees also participating. Delegates will be supplied with the above forms in time to incorporate same with their area reports.

Heavy intensive promotions be opposed, but some form of continuous "reminders" be used as needed and at the discretion of the Grapevine Board of Directors.

While it is realized that articles for sale should pay their own way, it be recognized that under present conditions this may not be possible in the case of the Grapevine for some time.

The \$10,000 previously authorized by the trustees, which to date has not been used, be maintained as a reserve fund for emergency purposes.

**1959** It was recommended that:

The emphasis in all circulation-building efforts be directed toward stressing an increased awareness of A.A. Grapevine as a vital service tool for the use of individuals and groups.

The continuity of this "awareness" of the Grapevine be insured by initiating a plan at the state and area level, whereby a permanent area Grapevine representative be appointed to work independently of the general service representative, stressing the Grapevine as a special tool of communication within A.A.

All promotion suggestions made by the delegates in the Conference Grapevine session be incorporated into a special report to be sent to all delegates, committeemen and area representatives as additional suggestions of useful ways of spreading the A.A. Grapevine message.

State and area conferences be encouraged to have a local Grapevine representative in attendance at conferences or conventions to encourage subscriptions by individuals and groups.

The Grapevine office prepare, as soon as possible, materials to be made available for these Conference representatives with a suggested method of displaying them at the meetings.

The recommendation of the Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies for a brief folder on *cooperation* but *not affiliation* with outside agencies be handled as a Grapevine article and reprinted and made available to A.A. members and outside agencies by G.S.O. (Literature Committee)

**1960** It was recommended that:

The "share" or "quota" plan requested by the N.E. Ohio Grapevine Representative Committee for increasing Grapevine circulation for the coming year, by a minimum of 5,000 new subscribers, be adopted.

Due to the success of the N.E. Ohio Area program accepted by the Conference last year, all states be urged to participate actively in this plan, i.e. to appoint a Grapevine Representative at the State or Area level responsible for establishing Grapevine Committees to work with groups or Areas, depending on the needs of the particular Delegate's State or Area Representative, subject only to the (advice and) approval of their local State or Area Committee.

Maintaining an "informative attitude" in all Grapevine presentation plans, rather than "hard sell" promotion, be continued.

The outstanding work done by the Grapevine Editorial Board (all volunteers), in helping to make A.A. *Today* (book commemorating A.A.'s 25th anniversary) be commended.

**1961** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine Group sponsorship program whereby groups



are encouraged to send a new subscription, each month, to a local doctor, minister, psychiatrist, library, law-enforcement agency or member, prison or hospital, or any other person or agency selected by the group as a joint Twelfth Step venture be adopted.

The action of the previous G.S.O. Conferences in establishing and encouraging Grapevine representation at the state, area and group levels, depending on the problems and needs of each delegate's area, be continued.

Where possible, appoint a knowledgeable A.A. member as a central Grapevine "editor" to search out A.A. writers and artists for Grapevine contributions.

The quota of 5,000 new subscriptions as a continuing goal for 1961 be re-adopted.

**1962** It was recommended that:

Retiring delegates will become Grapevine Representatives and recruit other G.V.R.s in their areas, with the objective that each A.A. group have a G.V.R.

Group sponsorship of gifts of Grapevine subscriptions to local doctors, clergymen, public officials and institutions is recommended for all groups.

Grapevine subscriptions for newcomers are recommended as a useful tool of sobriety; subscriptions to be entered automatically for each newcomer who may reimburse the group when he can.

Grapevine representatives will aim for 100% subscriptions in their groups, with follow-up on expirations to ensure 100% renewals.

The Grapevine boards, at the request of the delegate from Puerto Rico, will investigate the possibility of printing the Grapevine in Spanish.

**1963** It was recommended that:

All retiring delegates will act as Grapevine representatives be reaffirmed and notice of this be placed in the Grapevine and the General Service Office Bulletin.

All delegates should help select the Grapevine representative in every group in their area.

All G.S.O. pamphlets be scrutinized for mention, wherever possible, of the Grapevine as a recovery tool of A.A. World Services.

Review of the plans of the Grapevine to be published in Spanish and other languages be continued.

**1964** It was recommended that:

The Board of Directors of the Grapevine and the General Service Board explore the possibilities of using Grapevine material in a French edition of the magazine.

No legal action be taken at this time in connection with the use of copyright Grapevine material by "The Older Member Press."

All Grapevine committee members henceforth be kept informed during the year on all Grapevine matters of Conference importance.

The Grapevine Committee be an active working part of the Grapevine effort and that the co-chairman of the committee report on behalf of the area delegates in the course of the presentation on the Grapevine at the 1965 Conference.

**1965** It was recommended that:

Area Committee members be appointed to inform members on Grapevine developments. (A need was shown for some action on the part of all interested to indicate the many uses of the Grapevine in Twelfth Step work.)

An article, instead of promotional inserts, would be more effective in interesting individuals and groups in obtaining subscriptions for Loners, Institutional Groups, foreign members and friends of A.A.

The Grapevine use the service of area committees in promoting the sale of the Grapevine at the group and individual levels.

An article or series of articles be published pointing out the value of individual subscriptions.

**1966** It was recommended that:

A stiff binder which would hold 12 issues of the Grapevine be produced and trial-marketed.

Delegates should lend their efforts toward increasing readership of the magazine in each area.

Delegates should search out new material—articles, stories, anecdotes—for the Grapevine in their areas.

The words "There are no dues or fees" remain in the Preamble. (Floor Action)

**1967** It was recommended that:

Delegates suggest to groups the need for sponsoring subscriptions to the Grapevine for prisons, jails, and hospitals in their areas.

The difference in price, owing to Canadian rate of exchange with U.S. currency, be indicated on future G.V. order forms.

The Serenity Prayer be incorporated into the GV's regular monthly format.

**1968** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine, being the voice of individual A.A. members, continue to publish the opinion of A.A. members, provided, however, that the Grapevine does not add its editorial endorsement to articles, and that it state that the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Grapevine.

Encouragement be given to the Grapevine Group Sponsorship program whereby groups are encouraged to send a new subscription each month to doctors, ministers and others interested in alcoholism, as well as institutions or other agencies selected by the group as a joint Twelfth Step venture.

**1969** It was recommended that:

A.A. World Services, Inc., and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., with the primary purpose of the Fellowship foremost in mind, study their promotional efforts in each other's behalf and extend to each other the fullest cooperation in making the Fellowship aware of the tools of A.A.

All delegates consider it a part of their responsibility to make the Fellowship aware of the Grapevine as a tool of sobriety, either through their own efforts or by recruiting others.

**1970** It was recommended that:

Plans to act as Grapevine representatives in their areas, to request past Grapevines for use in institutions and to carry the Grapevine message as a vital tool when making reports to areas be reaffirmed.

**1971** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine Corporate Board be given Conference approval to raise the price of the Grapevine from \$.35 to \$.50 for a single copy, and from \$3.50 to \$5 for a yearly subscription, if the trend of rising costs indicates that the need is there.

All delegates return to their home groups with a determination to begin thinking of the Grapevine as a major tool in helping to achieve and maintain sobriety.

**1972** It was recommended that:

Retiring delegates continue their service to A.A. by acting as Grapevine Representatives in their areas.

Areas be encouraged to invite the Grapevine staff to visit state and provincial conferences.

The Grapevine resume its annual presentation to the Conference.

**1973** It was recommended that:

The 1962 action, retiring delegates become Grapevine Representatives (GvRs) and recruit other GvRs in their areas, with the objective of a GvR in each group be reaffirmed.

Each Conference area select a Grapevine chairman who would create a structure to work with the groups to enhance the readership of the A.A. Grapevine.

No new pay-as-you-go groups be accepted after July 31, 1973, in view of increasing bad debts. Pay-as-you-go groups in good standing, however, will be continued. The committee recommended prepaid subscriptions.

**1974** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine continue to publish responsible personal opinions of A.A. members, although the Grapevine does not necessarily endorse those opinions.

The "About Alcoholism" section in the gray pages of the Grapevine continue to report developments in the field of alcoholism even though they may be contrary to A.A. philosophy.

The Grapevine Corporate Board be given Conference approval to raise the price of the Grapevine for single copies and subscriptions, if the trend of rising costs indicates that the need is there.

Delegates carry back to their areas a proposal that groups institute the practice of giving birthday or anniversary gift subscriptions, with which the Grapevine will mail appropriate greeting cards.

The use of full names in correspondence with the Grapevine would facilitate A.A. communications. (The Grapevine protects anonymity at all times.)

**1975** It was recommended that:

Delegates communicate with the publishers of A.A. newsletters in their areas and urge them to use Grapevine blurbs, discussion topics, or other notices in the Grapevine regularly in their newsletters.

A letter be sent to the remaining pay-as-you-go groups explaining the advantages of prepaid subscriptions and notifying these groups that the pay-as-you-go plan will be terminated as of January 1, 1976.

All delegates make all A.A. members aware that they can subscribe to the Grapevine as individuals.

**1976** It was recommended that:

The recommendation that areas be encouraged to invite the Grapevine staff to visit state and provincial conferences be reaffirmed with the suggestion that the invitation be made to the Grapevine staff directly. The committee feels that personal contact between Grapevine staff and A.A. members will stimulate interest in the Grapevine.

Groups or individuals send Grapevine subscriptions to local libraries.

Groups be encouraged to increase their subscriptions as their memberships increase.

**1977** It was recommended that:

Delegates be responsible for establishing area Grapevine committees, using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

One copy of the Grapevine, along with a Grapevine order form, be included in every kit mailed out to new groups by G.S.O.

The Grapevine continue to publish the "About Alcoholism" section along with the disclaimer.

**1978** It was recommended that:

Delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

A Grapevine information table be made a regular feature at all conferences, conventions, and assemblies. (A Grapevine Conference Display Kit is available at no cost.)

Committees on public information, cooperation with the professional community, correctional facilities, and treatment facilities explore the use of the A.A. Grapevine in their endeavors.

Area and state functions consider Grapevine workshops similar to other workshops held at the area level from time to time.

**1979** It was recommended that:

When feasible, groups consider bulk orders as a means of making the Grapevine available at the group.

Grapevine representatives recommend to their groups that they sponsor subscriptions, where possible, for institutions, treatment facilities, and professionals being "sponsored."

The Grapevine office make available Grapevine prepaid gift certificates.

Delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

No changes be made in magazine format.

**1980** It was recommended that:

Shorter-term subscriptions for groups and treatment facilities not be considered at this time.

Delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

Grapevine Conference Display Kits be made available to district GvRs at cost.

Groups make every effort to introduce newcomers to the Grapevine as one of our best tools in sobriety.

**1981** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine provide a discount package of Grapevine miscellaneous items for sale to groups and central offices/inter-groups with a reasonable discount.

Delegates, in their continuing effort to achieve GvRs in their groups, work toward establishing district GvRs.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider increasing the cover price of the Grapevine.

**1982** It was recommended that:

The price of miscellaneous items sold by the Grapevine be increased as needed.

No action be taken at this time on quantity sales of Grapevine subscriptions to outside organizations.

**1983** It was recommended that:

A trial tape cassette of articles from the Grapevine classic issues be prepared and made available as a special item, with future taping to be considered by the 1984 Conference.

Delegates research the need for the "About Alcoholism" section in their areas, and that the question of the function of and need for this section be brought to the 1984 Conference.

All communications to area Grapevine chairpersons also be sent to delegates.

Making the Grapevine available to outside agencies be left for area service structures to handle, in the spirit of autonomy.

**1984** It was recommended that:

Because of the positive response to the trial cassette, the Grapevine produce at least one tape a year as a special item.

The Grapevine continue to publish the "About Alcoholism" section, along with the disclaimer.

The "Portable A.A. Meeting" brochure be included in mailings of G.S.O. bulletins, and that a supply of this brochure be made available to all area Grapevine chairpersons.

The Conference reaffirm the 1977 Conference recommendation that "delegates be responsible for establishing area Grapevine committees, using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group." Also that delegates explore the possibility of utilizing alternates throughout the service structure as Grapevine representatives.

**1985** It was recommended that:

Grapevine committees seek ways to work with Public Information, Cooperation With the Professional Community, Correctional Facilities, Treatment Facilities, and other service committees, with the aim of increasing the use of the Grapevine as a tool in carrying the message.

Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approval process, the Conference recognize The A.A. Grapevine as an international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A workbook be produced for Grapevine committees.

Sections be added to the *Service Manual* defining the role of Grapevine Representatives at all levels, providing more information about the operation of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and refer this item to the Report and Charter Committee.

**1986** It was recommended that:

The draft of the workbook for use by Grapevine committees be approved.

The Grapevine produce a trial tape in Spanish and a trial tape in French, at a price comparable to the Grapevine tapes in English. In making this recommendation the committee recognized the possibility of a financial loss, but considers that in this instance the need to carry the message to French-speaking and Spanish-speaking A.A.s makes such a possible loss acceptable.

The 1985 Conference Advisory Action #17 be corrected to read: "Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approved process, the Conference recognizes the A.A. Grapevine as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Because the twelve articles on the Traditions, by B.L. of Manhattan, New York, and the article "The Whisper of Humility" contain the opinions of individuals only, and because they are already reprinted in Best of the Grapevine, these articles not be published as a pamphlet.

If the Grapevine Corporate Board approves development of the proposed book of Bill W.'s Grapevine writings, a draft be brought to the 1987 Conference for consideration.

**1987** It was recommended that:

Staff monitor ongoing distribution of Spanish and French Grapevine cassette tapes and report fuller results to the 1988 Conference.

No changes or additions be made to the Preamble.

Delegates focus their efforts on the district service structure as a means of reaching individual groups, in order to make every group aware of the value of the Grapevine as a recovery tool.

Delegates and area Grapevine chairpersons be encouraged to invite Grapevine staff personnel to attend local, area, and regional conventions, forums, and A.A. gatherings.

The Grapevine staff be responsible for communicating updated information to the delegates at appropriate intervals regarding editorial, circulation/fulfillment, and financial matters.

In view of the need for the entire Grapevine operation to be fully accountable to the Fellowship, the committee recognized serious management problems and believes them to be the responsibility of the Grapevine Corporate Board.

The Grapevine Board establish a mechanism for timely communications to all Conference members of actions taken and progress toward resolution of these problems.

A disclaimer be prepared by Grapevine staff for the calendar of events and be printed before each month's listing of coming events.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider publishing a special issue written by Native North Americans and devoted to their recovery stories. (Literature Committee)

**1988** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine not publish a monthly section of daily messages/reflections.

The matters of format and editorial policy raised in the "Resolution to the A.A. Grapevine" from Area 70, Vermont, are within the right of decision of the Grapevine editorial staff.

The 1987 Conference Advisory Action number 29 be reaffirmed: "The Grapevine staff be responsible for communicating updated information to the delegates at appropriate intervals regarding editorial, circulation/fulfillment, and financial matters."

Since the Grapevine Corporate Board has fully complied with 1987 Advisory Action number 30, timely communication from the board to all Conference members regarding resolution of the management problems is no longer necessary, though the standing practice of sending quarterly Corporate Board minutes to Conference Grapevine Committee members will be continued.

The Grapevine proceed with a one-time trial distribution of complimentary Grapevines to nonsubscribing groups (selected on a random basis) in order to make them aware of the Grapevine as an effective recovery tool. In order to stay within the Grapevine's 1988 budget, the cost of this trial distribution should not exceed \$2,500. Results of this effort and any further action of the Corporate Board should be reviewed by the 1989 Conference.

The Grapevine proceed with publication of Bill W.'s collected Grapevine writings, with brief factual introductory material to be prepared by Grapevine staff and approved by the Grapevine Corporate Board.

The 1987 Conference Advisory Action #27 be reaffirmed: "Delegates focus their efforts on the district service structure as

a means of reaching individual groups, in order to make every group aware of the value of the Grapevine as a recovery tool.”

In order to encourage full participation, the Grapevine consider establishing a Grapevine awareness month, and areas continue to hold Grapevine workshops, Grape-a-thons and Grapevine meetings.

In response to concerns about the elapsed time between ordering and receiving the Grapevine, that the Grapevine Corporate Board investigate the feasibility of early acknowledgment of new subscription orders.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine develop an ongoing A.A. history section, drawing on archival material, including area and regional histories.

In recognition of the need for a magazine price increase in the near future, delegates clarify in their areas the fact that the Grapevine is supported by subscription income and does not accept group contributions to cover operating expenses.

**1990** It was recommended that:

The words “one-time trial distribution of complimentary Grapevines to nonsubscribing groups” in 1988 Conference Advisory Action #25 no longer be considered binding.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine discontinue publishing the “About Alcoholism” section.

Because of an expressed need, the Grapevine commence as soon as possible to include at least one article in Spanish in each month’s issue.

**1992** It was recommended that:

After review of 1991 Conference Advisory Action #12:

- a. The Grapevine continue to include at least one article in Spanish in each month’s issue.
- b. As a possible future replacement for the monthly Spanish articles in the magazine, the Grapevine Corporate Board investigate the feasibility of developing a quarterly Spanish newsletter based on original material and translations of current Grapevine articles, and bring cost and format proposals to the 1993 Conference Grapevine Committee.

The following proposal from the Grapevine Corporate Board be accepted:

In order to achieve some uniformity of procedure and to gain desired Conference input to Grapevine special items, yet not to compromise the Grapevine Corporate Board’s “right of decision” to manage the fiscal affairs of the Grapevine, let it be proposed that:

Based on the positive model of mutual Conference and board involvement in the production of *The Language of the Heart*, the Grapevine Corporate Board offer to the Conference Grapevine Committee, on an ongoing basis, a general list of proposed special items at least two years in advance of possible production in order that the Conference should offer any guidance or register any disapproval they might have. Having so presented the conceptual basis of these special items to the Conference Committee, final approval for the completed items would rest with the Grapevine Corporate Board.

**1993** It was recommended that:

After considering 1992 Advisory Action #12 concerning the feasibility of a quarterly Spanish newsletter:

- a. The current policy of publishing monthly Grapevine articles in Spanish be reaffirmed;
- b. Because of staffing needs and other cost factors, a quarterly newsletter not be implemented at this time;
- c. Delegates and the Grapevine Corporate Board continue to explore different ways of carrying the message to the Spanish community through Grapevine materials.

The Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets.

**1994** It was recommended that:

All A.A. members be strongly urged to work toward the goal that the A.A. Grapevine magazine be self-supporting through the sale of magazine subscriptions.

**1995** It was recommended that:

Based on an expressed need, a Spanish edition of the Grapevine be produced, contingent on the following: that the Grapevine Corporate Board proceed to gather information and develop a business plan for a bi-monthly Spanish edition of the Grapevine, for presentation to the trustees’ Finance Committee, and that funding for up to five (5) years be obtained from the General Service Board Reserve Fund, with start-up costs estimated at \$84,000 for the first year. It was further recommended that if a Spanish edition is established, the monthly Spanish articles be removed from the English-language Grapevine, and that if, after five (5) years, the Spanish edition of the magazine is determined to be no longer feasible, publication be discontinued.

**1996** It was recommended that:

A manuscript be developed for a pamphlet providing basic information on the A.A. Grapevine magazine and its place in Alcoholics Anonymous and be brought to the 1997 Conference for approval.

**1997** It was recommended that:

That information about La Viña be included in the 1997-98 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* (Chapter XI: “The Grapevine”).

The manuscript providing basic information of the A.A. Grapevine magazine and its place in Alcoholics Anonymous be produced as a pamphlet.

The Grapevine use mailing lists to provide introductory information about the Grapevine and La Viña to correctional facilities and treatment facilities.

**2001** It was recommended that:

La Viña continue to be published by the A.A. Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to the Fellowship.

La Viña continue to be published utilizing A.A. Grapevine resources in order to achieve efficiencies in production and distribution.

**2002** It was recommended that:

The pamphlet “The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print” (P-52) be revised to accurately reflect changes in Grapevine operations and to clarify the text.

The Conference Committee on the Grapevine annually review a list of proposed related items at least one year in advance of possible production, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing that the committee may request more than one year to review some proposed items.

**2003** It was recommended that:

The first paragraph of the description of the Grapevine representative on page 9 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print” be revised to read as follows:

#### **Grapevine and La Viña representatives**

“Grapevine representatives (GvRs) and La Viña representatives (RLVs) perform a service for A.A. members, bringing them two vital tools of recovery — the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous and La Viña. GvRs and RLVs are engaged in practical, hands-on work. Their basic job is to make the magazines available to the group, to encourage A.A.s to read them, subscribe to them, and use them in Twelfth Step work.”

**2004** It was recommended that:

To allow the widest distribution of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliation with any outside enterprise, a) subscriptions to the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines be issued only by the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., or by A.A. trusted servants directly; and b) the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers.

Note: This recommendation is to clarify the 1993 Advisory Action stating that “the Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets.”

The pamphlet “The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print” be revised to include the proposed references to La Viña and La Viña representatives where the Grapevine magazine and its representatives are mentioned.

The A.A. Grapevine Workbook be designated as service material and be reviewed on an annual basis by the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

**2007** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine and La Vina include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer.

**2010** It was recommended that:

La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:

- 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 A.A. Grapevine.
- Content and substance be of primary importance.
- 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.

It was recommended to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board, that in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:

- What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
- How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
- What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?

- What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

Note: Responses are to be submitted to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board by 12/31/2010 and included as background material for the 2011 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

**2011** It was recommended that:

In the spirit of being self-supporting, while also protecting our Traditions of attraction, anonymity, and non-affiliation, A.A. Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products. The committee requests that the Board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. The committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2012 Grapevine Conference Committee.

The A.A. Grapevine Board, in consultation with the A.A. World Services Board and under the guidance of the General Service Board chairman, continue to investigate what efficiencies and objectives can be accomplished by combining services and sharing resources, including reviewing Concept XI, while still maintaining editorial and corporate independence.

The editorial revisions made by the A.A. Grapevine staff to “The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” pamphlet be approved with minor suggestions.

**2012** It was recommended that:

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. move forward with the audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on 3<sup>rd</sup> party recording technology.

- The stories will be subject to the same editorial process as print stories.
- The Audio endeavor will, at a minimum, break even financially.
- The committee requests that the board ensure that all contacts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time.
- The committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background.

A.A. Grapevine, Inc., carry out the “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items. The “Sunset” proposal is a plan to phase out older or slow-moving Grapevine items and archive them digitally or make them available in another format.

## **INSTITUTIONS**

### **Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE\***

#### **1954**

The Conference voted not to approve the proposal to list Hospital and Prison Groups in the 1955 Directory. It was agreed that, while it was in the spirit of A.A. to regard all groups as essential parts of the Fellowship, certain problems might arise if groups in this category are listed. (Floor Action)

\* Also see Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities. In 1977, the Conference Institutions Committee was discontinued and replaced by these two committees.

## 1955

It was the sense of the Conference that Service Headquarters should consider the preparation of special literature designed for use in institutional programs. (Floor Action)

## 1956

The Conference agreed that inquiries from institutions should initially be referred to an Intergroup office, if one is active in the area involved, and to the Area Delegate. If no acknowledgment is received from these contacts within two weeks, General Service Headquarters is to use its own best judgment in referring the inquiry to a local group. (Floor Action)

**1957** It was recommended that:

Consideration be given to the possibility of developing material for a pamphlet to include case histories for the skid row alcoholic, a pamphlet that might be available in jails. Furthermore, when an outline or treatment of such a pamphlet is ready, it be submitted to the members of the Conference Literature Committee for approval. (Literature Committee)

At least once a year, an announcement be made in the "A.A. Exchange Bulletin" that specially-priced gift packages of A.A. literature are available for Prison and Hospital Groups. (Literature Committee)

**1958** It was recommended that:

There is no need for a pamphlet to include case histories for the skid row alcoholic to be available in jails at the present time because: (Literature Committee)

- a. In general, A.A. groups cooperate with local jails either through a sponsorship arrangement or jail meetings.
- b. Present pamphlet literature offers adequate A.A. reading material for the alcoholic in jail who desires to do something about his problem.
- c. The responsibility for placing information about A.A. in local jails is a matter for local A.A. groups and service committees.

There is no need for a special pamphlet for the inmate member in prisons and jails. Recommend that the staff member handling Institutional Services encourage the exchange of prison group experiences and publications to meet any need expressed by an individual prison group. (Literature Committee)

The participation of institutional groups in the Conference structure be left to the discretion of local Conference assemblies. (Policy)

**1959** It was recommended that:

A new pamphlet for inmate alcoholics as outlined in the memorandum from G.S.O. literature consultant be approved. (Literature Committee)

**1960** It was recommended that:

The Conference reaffirm the need for the pamphlets approved by the 1959 Conference, namely: for the Clergy, the Inmate, a revision of "Young People and A.A." and "The Alcoholic Employee." (Literature Committee)

## 1964

It was the sense of the meeting that the proxy system of voting could lead to abuses and that few areas were prepared to endorse the practice at this time, as far as general representation of regular Groups is concerned. At the same time, it was recognized that groups in correctional institutions and in certain hospitals might be unrepresented at Area Assemblies if they were not permitted to assign their voting privileges to members outside their groups. (Floor Action)

**1965** It was recommended that:

The draft of "A.A. in Hospitals" be approved. (Literature Committee)

**1966** It was recommended that:

A Conference Institutions Committee be established. (Policy Committee)

**1967** It was recommended that:

A.A.s carrying the message to institutions abide by regulations and cooperate with personnel.

A.A. groups and members on the outside take the responsibility of providing literature to A.A. groups in institutions when possible, in line with the tradition of self-support.

Immediate sponsorship of the outgoing patient or inmate is of major importance in carrying the message to institutions.

Where no such committees exist, all states and areas consider formation of institutions committees to work in cooperation with area committees.

A twice-yearly bulletin be prepared for hospital and prison groups, institutional committees and sponsors.

A questionnaire concerning membership, self-support, etc. be sent to institutional groups, and that such groups be encouraged to handle their own activities when possible, with outside help provided by A.A.'s when necessary.

An expression of gratitude be extended to all nonalcoholic institutional personnel.

**1968** It was recommended that:

Institutions committees be encouraged to use a post office box address so that referrals can be made without using an individual's name and address.

A.A. groups in correctional facilities and hospitals adhere to A.A.'s Fifth Tradition, on primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic. That anyone with problems other than alcohol be made welcome at inside open meetings, but not participate in group activities.

The present use of the *World Directory* be continued in order to provide immediate A.A. sponsorship for new members leaving an institution.

Members be reminded that A.A. offers sobriety and does not provide housing, food, clothes, jobs, money, or other welfare or social services when carrying the message inside the walls.

G.S.O. make a survey of the duties performed by local institutions committee chairmen.

**1969** It was recommended that:

Guidelines be prepared outlining procedures for A.A. members to follow in working with institutions and ways of informing the nonalcoholic staff about A.A. The following committee recommendations are to be included in the guidelines:

- a. A.A.s attending meetings at prisons or hospitals should be selected carefully so that relations with the institution's staff remain harmonious.
- b. A.A.'s position on membership in institutional groups be defined as follows:

We cannot give A.A. membership to nonalcoholic narcotic addicts and other unrelated groups or organizations. A.A. groups in institutions can welcome anyone with problems other than alcohol to inside open meetings, but it is suggested that they do not speak or otherwise participate in these meetings.

The *Institutions Bulletin* should have a wider distribution.

A.A.s should work toward coordination of all institutional work in the state or province so that there will be cooperation between all local, intergroup, and general service institutions committees.

The institutions directories be distributed every two years with yearly supplements.

**1970** It was recommended that:

The possibility of separating the hospital and prison services into subcommittees of the present Conference Institutions Committee be discussed with the membership and presented again on the 1971 Institutions Committee meeting agenda.

A group institutions representative be chosen at the direction of the group when practical.

An effort be made to contact doctors and other personnel by personal visit or phone call to ask their help in informing other doctors about the Fellowship of A.A.

This committee help in the formation of an institutions committee in an area where none exists and that A.A. members from other areas who are experienced in institutions committee work be consulted or asked to speak at an area assembly meeting on this subject.

The wording of the 1969 Institutions Committee recommendation concerning the definition of A.A.'s position on membership in institutions groups be changed to read as follows:

Open meetings are traditionally open to all interested in A.A., but should be devoted exclusively to the alcoholic problem. Closed meetings should traditionally be restricted to alcoholics.

**1971** It was recommended that:

In a discussion of separating the hospital and prison service into subcommittees of the present Institutions Committee, it was the sense of the meeting that the Institutions Committee remain the same.

The delegates give wholehearted support to the efforts of the General Service Office to establish an Institutions Correspondence Service on an individual basis, similar to the Loner Sponsor Service.

Each delegate study the possibility of receiving the necessary quantity of Institutions Bulletins for his area.

The General Service Board participate more directly with the Conference Institutions Committee.

**1972** It was recommended that:

The Literature Committee reexamine institutions literature in an attempt to reach all levels of understanding.

The possibility of a trustees' Committee on Institutions be considered.

**1973** It was recommended that:

A letter be sent to local institutions committees or contacts asking them to send G.S.O. a list of facilities (both hospitals and prisons) where there are currently *no* A.A. groups.

The General Service Office conduct a survey by contacting administrative officials or correctional rehabilitation facilities where there are A.A. groups, for a full assessment of A.A. in their facilities.

We update testimonials in "A.A. in Prisons" and "A.A. in Hospitals" as per information gathered from survey.

We change titles of institutional discount packages from:

Men's Prison Package, Jail Package, Women's Prison Package, Hospital Package to: Discount Package A, B, C, etc., with contents of packages still indicated on order forms.

Simplified editions of "Memo to an Inmate" and "Is A.A. for You?" be prepared in an attempt to reach all levels of understanding.

We cooperate with administrative officials in the institutional setting to the utmost within the confines of our Traditions and the suggestions contained in "A.A. in Prisons" and "Memo to an Inmate." If, because of prison procedure, inmates are encouraged to attend A.A. meetings, we have to assume that they are coming for the right reasons.

Any A.A. member's evaluating another A.A. member is totally in opposition to our Traditions.

The 1973 Conference reaffirm the action taken by the 1968 Conference on the use of the *World Directory*:

That the present use of the *World Directory* in institutions be continued in order to provide immediate A.A. sponsorship for new members leaving the institution.

The next edition of the *Institutions Bulletin* include an article stressing careful use of the *World Directory* in institutional groups.

**1974** It was recommended that:

The General Service Office send an inquiry to all delegates to find out the functions and structure of the institutions committees in their areas and the body to which committees report.

All institutions committees and outside sponsors make every possible effort to cooperate with institutions' regulations and to maintain good communications with institutions' personnel.

Institutions committees and outside sponsors inform inside A.A. group officers what the outside A.A. members can and cannot do.

The following topics be considered for the institutions session at the 1975 International Convention:

- a. Working with detox centers and rehabs.
- b. Making A.A. more attractive to inmates serving time for alcohol-related crimes.

**1975** It was recommended that:

We endeavor to improve communications between intergroup (central office) and general service institutions committees by emphasizing the concept that general service committees exist to provide service wherever needed, including service to intergroup or central office institutions committees.

One person from each institutions committee be charged with the responsibility of acting as liaison to the other, and that communications may be further improved by: a) exchanging minutes of meetings between the two committees, and b) instituting joint workshops and sharing sessions at area assemblies.

In an effort to place greater emphasis on the importance of hospitals as part of the overall Institutions Committee, delegates, upon returning to their areas, furnish the G.S.O. secretary of the Institutions Committee with the names and addresses of A.A. members who are currently interested in hospital work. The secretary would then be in a position to keep these particular people fully informed of institutional activity, thereby creating a greater interest and more activity in the hospital field.

The following changes be made in the Guidelines on Institutional Committees: (a) Page 4 heading be changed to read, "Relationship to A.A. in the Area or District"; (b) Number 1 under this same heading to read: "Group representative at intergroup/central office or area meetings."

"The Suggested Duties of the G.I.R." be published in the *Institutions Bulletin*.

**1976** It was recommended that:

Whether we agree or disagree with a hospital's or a correctional facility's policy, we carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic when feasible, following the rules of the facility and cooperating the best we can within A.A. Traditions.

A.A. members on the staff of a hospital or facility should not control A.A. meetings, but cooperate with institutions committees or responsible A.A. members who are carrying the message to that facility; also, to refer to Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

An excellent format for a hospital meeting was outlined in one of the editions of the A.A. Guidelines: "A.A. members not only tell briefly their own story, but also tell something about how A.A. works. A.A. members' experience says it is very important never to be argumentative, nor critical of anything. This seems to work best when the speakers . . . are very tolerant and good-natured; when, in other words, they make the A.A. way of life seem attractive."

Outside A.A. members taking meetings to institutions are more effective than meetings of inside A.A. members only.

Taking a collection at a hospital A.A. meeting be left to the discretion of the institutions committee.

Next year the 1977 Conference Institutions Committee add to its agenda the following: Define what a rehabilitation facility is and how the Institutions Committee can handle it.

The trustees' and Conference Institutions Committees be divided into two subcommittees each: (a) Correctional Institutions, (b) Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centers.

**1977** It was recommended that:

The Institutions Committee be dissolved and two new committees—one dealing with Correctional Facilities, and one with Treatment Facilities—be formed.

It is not practical to hold a joint meeting of the Conference and trustees' Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions, but that the quarterly highlights of the trustees' Committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be sent to all members of these Conference committees.

There is no need for the Institutional Groups to receive the A.A. Directory at this time.

It is not within A.A.'s province to define a rehabilitation facility.

The committee will review the outline of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Hell Out of Sitting in a Cell" and also the two pamphlets "A.A. in Prisons" and "A.A. in Hospitals."

## **CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

### **Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES\***

**1978** It was recommended that:

The manuscript of the new inmate pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," be accepted pending mail-poll approval by the committee of the final edited version and illustrations; that production then proceed under the direction of the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities, with the word "hell"

being omitted from the title. The committee further recommended that consideration be given to the use of color illustrations if financially feasible.

A future Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities consider developing a booklet aimed at the alcoholic inmate, if warranted.

**1979** It was recommended that:

Mail-poll approval of "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be confirmed.

A booklet aimed at the alcoholic inmate is not warranted at this time, and further recommended that this subject be considered by the 1980 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities.

"Where Do I Go From Here?" and "A.A. at a Glance" be added to the institutions discount packages, and that the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities further explore rearranging the contents of the packages when "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" becomes available.

The trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities explore the feasibility of producing a filmstrip based on "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" and report its findings to the 1980 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities.

**1980** It was recommended that:

In helping the inmate "bridge the gap" between "inside" and "outside" A.A.:

- a. Emphasis should be put on cooperation with the correctional facility administration and the judicial system.
- b. More emphasis be put on prerelease sponsorship, utilizing *responsible* A.A. members and recovering ex-inmates where possible.
- c. The local institutions committees be used in referrals to A.A. groups.

A new pamphlet aimed at the dually addicted inmate not be considered at this time.

The pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" be added to Institutions Discount Package Y.

The Conference reaffirm the recommendation of the 1977 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows: "In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees' committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting. (Policy/Admissions)

**1981** It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic" be continued, but that the recommendation be reviewed again by the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities next year.

**1982** It was recommended that:

The following statement be added to the pamphlets "Memo to an Inmate" (page 43, inside box) and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" (page 25): "A.A. does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials."

The pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate" continue to be published.

The pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate" be translated into Spanish. It was also suggested that "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be translated into Spanish due to the high Spanish population in prisons.

\*For pre-1978 actions related to treatment facilities, see Institutions.



**1983** It was recommended that:

A Correctional Facilities Workbook be developed for carrying the A.A. message into correctional facilities. Also, that this be developed through the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities and that a draft be prepared for the 1984 Conference, using the survey results and other information.

A letter explaining the Institutions Correspondence Service be sent twice a year to delegates and correctional facilities chairpersons asking for A.A. volunteers to write inmates on an individual basis.

"It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" and "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" be translated into Spanish.

**1984** It was recommended that:

The Correctional Facilities Workbook, which has now been prepared, be approved for production and distribution.

The following lines from "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be added to page 12 of the "A.A. in Prisons" pamphlet:

"In A.A. groups, the people who get the jobs done are called 'officers,' but our Second Tradition reminds us, 'Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.'

"Officers are usually chosen by the group for limited terms of service.

"The jobs they do may have titles. But titles in A.A. do not bring authority or honor; they describe services and responsibilities.

"They are ways of carrying the message. They are forms of Twelfth Step work A.A. members do, primarily to help themselves recover."

A specific reference to the year 1974 be deleted from page 17 of "A.A. in Prisons" to keep from dating the pamphlet.

Correctional facilities news be included in *Box 4-5-9*, eliminating the need for a separate Correctional Facilities Bulletin, with concern that costs be held to a reasonable level, and that a larger *Box 4-5-9* be indexed and categorized.

**1985** It was recommended that:

The language of the pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic" be rewritten in a simpler style, and that two of the seven male stories be replaced by female stories.

There be affirmation of the paramount importance of full compliance with all correctional facilities' rules and regulations by all A.A.s who carry the message into correctional facilities; A.A. members are "guests" of the facility and subject to all security measures and constraints.

The words "and minorities" be deleted from the pamphlet "A.A. in Prisons." Thus the sentence in the pamphlet that now reads:

"And it keeps over-ambitious individuals and minorities from ever becoming entrenched in the leadership of a group."

would be changed to read:

"And it keeps over-ambitious individuals from ever becoming entrenched in the leadership of a group."

Preliminary work begin on the creation of a filmstrip based on the thoughts contained in the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," directed toward the inmate.

The Treatment Facilities, Correctional Facilities, and Cooperation With the Professional Community Workbooks be translated into Spanish. (Floor Action)

**1986** It was recommended that:

In the 4-minute videotape proposal for a 15-minute video/16mm film based on the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting

in a Cell," reference to "copping drugs and dealing drugs" on page 1 of the transcript be deleted, as well as the sentence "Anything but drink" on pages 6 and 7 of the transcript, to be replaced with "Just don't drink."

This 15-minute film be produced in full to be presented to the 1987 Conference, and that the trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee monitor and report on the progression of the film during the year.

The outline of the rewrite of the pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate Who May be an Alcoholic" be completed for approval at the 1987 Conference.

Relative to sponsoring inmates upon release, that area committees, district committees, central/ intergroup office committees, and group correctional facility representatives discuss specific ways to coordinate efforts in sponsoring inmates upon release from prison.

The Institutions Correspondence Service be utilized by groups, as well as by individuals, as a means of effective sponsorship.

**1987** It was recommended that:

The 16-minute video based on the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be produced for distribution to the Fellowship, with the following deletions: (a) "in this film" be eliminated from the opening statement, and (b) "A.A." in credit 4, page 7 of the script, be eliminated.

The video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be produced with closed captions for the hearing impaired, at a cost not exceeding \$1,500.

The finalized draft of the pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic" be accepted for distribution to the Fellowship as presented, with the following addition to page 29 under "What A.A. Does Not Do": "No 14. Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover."

The Institutions Correspondence Service not be dissolved at this time.

The General Service Office take such steps as are necessary to avoid delay in the Institutions Correspondence Service's response from G.S.O.

All areas be encouraged to begin working in the direction of establishing an area institutions correspondence service, coordinating this with G.S.O., as necessary.

The trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities find a method of adapting the film "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" into the Spanish language.

The trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities consider the feasibility of adapting the film "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" into the French language.

**1988** It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "A.A. in Prisons" be replaced with two separate revisions of the material: (1) An easy-to-read pamphlet for inmates and outside A.A.s interested in starting A.A. groups in correctional facilities, which will explain how inside groups are formed and how they function. (2) A brief pamphlet or leaflet to provide information about A.A. to administrators of correctional facilities.

The phrase "A.A. contact" be used in place of "prerelease sponsorship" in A.A. literature and communications about inmates who will soon be released, in order to encourage more participation on the part of outside A.A.s.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The name of the "Institutions Correspondence Service" (I.C.S.) be changed to "Corrections Correspondence Service" (C.C.S.) as literature comes up for reprint.

That the flyer "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" be replaced with the revised version entitled "Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities."

**1990** It was recommended that:

The trustees' committee recommendation for publication of a collection of Correctional Facilities stories from previous Grapevines (and other A.A. sources) be approved.

The trustees' Literature Committee consider adding a story of a young person who entered A.A. while in prison to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A.," because of an expressed need for Correctional Facilities materials addressed to young people.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee produce a 60-minute audiotape of selected stories from the booklet *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*, including culturally varied voices and some female stories, in response to an expressed need for audiovisual material. Estimated cost: \$2,475.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The Correctional Facilities Workbook be published in a soft-cover format and be enclosed in a folder which would include the appropriate pamphlets and A.A. Guidelines. The committee felt it would allow more versatility for the use of the Workbook within correctional facilities and would result in annual cost savings of \$3,400.

The Correctional Facilities Directory be discontinued. It was felt by the committee that there is no viable service provided to inmates and the Directory serves no purpose to warrant the annual expenditure of \$5,600.

The following paragraphs be included in the pamphlets "A Message to Correctional Facilities Administrators" and "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" when reprinted:

Many local A.A. service committees will, upon request, provide informational presentations for your organization. Sessions can be tailored to meet your needs. A typical agenda might include one or several A.A. films and a presentation by one or more A.A. members on "What A.A. Is and What It Is Not."

Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**1994** It was recommended that:

Changes in the pamphlets "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" and "A Message to Correctional Facilities Administrators" from a report by the Trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities be accepted and forwarded to publications for the next printing of the pamphlets.

Guidelines for A.A. presentations to corrections professionals and to inmates by correctional committees be added to the Correctional Facilities Workbook booklet at its next printing.

**1996** It was recommended that:

Sample video footage be made that focuses on encouraging more A.A. participation in carrying the message into Correctional Facilities, and brought back to the 1997 General Service Conference for review. (Note: The cost would be approximately \$20,000.)

The following should be reflected in the footage:

- a. Singleness of purpose.
- b. Correctional Facilities Workshops.
- c. Reaction from men and women inmates attending A.A. meetings at their facility, and from outside members who carry the message inside.

- d. Inmate speakers at an A.A. event.
- e. Unpredictability and roadblocks to carrying the message inside.
- f. How to improve communication within A.A. and with prison administrators.
- g. Once A.A.s are involved, how to keep them involved.

A one-page newsletter be published quarterly, whenever feasible, for A.A. members on the inside, which would reflect sharing from inmate letters to G.S.O. and which would be sent to Conference members, Area Correctional Facilities Chairs and to inmates who write to G.S.O. (Note: The cost would be approximately \$6,000 per year.)

**1997** It was recommended that:

The video on encouraging more A.A. members to participate in carrying the A.A. message into correctional facilities be completed, and brought back to the 1998 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities for review. (Note: The additional cost of completing the video would be approximately \$41,000.)

The following should be reflected in the video footage:

- a. Singleness of purpose.
- b. Correctional Facilities workshops.
- c. Reaction from men and women inmates attending A.A. meetings at their facility and from outside members who carry the message inside.
- d. Inmate speakers at an A.A. event.
- e. Unpredictability and roadblocks of carrying the message inside.
- f. How to improve communication within A.A. and with prison administrators.
- g. Once A.A.s are involved, how do we keep them involved.
- h. Emphasis on the outside members' participation and perspective.

The name of the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Facilities Administrators" be changed to "A Message to Correctional Professionals," and that the following two paragraphs from the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional" be included: "A.A. Wants to Work With You," and "What A.A. Does Not Do."

**1998** It was recommended that:

The video entitled "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls" be developed to encourage more A.A. members to participate in carrying the message into correctional facilities, be approved with two minor focus adjustments to safeguard the anonymity of A.A. members.

An addition relative to carrying the message into youth detention centers and short-term facilities be added to the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

**1999** It was recommended that:

In the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," the first six paragraphs on pages 18 and 19, under the heading "We Set Up A.A. Contacts," be replaced with the changes selected by the committee.

To get more A.A.s interested in participating in the Corrections Correspondence Service, the 1983 Conference Advisory Action that "A letter explaining the Institutions Correspondence Service be sent twice a year to delegates and correctional facilities [committee] chairpersons asking for A.A. volunteers to write inmates on an individual basis" be reaffirmed.

**2000** It was recommended that:

The revision of the pamphlet to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” be approved.

A list of literature for young people be added to the Literature Guide section of the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

The Correctional Facilities Kit and Workbook be designated as service material rather than “A.A. General Service Conference-approved Literature.” (Floor Action)

**2003** It was recommended that:

The trustees’ Committee on Correctional Facilities revise the booklet *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* by adding/replacing stories to better reflect current experience, and that a draft manuscript or progress report be brought to the 2004 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities.

Note: The committee suggested that stories/sharing of young people and women be included in the revised booklet.

**2004** It was recommended that:

The trustees’ Committee on Correctional Facilities consider including the statement on A.A.’s Singleness of Purpose, which follows, in the pamphlet “A Message to Correctional Professionals.”

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend *open* A.A. meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings.”

**2005** It was recommended that:

The “Singleness of Purpose” statement, which follows, be included in the pamphlet “A Message to Correctional Professionals”:

### **Singleness of Purpose and Problems Other than Alcohol**

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings.

A progress report on the development of an effective informational media presentation introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training for corrections personnel be brought back to the 2006 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities. The following should be reflected in the presentation:

- a. What A.A. is and is not.
- b. How to contact A.A.
- c. An inmate’s chances of maintaining sobriety on the outside are improved by participation in the A.A. program of recovery.
- d. Correctional facilities usually regard A.A. as contributing to the objectives of their institution.

The name of the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities be changed to the Conference Committee on Corrections.

**2006** It was recommended that:

An informational media presentation be developed featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training programs for

corrections personnel and be brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Corrections. [The estimated cost of production and distribution is \$50,000]

The following should be reflected in the presentation:

- a. What A.A. is and is not.
- b. How to contact A.A.
- c. An inmate’s chances of maintaining sobriety on the outside are improved by participation in the A.A. program of recovery.
- d. Correctional facilities usually regard A.A. as contributing to the objectives of their institution.

The draft manuscript of *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* be approved and that the Publications Department maintain standard editorial responsibilities.

**2007** It was recommended that:

The draft informational media presentation featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training programs for correctional personnel be approved with a suggested change to be reviewed and approved by the trustees’ Committee on Corrections.

**2009** It was recommended that:

The trustees’ Committee on Corrections undertake a revision of the pamphlet, “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” which will take into consideration:

- More stories of recovery from alcoholism through the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, drawn from *Sharing From Behind the Walls, Box 4-5-9* or other available sources.
- Less use of ‘directive’ language (such as that used in the section on H.A.L.T.)
- Including photographs that reflect current times and that a draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections.

The photo on page 18 of the pamphlet, “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” which shows an inmate smoking a hand-rolled cigarette, be replaced with a photo of the current edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in future reprints, as well as in any revision.

**2010** It was recommended that:

The pamphlet “Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities” be revised so that the sentence “Obey the rules of the facility you are visiting” is replaced with the following text:

“Deciding to participate in Corrections Twelfth Step work is an important individual decision. A.A. members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities, and fully understand and be willing to comply with all rules/regulations prior to commencing such work.”

The pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” be revised so that the last sentence on page 4 under the heading “Policy Meetings” that previously read:

“Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which A.A. visitors may attend these meetings.”

Will now read:

“Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which visiting A.A. members may attend these meetings, including any required volunteer orientation and forms that must be completed.”

The pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be revised so that the following two sentences are added to the end of the first paragraph under “Inmate Groups”:

“Since regulations *can and do vary*, A.A. members will need to be specifically informed about the rules/regulations of each facility they will enter. To that end, good communication between corrections administrators and local A.A. committees is essential.”

**2011** It was recommended that:

The following changes to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities”:

That the text in the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” in the section on “Meetings,” which reads,

“Since the Twelve Steps are the basis of our recovery in A.A., many groups hold Step meetings. The leader might share a bit of his or her story and talk briefly about a particular Step and then throw the meeting open for discussion. Each type of meeting serves a different purpose; all are needed.”

Be replaced with:

“Many groups also hold Step meetings, Tradition meetings or Big Book studies. Each type of meeting serves a different purpose; all are needed.”

And that the heading and text of the section “Step meetings,” which reads,

“*Step meetings*

“In addition to a leader sharing his or her experience with a Step, some groups might read from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, followed by a discussion. Many groups find listening to cassette tapes on the Steps helpful. (Tapes are available from the General Service Office.)”

Be replaced with:

“*Step meetings, Tradition meetings and Big Book studies*

“Since the Twelve Steps are the basis of our recovery in A.A., many groups hold Step meetings. Some groups read passages from the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* or the Big Book, followed by a discussion.

“Groups may also read and discuss the Twelve Traditions, the best answers we have found to the questions “How can A.A. best function?” and “How can A.A. best stay whole and so survive?”

“Since the Big Book contains not only directions for how many of our members practice the Twelve Steps, but also a brief history of our Fellowship’s beginnings and personal stories to help newcomers identify with other alcoholics, many A.A. groups devote meeting time to the study of this basic text.

“Audio recordings of the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* are available from the General Service Office. The pamphlets “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” may also be helpful.”

**2012** It was recommended that:

The revised draft pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” be approved.

The pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be revised with the following changes:

a. Replace the first paragraph under the section “Release and paroles” with the following paragraph:

One point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are incarcerated.

ed. The answer is that the A.A. program is far more than staying away from alcohol. A.A. has been called a way of life, and its success for groups that meet while in custody shows that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life, both while in custody and after release.

b. Change the title of the section currently called “Release and paroles” to “Re-entry and Parole.”

c. The current statement regarding “Singleness of Purpose” in the last paragraph, which reads:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.

Be revised with the wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” on page 13, to read as follows:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend *open* A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend *closed* A.A. meetings.

The trustees’ Corrections Committee develop a draft replacement for the section “A.A. in correctional facilities” in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” to be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections.

## TREATMENT FACILITIES

### Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TREATMENT FACILITIES\*

**1978** It was recommended that:

The outline for revision of the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” be approved with suggestions to be incorporated in the pamphlet.

**1979** It was recommended that:

The Conference approve the pamphlet “How and Why A.A. Members Carry the A.A. Message into Treatment Centers” (formerly “A.A. in Hospitals”) with revisions.

The Conference reaffirm the previous Conference actions adopted in 1976, which are: “(a) Establish greater communication between the referral sources and local A.A. groups; (b) recognize the necessity of meeting the new member where he presently is; listen to him; try to determine what he really knows about the A.A. program; (c) see that specific programs are set up for sponsoring people from treatment centers into local A.A. groups.”

With regard to hospital discount packages, adopted trustees’ committee recommendation that the contents of this package remain unchanged. When local areas have special needs, it is their responsibility to make up their own packages.

\*For pre-1978 actions related to treatment facilities, see Institutions.

**1980** It was recommended that:

A modification in the scope of the Treatment Facilities Committee be made so that it will now read as follows:

The purpose of the committee is to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities.

The committee will review all aspects of A.A. services to treatment facilities and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements in these A.A. services.

It is not appropriate to send a specific (“bridging-the-gap”) letter to treatment facilities’ administrators at this time. However, G.S.O. is encouraged to forward copies of the newly published “A.A. in Treatment Centers” pamphlet to all facility administrators.

Although the directory of *A.A. Groups in Treatment Facilities* may be of value to a limited number of treatment facility administrators and A.A. members, its value to the A.A. community is questionable. It was, therefore, recommended that the Report and Charter Committee and G.S.O. review this matter, at their earliest convenience, for possible continued value.

The submitted modifications to the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Centers” were not significant enough to modify the pamphlet at this time.

No new action is required on ways to distribute the Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

The Conference reaffirm the recommendation of the 1977 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows: “In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees’ committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees’ committee meeting. (Policy/Admissions)

**1981** It was recommended that:

The additions and changes in the “A.A. in Treatment Centers” pamphlet by the trustees’ Committee on Treatment Facilities be accepted.

These changes basically involve the clarification of the two types of meetings held in treatment facilities: regular group meetings and treatment facilities meetings. It was specifically recommended that the six-point definition of an A.A. group be included in a “boxed-in” form in the pamphlet. These changes will result in new terminology; what has previously been known as a “treatment center group” will now be known as a “treatment center meeting.”

**1982** It was recommended that:

In light of the recent statistics showing the greater influx of members coming from treatment facilities, a bulletin directed primarily to treatment facilities committees be instituted. This recommendation be referred to the appropriate trustees’ committees for implementation.

**1983** It was recommended that:

A copy of the *Treatment Facilities Bulletin* with a cover letter be sent to alcoholism treatment facilities. The cover letter is to suggest that the facilities get in touch with Alcoholics Anonymous.

Delegates ask their treatment facilities committees or other appropriate committees to compile a mailing list of alcoholism treatment facilities in their areas for the purpose of establishing a G.S.O. mailing list for the *Treatment Facilities Bulletin*.

**1984** It was recommended that:

We affirm the 1978 Conference action which is as follows:

“A.A. members who meet with the administration of a treatment facility concerning the formation of an A.A. group on its premises should explain group autonomy as well as what A.A. can and cannot do (Traditions), and also should have a good understanding of the facility’s rules and regulations. After mutual agreements are reached, it is important that this information be shared with the A.A.s who will be attending the group’s meetings. It was suggested that groups meeting in treatment facilities try to abide by the self-support Tradition. If money for rent is not accepted by a facility, groups should contribute in some other way. It was also felt that A.A.s employed by the facility should not run the groups at the facility.”

A draft of a treatment facilities workbook be prepared by the trustees’ Committee on Treatment Facilities in time for the 1985 General Service Conference.

The Guidelines on Correctional and Treatment Facilities Committees be separated.

**1985** It was recommended that:

The draft of the Treatment Facilities Workbook be approved, with minor changes, for production and distribution.

In the Scope of the Conference Treatment Facilities Committee, the sentence “The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot, of their own free will, seek A.A. help” be changed to “The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities.”

The Treatment Facilities, Correctional Facilities, and Cooperation With the Professional Community Workbooks be translated into Spanish. (Floor Action)

**1986** It was recommended that:

To more explicitly state the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities, under Scope, the paragraph:

“The purpose of the committee is to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities”

be changed to the following paragraph from the Treatment Facilities Guidelines which reads:

“The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up means of ‘bridging the gap’ from the facility to the larger A.A. community.”

That the letter in the Treatment Facilities Workbook which addresses the issue of nonalcoholics’ attendance at closed A.A. meetings be revised to provide a more sensitive introduction to the subject as follows: the sentence “It has been brought to our attention that *nonalcoholic drug addicts* are attending A.A. meetings in your facility” be changed to “It has been brought to our attention that *nonalcoholic drug addicts* may be attending A.A. meetings in your facility.”

Item 5 of the “Suggested Do’s” for the treatment facilities chairperson (page 79 of the Treatment Facilities Workbook) be changed from “Play some Grapevine cassette tapes—always good listening and learning” to read: “Play some Grapevine cassette tapes—always good listening and learning, and leave some copies of the A.A. Grapevine.”

Each area treatment facilities committee conduct workshops, as frequently as needed, to effectively utilize the Treatment Facilities Workbook.

Treatment facilities committees send liaisons to other service entities' meetings in their area and, in turn, invite them to send liaisons to the treatment facilities committee meetings.

The trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities study ways to develop contact sponsorship committees for prospective newcomers just leaving treatment facilities and report back to the 1987 Conference.

The pamphlet "A.A. In Treatment Centers" be revised as follows:

The A.A. Grapevine be added to the list of literature suggestions in paragraph 5 on page 13. The paragraph will read as follows:

Leaving a few pieces of A.A. Literature and a copy of the A.A. Grapevine is a good idea, too. Maybe "If You Are a Professional..." "A.A. in Your Community," "A.A. at a Glance," and "Where Do I Go From Here?" Maybe even this pamphlet.

The words "regular" A.A. group in paragraph 1 on page 12 and "treatment center meetings" in paragraph 5 on page 12 be highlighted by using italics.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 on page 7 of the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Centers" be revised to accommodate information on the Treatment Facilities Workbook. The revised paragraph will read as follows:

The Treatment Facilities Workbook (available from G.S.O.) contains Guidelines, sample letters, workshop presentations and other information useful to local treatment facilities committees who are carrying the A.A. message into treatment centers. The pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate With Other Community Efforts to Help Alcoholics" answers specific queries on working within A.A. Traditions, and the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" gives suggestions for helping the newcomer who may have had exposure to A.A. in a treatment center.

The title of the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Centers" be changed to "A.A. in Treatment Facilities," as "facilities" is currently a more generally used term. It was also recommended that the word "facilities" replace the word "centers" throughout the body of the pamphlet.

**1987** It was recommended that:

The following phrase in the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Centers," "Since A.A.'s co-founders first got sober by carrying the A.A. message into treatment centers . . ." be changed to read: "Since one of the ways A.A.'s co-founders helped maintain their sobriety was by carrying the A.A. message into hospitals. . ."

The report, developed in response to the 1986 General Service Conference recommendation that the trustees' committee on Treatment Facilities study ways to develop contact sponsorship programs, be returned to the trustees' committee to develop a service piece to be added to the *Treatment Facilities Workbook*. Also, that the trustees' committee prepare this service piece using only shared experience that reflects strict adherence to the Traditions. (Some of the sharing in the initial report reflected violations of the Traditions.) Also that the service piece include sharing from both successful and unsuccessful contact sponsorship programs and that the format include sharing that reflects contact sponsorship programs in various stages of development.

The word "larger" be deleted from the "Scope" section of the Composition, Scope and Procedure. The revised "Scope" will read as follows: The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the facility to the A.A. community.

The 1986 Conference Action that "each area treatment facilities committee conduct workshops, as frequently as needed, to effectively utilize the Treatment Facilities Workbook" be reaffirmed. Also, that the workshops include groups and district committees.

The 1986 Conference Action that "treatment facilities committees send liaisons to other service entities' meeting in their area and, in turn, invite them to send liaisons to the treatment facilities committee meetings" be reaffirmed.

**1988** It was recommended that:

An audiovisual presentation for Treatment Facilities including three minutes of sample footage be made and brought to the 1989 General Service Conference for further review.

The following topics be included in the film:

- a. What A.A. is and is not
- b. Anonymity
- c. Traditions
- d. Steps
- e. Meeting types
- f. Sponsorship
- g. Home Groups

The film be appropriate for use by all other related committees, A.A. groups, and as an additional tool for our Twelve Step work.

The cost of the sample footage be in the neighborhood of \$17,000.

The newsletter drafted by the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities for annual distribution to Treatment Facilities chairpersons be a quarterly newsletter whenever possible and reflect shared experience from other areas on how they are solving problems related to treatment facilities.

The word "educate" in the introductory statements of the proposed newsletter to Treatment Facilities chairpersons be deleted in favor of the word "inform," in keeping with A.A.'s tradition of sharing rather than educating.

**1989** It was recommended that:

A 15-minute film be produced for A.A. members carrying the message into treatment facilities and be presented to the 1990 General Service Conference.

Note: Although the following item did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote to become a Conference recommendation, it did receive a substantial majority and is therefore a strong suggestion for the board's consideration.

"Suggested that in the proposed film for treatment facilities that the Louis B. segment of the script be deleted because of implied endorsement of Narcotics Anonymous."

**1990** It was recommended that:

The film "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" be accepted as presented to meet an expressed need from the A.A. members carrying the message into treatment facilities; and that the film be translated into French and Spanish, and be captioned for deaf and hearing-impaired alcoholics, consistent with recommendations for our other recent videos.

The following 1988 Conference Action be reaffirmed:

"The newsletter drafted by the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities for annual distribution to treatment facilities chairpersons be a quarterly newsletter whenever possible, and reflect shared experiences from other areas on how they are solving problems related to treatment facilities."

The "Treatment Facilities Newsletter" mailing list be expanded to include district committee members, as well as delegates,

alternate delegates and trustees; and that the 1991 Conference reevaluate the need for this newsletter.

There be a pamphlet on “Bridging the Gap” developed through the trustees’ Treatment Facilities Committee in conjunction with the Conference Treatment Facilities Committee; and that it be brought back to the 1991 General Service Conference for consideration. (Floor Action)

**1991** It was recommended that:

The manuscript prepared by the trustees’ Committee on Treatment Facilities for a pamphlet on bridging the gap be approved, because of the need to encourage A.A. members to serve as temporary contacts to help the alcoholic in treatment make the transition into A.A.

The “Treatment Facilities Newsletter” be distributed semi-annually for the purpose of sharing information among committees carrying the A.A. message into treatment facilities, and that it continue to be mailed to district committee members, delegates, alternate delegates and trustees in addition to members of treatment facilities committees. Estimated cost: \$5,500.

Once supplies are depleted, the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” be revised to include information about “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” and other Conference-approved videos/films relevant to treatment, by inserting the following text just preceding “A few plain suggestions . . .”:

The video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” explains the principles of A.A. and is a wonderful tool for A.A.s making presentations to administrators and staff as well as carrying the message of recovery.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The six points defining an A.A. group in the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” be deleted, and that the definition of a group in the pamphlet be consistent with the definition of a group in the “A.A. Group” pamphlet.

The following paragraph be added to pamphlets directed to treatment facilities professionals to provide them with as much information as possible:

“Many local A.A. service committees will, upon request, provide informational presentations for your organization. Sessions can be tailored to meet your needs. A typical agenda might include one or several A.A. films and presentation by one or more A.A. members on ‘What A.A. Is and What It Is Not.’

“Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

The following sentence of the third paragraph on page 1 of the “Bridging the Gap” pamphlet be removed from all subsequent printings as the Membership Survey is not specifically related to the temporary contact program: “Responses to questions in the most recent Membership Survey indicate that approximately 50% of those coming to A.A. for the first time leave within three months.”

The words “temporary sponsor” and “sponsorship” on pages 8 and 13 of the “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” pamphlet be replaced with the words “temporary contact(s)” when the current supply is depleted, to reflect current A.A. terminology.

A.A.W.S. retain a three-ring binder format for the Treatment Facilities Workbook.

**1993** It was recommended that:

In an effort to guide members more fully in understanding Twelfth Step activity with prospective members, the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” be revised in two sections as follows:

In the section “Temporary Contact Guidelines”—

- a. “Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work.
- b. “Experience suggests that it is best to be accompanied by another A.A. member when meeting our newcomer. One of the two temporary contacts should have at least a year of sobriety.
- c. “Experience also suggests that men work with men and women work with women.
- d. “The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have experience with treatment facilities. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A.
- e. “It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on bridging the gap and attend meetings of your area’s hospital and/or treatment facilities committees.”

The above would replace the following:

- a. “It is suggested that the temporary contact be sober one year or more.
- b. “Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work. The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have any experience with treatment facilities. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A. It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on Bridging the Gap and be a member of your area’s treatment facilities committee or hospital committee.”

In the section “Points to Remember”—

“A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other welfare or social services.

“The professional treatment facility is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible to them. While we cannot compromise our A.A. Traditions, we should remember that we are there as guests of the facility, and must abide by their rules. We are there to carry the A.A. message to the newcomer, and to answer any questions regarding the A.A. program of recovery and the A.A. way of life. Statements that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnosis or advice on medication should be avoided. We are there only to share our experience of staying away from one drink, one day at a time, through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

“In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a facility. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message. If problems arise, inform the local service committee. They may wish to present an A.A. informational meeting.

“No one speaks for A.A. as a whole. When we carry the A.A. message to those in treatment, we are just one drunk talking with another. How we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A., let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!”

The above would replace the following:

“A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other welfare or social services.

“The professional treatment facility is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible to them. If A.A. members do not conform in every way to the rules and regulations of the facility, it has a perfect right to keep A.A. members out. A.A. members go into treatment facilities as guests. Avoid statements or situations that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnosis or prognoses or advice on medications. Avoid challenging the teachings of

the facility; guide the newcomer to A.A. membership and the A.A. way of life.

“Some of these suggestions may be strongly stated. In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a facility. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message.

“When we carry the A.A. message to those in treatment, we are not just one drunk talking with another. While no one speaks for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, how we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A. let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!”

Minor editorial changes in the “Bridging the Gap” pamphlet be accepted.

A.A.W.S. consider production of an A.A. poster similar to the one used by an area P.I. committee.

A.A.W.S. explore the production of an inexpensive pamphlet holder of durable material that could hold up to four different pamphlets in a format which may be free-standing or wall-mounted.

**1994** It was recommended that:

The proposed changes in the Treatment Facilities pamphlet be implemented with some editorial changes. The revised pamphlet is directed more toward A.A. volunteers than to treatment personnel. The testimonials have been removed and the Concepts have been added after the Steps and Traditions.

When the “Bridging the Gap” pamphlet is revised, the Personal Information page be retained but moved to the back page, with the deletion of the following information: home group, age, sobriety date, and sex. And, that the section entitled “If you would like to help...” be placed on the same page as the Personal Information. The last sentence of this section should read, “Or send it to the Treatment Facilities Desk General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, so that G.S.O. can forward the information to your Area Treatment Facilities Committee.”

**1996** It was recommended that:

A soft-cover Treatment Facilities Handbook be developed and a concise and streamlined version of the existing Treatment Facilities Workbook (three-ring binder) be produced.

The “Treatment Facilities Newsletter” be discontinued as the expressed need appears to have diminished.

**1997** It was recommended that:

A concise and streamlined version of the Treatment Facilities Workbook (three-ring binder) be accepted with minor changes.

The final draft of the soft-cover Treatment Facilities Handbook be accepted.

**1999** It was recommended that:

A soft-cover Treatment Facilities Kit, designated as service material, replace the current Workbook [3-ring binder] to be consistent with the other service committee kits. The committee recognized that much of the material in the Workbook was a duplication of Handbook materials.

**2006** It was recommended that:

The word “institutional” be deleted from the scope so that the second paragraph on the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities will read as follows:

“The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other noncorrec-

tional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements.”

The phrase “and other noncorrectional environments” be added to the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities so that it will read as follows:

“The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments, and to set up means of ‘bridging the gap’ from the facility to the A.A. community.

“The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements.”

**2007** It was recommended that:

The video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be revised, retaining only the script, and that sample footage or a progress report be brought to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities. Note: The cost would be approximately \$50,000.

**2008** It was recommended that:

The revised video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be completed with minor changes and brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities for review.

**2009** It was recommended that:

The revised video, *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*, be approved.

The committee’s scope be expanded to include service to Special Needs/Accessibilities committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities.

**2011** It was recommended that:

The recovery pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” be approved.

The name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and that these changes be reflected in the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure.

The title of the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” be changed to “A.A. in Treatment Settings” and that the term “treatment facilities” be replaced with a more appropriate reference such as “Treatment Committees” or “treatment settings” wherever it appears in the pamphlet.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/ REGIONAL FORUMS**

### **Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON INTERNA- TIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS**

Since the early days of the Conference, there has been an ad hoc International Convention Committee which met on an as-needed basis to make recommendations as requested by the trustees’ Committee on International Conventions. Since 1993 the committee has met annually and has also addressed issues of Regional Forums. In 1995, the committee was renamed Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. It is a secondary committee with eight voting members—one from each region. The committee meets jointly with



the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums during the General Service Conference.

**1954** It was recommended that:

A proposal for a 20th anniversary meeting, open to all A.A.s (similar to the 1950 Cleveland meeting) to begin the day following the close of the '55 Conference be approved. The "Convention Committee" to cooperate in determination of a time and site, will include four persons designated by the Trustees and seven delegates. (Floor Action)

All arrangements for the proposed 20th Anniversary International Meeting, since they involve substantial financial commitments, be approved by the Board of Trustees. (Floor Action)

**1956** It was recommended that:

The next A.A. movement-wide Convention be held in California. It was understood that the privilege of determining the date, circumstances and other details of such a convention was reserved to the Trustees. (Floor Action)

**1958** It was recommended that:

Long Beach, California, be approved as the site for an International A.A. Convention to be held the weekend of July 1-3, 1960. (Floor Action)

**1960** It was recommended that:

Preliminary programming and arrangements for the 25th Anniversary International Convention in Long Beach, California, July 1-3, 1960, be approved and urged Delegates to make information about the Convention available in their Areas.

The holding of an International meeting in 1965 be approved. (Floor Action)

Consideration and discussion of possible sites for the 1965 meeting be deferred until 1961. (Floor Action)

The same procedures adopted in the case of the 1960 Convention in regard to the selection of the convention site be followed for the 1965 meeting. (Briefly, these permit any Area to submit proposals to the General Service Board during the coming year with the understanding that the Board will submit a report for consideration by Delegates to the 1961 Conference.) (Floor Action)

**1961** It was recommended that:

A 30th Anniversary International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous be held in 1965 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In accordance with the procedures followed in arranging recent international meetings, the General Service Board reserved the right to make the final determination on financing, programming, site selection and other matters related to a movement-wide meeting. (Floor Action)

To release a short film based on footage ordered as a historical record of the 25th Anniversary Convention at Long Beach in 1960 for local or Area showings would not be compatible with the anonymity tradition in view of the difficulty of limiting such showings strictly to A.A. members. (Floor Action)

**1962** It was recommended that:

A proposal that the 1965 General Service Conference be held in Toronto, Canada, in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary Convention of A.A. scheduled to be held in July 1965 be rejected. (Floor Action)

**1963** It was recommended that:

The following statement of policies and procedures for the 30th Anniversary International Convention of A.A. at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 2-4, 1965, be endorsed and approved as submitted by the chairman of A.A. World Services, Inc.:

## GENERAL POLICY

In accordance with approved procedures, Convention plans will be in the hands of the following committees:

1. **1965 Convention Committee** of the General Service Board comprises the Chairman of General Services, the Chairman of the Public Information Committee of the General Service Board, and the Staff Member serving as Conference Secretary. This committee is responsible to the Board of Trustees and works closely with the **Convention Advisory Committee** and the **Convention Host Committee**. It has the responsibility of programming, meeting facilities, housing and feeding, registration, public relations, sale of literature, decorations and signs, and all arrangements with the Convention Bureau.
2. **The Convention Advisory Committee** comprises the Chairman, all current and past Ontario Delegates, current Delegates from other Canadian provinces, fifteen U.S. Delegates. This committee serves in an advisory capacity on matters of policy referred to it by the Convention Committee. The Canadian Delegates on the Advisory Committee have been responsible for the securing of the Guarantee Fund. Current Canadian Delegates of all provinces will be responsible for Advance Registration.
3. **The Convention Host Committee** is a local committee. It may have as many subcommittees as deemed necessary and is responsible to the Chairman of the Convention Committee. The co-chairman of the Host Committee will coordinate Al-Anon Convention activities. Current subcommittees of the Host Committee are as follows:
  - a. Courtesy Car Fleet Committee
  - b. Decorating Committee
  - c. Entertainment Committee
  - d. First Aid Committee
  - e. Housing Committee
  - f. Greeters Committee
  - g. Information Booth Committee
  - h. Interpreters Committee
  - i. Nursery Committee
  - j. Registration Committee
  - k. Special Events Committee
  - l. Transportation Committee
  - m. Visitation Committee

All plans concerning expenditures by the Advisory and Host Committees are to be cleared beforehand with the Chairman of the Convention Committee.

**The 1965 Convention Committee** of the General Service Board has the following officers:

As Chairman

(Chairman, G.S.O.  
General Services)

As Public Relations  
Chairman

(Chairman, Trustees' Public  
Information Committee)

As Convention Secretary

(G.S.O. Staff Secretary  
assigned to Conference)

**The Convention Committee**

Chairman—

Treasurer—

Vice Chairman—

Secretary—

The other members of the Advisory Committee at this time are shown on the attached list. Three U.S. Delegates will be added each year at the 1963, '64 and '65 Conferences. Newly elected Delegates will replace retiring ones from Canadian provinces other than Ontario.

**The Host Committee.** At a meeting of the Advisory Committee held on December 8, 1962, the following officers were elected:

Chairman—

Co-chairman—

### Financing

An amount in excess of \$6,500 has been collected in Canada for the Guarantee Fund; \$6,000 debentures were purchased from the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation, and set aside in a custody account (with first purchase of debentures earning 4½%). Interest rates fluctuate and the last purchase made was at 5¼%.

Upon authorization by the General Service Board, \$6,500 from the General Fund has been placed in a thrift account at the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City, representing the General Service Board's share of the 1965 Convention Guarantee Fund. No withdrawals are permitted on either one of these accounts until July 1965. Accumulative interest earned by the money in the Guarantee Fund will be turned over to the General Service Board of A.A. and the monies returned to the owners if there is no deficit.

If deficit occurs, amount necessary to meet loss will be prorated on a dollar basis against the Guarantee Fund, as the General Service Board will share in any loss. Interest earned by the \$6,500 underwritten by the General Service Board and that earned by the Canadian deposits will be applied equally against the loss, if any. A cutoff date in Canada for contributions to the Guarantee Fund was set at July 31, 1963.

Preliminary Convention expenses to date are being advanced by A.A.W.S., Inc., and by the Ontario General Service Committee. The Chairman of the Convention will be kept informed of all expenses incurred.

### Registration Fee

A tentative registration fee of \$5.00 was set to cover meetings and panel discussions only. There may be an extra charge for entertainment and these arrangements will be handled by the chairman of the local Host Committee.

### Advance Registration

Advance registration will open March 1, 1964, and carry through November 15, 1964, in Canada only. General registration will open on January 15, 1965.

### Convention Facilities

Headquarters for the A.A. Convention will be the Royal York Hotel. The King Edward Sheraton Hotel will be the headquarters for the Al-Anon portion of the Convention. Manager of the Convention Bureau is Mr. John Moore.

An offer will be made to lease the facilities of the Maple Leaf Gardens for the large meetings to be held Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday morning. The Gardens has a capacity of 13,000 including 2,000 on floor surface. A tentative hold has been made for three days at a rental of \$1,500 per day, but it is hoped that a lower lease figure can be negotiated.

Toronto Convention Bureau will handle all housing and registration at no charge—but will not handle money. The Chairman

of the Convention Committee and the G.S.O. Accounting Supervisor will meet with the Bureau in 1963.

### Publicity

It was felt that the 30th Anniversary International Convention of A.A. be publicized only in the "Group Exchange Bulletin" and the "Grapevine" during 1963.

### Future Meetings

The Host Committee and subcommittees will have organizational meetings in the first six months of 1963. No meeting of the Advisory Committee is required until the fall of 1963.

**1964** It was recommended that:

"Policies and Procedures for the 30th Anniversary International Convention be approved. In accordance with approved procedures, Convention plans will be in the hands of the following committees:

1. *1965 Convention Committee* of the General Service Board comprises the Chairman of General Services, the Chairman of the Public Information Committee of the General Service Board, and the staff member serving as Conference Secretary. This committee is responsible to the Board of Trustees and enjoys the help of the *Convention Advisory Committee* and the *Convention Host Committee*. It has the responsibility of programming, meeting facilities, housing and feeding, registration, public relations, sale of literature, decorations and signs, and all arrangements with the Convention Bureau.
2. *The Convention Advisory Committee* comprises the Chairman, all current and past Ontario Delegates, current Delegates from other Canadian provinces, eighteen U.S. Delegates (twenty-one in 1965). This committee serves in an advisory capacity on matters of policy referred to it by the Convention Committee. The Canadian Delegates on the Advisory Committee have been responsible for the securing of the Guarantee Fund. Current Canadian Delegates of all provinces will be responsible for Advance Registration.
3. *The Convention Host Committee* is a local committee. It may have as many subcommittees as deemed necessary and is responsible to the chairman of the Convention Committee.

The preparation of a small edition of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to be introduced at the 30th Anniversary Convention in 1965 be approved. (Policy)

**1965** It was recommended that:

Approval be given to reports on the preparation of a book entitled "A.A./30" being prepared for sale at the 30th Anniversary International Convention of A.A.

A suggestion that Convention Funds be used to defray expenses incidental to attendance at the Convention by certain early A.A. members not be approved but suggested that Area Committees might be interested in such projects.

An invitation to hold an International Convention in Colorado be added to the existing file of bids for a 1970 International Convention.

**1966** It was recommended that:

Miami, Florida, be the site for A.A.'s 35th Anniversary Convention in 1970 and that Chicago, Illinois, be designated as second choice. (Floor Action)

**1971** It was recommended that:

The following cities, in order of choice, be considered for the 1975 A.A. Convention: Denver, Seattle and Detroit.

**1974** It was recommended that:

Recommendations of the 1972 Conference be confirmed:

The number of non-A.A. speakers be limited, and that they be people who are interested in A.A. and alcoholism.

There be at least one A.A. meeting held at the same time non-A.A.'s are speaking, so that members will have a choice.

Speakers on the Sunday spiritual panel be A.A. members.

Al-Anon be requested not to hold the Sunrise Meeting at Red Rocks because it might interfere with the buses needed for the A.A. Sunday morning spiritual meeting.

The Host Committee have the responsibility for planning and handling the luncheon for delegates, past delegates, trustees, and past trustees.

First flyer on the Convention will be mailed in the fall, with information about Denver, the weather, and other pertinent data.

**1975**

The committee accepted the trustees' Convention Committee report as read by Don Austin, chairman.

The Convention Committee reported that there are 12,000 registrations as of April 24; Registration deadline is May 15.

There will be: two Big Meetings—Friday night and Sunday morning; the Big Show on Saturday night; 34 Alkathon A.A. meetings; 12 Panel Meetings; 12 Workshops. Two guest speakers, one A.A. speaker, and a trustee/director chairman will make up the panels.

The luncheon for past and present delegates and trustees will be Saturday, July 5, in the Holiday Inn Downtown. The price is \$6.50 per person, and a letter went to all concerned on April 16, 1975.

A Convention evaluation questionnaire will be distributed to all registrants with their badges. Some items on the questionnaire include ratings of meetings, food, housing, and transportation.

Convention meetings will open with the Serenity Prayer and close with the Lord's Prayer.

The concept presented by Dr. Norris on conferences in which staff and trustees would visit in the regions and work with local service people should be further explored and developed. (Floor Action)

**1976** It was recommended that:

Al-Anon be allowed one vote on the Convention Site Committee at the 1980 International Convention. (Floor Action)

We go forward with mini-conferences and provide them as often as possible, and that these be held at the request of the region. The sense of the meeting was that for the time being the regional meetings be known as A.A. regional forums. (Floor Action)

The Conference approve the Convention Site Committee's selection as follows: (1) New Orleans, (2) Houston, (3) Seattle. (Floor Action)

**1977**

After discussion, it was decided that there was no substantial unanimity regarding the showing of the 1960 International Convention film at regional forums, and it was also decided that the subject should be discussed in the areas before a final

decision is made. It was also suggested that an additional print be obtained and safeguarded. (Floor Action)

**1978** It was recommended that:

The film of the 1960 International Convention in Long Beach, Calif., be kept for archival purposes only. (Floor Action)

**1979** It was recommended that:

The report of the trustees' International Convention Committee be accepted as read.

The staff report on the 1980 International Convention be accepted as read.

The number of non-A.A. speakers to be invited to participate in the 1980 International Convention remain the same (21) as at previous International Conventions.

Three commercial taping organizations be invited to establish guidelines and submit bids for providing the equipment to tape the 1980 International Convention. It was further recommended that the services of A.A. volunteers be utilized to do the actual taping with the guidelines established by the firm providing the equipment. It was felt that this procedure would cut the retail cost of the tapes to about 50% of the cost of tapes from the 1975 International Convention.

Box 4-5-9 publish information on:

- a. Convention services for deaf A.A. members
- b. Convention policy regarding travel agencies and their handling of registration and reservation forms
- c. When registration and reservation forms will be available

The 1980 International Convention include showing(s) of the films, "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions" and "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View."

The general manager of G.S.O. personally inform area delegates of invitations to A.A. members in their respective areas to chair major functions of the International Convention prior to issuance of the invitations.

Simultaneous translation services (depending on foreign registration) be provided free of charge at the 1980 International Convention. (Floor Action)

**1980** It was recommended that:

Simultaneous translations in French, Spanish, and German be provided at no charge for the Big Meeting on Friday night and the Spiritual Meeting on Sunday morning.

**1981** It was recommended that:

The report of the 1985 International Convention Site Selection Committee be accepted; first, second, and third choices as follows: (1) Montreal, (2) San Diego, (3) Minneapolis.

Complete financial reports of the International Conventions be published in the *Final Conference Reports*, including the 1980 International Convention.

All future events, such as the International Convention, not be planned to operate on a deficit basis, and it was also recommended that all future events of this type be self-supporting. (Finance)

**1983** It was recommended that:

We send an invitation to a friend of A.A. to share with us spiritually on Sunday morning at the 1985 International Convention; and we would like that person to be a member of Al-Anon. (Floor Action)

**1984** It was recommended that:

The principal speakers at the major A.A. meetings all be A.A. members, as it has been at our A.A. International Conventions in the past.

Due to the 1985 International Convention, state, local and provincial convention committees be alerted to the possible effect on attendance at local conventions held between May 10 and August 23.

**1985** It was recommended that:

For public information purposes, we permit a TV camera to film the flag ceremony from afar at the Olympic Park Stadium.

Because the Convention questionnaire is not helpful from one Convention to the next, we discontinue its use.

**1986** It was recommended that:

Three cities be specified for the 1990 International Convention: Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington; Vancouver, British Columbia.

**1987** It was recommended that:

The 1988 General Service Conference select three cities for the 1995 International Convention; and that the Convention Site Selection Committee not determine its preference for first, second or third choice and that the top three cities be given equal consideration by the 1988 General Service Conference. The final selection of the site will be made by the General Service Board in July 1988, following an inspection trip by the Convention Site Selection Committee.

**1988** It was recommended that:

Four cities be specified for the 1995 International Convention (in alphabetical order): Atlanta, Georgia; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; San Diego, California; Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**1989** It was recommended that:

State, provincial, and regional convention committees be alerted to the possible effect on attendance at local conventions held between May 11 and August 24, 1990, due to the International Convention.

A TV camera be permitted to film the Flag Ceremony from afar at the Kingdome Stadium, if appropriate precautions are taken to protect the anonymity of those in attendance at the 1990 International Convention.

The number of non-A.A. speakers to be invited to participate at the 1990 International Convention remain the same (21) as at previous International Conventions.

The Registration Form for the 1990 International Convention include a statement on travel option discounts.

**1990** It was recommended that:

The Site-selection Guidelines for the International Convention in the year 2000 be approved as presented.

The 1990 International Convention posters in English, Spanish and French be sold in the registration area as mementos.

The Conference reaffirm the 1976 Conference Advisory Action, that a request from a bidding city's convention bureau for the names and addresses of Site-selection Committee members be denied, and this information be included in the bidding information sent to delegates. (Note: There was no advisory action to that effect in 1976. It was a recommendation included in the trustees' International Convention Committee report.)

The 1991 General Service Conference select three cities for the International Convention in the year 2000; and that

the Convention Site-selection Committee not determine its preference of first, second, or third choice; and that the top three cities be given equal consideration by the 1991 General Service Conference. The final selection of the site will be made by the General Service Board in October 1991, following an inspection trip by representatives of the Convention Site-selection Committee.

There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee, to be composed of one delegate from each region, could serve as the Site-selection Committee for the International Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed in 1995 by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions. (Policy/Admissions)

**1991** It was recommended that:

The undernoted three (3) cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be given equal consideration as a site for the International Convention in the year 2000: Atlanta; Minneapolis; Toronto.

**1993** It was recommended that:

As at previous International Conventions, non-A.A. speakers be invited to participate at the 1995 International Convention, with the number not to exceed twenty-one people.

In response to the proposal to create a standing Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums, the 1990 General Service Conference Action #30 be reaffirmed as follows: (Policy/Admissions)

“There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee, to be composed of one delegate from each region, could serve as the Site-selection Committee for the International Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed by the 1995 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.”

**1994** It was recommended that:

An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 1995 International Convention.

**1995** It was recommended that:

The Conference Committee on International Conventions continue to meet on an annual basis, discussing Regional Forums when there are no International Convention items; and that the committee be renamed Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. (Policy/Admissions)

**1996** It was recommended that:

The following four (4) cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be given equal consideration as a site for the International Convention in the Year 2005: Atlanta, St. Louis, San Antonio, Toronto.

Any sitting delegate of the Conference International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee whose area is presenting at the General Service Conference as a possible International Convention site city withdraw from that committee and a replacement be selected. (Policy/Admissions)

**1998** It was recommended that:

As at previous International Conventions, non-A.A. speakers be invited to participate in the 2000 International Convention at A.A.'s expense with the number not to exceed 21 people.

**1999** It was recommended that:

An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2000 International Convention.

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board policy which states: "Whenever a discount or subsidy is that which would be offered to any other organization of similar size requiring a purchased service or product of similar character and magnitude, i.e., convention rates at hotels, it may be accepted. Whenever a discount or subsidy is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, it must be declined." (Finance)

**2001** It was recommended that:

The undernoted three (3) cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be given equal consideration as a site for the International Convention in the Year 2010.

Detroit  
Indianapolis  
San Antonio

The bid process for city site-selection for International Conventions be moved forward from ten years to twelve years out from the event; site-selection taking place as follows:

Site-selection to occur in 2003 for 2015  
Site-selection to occur in 2008 for 2020

**2003** It was recommended that:

Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2005 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

Note: It is estimated that transportation, housing and meal reimbursement will be \$2,500 to \$3,000 for each speaker.

The under noted three (3) cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2015:

Atlanta  
Indianapolis  
Vancouver

**2004** It was recommended that:

An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2005 International Convention.

The General Service Conference support the General Service Board Policy as amended on November 2, 2003, which reads:

"Whenever a discount or subsidy is that which would be offered to any other organization of similar size requiring a purchased service or product of similar character and magnitude, for example, convention rates at hotels, it may be accepted. Whenever a discount or subsidy is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, it must be declined."

Note: The original board policy text contained the letters "i.e." which were replaced with the words "for example." The General Service Board amended the policy because "for example" more accurately reflected the intention of the 1989 trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The 1999 General Service Conference supported the Board's 1989 policy through an Advisory Action.

The committee noted the Additional Consideration of the 1999 Conference Committee on Finance which reads:

"The committee unanimously recognizes that the acceptance of discounts or subsidies in the form of cash causes discomfort to some members of our Fellowship. The committee suggests that any future negotiations regarding International Convention discounts or subsidies be carried out with this in mind."

**2005** It was recommended that:

An encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

**2008** It was recommended that:

The undernoted four cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2020: Detroit, Michigan; Los Angeles, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; Vancouver, British Columbia.

Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2010 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

**2009** It was recommended that:

An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2010 International Convention.

An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

## LITERATURE

### Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

**1951** It was recommended that:

In future years, A.A. textbook literature should have Conference approval. (Agenda Committee)

Prior to the vote on this subject, it was pointed out that adoption of the suggestion would not preclude the continued issuance of various printed documents by non-Foundation sources. No desire to review, edit or censor non-Foundation material is implied. The objective is to provide, in the future, a means of distinguishing Foundation literature from that issued locally or by non-A.A. interests.

**1952** It was recommended that:

The report of the Foundation's Committee on Literature, together with Bill's report of his proposed program of activity be approved.

Note: Ten projects carried out by the Foundations Committee on Literature included production of the new pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman," the pictorial script for film strips on headquarters services, the 1951 Conference report, Interim reports from the Trustees to the delegates, preparation of the manuscript for a new pamphlet on "The Alcoholic Employee," material on the Traditions prepared by Bill, two recordings and two reproductions of the A.A. prayer.

The Foundation's Committee on Literature reported that the groups have expressed a need for the following major literature projects: (1) Sponsorship pamphlet, (2) Pamphlet on "slips," (3) a standard introduction to A.A. for use by groups which do not have access to booklets of this type now bearing the imprint of inter-group associations, (4) a brief history of A.A., (5) a revised folder on The Alcoholic Foundation, (6) revision of the Secretary's Handbook, (7) a new "Sedatives" pamphlet, (8) a new pamphlet on Medicine and A.A., (9) new visual material on services and (10) a full-scale writing project on which Bill is now working.

Bill's project involved the following:

1. Updating of the story section of the "Big Book" to provide a more truly representative cross-section of A.A. recovery stories. (Delegates were urged to send in wire and tape recordings of actual talks, for consideration during revision of the book).

2. A new series of anecdotal analyzes of the Twelve Traditions.
3. A series of orderly, point-by-point essays on the Twelve Steps.
4. A kind of popular history of A.A. and its ideas of recovery, tradition and service.
5. A book on the application of A.A. philosophy to the "total problem of living."
6. A reference manual stating our total experience with the whole idea of service functions.

The following be incorporated on all literature published by the Works Publishing, Inc.: "Issued by Works Publishing, Inc., sole publishing agency of the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous. Approved by the General Service Conference of A.A."

The Conference reaffirm the stand taken by the 1951 Conference as follows: "This Conference has no desire to review, edit, or censor non-Foundation material. Our object is to provide, in the future, a means of distinguishing Foundation literature from that issued locally or by non-A.A. interests."

The principle of retaining professional writers on a fee basis when their employment has been authorized, to ensure prompt, efficient handling of editorial responsibilities be approved.

The pamphlet "Sedatives" be given first priority in issuance of revisions of existing pamphlets.

All suggestions made by delegates with reference to A.A. literature in general be turned over to the Foundation Committee on Literature for consideration and action, since the element of time precludes any action by the Conference Committee.

Facsimile reproductions of the Lasker Award be made available to all A.A. Groups in suitable form for framing where desired.

**1953** It was recommended that:

A new pamphlet for young alcoholics be prepared, including a few personal experience stories.

"Medicine Looks at A.A." be revised with up-to-date medical and psychiatric thinking, but retaining the references to Dr. Tiebout.

The title of the pamphlet "The Alcoholic Husband" be changed to cover the dual objective of both the alcoholic husband and alcoholic wife; for example, "The Alcoholic Husband or Wife"; change the contents to conform where necessary.

A new pamphlet, "Are Slips Necessary?" with the recommendation that, because of the seriousness of the subject, a draft of such proposed pamphlet be sent to all delegates for study, comment and suggestions, and for further deliberation at the 1954 Conference.

A series of stock newspaper stories be prepared that may be sent to any group for publication in local newspapers, including the following: (a) An introductory story for new groups, (b) An announcement story for open meetings, (c) A story of A.A. in serial form, with installments approximating not more than 1,000 words each.

All delegates send at once to Helen B. clippings of stories that have appeared in their areas, including installment stories.

A series of stock radio scripts be prepared for dispatch to local groups on request. All delegates are asked to send immediately to Helen B. any radio scripts used in their respective areas that may be available.

A supplement for the "Third Legacy" pamphlet be prepared, clarifying the suggested duties and responsibilities of group Third Legacy representatives, State or Panel Committee members and Conference Delegates.

Delegates, in their reports to their groups, stress the listing of

all Foundation literature in the Handbook of Secretaries and Group Directory.

Delegates weigh this question for submission to the 1954 Conference: Does the Conference feel it should depart from its purely textbook program by printing non-textbook literature such as the "24 Hour Book of Meditation"?

Preparation by Headquarters of a simple guide in the form of a brief pamphlet describing the duties involved in Conference service be approved. (Floor Action)

**1954** It was recommended that:

All new literature be in a format suitable for mailing in a # 10 envelope, insofar as is practicable.

All Conference-approved literature have on its face an identifying symbol.

The two pamphlets, the 2nd edition of "Your Third Legacy" and "Your Role in General Service Conference" be combined in reduced volume.

The two pamphlets "Structure and Services of A.A." and "Your General Service" be combined.

The Conference Literature Committee be kept advised and consulted on all new pieces of literature.

Groups be circularized with tentative quantity prices and pictures of the literature display racks, models of which were shown at this Conference, to determine whether or not the project is feasible.

All reprints such as those reproducing material from *Fortune*, *Saturday Evening Post* and *Good Housekeeping*, bear the credit line at the top of the cover and that the cover be in white to distinguish such reprints from Conference-approved literature.

The publication rights of *Twenty-Four Hours a Day* not be accepted. (Floor Action)

A proposal that A.A. Publishing, Inc., should produce a Conference-approved pamphlet on the general theme of the role and attitude of the older member of A.A., with specific reference to conditions and attitudes that lead to 'slips' not be approved. (Floor Action)

A pamphlet on the general subject "Religion and A.A." not be published at this time. (Floor Action)

**1955** It was recommended that:

Consideration be given to expansion of Section IV or Third Legacy Manual in respect to duties of G.S.R. to which might be added final paragraph of Section VI of Third Legacy Manual.

The Literature Committee shall continue to be advised and consulted on any discontinuing of old literature or addition of new literature.

Wherever possible upward revision in price of literature be avoided. With inevitable increasing costs A.A. Publishing be requested to investigate economies in purchase of paper, binding, printing, etc.

Consideration be given to publication of an introductory A.A. pamphlet available to groups at not more than five cents, containing condensed extracts from "44 Questions" and "This Is A.A."

A.A. Publishing review literature sales for past year to determine if any unprofitable items should be discontinued.

The literature order blank be revised for ordering purposes.

The retail price of the new edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be set at \$4.50, the price to A.A. groups at \$4.00 and to earmark fifty cents for the Reserve Fund. (Floor Action)

Note: In presenting the updating of the first edition of the Big

Book, Bill described the background of his long-range writing project and made the following points:

1. "Not an iota" of the first part of the text dealing with recovery principles had been changed.
2. The story section has been changed and enlarged to present a more accurate cross-section of A.A.'s membership today. When the first edition was prepared, the number of recovered alcoholics was about 100 and most of them were what we now describe as "low bottom" alcoholics. There was only one woman's story; no personal stories by young people or alcoholics who had not suffered heavily. The new edition contains 37 stories in three main categories.
3. Although the old foreword has been retained for sentimental reasons, a new foreword has been added to bridge the gap in the story of A.A.'s growth from 1939 to 1955. The new edition also includes material dealing with the Twelve Traditions for group survival, (unknown in 1939, of course), with religious and medical appraisals of A.A. and with the award of the Lasker Trophy in 1951.

The retail price of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* remain at \$2.75, with the price to A.A. groups at \$2.50, and that twenty-five cents be earmarked for the Reserve Fund. In addition, the Delegates voted that this action, to the extent that it relates to the subject of discounts, be regarded as an amendment to the 1954 Conference action. (Floor Action)

**1956** It was recommended that:

Area delegates, through their committees, help groups to gain a better understanding of existing Conference-approved literature. And, in addition, that groups be made aware of the material contained in the Handbook section of the Handbook and Directory and that the Handbook and Directory is for the entire group's use.

The next Conference consider the possibility of publishing the new leather-bound edition of the Big Book; also that it be known as the "leather-bound gift Edition," rather than as the "deluxe" Edition.

Since the delegates at their meeting unanimously approved Bill's new book (*A.A. Comes of Age*) it be produced in a first-class manner, decisions as to pictures and price being left to the Board of Trustees, every effort be made to have it available for the 1956 Christmas Season.

Consideration be given to the possibility of material for the specific use of the older member.

Pamphlet literature for institutions continue to be made available in gift packages which represent a twenty-five percent price reduction, but, further, that the Staff member corresponding with institutional groups endeavor to incorporate in the gift packages those pamphlets most frequently requested by these groups.

The Literature Committee of the Conference continue to be advised and consulted on discontinuing, revising or the adding of literature.

The new "A.A. Exchange Bulletin" be made available in quantity to groups wishing to purchase additional copies and agreed that Bulletin distribution should be exclusively through local groups or service offices. (Floor Action)

**1957** It was recommended that:

Since the area delegates at their meeting unanimously approved Bill's new book (*A.A. Comes of Age*), it be adequately priced, \$4.50 not being too high.

Since the area delegates at their meeting approved the suggest-

ed pamphlets for the "old-timer" and for the individual member's relationship to the structure of A.A., the title "What Kind of an Old-Timer Are You?" is preferred for the "old-timer" pamphlet and "You and Your 199,999 Partners in A.A." is approved for the other.

Consideration be given to the possibility of developing material for a pamphlet to include case histories for the skid row alcoholic, a pamphlet that might be available in jails. Furthermore, when an outline or treatment of such a pamphlet is ready, it be submitted to the members of the Conference Literature Committee for comment.

At least once a year, an announcement be made in the "A.A. Exchange Bulletin" that specially priced gift packages of A.A. literature are available for Prison and Hospital Groups.

The Conference terminate discussion of a gift edition of the Big Book in the absence of relative unanimity. (Floor Action)

The General Service Board Literature Committee suggestion that pamphlets be developed on the subject of "old-timers" and the relationship of individual members to the movement and its service agencies be endorsed. (Delegates Only Meeting)

Bill's negotiations designed to make it possible to retail his forthcoming book, *A.A. Comes of Age*, at \$4.00, if practical, be endorsed. (Delegates Only Meeting)

**1958** It was recommended that:

There is no need for a pamphlet to include case histories for the skid row alcoholic, which would be available in jails, at this time.

Since the use of tokens of sobriety is a matter of local taste and custom, there seems to be no expressed need at the present time for a standard token of sobriety and no need for A.A. Publishing to carry such an item.

A.A. Publishing, Inc., provide for a basic A.A. book in foreign languages as needed.

The Conference recognize the original use of the word "honest" before "desire to stop drinking" and its deletion from the Traditions as part of the evolution of the A.A. movement. Any change to be left to the discretion of A.A. Publishing, Inc.

The idea for a pamphlet to describe A.A. pamphlets be dropped. However, the committee suggested that an item about A.A. Publishing, Inc., pamphlet literature might be run in the A.A. Exchange Bulletin from time to time. The present distribution of order blanks in a general mailing twice a year, and with each order of literature, is sufficient.

The present announcement of subscription rate on the front page of the A.A. Exchange Bulletin is sufficient, and that a subscription blank would only take space from a news item.

The Brief History in the Third Legacy Manual be recommended to those who want a history of A.A. in pamphlet form.

There is not sufficient need for A.A. Publishing, Inc., to distribute a portable literature rack since local areas take care of their own needs and display their literature to suit their own needs.

A.A. Publishing, Inc., consider the suggestion that their two individual wallet cards be replaced when the present supply is exhausted by one fold-over card that would include the same material now on two cards.

The concept that A.A. Publishing, Inc., distribute for a year specially priced literature packages of books and pamphlets and report the results to next year's Conference be approved.

There is no need for a special pamphlet for the inmate member in prisons and jails. Recommended that the staff member handling Institutional Services encourage the exchange of prison group experiences and publications to meet any need expressed by an individual prison group.

An animated "comic book" type pamphlet is not appropriate for A.A. literature.

The "Oldtimer" pamphlet be tabled for the present time since after a year of exploration there is inadequate material to warrant publication.

The pamphlet literature distributed by A.A. Publishing is adequate at the present time and that before developing any new pamphlets the need for each one should be well defined.

The survey of armed forces groups be continued with the view to developing material that can be given to commanding officers of armed forces bases so that they may understand the role that A.A. plays in the recovery of alcoholics in the armed services.

A paperback edition of the "Big Book" not be published. (Floor Action)

**1959** It was recommended that:

A new pamphlet for inmate alcoholics be approved as outlined in the memorandum from G.S.O. literature consultant.

The preparation of a pamphlet to inform clergymen of A.A.'s sole purpose and how they can help the alcoholic find sobriety in A.A. be approved.

The delegates to the 1960 Conference be surveyed for information about industrial and business programs in their areas, and suggested that information be obtained from outside sources as well, so that G.S.O. material can be brought up-to-date and the pamphlet "The Alcoholic Employee" can be revised.

The demand is not sufficient to justify republishing the old "A.A." pamphlet which went out of print a number of years ago.

The revised "Sedatives" pamphlet will be ready for distribution as soon as approved by the joint Literature Committees.

The committee considered a recommendation from the Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies for a brief folder on "Cooperation but Not Affiliation" with outside agencies, and suggested that this be handled as a Grapevine article and reprinted and made available to A.A. members and outside agencies by G.S.O.

**1960** It was recommended that:

In view of the importance of communicating the A.A. message to non-English-speaking alcoholics in many lands, A.A. World Services undertake a thorough study of the immediate and long-range needs for A.A. literature in languages other than English.

Pending completion of this study and the submission of detailed recommendations at the 1961 Conference, the Committee recommends that A.A. World Services undertake such additional translations of Conference-approved literature as may be deemed immediately necessary and financially feasible.

A.A. World Services consider the offer of groups in Puerto Rico to make available to other Spanish-speaking members a pamphlet, now in preparation, which will contain Spanish translations of excerpts from existing Conference-approved literature.

Groups which undertake to translate Conference-approved literature, or to prepare special non-English literature for local use, would welcome an opportunity to have such material reviewed by A.A. World Services to assure accuracy in transmitting the message of the A.A. recovery program. The availability of this G.S.O. service be publicized in the *Exchange Bulletin* and that interested groups be encouraged to use this service.

The material compiled by the Study Committee on Outside Agencies be considered as incomplete, so that additional supplements may be added as the need for them is manifested.

The Conference reaffirm the need for the pamphlets

approved by the 1959 Conference, namely: for the Clergy, the Inmate, a revision of "Young People and A.A." and "The Alcoholic Employee."

**1961**

The Committee urged the Board of Trustees to avail itself of the offer made by the delegate from Puerto Rico to provide Spanish translators for A.A. material as the need arises.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Board's Literature Committee for the pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate."

The Committee considered the recommendation transmitted by two committeemen in South Florida to delete the words: "There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership" from the A.A. "preamble." After voicing its opinion that these words are of vital importance to the newcomer and in describing the Fellowship to the non-alcoholic, the Committee referred the recommendation to the Policy Committee.

No action was taken regarding requests for copies of the last portion of Mr. Bernard Smith's talk since it will be included in the Final Conference Report.

The Committee noted with sympathy the recommendation that stories of a more personal nature be included when the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" is due for revision.

The Committee recommended that the study of long-range translation needs be continued as authorized by the 1960 Conference.

The Committee noted with approval the recent availability of seven additional Spanish pamphlets.

The Committee urged Delegates to request young A.A.s to forward their case histories to G.S.O. before June 1, 1961, to assist in the revision of the pamphlet "Young People in A.A."

The Committee recommended that G.S.O. explore the possibility of preparing a more adequate description of Conference-approved literature.

It was the sense of the meeting that no action be taken by the 1961 Conference on the proposal for a paperback edition of the "Big Book." (Floor Action)

The Conference recognized that the publication of cheap editions of A.A. books would probably reduce the income to World Services, and Bill's personal income. The Conference unanimously suggested the following to the Trustees: To add a rider to Bill's royalty contract to the effect that, if cheaper books are ever published, Bill's royalties be increased by an amount sufficient to keep the royalty income at the same average level it had been for the five years before cheaper books were published; (further, that) as time goes on, if inflation erodes the purchasing power of this income, the Trustees will adjust the royalties to produce the same approximate purchasing power; this to be effective during the lifetime of Bill and Lois and Bill's legatees. (Floor Action)

**1962** It was recommended that:

Condensation of selected G.S.O. service material be prepared by G.S.O. in the near future for translation into appropriate languages, as suggested in the 1962 Overseas Conference Report.

G.S.O. give further study to the pamphlets submitted by the delegates from British Columbia-Yukon and Northern Quebec

The suggestion for an introductory comic-strip type of A.A. pamphlet be explored further by G.S.O.

The long-range Translation Program as authorized by the 1960 Conference and confirmed by the 1961 Conference be continued, subject to the approval of any definite plan by the G.S.B. Literature Committee.



G.S.O. give further study to the suggestion for preparation of a pamphlet designed to be helpful to social workers.

The Conference voted unanimously to accept Bill's manuscript on *Twelve Concepts for World Service* and recommended that it be distributed initially as a supplement to, and eventually as an integral part of, the *Third Legacy Manual*. (Now *The A.A. Service Manual*.) (Floor Action)

**1963** It was recommended that:

A.A.W.S. continue to make available translated literature as needed.

"Partners" when revised be retitled "The Group Handbook" with subtitle, "How the A.A. Group Starts and Grows."

The need for a study guide to the Steps and Traditions or a condensed Twelve Step book be explored and a report brought back to the 1964 Conference.

The pamphlet "Correctional Officials Evaluate A.A." be discontinued and a new pamphlet be created outlining specific information about the formation and function of groups in institutions, including material pertaining to county jails, orientation programs, training programs for the young, open door groups, women's groups, etc. One page of Warden's comments was considered to be sufficient. The draft of the pamphlet to be reviewed by interested penologists as well as the Conference Literature Committee. The Committee further requested that information for the pamphlet be sought from Delegates and Institutions Committees.

A revised pamphlet on the relationship of A.A. and tranquilizers and sedatives be prepared, such pamphlet to emphasize that it is written by non-experts and the importance to A.A. of maintaining its amateur standing. It was felt that A.A. has a responsibility to share its information with alcoholics but that we should do this in a way which will not antagonize the medical profession, and that we emphasize that our concern is with the unsupervised use of pills (medication). It was further suggested that the last page of the pamphlet as presently written be placed first; that more varied opinions of more doctors be included, and that the draft be submitted to the directors of N.A.A.A.P. as well as Conference Literature Committee for suggestions.

Pending this review, the present pamphlet continue to be used in order to share A.A. experience.

Consideration of a proposal to publish a "deluxe" edition of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be tabled for further consideration in 1964.

**1964** It was recommended that:

The words "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature" be used under the seal on all Conference-approved literature, and that reprints carry the wording "This material has been reprinted with the approval of the A.A. General Service Conference."

In the current literature order form, the reference to foreign literature order blanks be printed in bold type and underlined. On the second page the "Note" referring to institutional packages, pamphlets, Braille editions of the Big Book and translations should be boxed in with a bold line. It was the sense of the meeting that the current literature order blank fills the present needs except for the above recommended changes.

A decision about a new pamphlet for newcomers, which would be more specific as to the first drink, the 24 Hour Plan, etc., be deferred until a review of all current literature can be made by members of the Committee.

A pamphlet for A.A. in hospitals, similar to the new "A.A. in Prisons" pamphlet, be prepared, and that such a pamphlet be suitable for tubercular hospitals.

All members of the Literature Committee be sent a copy of all pamphlets for review in terms of the following questions: "Do we have enough literature? Do we have too much literature? What should we do to promote sale of literature?" Comments are to be sent to the Secretary of the Literature Committee by June 15.

The Committee would be a "working committee" during the Conference year, April 1964 to April 1965. Members will share correspondence and ideas, and will hope to deliver a complete analysis of their functions and problems for the consideration of the 1965 General Service Conference Literature Committee. The Secretary of the Committee will receive copies of correspondence for sharing with the General Service Board Literature Committee. Our primary function is to assist the Literature Committee of the Board so as to provide the best possible literature for A.A. Thus we invite all comments, critical or complimentary, at all times.

Regarding pamphlets and literature other than that which is Conference-approved being displayed or sold at area and state conferences, it was the sense of the meeting that we have no authority in this area. It is to be noted that all Conference-approved literature should be made available at A.A. get-togethers.

Whether review of tapes and films available to G.S.O. should be the responsibility of the Literature Committee, it was the sense of the meeting that the possibility of a relationship between the Literature Committee and the Tape Committee be referred to the General Service Board for its consideration. The Conference Literature Committee felt it would not be practical for members to participate in tape or film review.

Thought be given to the idea of having a two-day session of the combined Literature Committees at some future time.

Consideration be given to the need for a pamphlet directed specifically to the social worker.

A proposed edition of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* that would be smaller in size and generally more compact than the existing edition be approved. The proposed edition would presumably be used primarily for gifts and would be particularly useful to members who travel. (Floor Action)

The preparation of a small edition of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* to be introduced at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in 1965, to be sold at \$3.00 or more be approved. (Policy)

**1965** It was recommended that:

A new G.S.R. pamphlet be prepared following the suggestions outlined by the G.S.B. Literature Committee.

The pamphlet "A.A. and the Community" be prepared as outlined to date, with additional emphasis on what A.A. cannot do.

The suggested guideline for conducting newcomers' meetings be used as service material adding the preamble and slogans, and that at some future time a pamphlet might be considered.

In all future pamphlets and in revisions, an effort be made to avoid alphabetical abbreviations and to spell out such abbreviations as G.S.R. and A.A.W.S. "in the interest of clarity and education."

No glossary of A.A. terminology be prepared, since it would be difficult to have absolute uniformity in terminology, and perhaps not advisable.

The draft of "A.A. in Hospitals" be approved and Committee members agreed to have their suggestions in the mail to G.S.O. by May 15.

The draft of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be approved with the specific recommendation that some emphasis on the value of our Tradition of placing principles before personalities in our Group life be incorporated. Additional suggestions and cor-

rections to be incorporated in the final draft are to be received by G.S.O. by May 15.

The Policy Committee of the Conference consider the recommendation that “communications would be improved if the secretary of the Committee: (a) Acted as a focal point coordinating Committee correspondence, (b) ‘Sifted’ material received from Committee members in order to eliminate ‘personal factors’ in material relayed to other members, (c) distributed a newsletter to Committee members from time to time.”

The Policy Committee consider the recommendation that “members of the Conference Committee be assured of their right and obligation to communicate directly with any General Service Board Literature Committee members.”

**1966** It was recommended that:

A.A.W.S. publish a new hard-cover book containing excerpts from Bill’s letters, books, Grapevine articles and other writings with a title something like ‘The A.A. Reader,’ or ‘Selected Writings by Bill.’

A new pamphlet, “Guide for Leading Newcomers’ Meetings,” be published.

A cartoon format for some A.A. Literature be developed in the hope it will reach alcoholics who are unable to read well or those who just don’t read much at all.

When the “Third Legacy Manual” (now *The A.A. Service Manual*) is updated, it should carry a glossary of terms such as *area, district, assembly*, etc., so terms can become more uniform throughout the continent. (Agenda Committee)

The sentence “There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership” be retained in the Preamble. (Floor action)

**1967** The committee:

Reported that *The A.A. Way of Life* was anticipated with great interest in all areas.

Noted enthusiastic reception of the comic book pamphlet, “What Happened to Joe.”

Voiced high hopes for Newcomers’ Meetings Kit.

Expressed interest in upcoming revisions of “A.A. for the Woman,” “Young People in A.A.,” and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

Suggested that area committees interest groups in Conference-approved literature by using “Let literature carry the message, too” as an agenda item at area meetings and holding discussions on specific pamphlets at sharing sessions and workshops.

Recommended to the trustees’ Literature Committee that the possibility of translating “What Happened to Joe” into Spanish be explored.

Recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee ask permission of the Grapevine to reprint Bill’s article “Problems Other Than Alcohol” for use as a pamphlet.

**1968** It was recommended that:

Conference-approved literature and G.S.O. Guidelines be displayed and distributed at assembly meetings.

Brief mimeograph service material (not Guideline format) be prepared to provide a listing of source material from Conference-approved literature as an aid to closed-meeting discussions.

The pamphlet “The A.A. Group” be brought to the attention of new group officers as they rotate.

A yearly questionnaire be sent to a sampling of A.A. groups to determine literature needs.

**1969** It was recommended that:

The story of a young A.A. be added to the next reprint of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and that the present stories be edited, when necessary, in order that current readers will be able to identify.

No additions to present Conference-approved literature be made at this time.

Material illustrating the General Service Office and the history of A.A. in cartoon style be considered.

More effective ways of displaying Conference-approved literature be explored; that the delegates be polled for their suggestions and results be made available to A.A. groups.

Groups consider the suggestion that one group member be chosen to be solely responsible for the distribution of Conference-approved literature and its display.

**1970** It was recommended that:

The Grapevine reprints of Bill’s articles “Problems Other Than Alcohol” and “Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous” be considered by A.A.W.S. for pricing and inclusion in the G.S.O. order blank.

The suggestion of the 1969 Conference Literature Committee that a cartoon-style booklet illustrative of the history of A.A. and service activities of G.S.O. be pursued, but that the history be confined to the early years at G.S.O. so that the project will have cohesion.

“A Clergyman Looks at A.A.” be considered for revision if the response from a selected number of A.A. and non-A.A. clergymen to whom it will be mailed for comment warrants it.

Delegates continue to explore the possibility of placing the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and other Conference-approved books in local libraries wherever this has not already been done.

Each group choose a member to be responsible for literature display at each meeting, as was recommended by the 1969 Conference.

Occasionally group discussions center around Conference-approved pamphlets such as “Sponsorship,” “Is A.A. for You?,” “This Is A.A.,” or any of the others that would be suitable for such discussions.

**1971** It was recommended that:

The illustrated format used for the Traditions pamphlet be considered for use in future A.A. literature.

The “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet now in preparation be directed toward the alcoholic in the armed services rather than the higher echelon, and that A.A. stories of armed services experiences be forwarded to the committee secretary.

*Box 4-5-9* be included on the price list of the regular literature order blank if G.S.O. finds this suggestion feasible.

The suggestion of placing the Big Book and pamphlets in public, school, university and church libraries has worked well in many areas and that all delegates consider this as a project for their area committees.

The delegates assume responsibility for informing A.A.s of all available Conference-approved literature, and that the updated spring and fall literature order blanks which are mailed with *Box 4-5-9* be reviewed at district and assembly meetings.

The Literature Committee, following the general feeling of the Conference, reaffirm both the spirit and the wording of the “I Am Responsible” Declaration from the International Convention held in Toronto in 1965.

The short form of the Twelve Concepts be approved. (Floor Action)

**1972** It was recommended that:

The Conference delegates continue to seek material of a spiritual nature for the proposed booklet, *Came to Believe*.

The delegates be asked to look for members willing to write their stories for the proposed pamphlet, "A.A. and the Armed Services."

G.S.O. be asked to submit suggestions for material and costs with reference to taped literature to the Conference Literature Committee for their recommendations. Deadline: June 1, 1972.

No deletions be made at this time on the G.S.O. Order Blank.

Suggestions for meeting discussion be included in the Group Handbook, using discussion subjects from the A.A. Grapevine if permission is granted.

The Group Inventory material submitted to the committee be recommended to G.S.O. as possible service material.

A cartoon leaflet on service responsibilities be considered by A.A.W.S.

The *Twenty-Four Hour Book* not be confirmed as Conference-approved literature.

It be suggested that when a local A.A. facility (central office, intergroup, group, etc.) sells non-Conference-approved literature, it be clearly designated as such.

G.S.O. review the content of *Box 4-5-9* with the idea of making the material in it more like the kind of information now included in the *Quarterly Report*.

**1973** It was recommended that:

The words "sometimes heavily" be deleted from question 5 in the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?"

Preparation of an illustrated or cartoon-style "Young People and A.A." pamphlet be explored.

A better way to communicate with doctors be explored by the Trustees' Professional Relations Committee.

The Unity Declaration be added to all A.A. Literature when feasible and economical, and be referred to A.A. World Services, Inc., for follow-through.

A.A.W.S., Inc., be asked to study the possibility of having a reproduction made of the original Big Book.

It be noted, as a matter of information, that the code appearing on all A.A. literature stands for number of pamphlets ordered, date ordered, and printer used.

The A.A.W.S. directors consider changing the name of the pamphlet "Bill on Alcoholism" to "Three Talks by Bill W. to Medical Societies," since the current title seems confusing and misleading to many readers. (Report and Charter Committee)

**1974** It was recommended that:

The progress report of the Big Book subcommittee be approved with the added suggestion that a story regarding retired persons be particularly considered.

The pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be reviewed and rewritten to include Twelfth Step calls as well as sponsorship, with a new suggested title: "Twelfth Step Calls and Sponsorship."

In memory of A.A.'s co-founders, the last talk of each be prepared in pamphlet form and distributed.

The partial draft of the new booklet "Staying Sober" be reviewed by the committee and returned with comments and suggestions to G.S.O. by June 1, 1974.

The Grapevine reprints "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous," "Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends," and "Problems Other Than Alcohol" be prepared in standard pamphlet form.

The trustees' Literature Committee explore the need for a pamphlet guide to taking the Fourth and Fifth Steps.

That the trustees' Public Information Committee continue trying to place articles about A.A. in publications for retired citizens.

**1975** It was recommended that:

The original "Is A.A. for You?" pamphlet be dropped and the simplified version be used.

"The Alcoholic Husband" and "The Alcoholic Wife" be combined into one pamphlet called "The Alcoholic Mate" or another appropriate title.

The reprints "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous," "Our Critics Can Be Our Benefactors," and "A.A. as a Community Resource" be dropped.

"The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous" pamphlet be dropped.

A paragraph dealing with the problem of the use of mood-changing pills by A.A. members who hold group office should *not* be added to an appropriate A.A. pamphlet because it was felt that this decision is up to local autonomy.

An illustrated pamphlet like "What Happened to Joe" and "It Happened to Alice," directed to teenage and pre-teenage alcoholics, be prepared.

Two teenage stories be added to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A."

Previous Conference action to display non-Conference-approved literature and Conference-approved literature *separately* be reaffirmed.

A feasibility study regarding a paperback edition of the Big Book and alternatives be made and reported on at the 1976 Conference. (Floor Action)

**1976** It was recommended that:

Delegates take back to their areas a statement to the effect that the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, third edition, is not being changed—that only the stories have been updated and some new ones added.

The pamphlet "So You Think You're Different" have a new title—"Do You Think You're Different?"—and that the agnostic story, "My Name Is Jan," be added, and the Spanish story, "My Name Is Maria," be deleted.

The new title for the combined pamphlets "The Alcoholic Wife" and "The Alcoholic Husband" be "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?" with a subtitle, "A.A.'s Message of Hope." The third draft was accepted as is.

The title for the teenage cartoon pamphlet be "Teenagers and A.A." The manuscript was unanimously accepted.

Action on pamphlets directed to special groups of alcoholics be deferred until after the publication of "Do You Think You're Different?"

The present terminology used regarding the word "suggested" when referring to the Twelve Steps is consistent with that employed in the Big Book, Twelve and Twelve, and other A.A. literature, and should remain as is.

The trustees' Literature Committee look into reproducing "How It Works" in wallet-sized cards.

The trustees' Literature Committee study the Conference keynote address in 1972, about our Third Legacy, to be considered for a future service pamphlet.

We keep the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as it is at this time and not publish a paperback edition. (Floor Action)

A study be made of the feasibility of publishing a limited edition of the first edition of the Big Book, and report back at next year's Conference. (Floor Action)

G.S.O. discontinue distribution of the "Bill W." book (the biography published by Harper & Row), dispose of the present supply in the most feasible manner, and notify the Fellowship through *Box 4-5-9* when the "Bill W." book is no longer available through G.S.O. Sense of the meeting was taken that the deletion of the listing in the catalog should be handled by overprinting or other method as G.S.O. sees fit. (Floor Action)

**1977** It was recommended that:

A story be added to the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" under the title "My name is—and I am an alcoholic (with a language barrier)," and that the emphasis in the story should be on feeling the barrier rather than on the particular language, for example, Spanish, French, or whatever.

The Conference-approved seal on A.A. Literature remain as it is.

The proposal on "Living Sober Longer" not be pursued further as there is not sufficient need for such a pamphlet.

The Responsibility Declaration not be changed, as it was made at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto.

Literature survey results be mailed to all delegates within a few months.

A.A.W.S. proceed with the project of a joint biography of Dr. Bob and Bill.

The publication of a facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book should not be undertaken as it would destroy the sentimental value of the actual first edition. (Floor Action)

It was suggested that A.A. groups be discouraged from selling literature not distributed by the General Service Office and the Grapevine. (Floor Action)

**1978** It was recommended that:

Neither a story about someone with a language barrier nor a story about a physician be added to the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" at this time.

In the next printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the foreword of the second edition be included as it was originally published in the second edition.

The delegates should be made aware of any changes under consideration in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* prior to publication.

No changes be made in the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?," as there is no need for clarification.

The test film shown to the Conference Literature Committee be expanded to a film approximately 25 minutes in length for the purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the general public with the understanding that the film will be presented to the 1979 General Service Conference for approval prior to distribution.

A change be made in the scope of the committee to read: "To review new literature and audiovisual needs," and that this proposal be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review at its quarterly meeting in July in order to avoid possible overlap or duplication of the various Conference committees' functions.

**1979** It was recommended that:

In response to a request to discuss amending the Scope to state that this committee deals with recovery literature only, the

Composition, Scope, and Procedures of the Conference Literature Committee be retained as is.

The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be expanded to include previous Conference Advisory Actions recommending that A.A. groups should not be named after institutions in which they meet or for persons either living or deceased, and that the word "family" should not be part of the name of the group.

Jo's story be substituted for Lisa's story in the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." when it is next reprinted.

The Twelve Steps of A.A. be included in the pamphlet "Too Young?" when it is next reprinted.

A voice-over be added at the end of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View," repeating that film techniques have been employed to protect the anonymity of A.A. members. With this addition, the committee recommended that the film be approved by the Conference. (The Conference also stipulated that sound-track audibility be improved.)

With regard to the distribution of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View":

- a. A.A. World Services retain ownership of the film and control distribution of each copy.
- b. During its first year, the film be released only to those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, and that the area delegate be notified of *all* requests from his or her area for the film.
- c. Priority for distributing the film would be: (1) A.A. service entities, such as public information committees, institutions committees, etc.; (2) those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, such as treatment programs, professional groups, etc.; (3) schools, churches, service clubs, etc.
- d. Although the film is intended *primarily* for use outside A.A., prints be made available on a rental basis to any A.A. entities wishing to show it.
- e. With the exception of one or two selected test areas, the use of the film on television be delayed for one year to give the General Service Conference an opportunity to gain real experience with the reaction of the Fellowship and the public to the film.
- f. Anyone involved in showing the film during the coming year be asked to submit a brief evaluation on a prepared form to G.S.O.
- g. The results of the evaluation and the distribution policy be reviewed by the 1980 Conference Public Information Committee.

The pamphlet for the older alcoholic be approved by the Conference with the title "Now It's Time to Start Living" and the subtitle "Stories of Those Who Came to A.A. in Their Later Years."

No pamphlet or booklet concerning the Fourth Step be considered at this time because this information is provided in the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

The biographies of Dr. Bob and Bill W. be published as separate books rather than as a joint biography.

A study committee composed of delegates, trustees, and staff be appointed to study the advisability of, and procedures for, having Conference-approved literature and service material distributed by G.S.O. (Floor Action)

**1980** It was recommended that:

The change in the title of the pamphlet for older people, from

“Now It’s Time to Start Living” to “Time to Start Living,” be approved.

The unedited manuscript of *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* be accepted.

The pamphlet from Great Britain entitled “A Newcomer Asks” be adopted and adapted.

The Responsibility Declaration not be changed.

The suggestion to add to the book *As Bill Sees It* a definition of the slogans not be accepted because it was felt that the slogans may be defined in many different ways.

The suggestion of adding to the book *As Bill Sees It* excerpts from the Grapevine and “The Best of Bill” not be accepted, since much of this material is already included.

The suggestion to produce a set of pamphlets on each Legacy not be accepted, since we have sufficient material at the present time.

The pictures of Bill W. and Dr. Bob remain in the film “A.A.—An Inside View.” (Floor Action)

The following pamphlets, leaflets, and flyers be approved with their present content:

“Where Do I Go From Here?” “Your A.A. G.S.O.” “G.S.R.” “Self-Supporting? The 60-30-10 Plan” “Inside A.A.” “Carrying the Message Inside the Walls” “Circles of Love and Service” “A.A. in Your Community” “A.A. at a Glance” “The A.A. Member” “If You Are a Professional. (Literature Task Force)

Any factual or statistical information may be updated whenever practical without having to go through the process of Conference action, e.g., whenever inventory runs low, a new survey is completed, etc. In addition, minor copy cuts to make room for new material added to publications may be made when necessary. (Literature Task Force)

Since A.A. Guidelines are a reflection of collective experience that is shared through G.S.O., relating to specialized topics not necessarily relevant to all groups or A.A. members generally (e.g., armed forces, clubs, answering services, occupational programs), the A.A. Guidelines may be produced or revised when new information or other contingencies arise, at the discretion of the G.S.O. staff without Conference approval. (Literature Task Force)

The Conference-approved seal may be positioned or placed wherever practical on a piece of literature so approved. (Literature Task Force)

**1981** It was recommended that:

The suggestion to publish a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be tabled until the 1982 Conference to allow time for all delegates to get the group conscience from the groups in their areas.

The suggestion to publish a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be placed on the 1982 Conference Literature Committee agenda.

The suggestion to include information about meeting newcomers from treatment centers “where they are” be added to “The A.A. Group” pamphlet when it is next reprinted. The suggested information to read as follows:

Welcoming newcomers from treatment centers keeping in mind that they usually have already gotten sober and have been given some introduction to the A.A. program.

The suggestion to put a two-year moratorium on any new literature not be accepted.

A subcommittee be formed, consisting of a member from each trustee committee involved in the preparation of literature, to review already existing pamphlets with an eye to which pamphlets could be combined or dropped; and their report be given

to the 1982 Conference.

A footnote be added to Tradition Eight in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, page 169, to update the job description of present-day G.S.O. staff members; the suggested footnote to read as follows:

The work of present-day staff members has no counterpart among the job categories of commercial organizations. These A.A.s bring a wide range of business and professional experience to their service at G.S.O.

The suggestion to include the Twelve Traditions in all recovery pamphlets when feasible be accepted.

**1982** It was recommended that:

A draft of a pamphlet be developed for the homosexual alcoholic to be considered by next year’s Conference.

The suggestion that a filmstrip be produced on the functions of central and intergroup offices not be approved.

Since the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* is available on cassette tapes, there is no need to print the book in large type at this time.

The suggestion to seek Conference approval for “Problems Other Than Alcohol (Excerpts)” be approved.

The taping of our books and booklets be continued by A.A.W.S., Inc.

An index and illustrations be included in “The A.A. Group” pamphlet.

The following sentence be added in bold type on the cover of A.A. directories under the caveat “CONFIDENTIAL”: “This directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture.”

The suggestion to produce a filmstrip on the functions of the group inventory not be accepted at this time.

**1983** It was recommended that:

The distribution of the pamphlet “The A.A. Member and Drug Abuse” be continued at this time until it is revised for consideration by the 1984 Conference.

The revision of Chapter 21 of the booklet “Living Sober” be accepted.

The following changes be made in the pamphlets:

- a. “Is A.A. for You?”—Substitute the following words: “disease” for “sick,” and “alcohol” for “booze.” Question #4 should be changed to read “Have you had to have an eye-opener on awakening?”
- b. “This Is A.A.”—Page 5; paragraph 1 should be changed to read: “There are a number of self-proclaimed atheists and agnostics among us.”
- c. “It Happened to Alice”—Should be brought up to date visually. On page 19, the word “fun” should be put in quotes.
- d. “What Happened to Joe?”—Should be brought up to date visually.
- e. “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”—Consider changing the wording on page 15, paragraph 3; and page 13, paragraph 2. The wording should be clear in answering the question on page 13, paragraph 2: “Is a special approach needed for present-day newcomers?”
- f. The revised manuscript of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet not be approved at this time and be returned for further revision.

The word “suggested” in the title of the Twelve Steps not be reinstated.

The 1983 draft of the pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be approved for circulation to Conference members, so that the 1984 Conference may make an informed policy decision as to whether or not the Fellowship will publish and distribute a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic.

The suggestion that a filmstrip be produced on the functions of central and intergroup offices not be approved; and that the 1982 Conference Advisory Action regarding the suggestion for this filmstrip be reaffirmed.

**1984** It was recommended that:

The Bill Wilson biography be approved with the title *Pass It On*. "A.A.—The First Fifty Years" not be approved. [Following lengthy discussion, it was the sense of the meeting that a souvenir booklet for the 1985 International Convention be prepared under the auspices of the General Service Board. In keeping with the precedent set at past International Conventions, a souvenir booklet does not require Conference approval.]

The words "queers" (p. 140) in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* not be changed to "homosexuals and lesbians," recognizing Fellowship feeling that Bill Wilson's textbook writings be retained as originally published.

"The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" be approved with some revision, to replace "The A.A. Member and Drug Abuse."

The General Service Conference not develop a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic, as the need is currently addressed in "Do You Think You're Different?"

The draft of a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be dropped. "The A.A. Group" pamphlet not be illustrated, as artwork is not necessary.

Adding an index to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet is not necessary. "The A.A. Group" pamphlet continue to be distributed with its current content generally intact, as a major revision is not necessary.

The trustees' Literature Committee review "The A.A. Group" pamphlet with an eye toward underscoring the importance of an informed group conscience.

The text of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" referring to "What's the difference between a 'meeting' and a 'group'?" (pp. 32-33) be retained, as the text reflects the spirit of local autonomy.

A "Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet suggested by the trustees' Literature Committee be developed for consideration by the 1985 General Service Conference.

A pamphlet or manual for A.A. central offices/ intergroups not be developed.

The updated illustrations for "What Happened to Joe" and "It Happened to Alice" be approved.

The updated version of "P.O. Box 459" filmstrip be approved.

**1985** It was recommended that:

Preparation of a brochure or pamphlet of a condensed version of the Twelve Concepts be tabled until the 1986 General Service Conference, pending development of the "Twelve Concepts Illustrated."

As a condensed version of the Twelve Concepts would be especially valuable to service workers, the manuscript be reproduced and distributed by the General Service Office as service material.

A.A.W.S., Inc., produce cassette tapes of *A.A. Comes of Age*.

A.A.W.S., Inc., explore the financial feasibility of reproducing the photographs from *A.A. Comes of Age* in a brochure to accompany the cassette album of the same title.

There is no need to add reference to the Big Book as our basic recovery source in all pamphlets and other literature.

There is no need to develop a pamphlet offering guidelines for A.A. meeting discussions.

The previous Conference actions regarding the Fourth and Fifth Step study guides be reaffirmed—i.e., there is no need for Fourth and Fifth Step study guides, as existing literature adequately covers these matters.

Suggested editorial revisions in "Your A.A. G.S.O." pamphlet be approved:

- a. ARCHIVES—replace the question "When did our group start?" with "When did A.A. start in our area?" (The question "When did our A.A. group start?" is now handled in our Records Department.)
- b. WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR G.S.O.?—Under "share your experience"—line three—rewrite "A.A.s help more alcoholics" to read "A.A.s carry our message."

**1986** It was recommended that:

The manuscript and illustrations for the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" be approved.

A definitive book on A.A. history from 1955-1985 be prepared and brought to the 1987 Conference for consideration.

In an effort to strengthen our network of "literature representatives" to ensure that A.A. Literature is available at meetings, as well as catalog order forms for books and cassettes that individuals are likely to want, it is suggested that groups appoint literature coordinators.

The trustees' Committee on Literature complete the updating of the pamphlet "Too Young?" for presentation at the 1987 Conference for approval.

The following pamphlets be updated, if possible, in time for presentation at the 1987 Conference for approval:

- a. "Young People and A.A."
- b. "A.A. and the Armed Forces"

As the preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary.

The italicized footnote regarding Al-Anon at the end of the chapter "To Wives" in the Big Book be retained, as it provides information rather than implying affiliation, but that it be printed in small type as appropriate to a footnote and placed at the bottom of the page.

A story of a gay alcoholic not be included in the Big Book.

There was no need to publish a separate and complete volume of all stories taken from the three editions of the Big Book.

The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, with the exception of Bill W.'s writings, as the items are reprinted, e.g., "staffing the booth" rather than "manning the booth," etc.

In order to determine the need to put more literature in large print, Conference members seek the experience of A.A. members and agencies for the visually impaired and report the findings to the G.S.O. literature coordinator within the year.

A service item for use at A.A. meetings regarding A.A.'s primary purpose be developed by the appropriate trustees' committee and proposed to the appropriate Conference committee at the 1987 Conference.

In "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, in the section "What Do Treasurers Do?," the text relating to the 60-30-10 Plan be reworded to reflect that this suggested plan for groups to divide contributions to A.A. service entities is only applicable in some areas, and reference be made to the finance pamphlet "Supporting the A.A. Support System."

The updated draft for "A.A. for the Woman" be accepted with the exception of the story "I Hated Monday Mornings . . .," and that production proceed under the direction of the trustees' Literature Committee.

In order to determine the need for a daily reflections book, the Conference members ask A.A. members in their areas and report the findings to the G.S.O. literature coordinator by January 1, 1987, for consideration by the 1987 Conference.

The Conference reaffirm the spirit of the 1977 Conference action regarding group literature displays, and recommended the suggestion that A.A. groups be encouraged to display or sell only literature published and distributed by the General Service Office, the A.A. Grapevine and other A.A. entities.

Because the story section is still up to date, there is no need to develop a fourth edition of the Big Book at this time.

To establish the need for additional formats of the Big Book, an explicit questionnaire (describing the preferred Lexitone—softcover—samples of (1) the pocket size and (2) first eleven chapters, plus Dr. Bob's story) be developed for use by the delegates in surveying A.A. groups in their areas. It is further recommended that area delegates be responsible for distributing the questionnaires and returning them to G.S.O. by July 15, 1986, and that the results be reported to all Conference members by August 1, 1986. Should the survey results indicate, in the judgment of the General Service Board, substantial requests for additional format(s), A.A.W.S. may act as necessary.

Regarding the suggestion to change the seal designating General Service-Conference approved literature to the Three Legacies seal, no action be taken since the Conference has reserved that seal for Conference-approved literature; however, the committee commends the idea of making the Fellowship more aware of our Three Legacies. (Policy)

**1987** It was recommended that:

The following statement regarding A.A.'s primary purpose be available as an A.A. service piece.

THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. In support of A.A.'s singleness of purpose, attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting. We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems, as they relate to alcoholism.

The following statement regarding A.A.'s primary purpose be available as an A.A. service piece.

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here—especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

The updated manuscript for "Too Young?" be approved.

Because of insufficient expressed need, no large-print literature for the visually impaired be prepared at this time.

Although there is some desire to publish the first 181 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in soft-cover, there is not sufficient need at this time.

The trustees' Literature Committee undertake development of a daily reflections book based on individual A.A.'s (including Bill W.'s) sharing based on the Traditions and Steps, and that a progress report be submitted to the 1988 Conference Literature Committee.

A pamphlet for the Native North American be prepared by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 1988 General Service Conference.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider publishing a special issue written by Native North Americans and devoted to their recovery stories.

The following editorial changes be made in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet:

Since a number of groups send their inventories to G.S.O. that are mainly helpful only to themselves, the parenthetical sentence on page 34, "(If your group tries an inventory, please let G.S.O. know the results.)" be changed to read: "(Please share with G.S.O. those benefits of your group's inventory which might be of help to other groups.)"

To reaffirm A.A.'s purpose as stated by our co-founder, Bill W.'s writings on "Single Purpose" as they appear on page 304 in *As Bill Sees It* be added to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.

The phrase on page 25 that reads: "...the stigma attached by ignorant people to our illness..." be changed to read "the stigma attached by people ignorant of our illness..."

The phrase on page 30 that reads: "Most of us do not want to cater to the cruel stigma unjustly attached by ignorant people..." be changed to "Most of us do not want to cater to the cruel stigma unjustly attached by people ignorant of our illness..."

The phrase on page 33 that reads: "On the other hand, specialized *groups*—men's, women's, gays'..." be changed to read "On the other hand, specialized *gatherings*—men's, women's, gays'..." because, although the intent was to use the word "group" in a generic sense, its use confuses the issue about the difference between a meeting and a group.

In the pamphlet "44 Questions," page 19, the language be changed to read "Most members arrange to attend meetings as frequently as possible," rather than "Most members arrange to attend at least one meeting a week."

The trustees' Literature Committee further explore the need for simplified material for those with limited vocabularies and report its findings to the 1988 Conference.

A report on the progress of The History of A.A.: 1955-1985 book be made to the 1988 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1988** It was recommended that:

Work continue on the A.A. history book, and that this be subject to further editing through the coordinating efforts of each regional trustee with each delegate for further updating, corrections, and additional information.

The revision of the manuscript of "A.A. and the Armed Services" be accepted with the following changes:

The Marine story from the current pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" be included in the revised pamphlet.

The manuscript be returned for editing of Charles' story, to include consideration of references to "drug addiction."

The copy on the A.A. Group Structure be approved with the following additions:

- a. That "Cooperation With the Professional Community/ Public Information Representatives" be added to the diagram entitled "Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group."
- b. That the term "institutions representative" be changed to "treatment facilities/correctional facilities representative."
- c. That the six-point definition of an A.A. group found on page 32 of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be added to the copy of the second paragraph.

The copy on the structure of an A.A. group be added as a chapter to *The A.A. Service Manual*, pending approval by the Conference Report and Charter Committee.

The copy on the structure of an A.A. group be:

- a. Produced as a flyer suitable for insertion in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, and also as a continuing piece of literature.
- b. Included in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet at the next revision.

The copy "The Home Group" be accepted for inclusion in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet with the following stipulations:

- a. That the third paragraph, page two be underlined, "*Obviously, as with all group conscience matters, each A.A. member has one vote, and this, ideally, would be through their 'Home Group.'*"
- b. That on page three, paragraph three, line two, "...and greeting newcomers at the door" be added.
- c. That where repetition of information occurs in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, it be deleted.

"Specialized *gatherings*" found on page 33 of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be changed to "specialized *meetings*."

The article in the April/May issue of *Box 4-5-9* entitled "Service Sponsorship: A Vital Stepping-Stone to Service and Sobriety" be prepared as a service piece with "Kiwanis Club types" on page four, paragraph two, line three, changed to "Club types."

The manuscript for the Native North American not be approved as presented, but that this manuscript be returned for editing to include consideration of the references to drug addiction, chemical dependency, "junkie" and "clean" and then upon completion of editing be approved for publication.

A more simplified draft of an easy-to-read, illustrated pamphlet of "Is A.A. for You?" be prepared for consideration by the 1989 Conference.

"This is A.A." and "44 Questions" as illustrated flyers not be published at this time.

A simplified, easy-to-read, illustrated "Twelve Steps" pamphlet be prepared for consideration by the 1989 Conference.

Work continue on the Daily Reflections Book and that a request be made for additional manuscripts to be submitted from the Fellowship on any Step, Tradition, or writings by Bill W. coordinated through each delegate with a progress report to be presented at the 1989 Conference.

The Primary Purpose Card continue as a service piece.

The 1980 Task Force recommendation and Conference Action be reaffirmed.

"Any factual or statistical information may be updated whenever practical without having to go through the process of Conference Action, i.e., whenever inventory runs low, a new survey is completed, etc. In addition, minor copy cuts to make room for new material added to publications may be made when necessary."

And further recommended:

"That any other changes made in the substance of the Conference-approved literature shall be through the Conference process."

The revised pamphlet "Young People in A.A." be approved for publication with one following revision, that all personal reference be removed from page 51, line 3.

The Self-support flyer "Your DCM" be Conference approved.

A draft of a pamphlet for the gay/lesbian alcoholic be prepared and reviewed by the 1989 Conference.

A proposal from the Northern Minnesota area regarding the use of surveys to determine the need for Conference-approved literature be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration at the 1989 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1989** It was recommended that:

Work continue on a definitive book on A.A. History from 1955, as recommended by the 1986 General Service Conference, along the lines of a proposal recently submitted to the trustees' Literature Committee, which focuses on major events and developments since the co-founder turned s.A.A. over to the Fellowship, rather than focusing on the beginning of A.A. and the history of the 91 areas of the U.S. and Canada.

A complete manuscript of Daily Reflections be prepared for review by the 1990 Conference Literature Committee because of the good response to the appeals for additional material from the Fellowship.

Work continue on an easy-to-read, illustrated Twelve Steps pamphlet suitable for people with very limited reading skills.

An illustrated, easy-to-read manuscript entitled "Is A.A. for Me?" be approved to help carry the message to people with limited reading skills.

The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be thoroughly revised to address the many issues and concerns related to A.A. groups which come before the committee year after year such as:

- a. The difference between a group and a meeting;
- b. Meeting formats;
- c. How to obtain a group conscience;
- d. The duties of trusted servants and their alternates;

and others, as described in an outline of contents submitted by the trustees' Literature Committee.

The manuscript for a pamphlet for gay and lesbian alcoholics be approved with specific editorial changes which will be reviewed by the Conference Literature Committee before publication, and that the title be "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic."

The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be made available in large print because of an indicated need over the years.

The 16mm film entitled "A.A.—An Inside View" be made available for sale in lieu of long-term lease with the understanding that the film's copyright is sufficient protection against misuse by outside entities. This recommendation is consistent with our distribution policy for our more recent films which are available to the general public.

All Conference-approved literature shall be developed within the Conference structure, but that identification of need may be established by use of questionnaires developed in cooperation with the appropriate standing Conference committees. (Policy/Admissions)

**1990** It was recommended that:



The revised manuscript for "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be approved with the following change:

The first sentence in the section on Group Inventory, manuscript page 47, be changed to read: "Many groups periodically hold a 'group inventory' meeting to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose: to help alcoholics recover through A.A.'s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery."

The A.A. History book project continue to completion, and that the time frame covered be expanded to include 1955 to the present.

The manuscript of the daily reflections book be approved with the following specific changes:

- a. All references to "we" be changed to "I."
- b. The page for June 17 delete the words "(Psalm 130)" from line 1 of the reflection.
- c. There be an addition of a page for February 29; that page to be the "alternate" for March entitled "True Tolerance."
- d. That these words be imprinted on the cover of the book: "This is a book of reflections by A.A. members for A.A. members."

The text and illustrations for the proposed Twelve Steps Illustrated pamphlet be referred to the trustees' Literature Committee for rewriting of the easy-to-read text, with the recommendation that this language be further simplified and shortened into simple statements that would direct attention to the illustrations, without attempting to rewrite the Steps; and bring the text back to the 1991 General Service Conference for approval.

The proposal for a pamphlet on the spiritual aspects of A.A. not be approved, because there is not sufficient need at this time.

The trustees' Literature Committee study the feasibility of updating the "Circles of Love and Service" filmstrip and video, because of the need to include current information and conditions, and report their findings to the 1991 Conference Literature Committee.

The trustees' Literature Committee and the Conference Literature Committee consider the paragraph containing the six-point definition in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, and bring a report and recommendation regarding this back to the 1991 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1991** It was recommended that:

The A.A. History Book project continue to completion, and that a manuscript be forwarded to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee for consideration and approval.

The eleven minor changes suggested by the trustees' Literature Committee and revised by this committee be included at the next printing of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, with the exception of insert #2 containing the six-point definition of an A.A. group, which will be deleted.

The "Circles of Love and Service" filmstrip, slides and video not be updated, and that these visual formats be discontinued once the present inventory is depleted. Thereafter, should there be requests for a copy of the video format, it will be provided at cost.

The proposed Twelve Steps Illustrated pamphlet be published, in response to an expressed need for simplified literature. Estimated cost: \$7,000.

A story of a young person who entered A.A. while in prison be added to the "Young People and A.A." pamphlet.

- a. The trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee obtain appropriate stories of several young people who entered

A.A. while in juvenile correctional facilities, and forward these to the trustees' Literature Committee for consideration.

- b. The trustees' Literature Committee forward one such story to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee for consideration and addition to the "Young People and A.A." pamphlet.

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be added to *Daily Reflections* at the time of the next printing.

The text of the proposed reflection titled "One A.A. Miracle" be substituted for the present February 29th entry in *Daily Reflections* at the next printing, because of the duplication of entries in the current printing.

The trustees' Literature Committee study the best possible ways to carry our message to minorities through illustrations and text in A.A. literature, including existing publications and audio and visual formats, and report their findings to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee.

At the next printing of "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet, the line "It is significant that the 'Twelve Concepts for World Service' is the *only* piece of Conference-approved literature that carries a personal by-line: 'by Bill W.,'" be deleted, as that statement is no longer accurate.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be published in large print, in response to an expressed need. Estimated cost of proofreading: \$500.

The questionnaires in seven Conference-approved pamphlets not be standardized, as the questions in each are targeted to specific populations.

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be included in all recovery literature, wherever possible.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The story of "John" (a young person who entered A.A. while in prison) be added to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." as per the 1991 Conference Action.

The 1986 Advisory Actions (listed below) pertaining to sexist language in the Big Book and other Bill W. writings adequately address the issue:

"As the preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary." (Advisory Action #31)

"The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, with the exception of Bill W.'s writings, as the items are reprinted, e.g., 'staffing the booth' rather than 'manning the booth,' etc." (Advisory Action #35)

In lieu of a moratorium on new literature, the ongoing Literature Advisory Subcommittee composed of trustees, delegates and G.S.O. staff continue to review in depth all current and proposed Conference-approved material and service pieces to assure that:

- a. we discourage unnecessary duplication;
- b. we encourage that our singleness of purpose is foremost;
- c. we encourage simplification wherever possible; and report back to the 1993 General Service Conference.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service (short form) be included in all service pamphlets, wherever feasible.

The six-point definition of an A.A. group be removed from all literature and replaced by the long form of Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six, Concept XII (listed below):

Tradition Three:

“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

Warranty Six:

“. . .much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the A.A. Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group: no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles; no fees or dues to be levied—voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from A.A.—membership always to be the choice of the individual; each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes—it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, *as a group*, they have no other purpose or affiliation.”

The trustees’ Literature Committee review the terminology of “minorities” and consider that our singleness of purpose is carrying the message to *alcoholics*.

The new A.A. History Book manuscript be returned to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee for further review, and then forwarded to the 1993 Conference Literature Committee.

The trustees’ Committee on Literature develop material on Service Sponsorship to be forwarded to the 43rd General Service Conference Committee on Report and Charter for possible inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Floor Action)

**1993** It was recommended that:

A.A.W.S. produce an anonymity display card with the following verbiage:

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. Please respect this and treat in confidence who you see and what you hear.”

Because of strong sentiment against any changes in the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the request to rewrite the first three chapters of the Big Book not be implemented.

The 1977 Advisory Action pertaining to the production of a facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book be reaffirmed:

“The publication of a facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book should not be undertaken as it would destroy the sentimental value of the actual first edition.”

The committee further felt no need exists for such a book.

A.A.W.S. produce a pocket-sized version of the Big Book with all front matter (Preface and various forewords, Doctor’s Opinion), basic text, Dr. Bob’s Story and Appendices.

The A.A. History Book project be deferred for two years so that a new team of A.A. servants can look at the History Book with fresh ideas.

**1994** It was recommended that:

“District Meetings” be added to the inverted triangle in “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated” pamphlet after the current inventory is depleted.

The following changes be made in the “G.S.R.” pamphlet:

- a. Panel 2, #3  
Delete the word “also” from the second to last sentence.  
Delete the last sentence “You might like to suggest that your group buy its own copy” and replace it with: “Copies of the report are available to groups upon request.”

- b. Panel 2, #3  
Delete the word “feeling” in the third sentence and replace it with the word “conscience” so that the sentence now reads “Via your D.C.M. and your delegate, you can see to it that your group’s *conscience* on matters of importance. . .”
- c. Panel 3, #4  
Insert the words “or your district or area registrar” in the first paragraph after the words “your area committee” so that the sentence now reads, “. . .to the secretary of your area committee, or your district or area registrar and to G.S.O. . . .”
- d. Panel 3, #5  
Delete the words “the directory” in the first sentence. The sentence now reads “In return, G.S.O. sends you the G.S.R. kit. . .”
- e. Panel 3, #7  
Delete “60-30-10 plan for” and insert the words “importance of.” In the same sentence after “. . . G.S.O.,” add the word “district.” The sentence now reads, “You explain the importance of financial support of your intergroup/central office, G.S.O, district and area committee . . .”
- f. Panel 4, #11  
Delete the numeral 15 from the first sentence. Because the A.A. guidelines are in constant flux, the numeral 15 is no longer applicable in this sentence.
- g. Panel 5, #4  
Insert the words “district or” in the sentence. The sentence now reads: “If your district or area committee . . .”
- h. Panel 5, #8  
At the end of the paragraph, delete the words “public information, institutions, etc.” The paragraph now ends with the words “. . . on special committees.”
- i. Panel 6  
Delete the entire first paragraph and replace it with “Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.’s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.” (*A.A. Service Manual*, page 7)
- j. Panel 6  
Fourth paragraph, change the numeral “90” to “91.” The sentence now reads “. . . a body of about 91 delegates . . .”

The entire sentence “Mood-changing medications—including uppers, sedatives, and antidepressants are usually a threat to sobriety and you may want to learn more about this” be deleted from page 18 in the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?” and that the next sentence in the paragraph, “The pamphlet ‘The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs’ discusses the problem in detail.” be moved to the end of the same paragraph on page 19.

The sentence now reads, “. . . and either course may lead a sober alcoholic back to the first drink. The pamphlet ‘The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs’ discusses the problem in detail.”

The text of material on “Service Sponsorship” submitted by the trustees’ Literature Committee be included in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” when current inventory is depleted.

The circle and triangle logo be discontinued on all Conference-approved literature.

The words “This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved Literature” be displayed on the front cover of all A.A. Conference-approved literature wherever possible.

On page S129 in the 1993-94 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* the portion of the following sentence—which is no longer applicable—in bold, stricken, through type be deleted and the italicized print be substituted as follows: (Report and Charter)

*“This process takes time—months—but the results are worth the effort. When the pamphlet or book is finally completed, it is entitled to (~~carry the “Conference approved” seal, having fully earned it~~) bear the designation, “This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved Literature.”*

[Circle/Triangle Design With Words “General Service Conference” is Deleted]

**1995** It was recommended that:

Minor changes in the text of Tradition Three in the “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet be implemented after the current inventory is depleted.

Changes in “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be implemented after the current inventory is depleted.

The following paragraph referring to Concept One that was deleted from “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be reinstated:

“The A.A. Group—the final voice of the Fellowship. Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because ‘The ultimate responsibility and final authority for World Services resides with the groups—rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York.’” (“The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” pamphlet)

The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.

A pocket edition of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be published.

A video on ways that G.S.O. serves the Fellowship be developed, with accompanying service pamphlet.

Note: The committee strongly encouraged the video to include the service structure in some way, similar to the video “Circles of Love and Service,” which has been discontinued. The cost: Current estimates for a 14-minute live action video with voice-over would cost between \$30,000-\$60,000. The accompanying pamphlet would cost about \$6,000.

**1997** It was recommended that:

Some video taping of a facsimile of the 47th General Service Conference, as well as of a Conference committee, be permitted, keeping in mind the preservation of our Traditions of anonymity. (For possible inclusion in the video on G.S.O., the Grapevine and the service structure).

After reviewing with appreciation the rough cut of the video on G.S.O., the Grapevine and the service structure, that a final cut of the video be prepared by the trustees’ Literature Committee and forwarded to the 1998 Conference Literature Committee for approval, accompanied by its service piece and including modifications provided to the trustees’ Literature Committee.

A draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 1998 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that:

“The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is.”

A publication of stories dropped from the First, Second and Third Editions of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, and a progress report be brought to the 1998 Conference Literature Committee.

The following material from the Sixth Warranty be added to the section “What is An A.A. Group?” on page 15 of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet so that section could now include:

A section from Warranty Six found in the Twelfth Concept on page 73 of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles;

no fees or dues to be levied—voluntary contributions only.

no members to be expelled from A.A.—membership always to be the choice of the individual;

each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes—it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally

that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, *as a group*, they have no other purpose or affiliation.”

**1998** It was recommended that:

The video, “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure,” be approved for distribution.

A draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, continue to be developed and a progress report brought to the 1999 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind that, if a Fourth Edition Big Book is published, it will require Conference approval and the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is.”

The following sections from the pamphlet “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs” be added as an appendix to the booklet *Living Sober* at its next printing:

The lead-in and 9 points on pages 5 & 6 in the section entitled “A report from a group of physicians in A.A.”

Page 13 entitled “However, some alcoholics require medication...” (Floor Action)

**1999** It was recommended that:

A progress report and/or a draft copy of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be brought to the 2000 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind, that if a Fourth Edition Big Book is published, it will require Conference approval and the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is.”

The Publications Department of the General Service Office maintain the following specific editorial responsibilities regarding the Fourth Edition Big Book Project:

- Editorial “fine tuning” such as footnotes, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, updating, jacket materials, page numbers, etc. Thus, page numbers are likely to change for content after page 164.
- Coordinating the flow of work between the book designer, typesetters, proofreaders and the production people, who order the paper and schedule the printing with the book manufacturer.
- In the case of the proposed Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the G.S.O. editors would prepare or coordinate new material and changes such as:

<b>New Material</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Cover and jacket design	Title Page
Jacket copy	Contents Page
Preface	Factual material that appears
Foreword to the Fourth Edition	in footnotes
	Introductions to personal stories

Based on precedent in regard to previous editions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the A.A. history book, and *Daily Reflections*, any draft copy of the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be considered a work-in-progress, and as such, is confidential; the operating principle being that any story material brought forward to the Conference Literature Committee will be done on a “for-their-eyes-only” basis adhering to the principle of the “right of decision,” and not brought forward for any other general distribution until publication.

A draft copy of a pamphlet directed to the Black/African American alcoholic be developed and brought back to the 2000 Conference Literature Committee for review.

The pamphlet “Time to Start Living” be replaced with a new pamphlet to include fewer stories, stories more reflective of the current older population and stories focused more on the recovery experience of the older member, as well as having a new title and published in large print only.

**2000** It was recommended that:

Following serious consideration of the comments and suggestions expressed at a joint meeting of the trustees’ and Conference Literature Committees about the proposed new stories and the list of stories from the Third Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* to be included in the Fourth Edition, a draft copy of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, or a progress report be brought to the 2001 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind that if a Fourth Edition Big Book is published, it will require Conference approval and the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is.”

**2001** It was recommended that:

The Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be approved keeping in mind the 1995 Conference Advisory Action which reads, “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is” and keeping in mind the 1999 Conference Action which reads, “The Publications Department of the General Service Office maintain the following specific editorial responsibilities regarding the Fourth Edition Big Book Project:

- Editorial ‘fine tuning’ such as footnotes, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, updating, jacket materials, page numbers, etc. Thus, page numbers are likely to change for content after page 164.
- Coordinating the flow of work between the book designer, typesetters, proofreaders and the production people, who order the paper and schedule the printing with the book manufacturer.
- In the case of the proposed Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the G.S.O. editors would prepare or coordinate new material and changes such as:

<b>New Material</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Cover and jacket design	Title Page
Jacket copy	Contents Page
Preface	Factual material that appears

Foreword to the Fourth Edition	in footnotes
	Introductions to personal stories

**Note:** In keeping with the 1997 Conference Action which requested the development of a publication of stories dropped from the First, Second and Third Editions of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the committee asked that the trustees’ Literature Committee bring a draft manuscript of these stories to the 2002 Conference Literature Committee.

Keeping in mind the 1995 Conference Advisory Action which reads, “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is,” the current Preface be updated for the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The Publications Department of the General Service Office be responsible for the order of stories in the Fourth Edition of the Big Book following page 164 and “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” which will remain as the first story in the “Pioneers of A.A.” section.

**Note:** The committee suggested that the Personal Stories Section Titles in the Fourth Edition of the Big Book remain “Pioneers of A.A.,” “They Stopped in Time,” and “They Lost Nearly All.”

The Twelve Concepts (short form), with a brief introduction, be added to the Appendices Section in future printings of the Big Book.

G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site address be added to the Appendix “How to Get in Touch with A.A.” in future printings of the Big Book.

The pamphlet “Can A.A. Help Me Too?—Black/African Americans Share Their Stories” be approved.

A pamphlet titled “A.A. For the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late” to replace the pamphlet “Time to Start Living” be approved for publication after the current pamphlet inventory is depleted.

The pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late” be published in 14 point type, large-print format only, as this format would fit our current literature racks.

**2002** It was recommended that:

In keeping with the 1997 Conference Action which requested the development of a publication of stories dropped from the First, Second and Third Editions of the Big Book, the publication of an Anthology of the last published version of the 56 stories dropped from the First, Second and Third Editions of the Big Book be approved with the title “Experience, Strength and Hope.”

Recognizing the historical nature of the book “Experience, Strength and Hope” and recognizing the fact that editorial changes have been made to various personal stories in later printings of the Big Book, the versions to be printed in “Experience, Strength and Hope” will be the last published version of each story, and those versions remain as is.

The Publications Department of the General Service Office maintain the following specific editorial responsibilities regarding the Big Book Dropped Stories Anthology Project with the title “Experience, Strength and Hope”:

- Coordinating the flow of work between the book designer, typesetters, proofreaders and the production people, who order the paper and schedule the printing with the book manufacturer.
- The G.S.O. editors would prepare or coordinate new material such as:

<b>New Material</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Cover and jacket design	Contents page

Jacket copy	Factual material that appears
Jacket materials	in footnotes
Preface/Foreword	Introductions to personal stories.

All new text material in “Experience, Strength and Hope” is to be reviewed by the trustees’ Literature Committee prior to publication.

The second sentence in the third question in the “A.A. Group Inventory” section, page 35 of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet, be changed to add the phrase “including those with special needs,” so the question reads “Are we seeing a good cross section of our community, including those with special needs?”

The word “accessible” be added to question ten in the “A.A. Group Inventory” section, page 36 of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet, so the question reads “Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?”

The text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writings be retained as originally published.

The second sentence in the second paragraph on page 8 in the pamphlet “This Is A.A.” be changed from “There are even a few self-proclaimed atheists and agnostics among us,” to “There are also atheists and agnostics among us.”

The first sentence, first paragraph on page 36 in the pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman” be changed from “Yes, A.A. is a spiritual program, providing no material aid, but it is not a religious program in any sectarian sense,” to “Yes, A.A. is a spiritual program, not a religious program.”

The sentence “Some areas, however, rotate half their committee members each year,” appearing in 2001-2002 *The A.A. Service Manual* be added to the “When is the D.C.M. elected?” section of the “Your D.C.M.” flyer.

Updated text, reflecting changes in the G.S.O. Group Services assignment, information about the A.A. G.S.O. Web site, and minor editorial changes, be added to the “Your A.A. General Service Office” pamphlet.

An updated draft copy of the “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet be developed to include current experience of A.A. members in the armed services to be brought back to the 2003 Conference Literature Committee for review.

Although the committee acknowledged the importance of electronic meetings to some A.A. members, the sentence “Fundamentally, though, the difference between an electronic meeting and the home group around the corner is only one of format,” in the last paragraph of the Foreword to the Fourth Edition, be deleted in future printings of the Big Book, *Alcoholic Anonymous*.

**2003** It was recommended that:

A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be developed by the General Service Office’s Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees’ Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and would include the following information:

- Time and era of publication
- Language as a reflection of the time period

Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action:

“It was unanimously recommended that the text in the

book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writings be retained as originally published.”

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and non alcoholics.

The updated draft manuscript of the “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet be approved.

Note: This draft manuscript was not distributed to all Conference members based on the 1993 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee:

“The committee reviewed Conference policy as it relates to restricted or confidential matters, and agreed that restrictions apply only to legal matters that are pending, and to literature/audiovisual projects that are works in progress.”

The following changes to “The A.A. Grapevine” section of “Your A.A. General Service Office” pamphlet be approved:

- Replace the second sentence “Members of the editorial staff are A.A.s; the controller, circulation supervisor, and clerical workers are nonalcoholics” with the sentence “Some of the editorial staff are A.A. members.”
- Add a third sentence “Since 1995 the Grapevine has also published La Viña for Spanish-speaking A.A.s.”
- Replace the last sentence “All stories submitted are acknowledged with personal letters” with the sentence “All stories submitted are acknowledged by the Grapevine staff.”

The phrase, “not even your parents,” be deleted from the second sentence in the sixth panel of the story “Vinnie” in the pamphlet “Too Young.”

The trustees’ Literature Committee initiate a comprehensive review of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet, and that the trustees’ Literature Committee bring a draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration. The committee requests that the secretary of the trustees’ Literature Committee send a letter to all General Service Conference members requesting suggestions for updates or revisions to this pamphlet.

The following text changes to add La Viña information to “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be approved:

- Change “Grapevine Representative” to “Grapevine/ La Viña Representative” on the chart on page 24.
- Change fourth paragraph title on page 27 from “Grapevine Representative (GvR)” to “Grapevine/ La Viña Representative (GvR/RLV).”
- Add new third paragraph as follows to the “Grapevine Representative (GvR)” section on page 27:

“La Viña representatives (RLVs) perform the same functions as the GvRs in Spanish-speaking groups and districts where La Viña, the Grapevine’s magazine in Spanish, is ‘our meeting in print.’ Some districts or groups may also combine GvR and RLV functions.”

- Change address and Grapevine material information on pages 27 and 28 to read:

- “New GvRs and RLVs should send their name, address, group name and group service number to: the Grapevine, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1040, New York, NY 10115.
- . . . and for books, tape cassettes, CDs and other Grapevine items available.”

The updated illustrations and text revisions suggested by the trustees' Literature Committee to reflect contemporary language, clothing and hair styles and to add ethnic and age diversity to the pamphlet "What Happened to Joe..." be approved. All text and illustration changes in the revised pamphlet "What Happened to Joe" are to be reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee prior to publication.

Based on a suggestion from the trustees' Literature Committee, a draft manuscript of a new comic book format pamphlet which would have current language and updated illustrations to replace the pamphlet 'It Happened to Alice!' be developed and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for review. The concept for this pamphlet would be based on a single working mother who is involved in a drunk-driving incident followed by introduction to A.A.

The development of a Third Edition of the Spanish-language Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, by the trustees' Literature Committee be approved and that a report from the trustees' Literature Committee be brought to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee specifying suggestions for contents, process and story solicitation for the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book.

**2004** It was recommended that:

The Publications Department rewrite the pamphlet "Too Young?" with changes to layout and style as determined by Publications, targeting the ages of 11-17, and present the revised draft pamphlet to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee following review by the trustees' Literature Committee.

The Publications Department update and shorten existing stories, wherever appropriate, in the pamphlet "Young People and A.A.," and that the trustees' Literature Committee add new younger age stories solicited from the Fellowship to reflect current experience, and present the revised draft pamphlet or a progress report to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee.

A draft Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed by the trustees' Literature Committee and that a progress report be brought back to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee, in keeping with the trustees' recommendations on contents, process and story solicitation, as follows:

## I Contents

- a. The Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book to be similar in page count to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.
- b. The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.'s writings and does not require Conference approval.
- c. Personal Stories:
  - Retain selected stories from current Spanish-language Second Edition.
  - Select stories from A.A.'s La Viña magazine.
  - Select new stories from Spanish-speaking membership.
  - Stories to be designated to three main sections similar to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.

## II Story Solicitation

- a. Within the United States and Canada and internationally to Spanish-speaking countries.

## III Story Selection Process

- a. To be under the direction of the trustees' Literature subcommittee on the Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book.
- b. Story selection subcommittee:
  - All bilingual — Spanish and English
  - Spanish editors
  - Spanish-speaking staff members
  - Chair to appoint some subcommittee members from the Fellowship
- c. Basic Selection Criteria:
  - To use the same criteria as the English Fourth Edition Big Book based on Bill W.'s recommendations.
  - Each story must, as Bill W. recommended, reach out to the newcomer who is still looking for the A.A. solution.
  - Each story must be a standard A.A. story that tells what it was like, what happened, and what it is like today.

The text on page 11 under the heading "May a newcomer have more than one sponsor?" in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be removed and replaced with the following text:

"Many feel it is best for a newcomer to have only one sponsor. Choosing one sponsor helps to avoid the precarious practice of a newcomer going from sponsor to sponsor seeking the advice he or she wants to hear.

"However, some newcomers benefit from more than one sponsor. Here the newcomer shares in a wide range of experience and hears a great variety of ways to use the A.A. program. In addition, this is a means of averting the crisis mentioned in the preceding question—it is unlikely that two or more sponsors would be unavailable at the same time."

and, the sentence "Again, the answer is yes." be removed from the paragraph under the heading "May a newcomer change sponsors?" on page 11.

The trustees' Literature Committee broaden the section titled "service sponsorship" on page 28 in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect current shared experience and present a revised draft to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee.

The punctuation in "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" in the Fourth Edition be restored as it appears in the Third Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. (Floor Action)

**2005** It was recommended that:

The following introduction be added to the front matter of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

### **Introduction**

Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and "it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill

W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writing be retained as originally published."

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

The pamphlet "Young People and A.A." be revised to include eleven current, and eight new stories, and that the Publications Department forward the revised draft pamphlet or a progress report to the 2006 Conference Literature Committee following review by the trustees' Literature Committee.

The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, continue to be developed, keeping in mind the 2004 Conference Advisory Action regarding the trustees' recommendations on contents, process and story solicitation and that a progress report and/or draft copy be brought to the 2006 Conference Literature Committee.

The addition of the following four paragraphs to the current section titled "Service Sponsorship" in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be approved with minor revisions to the current pamphlet text suggested by the committee:

- a. ...A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer —ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service. — The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, page S1.
- b. A service sponsor is usually someone who is knowledgeable in A.A. history and has a strong background in the service structure. The A.A. member is introduced to a new language: G.S.R., D.C.M., area assembly, minority opinion. They will become familiar with the Traditions, Concepts and General Warranties, as well as the A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, A.A. Comes of Age and other A.A. literature.
- c. Co-founder Dr. Bob said, "I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:
  1. Sense of duty.
  2. It is a pleasure.
  3. Because in doing so I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
  4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."
- d. The basis of all sponsorship is to lead by example. Service sponsors can impart to their sponsees the pleasure of involvement in the work of Alcoholics Anonymous. This is best done by stressing the spiritual nature of service work and by pointing out the usefulness of simple footwork and faith.

The manuscript of the revised pamphlet "The A.A. Group" that includes revisions suggested by the committee be approved.

The text under the heading "The A.A. Grapevine" in the pamphlet "Your A.A. General Service Office" be replaced with the following:

### **The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.**

As it has since 1944, the A.A. Grapevine serves as the monthly magazine of Alcoholics Anonymous. Articles, drawings and photographs, which reflect the growth of A.A. over the years, are not paid for, but contributed by members in free sharing of experience and thought, as at an A.A. meeting. You do not have to be a professional writer or artist to

contribute to the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña, A.A.'s Spanish-language magazine. All submissions are welcomed and acknowledged. Manuscripts are always read by A.A. members on the editorial staff. Published material is protected by copyright, held by the A.A. Grapevine Inc. — a corporation entirely separate from A.A. World Services, Inc.

For editorial submissions, or to subscribe to the magazines, please contact the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115; or visit the Web site at [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org).

The term "sexual preference" be replaced with "sexual orientation" on page 10 in the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic."

**2006** It was recommended that:

The revised draft pamphlet "Too Young?" be approved.

The revised draft pamphlet "It Happened To Alice!" be approved.

The pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" be revised.

The word "largely" be added to the second sentence in the second paragraph of the preface to the Fourth Edition on page xi, as it originally appeared in the preface of the Second Edition, so that the sentence reads:

"Therefore, the first portion of this volume, describing the A.A. recovery program, has been left largely untouched in the course of revisions made for the second, third, and fourth editions."

Note: Keeping in mind the note that was included with the 1955 General Service Conference Advisory Actions, "In presenting the updating of the first edition of the Big Book, Bill described the background of his long-range writing project and made the following point(s): 1. 'Not an iota' of the first part of the text dealing with recovery principles had been changed," the committee agreed that the addition of the word "largely" accurately reflects revisions made to the first 164 pages of the Big Book and is consistent with the original language in the preface to the Second Edition.

The word "largely" be added to the second sentence in the first paragraph in the Introduction to the book, *Experience, Strength, and Hope* on page ix, so that the sentence reads:

"In all four editions, the first 164 pages have remained largely unchanged, preserving A.A.'s message just as it was originally recorded by the founding members."

The draft manuscript of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." be approved.

The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, continue to be developed and that a report be brought back to the 2007 Conference Literature Committee, in keeping with a 2004 Conference Advisory Action on contents, story solicitation, and process, as follows:

### I Contents

- a. The Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book to be similar in page count to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.
- b. The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.'s writings and does not require Conference approval.

- c. Personal Stories:
  - Retain selected stories from current Spanish-language Second Edition.
  - Select stories from A.A.'s La Viña magazine.
  - Select new stories from Spanish-speaking membership.
  - Stories to be designated to three main sections similar to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.

## II Story Solicitation

- a. Within the United States and Canada and internationally to Spanish-speaking countries.

## III Story Selection Process

- a. To be under the direction of the trustees' Literature subcommittee on the Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book.
- b. Story selection subcommittee:
  - All bilingual — Spanish and English.
  - Spanish editors.
  - Spanish-speaking staff members.
  - Chair to appoint some subcommittee members from the Fellowship.
- c. Basic Selection Criteria:
  - To use the same criteria as the English Fourth Edition Big Book based on Bill W.'s recommendations.
  - Each story must, as Bill W. recommended, reach out to the newcomer who is still looking for the A.A. solution.
  - Each story must be a standard A.A. story that tells what it was like, what happened, and what it is like today.

The pamphlet "Letter to A Woman Alcoholic" be discontinued.

**2007** It was recommended that:

The following text from *The A.A. Service Manual* be added to "The A.A. Group" and the "G.S.R." pamphlets:

"Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support for their general service representatives to attend service functions."

The title of the pamphlet "Can A.A. Help Me Too?" subtitled "Black/African Americans Share Their Stories" be changed to "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic."

The pamphlet, "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" be revised to include current experience of A.A. members and that a revised draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Literature.

The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be produced, keeping in mind the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on contents, story selection, and process, as follows:

## I Contents

- a. The Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book to be similar in page count to the English Fourth Edition Big Book
- b. The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.'s writings and does not require Conference-approval.
- c. Personal Stories:

- Retain selected stories from current Spanish-language Second Edition.
- Select stories from A.A.'s La Vina magazine.
- Select new stories from Spanish-speaking membership.
- Stories to be designated to three main sections similar to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.

## II Story Solicitation

- a. Within the United States and Canada and internationally to Spanish-speaking countries.

## III Story Selection Process

- a. To be under the direction of the trustees' Literature subcommittee on the Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book.
- b. Story selection subcommittee:
  - All bilingual—Spanish and English:
  - Spanish editors.
  - Spanish-speaking staff members.
  - Chair to appoint some subcommittee members from the Fellowship.
- c. Basic Selection Criteria:
  - To use the same criteria as the English Fourth Edition Big Book based on Bill W.'s recommendations.
  - Each story must, as Bill W. recommended, reach out to the newcomer who is still looking for the A.A. solution.
  - Each story must be a standard A.A. story that tells what it was like, what happened, and what it is like today.

and, that the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book include:

- *Updated translations* of Bill's Own Story, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, the stories "Alcoholics Anonymous #3" and "Women Suffer Too."
- The existing twelve original stories from the Second Edition Spanish-language Big Book.
- Up to 32 new selected Spanish-language stories.
- Translations of the Forewords to the English Edition and the Foreword to the existing edition.
- A new Foreword to be developed by the Publications Department explaining the process and development of the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book.

The committee acknowledged that the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.'s writings and recognized that translations of Bill W.'s writings do not require Conference-approval.

**2009** It was recommended that:

The revised draft pamphlet, "A.A. for the Native North American," be approved.

The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a through review of the pamphlet, "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and eliminate or revise outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.

A Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc. [Note: The approximate cost is \$6,850.]

A sentence encouraging newcomers to obtain and study the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be added to the pamphlet, "A Newcomer Asks."

The title of the pamphlet, "44 Questions," be changed to "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."



The revised 59th Conference pamphlet, "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs," be returned to the trustees' Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature. (Floor Action)

Note: This Floor Action refers to the *draft* pamphlet reviewed by the 2009 Conference Literature Committee.

**2010** It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be approved.

The trustees' Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

The paragraph regarding closed meetings on page 22 of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.," which reads:

"A closed meeting is limited to members of the local A.A. group or visiting members from other groups. The purpose of the closed meetings is to give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics."

Be replaced with:

"A closed meeting is for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking. Closed meetings give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics."

The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

The trustees' Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

The revised 60th Conference draft pamphlet, "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs," be returned to the trustees' Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature. (Floor Action)

**2011** It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" be approved.

The trustees' Literature Committee continue to develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee expressed support for the trustees' efforts to develop a pamphlet which reflects the wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members and asked that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.

The following text under "When you're a G.S.R.," in the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative" which currently reads:

"You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. Back in 1953, when the "group contact" was suggested as a new type of trusted servant, the job was seen simply as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information..."

Be replaced with:

"You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. In 1950, a new type of trusted servant, "group representative," was suggested to help in the selection of delegates to the newly-formed General Service Conference. By 1953, the job of 'group representative' was also seen as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information..."

**2012** It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" be approved.

The short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be added to the book *As Bill Sees It*.

The final revision of the *Living Sober* booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved with minor editorial changes.

The pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be revised, and requested that the trustees' Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

## CONFERENCE POLICY

### Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE POLICY AND ADMISSIONS

**1952** It was recommended that:

The Conference limit and define this Committee's responsibilities to cover only matters pertaining to the Conference itself.

The Conference authorize this Committee to act for it in deciding questions of delegate representation, as well as such other matters as may properly be placed before it.

Terms of office for members of Conference Committees who are on the second panel should be extended to two years, in order to ensure a carry-over on each committee of the previous year's experience. Also, that in the future, all new Conference Committee members should be elected for a term of two years.

Conference Committee Chairmen should be elected from the new members of the Conference.

Conference Committee Secretaries should serve in an advisory capacity only, and should not be entitled to a Committee vote.

Third panel members should assemble next year one day prior to assemblage of the full Conference.

The Third Legacy Pamphlet should be followed next year in determining delegate representation.

The Policy Committee to be elected in 1954 consider the advisability of recommending an enlarged Panel for 1955.

No action be taken that would alter present provisions of two-year terms for Conference delegates. (Floor Action)

The principle of rotation at all levels of A.A. affairs should be preserved and strengthened. (Floor Action)

**1953** It was recommended that:

Committeemen elected during the year be put on the General Service Conference Mailing list in February. And that the delegate be put on the mailing list as soon as Headquarters is notified of his election.

Delegate representation should not be changed during the first five-year period.

The Third Legacy pamphlet should continue to be followed in determining delegate representation.

During the five-year period, all ex-delegates remain on The General Conference mailing list.

Groups who have not corresponded with Headquarters for two years or more be taken off the mailing list; and that the names of such groups be referred to state delegates for follow-up purposes.

Any group with a regular secretary, registered with Headquarters, shall be entitled to one vote in a state assembly meeting.

Delegates remain in office for a full two-year term, expiring in April.

No policy should be declared or action taken on matters liable to gravely affect A.A. as a whole unless by consent of at least three-quarters of the members present. A mere majority should not authorize action. (Floor Action)

The Chairman and President of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman of the General Service Committee, and the Conference Secretary should act as Conference Officers. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees automatically becomes the Conference Chairman; the Chairman of the General Service Committee automatically becomes Vice Chairman, and the Conference Secretary is selected from Foundation personnel. (Floor Action)

In areas with more than one delegate, the General Service Headquarters will be advised of the name and location of groups served by each delegate. (Floor Action)

**1954** It was recommended that:

Committeemen elected during the year be put on the General Service Conference mailing list in February. That the delegate be put on the mailing list as soon as Headquarters is notified of his election by the outgoing delegate.

Delegate representation should not be changed during the five year period.

The Third Legacy pamphlet should continue to be followed in determining delegate representation.

During the five-year period, all ex-delegates remain on The General Conference mailing list.

Any group with a regular secretary, registered with Headquarters, shall be entitled to one vote in a state assembly meeting.

Delegates remain in office for a full two-year term, expiring in April.

Delegates come to the Conference being only tentatively instructed for the following reasons: a) that each delegate bring to the Conference the thinking of his area; and b) that the maximum wisdom of the Conference be achieved and voted through the exchange of these ideas at the Conference.

The policy adopted by the 1953 Conference in reference to the three-quarter majority rule be continued. That policy stated as follows:

No policy should be declared or action taken on matters liable to gravely affect A.A. as a whole unless by consent of at least three-quarters of the members present. A mere majority should not authorize action.

**1955** It was recommended that:

The Conference abide by the specific recommendations in Section 7 of the "Third Legacy Manual" (currently, Chapter VI of *The A.A. Service Manual*), whereby no delegate succeed himself. However, it is further provided in Section 7 that in rare cases, when a fully qualified person is not available, a delegate may be reelected at a future date. Your Policy Committee felt that the responsibility for this decision lies entirely with the local area.

The display board "A.A. Growth" be photographed and a copy be distributed to each delegate as soon after the Conference adjourns as possible.

Delegates who are receiving duplications of Conference mailings from General Service Headquarters, notify the Conference Secretary if they want this changed.

Only incoming and retiring delegates remain on the General Conference mailing list, thus enabling a delegate to receive Conference mailings for a period of four years.

The proposed permanent "Charter of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous—North American Section" be adopted subject to approval of the 20th Anniversary Convention of A.A. (Floor Action)

**1956** It was recommended that:

There be an announcement in a future Headquarters bulletin reminding group general service representatives that it is their duty to pass the bulletins on to the group secretary, and also suggesting that wherever practical and feasible, the general service representative use a group post office box as a mailing address.

Area delegates receive copies of letters from the General Service staff to Intergroups and Institutional Committees that pertain to services and public relations in each delegate's own area.

Foreign representatives who have attended the General Service Conference as observers should receive all Conference mailings for a ten-year period.

Each year all Conference Committee Chairmen should be elected from second-year delegates on the Conference Committees, since their previous experience will give continuity of service.

The proposal that meetings of the General Service Conference be "rotated" from New York City in even years to a different geographical section in odd years be tabled for consideration at some future date.

Ex-delegates should be kept on the Conference mailing list for a period of ten years following completion of service. (Floor Action)

Qualified "observers" from overseas areas be admitted to the 1957 Conference. (Floor Action)

#### Admissions Committee

Since a second delegate from Ontario was established in the Third Legacy pamphlet, it is recommended that the request from the Ontario Delegate for additional representation be approved. It is further recommended that the Province be divided into Eastern and Western assembly areas with the assembly points to be determined by the Provincial Committeemen.

Since a second delegate from Missouri was established in the Third Legacy pamphlet, it is recommended that the request from the Missouri Delegate for additional representation be approved. It is further recommended that the state be divided into Eastern and Western assembly areas with the assembly points to be determined by the state committeemen.

The request to add a second delegate to the Los Angeles assembly area be held in abeyance until the next Conference.

Note: The additional delegates from Ontario and Missouri will be elected in odd years and the delegates to the 1957 Conference shall serve for only one year.

The Committee reaffirms the Assembly Plan for election of delegates as outlined in the Third Legacy Manual.

**1957** It was recommended that:

General Service Headquarters continue to suggest to groups that they write to individuals and companies involved in the misuse of the Directory, requesting that they be removed from the mailing list and that a story be carried in the "Exchange Bulletin" about misuse of the Directory, phrased in such a

way that it will help to define the A.A. purpose for which the Directory is intended.

An explanation of what is entailed in serving on specific Conference Committees be made before each Committee is selected.

The Policy Committee of the General Service Board should continue to review proposals referred to it by delegates, with the understanding that if the Committee felt that a proposal should not, for one reason or another, be distributed to delegates, said proposal should then be referred to the Agenda Committee of the Conference for further review; and, further, that if the Agenda Committee concurred in withholding the proposal from distribution, the delegate responsible for the proposal should then be advised of his freedom to introduce the proposal on the floor of the Conference itself. (Floor Action)

#### Admissions Committee

Since a delegate to the Cincinnati, Ohio, Area was established in the Third Legacy pamphlet, and since the Ohio State Assembly has voted its approval, it is recommended that the request for a delegate to represent the Cincinnati Area be approved. It is further recommended that the state be divided into four assembly areas and that a map be furnished Headquarters showing which groups are being represented by each delegate.

The complaint from some groups in Illinois that they were not represented in the election of a delegate be referred back to the Illinois delegates with the suggestion that the Third Legacy Plan be employed in the election of all delegates.

After reviewing the request from a California delegate for an additional delegate from that state (tabled from the 1956 Conference) the committee recommended:

That the Conference recognize the need for a fifth delegate on the basis of A.A. population.

That California district assemblies determine the five area divisions.

That after such determinations, California make a specific request to the next Conference, accompanied by a map showing groups represented in each area, and assurances that an attempt has been made to cover the state with present delegates and additional area committeemen.

The committee recommended—as a guide for future Admissions Committees—that a fact file be set up for committee use only, incorporating some of the basic considerations affecting the number of delegates from a state, province, or territory:

- a. The fact that a greater number of delegates means less opportunity for each delegate to take part in the deliberations of the Conference.
- b. The fact that each request for an additional delegate from a state opens the way for requests from other states.
- c. These guides taken from the “Third Legacy Manual” (now *The A.A. Service Manual*):
  1. That no state or province should request an additional delegate unless its A.A. population exceeds these limits: Two delegates serving up to 7,000; three delegates serving up to 12,000; four delegates serving 14,000; five delegates serving 19,000.
  2. That the factor of mileage in a state be taken into consideration in determining the number of delegates representing a state.
- d. Requests for admission to come from state, provincial, or territorial committees as a whole—rather than from an area—and that such requests provide this information:
  1. A map of the state, province, or territory showing

proposed divisions, A.A. population of each, and groups involved.

2. Assurances that an attempt has been made to cover present areas with present delegates plus an additional number of area committee members.

The Committee reaffirmed the fact that it cannot in any measure decide how state divisions shall be made or how delegates shall be elected—while it does recommend the Third Legacy Plan of elections.

**1958** It was recommended that:

The matter of a correct membership census be left up to the discretion of local groups with the added suggestion that the local group endeavor to obtain an inclusive count as far as is possible that would indicate not only those members now participating, but also those presently sober in A.A. who are not known to have affiliated with other groups. Further, that each delegate incorporate in his report to his area the need for an accurate census and stress the importance of this matter.

The delegate incorporate in his report to his area the importance of a permanent group mailing address with the added suggestion that this be a P.O. box whenever practicable.

The suggestion of the name change from General Service Headquarters to General Service Office be adopted.

The participation of institutional groups in the Conference structure be left to the discretion of local Conference assemblies.

A poll of panel 7 Delegates be taken to determine their reactions concerning the length of term of delegates.

Accredited delegates from U.S. Territories, possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico should receive the same financial considerations as the delegates from the United States and Canada; as these delegates have been accepted by the Conference as a part of the present Conference structure.

#### Admissions Committee

In reference to a resolution presented to the committee by a delegate from Michigan, we submit the following:

- a. Area committees within each state or province shall have the authority to remove any delegate, alternate delegate, or committee member for any interruption of sobriety occurring during his term of service to the General Service Conference.
- b. In the event that such action is taken, the Conference Admissions Committee shall be notified so that his replacement may be recognized and seated at the Conference.

In reference to an application for an additional delegate from some groups in Illinois:

- a. The Admissions Committee comprised of members of Panels 7 and 8 (1958 Conference) feels obliged to honor the “Guide for Future Admissions Committees” as expressed in the *Final Report* of the Panels 6 and 7 (1957 Conference).
- b. We find that the delegates from the state of Illinois have not complied with those requests and, neither by virtue of the factors of population nor mileage, can be granted an additional delegate at this time.
- c. We reaffirm the recommendations contained in the report of Panels 6 and 7 (1957 Conference) that the committee cannot in any measure decide how state divisions shall be made or how delegates shall be elected—while we do recommend that the Third Legacy Plan of election be

used to "avoid conflict between local and world service" ("Third Legacy Manual," Section 6) [now *The A.A. Service Manual*, pages 38-39].

In reference to an application from all present delegates from California:

- a. Resolved, that since the various California district assemblies have complied with all requests of the Admissions Committee in their application for an additional delegate, that request is granted, thus allotting the state of California five delegates to the General Service Conference.
- b. It is suggested, however, that since this additional delegate will serve an area contiguous with Los Angeles, he and the Los Angeles delegate be elected in alternate years.
- c. This leaves to the discretion of the California assemblies the alternative of electing the fifth delegate to be seated for one year in Panel 9, or for two years in Panels 10 and 11. A report of their decision shall be forwarded to the Conference secretary at the earliest possible date.

**1959** It was recommended that:

\$3.00 per member replace the \$2.00 suggested as annual contribution to G.S.O.

Meeting nights be listed in the 1960 Directory.

*The Exchange Bulletin* continue in its present format for the next year.

Material for new Loners be compiled from current Loner questionnaires.

Traditional A.A. policy of declining bequests in any form, from A.A.'s or non-A.A.'s be reaffirmed, and that all delegates receive a copy of current letter used in declining such bequests.

In regard to A.A. misuse of the Directory, the attention of groups again be directed to its purpose, as listed on the inside cover of the Directory: that this be used as a guide and not a rule, as it is not intended to interfere with free communication among A.A.'s in sharing experiences and activities. That non-A.A. misuse be handled as in the past.

Delegates receive a thumbnail sketch of fifteen current Trustees of General Service Board for communicating information to their areas.

Consideration and study be made by all delegates during the coming year on the possibility of all G.S.O. group mailings going to the G.S.R.s and that this subject be placed on the 1960 agenda as a discussion subject.

To retain the present two-year term of office for delegates. (Floor Action)

#### Admissions Committee

Reaffirmed the recommendation of the 1958 Admissions Committee that all future Committees earnestly study the Admissions Committee Fact File, always being cognizant of the fact that the Conference, by virtue of an increased number of delegates, is in danger of becoming unwieldy and unfair to all A.A. members.

**1960** It was recommended that:

The Conference commend to the Board of Trustees the pursuance of the plan of making a documentary A.A. film for sale to A.A. groups and for use by other interested people at a cost to the General Service Board not to exceed \$7,500; and that the plan include provisions for control of the script and for exclusive sale to the groups and others approved by the General Service Board.

#### Admissions Committee

Reviewed the request of the Ontario General Service Conference Committee for a third delegate to serve the North and North-West Section of the Province of Ontario and neither approving nor disapproving, referred it to the Board of Trustees and its Policy Committee to study, with particular regard to the geographic needs in all states and provinces, and to report back to the 1961 Conference. The Committee requested that the General Service Board keep it advised of the study's progress during the year.

**1961** It was recommended that:

A form be filled in and signed by G.S.R.s who wish to receive duplicate mailings from G.S.O.

The Public Information Committee's procedure of considering financial obligations when G.S.O. is approached by film producers with a proposal for a motion picture on A.A. services be approved.

The Public Information Committee's plan for an anonymity mailing to communications media in June 1961 be approved.

The recommendation that a simplified procedure of mailing one card for Directory information be followed for next year's World Directory.

The 1959 Conference recommendation that in reference to the misuse of the Directory by A.A. members, their attention again be directed to its purpose as listed on the inside cover of the Directory: that it is not to be used as a mailing list for any form of solicitation or any commercial venture be reaffirmed. That this be used as a guide and not a rule, as it is not intended to interfere with free communication among A.A.s in sharing experience and activities.

The Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the sentence, "There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership" be retained in the description of A.A. in Conference-approved literature be approved.

The General Service Office prepare a fact file covering movement-wide experience with several types of clubhouses and their relation to A.A. and the community. (Floor Action)

#### Admissions Committee

In view of the large geographical area and increasing population that can be covered only with difficulty by the present two delegates from the Eastern and Western Ontario areas, the committee recommends that the request for a third delegate to serve the north and northwest section of the province be approved. That the additional delegate be elected on Panel 11 to attend the 1962 Conference.

**1962** It was recommended that:

The recommendation given in the Group Records & Directory report that in the future G.S.O. use the term "reported" rather than "active" membership when requesting membership figures on the Group directory cards be affirmed.

Next year's group information card include a request for information as to the Conference area in which the group is included.

The present \$100 paid by Conference areas toward delegate travel expenses be retained.

The \$5,000 subsidy, approved by the 1961 Conference to assist overseas groups in the preparation of Conference-approved literature be renewed.

The report on Long Range translation needs be adopted as follows:

The criteria for determining in what languages A.A. material should be translated should be based on the prevalence of

alcoholism amongst persons speaking the language.

G.S.O. exercise a tighter control over translations of approved material.

Data on A.A. population and its location should be an important factor in allocating loans for local preparation of A.A. literature. It should also be correlated with data on the major languages of the world.

G.S.O. assume the initiative in preparation of literature.

G.S.O. assume the responsibility for free distribution of foreign language literature to doctors, lawyers, etc., if possible through local A.A. contacts, providing that the Budget and Finance Committee feels that it is feasible.

Financing for foreign language literature be based on need rather than in terms of actual available dollars.

Our services to overseas groups be substantial so that we may count on the financial support of the groups in the more developed countries.

The suggestion that a review of the preparation of native literature be adopted as outlined.

The recommendation given in the Overseas report, that a basic pamphlet be prepared and translated in appropriate languages to meet the needs of newly emergent A.A. areas overseas be adopted.

That a proposal to permit an Internationalist (man or woman in naval service or in the merchant marine) to attend future Conferences as a non-voting observer be approved. (Floor Action)

#### Admissions Committee

Approval be granted to the request for an additional delegate from the Province of Quebec to represent their French-speaking groups, subject to presentation by Quebec of a complete statistical report supporting their request at the 1963 General Service Conference.

Favors the opinion of the 1962 Conference that an Internationalist be selected by their group to attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference as an observer without vote, starting in 1963.

Public Information Committee and Grapevine Editorial Board members who are not Conference members be permitted to attend the Conference as observers without vote, total number limited to four from the P.I. Committee and four from the Grapevine Editorial Board.

**1963** It was recommended that:

G.S.O. continue to refer local matters back to the area involved, with the suggestion that they contact the local delegate; and that copies of all correspondence referring to such local matters be sent to the delegate.

Notices of newly listed and delisted groups be sent only to the areas concerned.

G.S.O. provide a suggested standard letterhead style for those areas desiring to print their own stationery.

Notices be sent with the Exchange Bulletin (now *Box 4-5-9*) clarifying that the bulletins are for the use of the groups and not exclusively for group secretaries or G.S.R.s.

The current and proposed editorial and subscription practices of the Grapevine be continued.

Wherever the words "Alternate Delegate" appear in the text of the Third Legacy Manual, the phrase be changed to read "Alternate or Assistant Delegate."

G.S.O. continue its current policy of cooperation but not affili-

ation with Al-Anon.

A joint meeting of the G.S.B. and Conference Finance Committee be held in October or November. Also that this be extended to other Committees as deemed necessary.

#### Admissions Committee

An additional delegate be approved for the Province of Quebec to serve French-speaking groups and that the delegate be admitted to the 1964 General Service Conference.

**1964** It was recommended that:

The idea that Conference committees be enlarged from six to eight members be approved.

The proposal that Conference committees select a co-chairman from first-year delegates, to become chairman the second year, be approved.

The proposal that all outgoing Conference committee members serve in an ex-officio capacity for a full year after their terms are concluded be approved.

The proposal that Areas which volunteered on an experimental basis will have their G.S.R.s receive G.S.O. mailings exclusively be approved.

The preparation of a small edition of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* to be introduced at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in 1965, to be sold at \$3.00 or more be approved.

Procedures for selecting Conference committees be studied during the forthcoming year.

Communications between Conference committee members be increased when feasible and desirable, to enhance the work of the standing committees.

The pattern of G.S.O. employee compensation endorsed by the Conference, following the discussion of Staff salaries, be approved.

The 1965 Conference be programmed for the same number of days as the 1964 meeting. (Floor Action.)

#### Admissions Committee

A second delegate be added from the Atlantic Provinces of Canada.

**1965** It was recommended that:

Committee members continue to be chosen by lot, geographically, and that this drawing be conducted by the chairman of the Policy Committee of the General Service Board at the January Policy Committee meeting. Any delegates' names not received by that date will be added to Committees as received.

Delegates assigned to Committees before the Conference then be advised of their Committee assignments by the Conference Secretary and given the opportunity to refuse assignment. Delegates will also receive at this time "Composition, Scope and Procedures" for all Conference Committees and names of Chairman and other members of their Committees.

Committees include all delegates as active voting members and that advisers be discontinued.

This year's "advisers" become full-fledged Committee members immediately.

Co-Chairmen be elected at the final meeting of each Conference Committee.

Co-Chairmen be elected by written ballot by all members of a Committee.

Co-Chairmen become Chairmen of their Committees immediately following each Conference.

Committee members can communicate with each other through requesting the secretary to duplicate letters from members and mail to all Committee members.

Committees be as uniform in size as possible.

Committee workshops be continued.

All G.S.R.s receive the group mailings from G.S.O.

That the Committee's "Scope" be redefined as follows: "That the Conference limit and define this Committee's responsibilities to cover only matters of policy pertaining to the Conference itself and such other matters as may properly be placed before it."

The present two-year term for delegates be retained. (Floor Action)

#### Admissions Committee

After reviewing the request for an additional delegate from Indiana, such request be granted, effective with the 1966 Conference, on the basis of population, growth, and communications needs in the area.

**1966** It was recommended that:

When A.A. Groups or service boards overseas wish to have an observer present at the Conference, they be requested to send someone who is an A.A. member and also a legal resident of the country wishing representation.

The name of the "Committee on Relations with Other Agencies" be changed to the "Conference Committee on Public Information."

The work of the Conference Admissions Committee be given to the old Agenda (now called Agenda-Admissions) Committee.

The practice of naming *ex officio* Committee members and the tenure of Committee chairmen be retained, that is, each new Chairman takes office immediately at the close of the Conference during which he is elected.

The summary of all previous Conference "Advisory Actions," now mimeographed and sent yearly to all Conference members, should include only the actions of the first fifteen Conferences (1951-65) and should be a chapter in the new Third Legacy Manual when it is written. Then only the most recent actions will have to be compiled and distributed annually, and all readers of the Manual can see what actions the Conference took in its first formative years. (Policy, and Report and Charter)

#### Admissions Committee

The province of Ontario be given a fourth delegate to be elected for the 17th Conference.

**1967** It was recommended that:

Ex officio committee members be continued, but only after being queried following the January Policy Committee meeting, as to whether they would like to continue as ex-officio. Only if they answer in the affirmative will they be kept on the committee list as ex officio for one year.

A letter again be sent from G.S.O. to the F.B.I. advising them of the confidential nature of the *Directory*.

Even though Assemblies may be held every year with half of the Committee elected each year, it be qualified in the "Third Legacy Manual" that the term of office is for two years.

There be no change in the delegate expense allowance.

The two-year term for delegates be continued. (Floor Action)

**1968** It was recommended that:

We maintain the present procedure for selection of Conference committees on a geographic basis at the January Policy meeting of the board.

Since the language of the General Service Conference is English, and since the Conference is not equipped to provide translators, it is desirable that delegates elected to the Conference have a knowledge of English for their own benefit and for the benefit of their areas.

Consideration be given either to the preparation of Guidelines or a presentation at the Conference as to how a Conference Report should be given.

When questions of importance for the Conference cannot be sent to the areas in advance, consideration be given to an oral presentation early in the Conference sessions, with discussion and voting to be taken at a later date during the Conference.

#### Agenda/Admissions Committee

A study of admissions procedures be conducted and that the Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee meet in the fall of 1968 in New York.

Quebec be granted a third bilingual delegate to be elected as a member of Panel 19. The third delegate is to be elected from a newly designated Conference area to be called the Northeast Area of Quebec.

**1969** It was recommended that:

The name of the Conference Policy Committee be changed to Committee on Conference Policy.

The biographical sketches of the delegates, compiled by G.S.O. and placed in delegates' manuals, would serve no useful purpose to the delegates or G.S.O.

The "Electoral procedure for the election of Class B regional trustee nominee" be used in all Third Legacy elections and further, that this suggestion be incorporated in the "Third Legacy Manual," now under revision.

Looking with favor on the proposal "that each Conference area contribute \$150 every year to the support of the General Service Conference," delegates take this proposal back to their areas for consideration. It was further suggested that this item be placed on the 1970 General Service Conference agenda.

Inasmuch as G.S.O. is now giving consideration to relocation of the office in New York, consideration might also be given to the relocation of the site of this annual meeting, with a view to returning to single-room accommodations, so that the advantages of private meditation, study, thought and rest might be restored. It was further suggested that the rising costs of the annual meeting might be controlled, or at least reduced, by a study of possible alternative hotel accommodations. (Delegates Only Meeting)

#### Agenda/Admissions Committee

When an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined in the "Third Legacy Manual") [now *The A.A. Service Manual*] that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties.

A two-year moratorium be declared on applications by the areas for additional delegate representation so that a thorough study can be made of the whole subject.

Non-Conference members from all trustees' committees have permission to attend as observers, two at a time from each committee, the annual meeting of the General Service Conference.

That where there is more than one delegate in a state or province, a two-thirds majority approval, rather than unanimous approval, be sufficient for future applications for additional representation.

**1970** It was recommended that:

The procedure for selecting Conference committee members continue to be from the hat; that no area be represented on any standing committee for more than two consecutive years; that when any state or province has more than one area, no standing committee have more than one member from each state or province.

In keeping with our Traditions, no cameras be allowed at any G.S.O. Conference session. (It was agreed to send questions about using cameras and tape recorders at Conference sessions to the delegates in advance of the Conference meeting.)

It would be in the best interests of the Conference to have a special task force appointed to review the procedures and mechanics of the General Service Conference. (A special task force, appointed by \_\_\_\_\_, to review procedures and mechanics of the General Service Conference as it is presently constituted, was approved.)

The delegates having accepted the Area Support Proposal, G.S.O. bill the 90 Conference areas for \$150, with a March 1 deadline for sending it to G.S.O. (Floor Action)

That the General Service Office have the right to choose the hotel for the 1971 General Service Conference without conferring further with the delegates to the Conference. (Delegates Only Meeting)

#### Agenda/Admissions Committee

Delegates should go back to their areas and determine if any obstacle exists which might create the illusion that an additional delegate is needed.

The following motion made and carried:

Let it be moved that this committee recommends to the assembled General Service Conference of 1970 that the moratorium be continued until such time as the Long-Range Planning Committee of the General Service Board, in conjunction with the Agenda/Admissions Committee, presents a set of guidelines to a future Conference for its approval.

This is to be done by communication between the members of the two committees, either by mail or by a meeting in the fall if necessary.

It was also recommended:

In view of the fact that we are asking for basic guidelines from this committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee, the six proposals pertaining to the size of the Conference should be held in abeyance until we have an opportunity to consider any other ideas, and that each member of the Agenda/Admissions Committee be requested to accept the responsibility of forwarding some suggestions to the secretary of the committee.

**1971** It was recommended that:

Ask-It Basket be continued in its present form and, to avoid confusion, none of the answer sessions be held during mealtime.

The Committee on Conference Policy take over the function of the Conference evaluation handled last year by the task force; that a questionnaire be mailed by the committee members to Panel 20 and 21 delegates within six weeks from the conclusion of this Conference; that this questionnaire be returned to the committee members who will summarize the replies and send this summarization with the originals to the chairman for tabulation. These recommendations will be forwarded by the chairman to the committee secretary.

There is no need for a Conference Committee on Traditions at this time.

It is not necessary to write to new delegates asking them if they

are willing to serve on the committee for which they have been chosen, but rather in the interest of expediency, they will be informed of their committee assignments.

Rather than accept the Oklahoma Plan (a plan for restructuring the General Service Conference) as written, the Conference adopt unstructured open workshops, with no specific subjects, on the agenda and that these unstructured workshops be summarized and reported to the Conference.

The Conference accept the task force decisions, as written in Dr. Jack's letter of December 1970, with our appreciation and thanks for the time, effort, and energy expended by this task force.

We accept the recommendation from the Conference Committee on Public Information for the formation of a Conference Committee on Professional Relations to correspond with the trustees' Committee on Professional Relations; that five delegates from Panel 22 be drawn by lot for the Conference Committee on Professional Relations, that four members from Panel 23 will be added to the committee to bring it up to its full complement of nine. The Conference will then have ten Conference Committees comprised of nine members each at the present Conference size.

Agendas for all Conference committees be mailed to all delegates before the Conference.

#### Agenda/Admissions Committee

Limiting the size of the Conference was referred to the Long-Range Planning Committee by the Agenda/Admissions Committee in 1970 for their consideration. That committee recommended that:

The Conference should not be much larger than it is now; that its makeup should remain proportionately similar to its present structure; that the number of non-delegate members should not exceed one-third of the total Conference membership.

Therefore, the two-year moratorium on applications by areas for additional delegate representation which was approved by the 19th Conference be terminated, and detailed questionnaires be prepared for areas seeking additional representation and sent to each area every two years for a reevaluation of the Conference area structure.

Where a delegate does not have his own assembly, he look forward to establishing one.

**1972** It was recommended that:

A deadline be specified on the return of all questionnaires sent to delegates.

Because G.S.O. has given each delegate a questionnaire at this year's Conference, the Committee on Conference Policy not make a Conference evaluation this year, but next year review the success or failure of this year's method and determine the method to be used in future Conferences.

All Conference committee agendas continue to be sent to all delegates.

The Conference reaffirm the 1969 Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee recommendation:

"That when an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered a delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined by *The A.A. Service Manual*) that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties."

The agenda of the Conference be structured so that all Conference committee reports be in the hands of the delegates by Friday morning.

### Agenda/Admissions Committee

In an area submitting an application for an additional delegate, such application should be received by G.S.O. not later than January 1 preceding the Conference.

The following be added to the application for additional delegate:

- a. What could another delegate do that more committee members could not do?
- b. A map showing areas as they will exist if a new delegate is allowed.

The request from the British Columbia/Yukon Area for an additional delegate be held in abeyance for another year pending further information and reconsideration during the year.

The matter of the application for an additional delegate from the Province of Quebec be tabled for a period of one year and be returned to the Agenda/Admissions Committee with the following information:

- a. A new map showing areas as they now exist.
- b. A map showing areas as they will exist if a new delegate is allowed.
- c. Show where area meetings are being held in 1972, how each delegate is elected, and how he reports to his area, bearing in mind the suggestions in *The A.A. Service Manual*.
- d. Suggest that they also redistrict their areas using more committee members from smaller districts, as suggested in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**1973** It was recommended that:

Conference committees elect an alternate chairman in case the elected chairman is unable to attend the next year's Conference. Since the chairman is elected by a plurality, the person with the second largest number of votes could be alternate chairman.

An alternate area delegate chairman should be elected; the runner-up could be alternate chairman.

Past delegates should not be elected to serve again, with the exception of the conditions outlined by the Agenda/Admissions Committee, 1973.

The Conference questionnaire and evaluation be continued each year; more space should be given for the answer to question 5—"How do you feel the Conference could be improved?"—and a line added for general comments on accommodations.

Since the action of the 1969 Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee that "when an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined by *The A.A. Service Manual*) that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties" is already incorporated in *The A.A. Service Manual*, there is no further need for reaffirmation.

### Agenda/Admissions Committee

When an elected delegate is unable to attend the Conference meeting for any reason, a past delegate can be seated in his place if no one else is available, with the proviso that *The A.A. Service Manual*, page 59 (Chapter V, "Delegate Term"), be reworded as follows:

A delegate serves one term for two years. The Conference is on record in its attitude toward delegate rotation. However, the question has arisen: Can a delegate be reelected at some future date? The Conference strongly recommends limiting the term of a delegate to one two-year term, with the exception of an alternate delegate who, after filling one year of the

delegate's term, may be elected to serve his own term.

And in the last paragraph, page 59, the following change be made: "The Conference recommends that all areas have alternate delegates."

When an area is unable to replace the elected delegate, except with a past delegate, the secretary of the Agenda/Admissions Committee shall be provided with information concerning the extent of the efforts made to replace the delegate with someone who has not previously served in that capacity. She will inform the members of the Agenda/Admissions Committee, who will promptly advise her of their disapproval, if any.

Quebec be allowed a fourth delegate. (Floor Action)

**1974** It was recommended that:

Results of the 1974 evaluation questionnaire be forwarded to the delegates when compiled, and that we follow the 1973 Committee on Conference Policy's recommendation that the Conference questionnaire and evaluation be continued each year.

The Committee on Conference Policy accept the recommendation of the Agenda/Admissions Committee that the admissions function of that committee be transferred to the Committee on Conference Policy.

**1975** It was recommended that:

Each delegate receive only the agenda pertinent to his/her committee, but may receive any others on request.

Ex officio members not be restored.

A committee on Traditions not be established, but that it be further recommended that individual delegates assume the responsibility for familiarizing their area groups and members with the Traditions.

The timing of the 1975 Conference agenda mailing be retained for the 1976 Conference.

It is the responsibility of the area committee to see that the contribution of \$200 toward Conference expenses be paid by March 1, and if not received by March 1, that a letter be sent to the delegate reminding him of this omission.

Having reviewed the 1975 Conference questionnaire, the trustees' Conference Committee consider specific suggestions made by the Conference Policy Committee.

Note: It was the opinion of the trustees, when reviewing the Conference Advisory Actions, that there was great positive value in having delegates participate in the same workshop sections throughout the Conference, and it was their recommendation that this practice be continued for at least another year. They agreed that consideration might be given to rotating staff and trustee participants.

**1976** It was recommended that:

The current agenda format be approved for 1977.

The 1976 Conference questionnaire be approved with the following questions added for 1977:

- a. "Do you feel there is enough time for discussion of committee and trustee reports?"
- b. "Do you feel Area Service Highlights are valuable to the Conference as a whole?"

Question 9 of the questionnaire to read as follows: "Please list suggestions for improving or changing the Conference."

Since the committee feels that there is insufficient time allotted at the Conference for adequate discussion of committee reports before the vote is called for and also feels that committee meetings should be concluded earlier in the week so that the



reports, with discussion thereon, could be had on Thursday, with the final discussion and vote on Friday, a study be made by the appropriate trustees' committee of the feasibility of accomplishing this result by eliminating or shortening the following sessions:

Area Service Highlights  
Presentations/Discussions  
Workshops

and that a feasibility report be made at the 1977 General Service Conference for further action by the Committee on Conference Policy/Admissions.

**1977** It was recommended that:

Current general service board and staff members from foreign countries be granted admission as observers, upon request, to the annual General Service Conference of U.S. and Canada, not to exceed one representative per country, at their own expense; and that the request be made through the General Service Office in New York.

The recommendations of the Conference Report and Charter and Agenda Committees to retain the Conference Report and Charter Committee, as is, be approved with the additional recommendation that all Conference committees reevaluate their purpose and function during 1978 and report back to the 1979 Conference.

When a situation arises which prevents the trustee committee chairperson from chairing the joint meeting, a Conference committee chairperson be delegated to chair the joint committee meeting at the Conference until a new trustee chairperson can be appointed.

The current Conference Institutions Committee be replaced by two committees to be called Committee on Correctional Facilities and Committee on Treatment Facilities.

**1978** It was recommended that:

The Conference Report and Charter Committee add a section to Chapter V of *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding applications for additional areas and delegates, and that excerpts from Bill's 1961 memo on the size of the Conference be included as well as the information that application forms are available from G.S.O.

The questionnaire for the 28th General Service Conference was satisfactory, and no changes were suggested.

The committee felt that the description in Chapter VII of *The A.A. Service Manual* on why the Conference has committees is adequate, and suggested that reports of the trustees' quarterly meetings continue to be sent to members of the corresponding Conference committees. Communication between committee members and G.S.O. between Conferences should be encouraged.

Selections from Conference talks made by Bill and Bern Smith, beginning with the First General Service Conference in 1951, be circulated to the Conference and trustees' Literature Committees so that consideration could be given to making this material available to the Fellowship in printed form.

The opening date for the 1979 General Service Conference be delayed until April 22 in order to permit delegates to avoid travel complications.

**1979** It was recommended that

Item 7 of the 1979 Conference questionnaire include a choice of free night or nights.

Directors-elect not attend the Conference as observers prior to their election, as they will attend as Conference members for four years after taking office.

No arbitrary ceiling be set on the number of G.S.O./G.V. staff eligible to vote, but that the delegates *never* have less than

66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of the total Conference votes. If more staff members are added, some method of rotation of staff eligible to vote may be necessary. In response to a request that delegates represent not less than 75% of voting Conference members, this was considered an unrealistic figure. The committee pointed out that office personnel (exclusive of staff) assisting at the Conference are not participants in Conference sessions. Observers have no voice and no vote; they do not participate in Conference deliberations.

Previous action that two non-trustee members of each trustees' committee may attend as observers for one-half of one day with no voice and no vote be reaffirmed.

The Conference Committee on Trustees always have at least nine members so that there will always be enough to constitute one-half of the committee votes in regional elections.

When delegates are polled prior to the Conference, they be asked to give their number of years in general service work as well as age and length of sobriety.

**1980** It was recommended that:

There be no changes in the 1981 Conference questionnaire.

The Conference reaffirm the importance of the committee system for accomplishing business charged to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, as defined in Chapter 7 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The importance of clearly stated committee reports and recommendations was also stressed.

The Conference reaffirm the recommendation of the 1977 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows: "In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees' committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting.

Since neither the Panel 29 delegate from Northeastern Quebec (Area 89) nor his alternate is able to attend this 30th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, the Committee on Conference Policy/Admissions recommends to this Conference that the area chairperson, Gabriel La Pointe, be allowed to be seated. (Floor Action)

**1981** It was recommended that:

There be no change to the 1982 Conference questionnaire.

The request for an additional delegate from Area 81 (New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island, Canada) be denied.

The printing of the Ask-It-Basket questions and answers in their present form be discontinued.

The section on Ask-It-Basket questions and answers in the *Final Conference Report* be continued.

Some criteria should be set by the Conference on what constitutes an Advisory Action, and that members of the Policy/Admissions Committee study the matter and present some sort of guidelines for consideration by members of the 1982 General Service Conference.

**1982** It was recommended that:

All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees' committees be encouraged to attend and participate at the joint meetings and Monday sessions of the Conference, and as observers at one presentation session related to the committee on which they serve.

Each Conference committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level.

The alternate delegate for Southern New Jersey, Ruth Nichol, be seated to replace delegate Madege Mansfield, who had to leave the Conference on Tuesday, April 20. (Floor Action)

**1983** It was recommended that:

The 1982 Conference Action be amended to read:

“All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees’ committees be encouraged to attend and participate at the joint meetings.

“All nontrustee, nondirector members be encouraged to attend, as observers, the Monday sessions of the Conference and one presentation session related to the committee on which they serve.”

The dates for the 1984 Conference be Monday, April 16, through Saturday, April 21, even though this would include certain religious holidays.

The Conference Committees on Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter consider, at their 1984 committee meetings, the possibility of combining the function of these two committees.

**1984** It was recommended that:

The area treasurer from Central and Southeast Ohio be seated as a Conference member, since neither the delegate nor the alternate delegate from that area was able to attend.

After reviewing the 1983 Conference questionnaire, no change be made on the form at this time.

Tapes of Conference presentations not be made available, affirming the 1979 General Service Board recommendation which prohibits making tapes of any Conference session for distribution outside of the A.A. archives, except for the opening dinner and the closing brunch.

To encourage Spanish-speaking groups and committees to participate in the general service structure:

- a. Areas be encouraged to provide room within their structure for Hispanic districts with a bilingual liaison or D.C.M.
- b. Assemblies be encouraged to provide G.S.R. schools, seminars, or workshops in Spanish.
- c. Successful experience with area structure participation by Hispanic groups be shared in Spanish *Box 4-5-9*.
- d. Spanish-speaking A.A.’s active in service be encouraged to sponsor new members into service.
- e. G.S.O. increase its efforts to provide Spanish service literature.
- f. The trustees’ Committee on International Convention/A.A. Regional Forums consider holding a Forum in Puerto Rico.

The functions of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and Conference Report and Charter Committee should not be combined at this time.

We reaffirm the 1980 Policy/Admissions Committee recommendation which reads:

“The Conference reaffirm the importance of the committee system for accomplishing business charged to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, as defined in Chapter 7 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The importance of clearly stated committee reports and recommendations was also stressed.”

with particular emphasis on clarity and background information when writing committee recommendations.

The 1985 Conference be held April 14-20, 1985, and that the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions routinely review the dates for the succeeding year’s Conference.

**1985** It was recommended that:

No change be made in the Conference questionnaire at this time.

The General Service Conference for 1986 be held from April 20 through April 26.

The Conference Policy Committee routinely review the dates for the General Service Conference to be held two years hence.

The 1987 General Service Conference be held from April 26 through May 2.

The decision regarding the South Florida Area invitation to the groups in the Virgin Islands be made by area assemblies involved.

The 1986 Policy/Admissions Committee study the need for a procedure to include into the service structure new states or provinces, U.S./Canadian territories and islands, etc.

**1986** It was recommended that:

The revised Conference questionnaire be approved to evaluate the 1987 General Service Conference.

The 38th General Service Conference be scheduled for April 17-23, 1988.

With regard to proposing Floor Actions in the final hours of the Conference, the 1968 recommendation, which was as follows, be reaffirmed:

“That when questions of importance for the Conference could not be sent to the areas in advance, consideration be given to an oral presentation early in the Conference sessions, with discussion and voting to be taken at a later date during the Conference.”

When matters of great significance having a long-term effect on the Fellowship or of substantial expense are presented to the floor in the waning hours of the Conference, such matters be referred to the appropriate committee at the next Conference in order for the group conscience to be as informed as possible.

Since some misunderstandings have occurred because of seeming breakdowns in communication, the 1963 recommendation, which was as follows, be reaffirmed:

“Recommended that G.S.O. continue to refer local matters back to the area involved, with the suggestion that they contact the local delegate; and that copies of all correspondence referring to such local matters be sent to the delegate.”

Trustees’ committees and General Service Office staff continue to inform the area delegates of any significant activities in their areas, whenever possible, in order that the area may offer assistance concerning these activities and that all might be better informed.

At this time there is no need to establish a procedure to include into the service structure, as part of an existing area assembly, new states or provinces, U.S./Canada territories and islands. It was suggested that past experiences be considered. When the General Service Office receives an inquiry about joining the service structure, the staff should encourage local members to develop a district structure and contact an area assembly for inclusion as part of that service structure.

Delegates assume more responsibility in encouraging G.S.R.s and local A.A. members to take their suggestions and concerns to district meetings and area assemblies for consideration in order to accommodate the growing number of topics being submitted for consideration by Conference committees. The committee also suggested sending items for the Conference agenda to the Conference coordinator as early as possible.

Regarding the suggestion to change the seal designating General Service Conference-approved literature to the Three Legacies seal, no action be taken since the Conference

has reserved that seal for Conference-approved literature; however, the committee commends the idea of making the Fellowship more aware of our Three Legacies.

The 1987 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee consider the formation of a Conference Archives Committee. (Floor Action)

**1987** It was recommended that:

The area chairperson from Eastern Massachusetts be seated as a Conference member, since neither the delegate nor the alternate delegate from that area is able to attend.

The 39th General Service Conference be scheduled for April 23-29, 1989. These dates will not conflict with Easter or Passover.

While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of area archives and archives committees, with the resulting benefit to General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives Committee should not be formed at this time because the needs of local archives committees are being well served by the trustees' Archives Committee and the General Service Office archivist.

The 1982 Policy Committee Advisory Action:

"Each Conference Committee carefully consider their Agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level,"

be reaffirmed; and this Advisory Action of 1982 be read by each Conference Committee chairperson at the opening of the Conference Committee meetings.

To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of costs be part of that recommendation.

**1988** It was recommended that:

Ron Carr, General Service trustee, Australia, be admitted to the 38th General Service Conference, as an observer.

The 40th General Service Conference be scheduled for April 22-28, 1990.

The comments under questions one and two in the 38th General Service Conference Questionnaire be used in planning the next Conference, but not included in the final results of the 1988 Conference Evaluation.

The Policy/Admissions Committee continue to study geographical representation and distribution of General Service delegates.

Ample time for Conference Committees to meet and conduct their business be provided for on the Conference Agenda.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The 41st General Service Conference be held April 14-20, 1991, with an alternative date of April 21-27, 1991, based on hotel accommodations and availability.

The 1979 Conference Action be reaffirmed: "Conference Committee selection continue to be by lot with the widest possible geographical distribution." It was the sense of the meeting that any other method could erode the confidence of the Conference in the committee system.

That all Conference-approved literature shall be developed within the Conference structure, but that identification of need may be established by use of questionnaires developed in cooperation with the appropriate standing Conference committees.

The 1987 Conference Action from the Policy/Admissions Committee be modified to read:

"Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference committee recommen-

ation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation."

That the words "and timely" be added to the end of Question #6 on the 1990 Conference questionnaire, and that space be allowed for comments. (The Question would read: "Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. adequate and timely?")

**1990** It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Colorado be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate who is ill and unable to attend.

The 42nd General Service Conference be held April 26-May 2, 1992, since this week will not conflict with Easter or Passover.

The 43rd General Service Conference be held April 18-April 24, 1993, with an alternate date of April 25-May 1, 1993, based on hotel accommodations and availability, realizing the need for reserving hotel space well in advance.

A standing committee for central and intergroup offices not be formed at this time. The committee felt that many of the problems expressed by central offices and intergroups are "home issues," and that the doors of communication need to be opened at the area level. The committee would like to stress the importance of delegates establishing contact with offices in their areas and assuring them they do have a voice in the Fellowship through their existing area service structure. The committee suggests that the sharing received by this committee from areas and central/intergroup offices, regarding their experiences of cooperation and communication, be reviewed by the G.S.O. staff with the idea of incorporation into the Guidelines on central/intergroup offices.

There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee, to be composed of one delegate from each region, could serve as the Site, selection Committee for the International Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed in 1995 by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The 44th General Service Conference be held April 17-23, 1994, with an alternative date of April 10-16, 1994, if needed for hotel availability, since these dates do not conflict with certain religious holidays.

The policy for establishing new delegate areas in place at this time, as described concisely in *The A.A. Service Manual*, is adequate to allow for the gradual growth of the Conference, and provides for a representative cross-section of A.A.

The trustees' Conference Committee consider a presentation/discussion topic on New Delegate Areas for the 1992 Conference, focusing on existing delegate areas, procedures for new delegate areas and future A.A. growth.

The 1992 General Service Conference annual meeting be held in the city of New York. (Floor Action)

**1992** It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Area 30, Eastern Massachusetts, \_\_\_\_\_, be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, \_\_\_\_\_, who is unable to attend.

The Annual Conference Questionnaire be reviewed in the future by the Conference Committee on Agenda, instead of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

The 45th General Service Conference be held April 30-May 6, 1995, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

A revised, amplified form "Application for Additional Delegate Area" be approved.

The Conference review in April of the same year any request for a new Delegate Area submitted to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee by January 1st of that year.

Final Conference Committee agendas be automatically sent to all Conference members no later than March 15 each year.

**1993** It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Area 62, South Carolina, , be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, , who is unable to attend.

The 46th General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 1996, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

The area delegate term not be extended to three years, since the current two-year term offers a wider opportunity for service, and helps maintain continuity throughout the A.A. structure.

In response to the proposal to create a standing Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums, the 1990 General Service Conference Action #3 be reaffirmed, as follows:

"There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee, to be composed of one delegate from each region, could serve as the Site-Selection Committee for the International Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed in 1995 by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions."

In response to the proposal to create a Conference Committee on Archives, the 1987 General Service Conference Action #45 be reaffirmed as follows:

"While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of area archives and archives committees, with the resulting benefit to the General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives Committee should not be formed at this time because the needs of local archives committees are being well served by the trustees' Archives Committee and the General Service Office archivist."

In order for groups/districts/areas to fully participate in the Conference process, the following steps be taken:

- a) Conference agenda items be submitted as early as possible but no later than January 15 each year.
- b) Final Conference committee agendas be automatically sent to all Conference members by February 15 each year.
- c) Background material for each specific committee be sent to its members by February 15 each year, with other committees' background material available upon request.

**1994** It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Area 45, Southern New Jersey, , be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, , who is unable to attend.

The 47th General Service Conference be held April 13-19, 1997, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

The request from the Washington Area (72) for a new delegate area be denied.

The request from the Southern California Area (05) for a new delegate area be denied.

No moratorium be placed on topics to be considered by the General Service Conference.

All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees' committees be encouraged to attend the opening sessions and participate at the joint committee meetings and be invited to attend the Opening Dinner of the General Service Conference.

**1995** It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Area 81, New Brunswick/PEI, , be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, , who is unable to attend.

The alternate delegate from Area 82, Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador, , be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, , who is unable to attend.

General Service Trustee from Australia, be granted permission to attend the 1995 General Service Conference as an observer.

The 48th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 1998, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

The Conference Committee on International Conventions continue to meet on an annual basis, discussing Regional Forums when there are no International Convention items; and that the committee be renamed Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

Simultaneous translation be made available at future General Service Conferences. The Conference member requiring translation will submit a request as soon as possible, but no later than January 1st of the Conference year. Estimated costs: \$16,000 per language.

Since the Washington Area (Area 72) has met the conditions for admission, a second delegate be admitted from Washington Area (Area 72). Further, the committee will continue to accept applications for seating new delegates; however, it will not act on those applications until after the Conference has considered how it will handle future growth and its effect on A.A. as a whole, or until January 1, 1999.

Since no Conference is binding on the next, each Conference will determine by a sense of the meeting as part of its "house-keeping" chores whether or not that annual meeting of the Conference will be smoking or non-smoking.

**1996** It was recommended that:

The delegate from Area 73, West Virginia, , Panel 45, be seated as a Conference member in place of , Panel 45, who has resigned.

The 49th General Service Conference be held April 18-24, 1999, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

Any sitting delegate on the Conference International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee whose area is presenting at the General Service Conference as a possible international Convention site city withdraw from that committee and a replacement be selected.

"Washington State East Area 92" and "Western Washington State Area 72" be approved as the new names for these areas.

**1997** It was recommended that:

The delegate from Area 09, Mid-Southern California, , Panel 46, be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, , Panel 46, who resigned.

from Slovakia, be granted

permission to attend the 47th General Service Conference as an observer.

The 50th General Service Conference be held April 30-May 6, 2000, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

The name of Area 72 be changed from Western Washington State Area to Western Washington Area.

**1998** It was recommended that:

, chairperson of the General Service Board in the Netherlands and a World Service Meeting delegate, be invited to attend the 48th General Service Conference as an observer.

The 51st General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2001, since those dates do not conflict with any significant religious holidays.

When calculating the number of votes to determine substantial unanimity or a 2/3 majority on the Conference floor, when the number is a fraction, the next higher whole number will be used.

The timetable for the election of delegates from the West Central Region be revised to allow for a more even distribution of new delegates on each panel as suggested in the proposal submitted by that region.

The revised timetable for the election of delegates from the West Central Region be accomplished for the election of Panel 50 delegates by having two areas in the West Central Region elect two delegates for one-year terms with the understanding that those two delegates would have the opportunity to stand for his/her own two-year term in the following election as suggested in the proposal submitted by that region.

A Conference Archives Committee, composed of nine delegates (five from Panel 48 and four from Panel 49), meet at the 49th General Service Conference as a secondary committee assignment and that the committee meet jointly with the trustees' Archives Committee.

The following statement under Delegate Term on page S73 of the 1997-1998 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* which reads:

The Conference strongly recommends limiting the term of delegate to one two-year term, with the exception of an alternate delegate who, after filling one year of the delegate's term, may be elected to serve his or her own term.

be revised to read:

The Conference strongly recommends limiting the term of delegate to one two-year term, with the exception of an alternate delegate who, after attending one Conference in place of the delegate, may be elected to serve his or her own term.

**1999** It was recommended that:

The 52nd General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 2002, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

**2000** It was recommended that:

The 53rd General Service Conference be held April 27-May 3, 2003, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

The Southern California Area 05 be granted an additional delegate area. (Floor Action)

**2001** It was recommended that:

, Panel 51 alternate delegate, British Columbia/Yukon Area 79, be admitted to the Conference

because , Panel 51 area delegate, is unable to attend.

, general manager of the G.S.O. for Germany, be admitted to the Conference as an observer; and that , staff member in the German G.S.O., also be admitted to the Conference as an observer and translator for Günther.

An observer's attendance at Conference Committee meetings and Delegates Only Meetings would need individual committee approval.

The Fifty-Fourth General Service Conference be held April 18-24, 2004, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

**2002** It was recommended that:

The 55th General Service Conference be held April 17-23, 2005, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

, Panel 51 alternate delegate, Area 82, Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador be admitted to the Conference because , Panel 51 delegate for Area 82, is unable to attend.

, Panel 51 alternate delegate, Area 13, District of Columbia, be admitted to the Conference because , Panel 51 delegate for Area 13, is unable to attend.

The "Application for Additional Delegate Area," as amplified and revised by the committee, be approved and made available through the General Service Office.

**2003** It was recommended that:

, general secretary, G.S.O. Great Britain, and , general secretary elect, G.S.O. Great Britain, be granted permission to attend the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference as observers.

, alternate delegate, Area 74, No. WI/Upper Peninsula Michigan be seated as a Conference member at the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference because , the Panel 52 delegate for Area 74, is unable to attend.

The 56th General Service Conference be held April 23-29, 2006 since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

**2004** It was recommended that:

The 57th General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2007, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

The use of personal computers at General Service Conferences be approved in keeping with the "Guidelines for PC Users at the General Service Conference" as contained in a report from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

Note: The Conference Coordinator will continue to notify Conference members annually of the availability of up to 24 spaces complete with power outlets for the use of personal computers at the General Service Conference. If the number of requests for the use of personal computers exceeds 24, the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions will review the Guidelines.

The request for an additional delegate area from Area 15, South Florida, Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands and Antigua, be denied. The committee suggested that the area reconsider this request and explore alternatives at the area level to address the challenges of the general service structure in Area 15.

The current practice for viewing or examining all materials other than service material submitted for Conference approval be continued adhering to the principle of the “right of decision” throughout the Conference process.

**2005** It was recommended that:

, alternate delegate, Area 2, Alaska be seated as a Conference member at the 55th General Service Conference because , the Panel 54 delegate for Area 2 is unable to attend.

Zothecas circuq, alternate delegate, Area 37, Mississippi be seated as a Conference member at the 55th General Service Conference because the Panel 54 delegate for Area 37 is unable to attend.

The 58th General Service Conference be held April 27-May 3, 2008, having considered significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.

The timetable for the election of delegates from the Western Canada Region be revised to allow for an even distribution of new delegates on each panel.

The revised timetable for the election of delegates from the Western Canada Region be accomplished with the election of Panel 56 delegates by having one area in the Western Canada Region elect a delegate for a one-year term with the understanding that this delegate would have the opportunity to stand for his/her own two-year term in the following Panel 57 election.

**2006** It was recommended that:

, general manager of the G.S.O. for Australia, and , general manager of the G.S.O. for Japan, be admitted to the 56th General Service Conference as observers.

Current General Service Board members and G.S.O. staff members from other countries be granted admission as observers upon their request to the annual General Service Conference of the U.S. and Canada; that admission is not to exceed two countries and two representatives per country, one being a board member and/or one G.S.O. staff member at each General Service Conference; that the request for admission be made through the General Service Office in New York; and that decisions regarding responsibility for guest observer expenses be at the discretion of the General Service Board.

The 59th General Service Conference be held April 26 – May 2, 2009, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.

**2007** It was recommended that:

, alternate delegate, Area 81, New Brunswick/PEI, be seated as a Conference member at the 57th General Service Conference because , the Panel 56 delegate for Area 81 is unable to attend.

The 60th General Service Conference be held April 18-24, 2010, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

**2008** It was recommended that:

, alternate delegate, Area 36, Southern Minnesota, be seated as a Conference member at the 58th General Service Conference because , the Panel 57 delegate for Area 36 is unable to attend.

and from the General Service Board of Central Mexicana; Louise Foxcroft from the General Service Board of Great Britain and Ann Napier, general secretary G.S.O. Great Britain, be admitted to

the 58th General Service Conference as observers.

The 61st General Service Conference be held May 1-7, 2011, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.

Representatives from other national A.A. service entities be granted admission as observers upon their request to the annual General Service Conference of the United States and Canada; that admission is not to exceed three countries and two representatives per country; that the request for admission be made through the General Service Office in New York; and that decisions regarding responsibility for guest observer expenses be at the discretion of the General Service Board.

The responsibility for General Service Conference site selection be delegated to General Service Office management, subject to approval of the General Service Board; and that a report be forwarded to the 2009 General Service Conference.

**2009** It was recommended that:

, alternate delegate, Area 12, Delaware, be seated as a Conference member at the 59th General Service Conference because , the Panel 58 delegate for Area 12, passed away.

from the General Service Board of Brazil, from the General Service Board of Colombia and Plinio Barrera Plazas, manager, G.S.O. Colombia, be admitted to the 59th General Service Conference as observers.

The 62nd General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2012 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.

The General Service Board develop a procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and bring a draft to the 2010 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for their review.

The committee asked that the following questions from the report, “Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference Subcommittee on Forwarding Minority Reports and Presentations to the General Service Conference” be addressed in the proposed procedure:

- a. To whom does the minority announce that it intends to present a minority report to the Conference?
- b. What is the deadline for making such a decision?
- c. What Conference members, if any, are given advance notice of the decision?
- d. Who is responsible for seeing that the minority report and its documentation are in fact physically made available to the Conference?
- e. What is the deadline for distributing the minority report and its documentation?
- f. To whom are the minority report and its documentation given?

The General Service Board develop a plan for the General Service Conference to conduct an inventory of itself that includes a planning committee consisting of representatives of delegates, trustees, directors, nontrustee directors, and staff, and that a progress report be presented to the 2010 Policy/Admissions Committee.

**2010** It was recommended that:

, alternate delegate, Area 33, Southeast Michigan, be seated as a Conference member at the 60th General Service Conference because , the Panel 59 delegate for Area 33, resigned.

and from the General Service Board of Venezuela be admitted to the 60th General Service Conference as observers.

The 63rd General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 2013 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.

The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan to bring forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration, along with an estimated cost for conducting the inventory.

#### **Composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee**

The composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee (CIPC) will have a proportional representation similar to the General Service Conference including delegates, trustees, a nontrustee director, a G.S.O. staff member and a Grapevine staff member.

Selection of eligible delegates shall include those not elected as chair of a Conference committee who are willing and able to serve. The Conference Inventory Planning Committee will consist of 17 individuals with representation as follows:

#### **11 Panel 60 Delegates**

Alternate Conference delegate chair

Alternate chair—Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

Alternate chair—Conference Committee on Agenda

One delegate from each region for a total of 8 to be chosen by lot by the chair of the General Service Board, the G.S.O. Conference coordinator and the Conference delegate chair.

#### **Trustees, Directors and Staff**

One Class B regional trustee

One Class B general service trustee who will serve as chair of the committee

One Class A trustee

One Nontrustee director

One G.S.O. staff person

One Grapevine staff person

The trustees, nontrustee director and G.S.O./Grapevine staff will be appointed by the chair of the General Service Board.

A G.S.O. staff member, appointed by the G.S.O. general manager, will serve as the nonvoting secretary to the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and coordinate committee meeting schedules and correspondence.

As a resource for the development of an inventory plan, the Conference Inventory Planning Committee will use the background, recommendations, questions and summary of suggestions contained in the report of the February 2, 2009 trustees' subcommittee on "Discussion of the Proposal for a General Service Conference Inventory" and the January 6, 2010 report of the trustees' subcommittee on "Developing a Plan for the General Service Conference to Conduct an Inventory of Itself," along with any additional, related background material the committee may deem appropriate.

The request for development of procedures for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference, be recommitted to the General Service Board, taking into account considerations expressed during the 2010

General Service Conference, and forward a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions. (Floor Action)

**2011** It was recommended that:

and from the General Service Structure of Peru be admitted to the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

and from the General Service Structure of Great Britain be admitted to the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

, alternate delegate, Area 50, Western New York, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because , the Panel 60 delegate for Area 50 resigned.

, alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario International, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because , the Panel 61 delegate for Area 83 is unable to attend.

The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan formulated by the Conference Inventory Planning Committee. (See page 11)

The 64th General Service Conference be held April 27-May 3, 2014 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

The Conference Committee on Archives meet separately at the General Service Conference following a joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives.

The following procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference be established:

1. The minority, expressing a feeling or opinion in light of the right of appeal to the General Service Conference, has been very rare. It is hoped that an individual entitled under Concept V to appeal would exhaust every avenue offered within the General Service Conference structure prior to making an appeal to the General Service Conference.
2. Those entitled to appeal to the General Service Conference are members who, on the inverted triangle of the A.A. service structure, fall *below* the General Service Conference level — members of staffs, committees, corporate boards or trustees, as referenced in the first paragraph of Concept V of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
3. The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the General Service Conference delegate chair and to the General Service Office Conference coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference.
4. All Conference members will be given notice through the General Service Office of the minority's decision to file an appeal.
5. Appeals under Concept V, including any minority report and background, must be received in writing 30 days prior to the General Service Conference in order for these materials to be distributed to Conference members. The G.S.O. Conference coordinator will be responsible for seeing that this material is made available to all Conference members within 10 business days after its receipt.
6. The minority's appeal will be presented before the start of deliberation on Committee Reports:
  - The minority will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their appeal.
  - The majority will then be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their position.

7. The discretion to debate a minority's appeal rests with the Conference body.

The chair will ask if there is a motion to decline to consider the minority's appeal. A motion to decline to consider a minority's appeal:

- Must be made without comment.
- Needs a second.
- Is not debatable.
- Requires a *two thirds majority*.

8. If the Conference decides to debate the appeal, it then takes the form of a motion which does not require a second. If passed by substantial unanimity, it becomes an Advisory Action.

9. Whether or not an appeal is debated, a summary of the minority's report and the disposition of the appeal will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

**2012** It was recommended that:

and from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference as observers.

alternate delegate, Area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, be seated as a Conference member at the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference because , Panel 61 delegate for Area 89, is unable to attend.

The 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2015 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

The use of electric devices at the General Service Conference be approved in keeping with the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the Conference" as presented to the 2012 General Service Conference, superseding the 2004 Advisory Action regarding the use of personal computers at the Conference.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**1955** It was recommended that:

The Conference adopt a resolution setting forth the importance of the anonymity tradition and directing the General Service Board to take appropriate steps to inform all media of the Society's traditional position on the subject. (Floor Action)

**1956** It was recommended that:

The proposed statement of "A.A.'s Movement-Wide Public Information Policy" be approved. (Floor Action)

"In all public relationships, A.A.'s sole objective is to help the still-suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him, and to those who may be interested in his problem, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism."

The following resolutions be adopted as movement policy to

guide Headquarters personnel in their relationships with television and motion picture producers. (Floor Action)

1. The Conference approves the concept of having the General Service Board of A.A. arrange, if it can, for the production of a network television program, or programs, relating to the story and work of A.A., provided that the General Service Board has the right of script approval and that such script, before it is approved, is approved both by Bill and the [trustees'] Public Information Committee, which is a subcommittee of the [trustees'] Policy Committee.

2. This North American Conference authorizes the General Service Board to permit the use of the words, "made in cooperation with Alcoholics Anonymous," or words of similar import, only in the case where either the General Service Board or any of its Committees or the A.A. Publishing Company, have right of script approval. In all other cases no type of indication that it is made in cooperation with A.A. shall be permitted. When General Service Headquarters is approached for assistance or information in relation to the production of a motion picture or television program or a radio program and publications and all other media of communications, the matter shall be referred to the Policy Committee or the Public Information Committee and they shall determine under what circumstances they are prepared to provide assistance to producers, for the basic purpose of insuring that, so far as possible, A.A. is not misinterpreted in any such projects.

3. In keeping with the Fourth Tradition which provides that each group shall be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, it is suggested to all groups by the North American Conference that the groups submit to the Policy Committee of the General Service Board of A.A. or to its Public Information Committee all proposals relating to Alcoholics Anonymous respecting motion pictures, television programs, network radio programs, and magazines and newspapers of national circulation. However, in keeping with the concept of local autonomy in public relations it is understood that cooperation with respect to a local television program might be given, provided no proprietary right is granted in, and to, the material provided or in a title in which the name Alcoholics Anonymous forms a part with respect to such television programs.

**1957** It was recommended that:

General Service Headquarters should make available to delegates, upon request, copies of the Basic Fact File developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee. (Floor Action)

**1958** It was recommended that:

The Delegates and the General Service Office undertake a "census" of the Fellowship. The actual census-taking will be done by the groups themselves and delegates were urged to stress the need for, and importance of, such a project in their reports to areas. (Floor Action)

**1960** It was recommended that:

A report of the Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies which reaffirms and documents the traditional A.A. policy of cooperation, but non-affiliation, with A.A.'s many friends in outside agencies be approved. (Floor Action)

The questions and answers as revised on April 22, 1960, be approved and that this Fact File be made available to groups in loose-leaf form. (Special Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies)



The final draft of this Fact File be referred to the Literature Committee for such action as it may wish to take in the publication of a pamphlet. (Special Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies)

The Conference authorize another Study Committee which will report to the 1961 Conference any essential revisions or additions to the currently approved Fact File. (Special Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies)

**1961** It was recommended that:

Expansion of a 1960 "guide" on relations with outside agencies by adding three questions and answers to the document be approved. (Floor Action)

The General Service Board Public Information Committee be designated to make contacts with outside agencies on an interim basis. (Floor Action)

Delegates be encouraged to establish improved communications with State and Provincial public officials in the field. (Floor Action)

A permanent Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies be established. (Floor Action)

The Public Information Committee's procedure of considering financial obligations when G.S.O. is approached by film producers with a proposal for a motion picture on A.A. services be approved. (Policy)

The Public Information Committee's plan for an anonymity mailing to communications media in June 1961, be approved. (Policy)

**1962** It was recommended that:

Approval be given to the new policy recommended by the G.S.B. Public Information Committee that the A.A. exhibits be available for display at meetings of appropriate professional groups without restriction as to the geographic areas they represent. The policy of restriction to national conventions was originally prompted by the fact that we had only one exhibit. (Relations with Outside Agencies)

The Conference reaffirm the 1961 Conference advisory action: (Relations with Outside Agencies)

- a. That ever mindful of A.A.'s traditional policy of "Cooperation: Yes—Affiliation—No," the [trustees'] Public Information Committee, when requested to do so, continue to meet with organizations outside of A.A. concerned with the problem of alcoholism for the purpose of improving communications and understanding and discussing mutual problems.
- b. That the delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with the directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies within their respective areas.

**1963** It was recommended that:

Approval be given to the following Questions and Answers on Retreats for addition to "Cooperation But Not Affiliation." (Relations with Outside Agencies)

Q. What is the relationship of A.A. to retreats or other meetings for alcoholics held under the auspices, or in connection with the activities, of religious denominations?

A. There is no formal relationship. Movement-wide experience might be summarized as follows:

1. Traditionally, A.A. does not sponsor such gatherings. There is no such thing as an "A.A. retreat" any more than there is an "A.A. hospital" or an "A.A. clinic." Members participate in such activities as individuals.
2. Since the Fellowship does not affiliate with other organi-

zations, the A.A. name cannot properly be used to identify or publicize retreats or activities sponsored by others. This applies even when most of the participants (perhaps all of them) consider themselves members of A.A. The objective is to minimize public misunderstanding of A.A.'s purpose and function.

3. If reference to the participation of A.A. members seems unavoidable in advance notices or in reports, such reference should also emphasize that A.A. as a movement does not sponsor retreats or religious activities and members attend as *individuals*.

The following actions be reaffirmed: (Relations with Outside Agencies)

- a. That a member of [trustees'] Public Information Committee represent the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs.
- b. That ever mindful of A.A.'s traditional policy of "Cooperation but Not Affiliation" the Public Information Committee, when requested to do so, continue to meet with organizations outside of A.A. concerned with the problem of alcoholism for the purpose of improving communications and understanding and discussing mutual problems.
- c. That the delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies in their respective areas. Addresses are available from G.S.O.

**1964** It was recommended that:

The statement prepared by the [trustees'] Public Information Committee defining "A.A.'s Position in the Field of Alcoholism" be accepted by the Conference. (Relations with Outside Agencies)

Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship of recovered alcoholics who help each other maintain sobriety and who offer to share their recovery experience freely with other men and women who may have a drinking problem. A.A. members are distinctive in their acceptance of all or part of a program of Twelve Suggested Steps designed for personal recovery from alcoholism.

The Fellowship functions through approximately 11,000 local groups in 80 countries. Several hundred thousand alcoholics have achieved sobriety in A.A., but members recognize that their program is not always effective with all alcoholics and that some may require professional counseling or treatment.

A.A. is concerned solely with the personal recovery and continued sobriety of individual alcoholics who turn to the Fellowship for help. The movement does not engage in the fields of alcoholism research, medical or psychiatric treatment, education or propaganda in any form although members may participate in such activities as *individuals*.

The movement has adopted a policy of "cooperation but not affiliation" with other organizations concerned with the problem of alcoholism.

Traditionally, Alcoholics Anonymous does not accept or seek financial support from outside sources and members preserve personal anonymity in print and broadcast media and otherwise at the public level.

G.S.O. put into effect, in cases involving possible misunderstanding of A.A.'s relationship to retreats, a procedure similar to that followed in cases of anonymity breaks. (Persons believed to be responsible for creating an erroneous impression that A.A. as a society sponsors retreats should be advised that

this is not the case, and their attention should be directed to the section Questions and Answers on Retreats in the pamphlet "Cooperation but Not Affiliation." Copies of such communications should be sent to the Area Delegates involved.) (Relations with Outside Agencies)

G.S.O. correspondence concerning outside organizations and Traditions be shared with the Area Delegate. (Relations with Outside Agencies)

Delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies in their Areas. (Relations with Outside Agencies)

**1965** It was recommended that:

Delegates establish lines of communication with directors of tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas. (Relations with Outside Agencies)

The Conference reaffirm the comment on question 16 in the pamphlet "Cooperation but Not Affiliation," and request publication of the following in the A.A. Grapevine: (Relations with Outside Agencies)

Experience shows that A.A. groups and intergroups or central committees should not operate or manage these ventures. Individual A.A.s frequently set up such related facilities, being careful not to use the A.A. name in solicitation, advertising, and publicity. These ventures are usually set up on a nonprofit basis, incorporated under the charitable and educational laws of the state, and excluding "Alcoholics Anonymous" from their names.

Hospitals and rest homes and other community rehabilitation aids bear the same relationship to A.A. groups, intergroups, or central committees as do any other outside agencies. With full cooperation of the groups in the community they are used for referral, provided A.A.'s tradition of nonendorsement and nonaffiliation is made clear.

Since these ventures are separate from the Fellowship, it is advisable that they operate under names which do not link them to A.A.—under names other than "Twelfth Step House," "Alanon House," etc.

In accordance with past procedure, the *World Directory* should not be made available to other organizations because of its confidential nature. (Relations with Other Agencies)

The title of the Conference "Committee on Relations with Outside Organizations" be changed to Conference "Committee on Relations with Other Agencies." (Relations with Other Agencies)

**1966** It was recommended that:

The name of the Conference Committee on Other Agencies be changed to Conference Committee on Public Information. (Relations with Other Agencies and Policy)

All delegates be urged to establish good lines of communication with tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas.

Delegates screen requests for the *World Directory* from outside A.A.

It be reaffirmed that the color-sound film "Bill's Own Story" is for use by A.A. groups only, not for outside agencies.

When problems of A.A. relationships with other agencies arise in one area, all members of the new Conference P.I. Committee be informed.

**1967** It was recommended that:

Delegates continue to establish lines of communication with tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas.

G.S.O. refer requests for *World Directory* from other agencies to Area Delegate for follow-up.

After discussing ways that A.A.s can best participate in the Annual Alcoholism Information Week, such as holding public meetings and appearing on programs when invited, provided anonymity is preserved, the suggestion that the trustees' Public Information Committee provide information concerning A.A. policy on this matter one month in advance of the event.

The trustees' P.I.C. provide specific suggestions regarding all acceptable methods for preserving anonymity during TV appearances.

Trustees' P.I.C. seek opinion of International Doctors Group in A.A. on how groups can improve relations with doctors in their communities.

The position paper on Alcoholic Rehabilitation Centers be accepted. (Floor Action)

The paper on rehabs noted that there is no such thing as an "A.A. Rehabilitation Center," although such centers may have been identified with the Fellowship because they were organized and directed by A.A. members. It was also suggested that the name of such an institution in no way involves A.A. or any terms identified with A.A., that meetings held there be named after the locality rather than the center. The Conference voiced recognition of the fact that rehabs are not a part of A.A. and therefore are not responsible for adhering to A.A. Traditions.

**1968** It was recommended that:

Approval be given to the pamphlet "The Fellowship for Alcoholics Anonymous," with minor changes, and that it now carry the seal.

The showing of the full face of an A.A. member at the level of press, TV, and films be considered a violation of the Anonymity Tradition, even though the name is withheld.

"Suggestions for Improving A.A.'s Relations with the Medical Profession in the Community" be approved and recommended that it be made available to all A.A. groups.

Approval be given to the statement on "Functions of Local Public Information Committees" with revisions.

The Conference confirm the Tradition of self-support by agreeing that telephone meetings in which the telephone company makes its facilities available without charge are not within this Tradition.

Approval be given to a proposition to conduct a survey among A.A. members in order to gather more meaningful information regarding the effectiveness of the A.A. program of recovery. (Floor Action)

**1969** It was recommended that:

Material be prepared and included in P.I. Kits which emphasizes the importance of local public information committees, taking care that their announcements, public meetings, and releases to news media concern the A.A. program of recovery and not the professional field of alcoholism.

No special material for judges, law-enforcement people, or teachers be considered at the present time.

G.S.O. consider sending a questionnaire to delegates and P.I. Committees on the subject of cooperation between A.A. members and affiliates of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs.

The General Service Conference approve the following resolution of the trustees' Policy Committee and the General Service Board of Trustees:

We will endeavor to avoid participation on radio and TV programs, unless

- a. We are given adequate time for preparation
- b. Our presence will serve an A.A. objective
- c. The primary discussion is appropriate for A.A.—not concerned with crime, sex, controversy or any other sensationalism
- d. We are satisfied our anonymity is guaranteed.

**1970** It was recommended that:

A brief statement be prepared—no longer than the A.A. Preamble—explaining why A.A. retains the tradition of anonymity at the media and film level.

The idea of combining all present material pertaining to radio/TV appearances by A.A. members with a new memo covering discussion topics for such shows be approved.

A small folder (similar to the Management folder) be considered for use in schools.

**1971** It was recommended that:

The survey proposed by the trustees' Public Information Committee be undertaken.

The Anonymity Statement presented by the trustees' Public Information Committee be approved with the following reservation: That it be made clear that disclosing one's A.A. membership to those outside A.A. be a matter of personal choice and not a matter of obligation. With this in mind, the committee suggests the revision of certain paragraphs and wishes to see the revised draft before it is put into circulation.

The wallet card Anonymity Statement (suggested by the 1970 Conference) be accepted, and suggested that the term "self-aggrandizement" be eliminated in favor of a simpler and more easily pronounced word.

The "Student's Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" (suggested by the 1970 Conference) be accepted for publication with minor revisions.

The trustees' Committee consider combining and compressing existing material in the P.I. Kit in the form of a P.I. Manual.

Other areas explore the possibility of using "What Happened to Joe" as a comic strip in local newspapers as reported by an A.A. member in the February P.I. Bulletin.

Following some discussion of a local problem involving the alleged use of the A.A. name in a fund-raising appeal, the right of any A.A. member or General Service Board member to serve and have his name placed on the letterhead of another organization when not identified as an A.A. member or a member of A.A.'s General Service Board be reaffirmed. (Floor Action)

The use of full names and addresses, *where indicated*, could improve communications within A.A. (Floor Action)

The Conference reaffirm that the A.A. name never be linked with other organizations for fund-raising purposes. (Floor Action)

Delegates obtain the thinking of their areas on possible uses of the Bill W. Memorial Fund and communicate their findings to the trustees for their guidance. (Floor Action)

We accept the recommendation from the Conference Committee on Public Information for the formation of a Conference Committee on Professional Relations to correspond with the trustees' Committee on Professional Relations; that five delegates from Panel 22 be drawn by lot for the Conference Committee on Professional Relations, that four members from Panel 23 will be added to the committee to bring it up to its full complement of nine. The Conference will then have ten Conference Committees comprised of nine members each at the present Conference size. (Policy)

**1972** It was recommended that:

Special discount packages for use in schools be made available to local public information committees and other interested A.A. members.

Where there is no public information committee, it is the delegate's responsibility to form one in his area with the help of qualified and dedicated individuals.

The pamphlet "A Brief Guide to A.A." (formerly "A Student's Guide to A.A.") be approved.

**1973** It was recommended that:

Two documents recently updated by the trustees' Public Information Committee, "Responsibilities of the Movement for Keeping the Public Informed" and "Public Information Policy of the General Service Board," be approved, with the provision that the following sentence be underscored: "*We must recognize that our competence to speak about alcoholism is limited in subject matter to Alcoholics Anonymous and its recovery program.*"

There is a real need for public information speakers to place greater emphasis on our recovered way of life, rather than our drinking experiences.

The need for greater understanding by A.A. members of public information be recognized, and one way to accomplish this might be to have area committee members help to acquaint the membership at large with public information literature and its use, stressing that P.I. work is a good way of doing Twelfth Step work.

The P.I. Kit be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Public Information to keep it effective and up to date.

All delegates cooperate with public information committee chairmen (in areas where there is a P.I. committee) in an effort to share public information experiences, both good and bad, with G.S.O. so that others might benefit via the *P.I. Bulletin*.

**1974** It was recommended that:

In accordance with the General Service Board's recommendation, the film "Bill's Own Story" be released to Al-Anon groups under the same conditions as to A.A. groups.

The wording of the Eleventh Tradition remain as is and that the delegates explain at the local level that "TV" is implicit in the last phrase of the Tradition, which reads: ". . . at the level of press, radio, and films." The committee requested that "TV" as part of the Eleventh Tradition in the P.I. Manual be deleted in the next printing.

The following Conference action of 1968 be reaffirmed:

Showing the full face of an A.A. member, identified as an A.A. member, at the level of press, TV, and films, is a violation of our Tradition of Anonymity even though the name is withheld.

G.S.O. discontinue distribution of the film "Time for Decision."

We do a feature story on anonymity for press and media trade publications, and that all delegates receive a copy for local P.I. work.

The following statements in the pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community" describe accurately what A.A. as a fellowship does *not* do, so the wording remain:

- a. "A.A. does *not* (1) furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover . . ."
- b. A.A. does *not* (5) follow up or try to control its members.

The P.I. Committee continue to review annually the P.I. Kit in an effort to delete duplicate material and make the kit more effective and manageable.

G.S.O. make available to delegates the annual anonymity letter to the press so that it can be distributed by them to smaller newspapers in their areas.

Approval be given to the proposal for the A.A. survey to be conducted during the summer of 1974, and the delegates agree to cooperate in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires. (Floor Action)

Private picture-taking should not occur at A.A. events. (Floor Action)

The trustees' Public Information Committee continue trying to place articles about A.A. in publications for retired citizens. (Literature)

**1975** It was recommended that:

We revise the present Public Information Guidelines so they will provide specific suggestions for P.I. speakers, and also information to assist delegates in setting up public information committees at the area level where there is a need and a desire for this assistance.

The P.I. Committee continue to review annually the P.I. Kit, in an effort to delete duplicate material and make the kit more effective and more manageable.

**1976** It was recommended that:

At the present time, we do not need more specialized literature for special categories of people to carry the A.A. message to the public.

Before speaking to a non-A.A. audience, A.A. members read the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."

A.A. members speaking at non-A.A. meetings refrain from getting involved in a discussion regarding mood-changing drugs.

We are not falling short on public information at the public level; but there should be more understanding about P.I. within our groups.

There is good cooperation among P.I., C.P.C., and institutions committees in most areas.

The new pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" be included in the P.I. Kit.

The P.I. Kit be sent to all members of the Conference Committee on Public Information.

For communication purposes, consideration be given to a joint meeting of the Conference and trustees' Committees on Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, and Institutions.

**1977** It was recommended that:

Thirty-second TV and radio spots are more desirable than sixty-second. New TV spots are not needed at this time. It was suggested that there be wider distribution of our current spots. It was further recommended that our TV spots be shown to all delegates at future Conferences.

G.S.O. prepare a one-sheet flyer about A.A. In addition to distributing the flyer to local P.I. committees, students, and civic groups, it would be helpful to distribute it to general service representatives and group secretaries.

The trustees' Public Information Committee prepare public service announcements in print form and that these announcements be sent to local P.I. committees and placed in Background Editorial Material in the Public Information Kit.

A joint meeting of the Conference and trustees' Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions would not be practical. However, the committee recommends there be a joint meeting of the Conference P.I. and C.P.C. Committees at the 1978

Conference. The committee accepts the fact of an existing overlapping of responsibilities between the two committees. It is felt a joint meeting will be helpful in this regard.

The 1976 recommendation of sending the P.I. Kit annually to members of the Conference P.I. Committee prior to the Conference be reaffirmed, and that the following be added to the P.I. Kit:

- a. Information paper on Alcoholics Anonymous, recently prepared by the trustees' C.P.C. Committee
- b. Included in the Background Radio/TV Material, a brief description of existing TV and radio spots

All material in the P.I. Kit reflect current membership figures.

The A.A. membership survey be conducted in June 1977 with the cooperation of the area delegates. (Floor Action)

**1978** It was recommended that:

Existing G.S.O. TV spot announcements and the TV spots made available by the Northern Florida Public Information Committee remain in use at this time. It was further suggested that new TV spot announcements be considered by the 1979 Conference Public Information Committee, and that when they are made, they deal more with the alcoholic than with his family.

The existing radio spot announcements continue to be used and that the radio spots reported on by the committee member from Tennessee be reviewed by the trustees' Public Information Committee for possible distribution in the United States and Canada.

The following items be added to the P.I. Kit: "A.A. at a Glance," "Is A.A. for You?," "This Is A.A.," and a one-sheet piece describing the one-way display and how to order it.

A sentence describing the one-way display and how to order it should be added under "Displays" in the P.I. Guidelines.

The A.A. Public Information Manual be reviewed, updated, and made consistent with other materials in the Public Information Kit; the statistics be updated; and that a notation be made in the new manual stating that it supersedes the manual printed in February 1973.

Background Editorial and Background Radio and TV Material be reviewed and updated by the trustees' Public Information Committee.

In order to encourage attendance at public information meetings by non-A.A.s, the current Guidelines be amended to include personal contact as a follow-up to invitations extended to the public.

One of the Canadian P.I. committees be invited to do an article on public information meetings and/ or industrial luncheons for the *P.I./C.P.C. Bulletin* since they seem to have greater success in getting the non-A.A. public to attend such functions.

A.A. members be encouraged to invite their doctors, lawyers, etc., to their group anniversary meetings.

There is no further necessity for a special meeting of the Conference Committees on Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community. However, it was suggested that a table be set aside at lunch for members of the P.I. and C.P.C. Committees on one day of the Conference for the purpose of sharing.

The test film shown to the Conference Literature Committee be expanded to a film approximately 25 minutes in length for the purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the general public, with the understanding that the film will be presented to the 1979 General Service Conference for approval prior to distribution. (Literature)

**1979** It was recommended that:

The report of the trustees' Public Information Committee be approved as read, with the exception of the phrase "to reflect current A.A. practice" as used in the following paragraphs:

"The committee recommended that the board respond that changes made by the P.I. Committee in P.I. literature are made to *reflect what is believed to be current A.A. practice and experience*. Changes in the 'Understanding Anonymity' and 'Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings' pamphlets are also responsive to the 1978 Conference comment.

"The committee further recommended that the board's reply should state that the intention when making changes in P.I. literature has never been to reinterpret A.A. Traditions, but again to *reflect current A.A. practice*."

—because the phrase "to reflect current A.A. practice" is not specific enough in either definition or application to deal with the very important matter of changes in our A.A. Literature.

The trustees' P.I. Committee and the General Service Office staff begin production on new television and radio spots at the earliest possible date.

The trustees' P.I. Committee and the General Service Office staff begin production on Spanish-speaking television and radio spots.

All the TV spots be "signed" for the deaf or have subtitles.

After reviewing and approving the model for the new P.I. Kit:

- a. A statement of the purpose and scope of a public information committee be included in the introductory element of the Public Information Kit.
- b. The anonymity letter to the media be included in the kit with the suggestion that local P.I. committees take it to their local newspapers.
- c. Grapevine subscription forms be included in the kit with the suggestion that they be used to give subscriptions to local libraries, doctors, members of the clergy, etc.
- d. Definitions and special information be indicated by being printed in bold type.
- e. When available, the new P.I. Manual be mailed to all persons on the P.I. chairpersons list at G.S.O.

The mail-poll approval given for the changes made in the pamphlets "Understanding Anonymity" and "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" to reflect the 1978 Conference indication that most A.A. members use first names only when speaking at non-A.A. meetings be reaffirmed.

The pamphlet "Too Young?" be included in the P.I. Discount Package.

The suggestion to make a syndicated column about A.A. available to local P.I. committees for local distribution be rejected.

A voice-over be added at the end of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View," repeating that film techniques have been employed to protect the anonymity of A.A. members. With this addition, the committee recommended that the film be approved by the Conference. (The Conference also stipulated that sound-track audibility be improved.) (Literature)

With regard to the distribution of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View": (Literature)

- a. A.A. World Services retain ownership of the film and control distribution of each copy.
- b. During its first year, the film be released only to those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, and that the area delegate be notified of *all* requests from his or her area for the film.
- c. Priority for distributing the film would be: (1) A.A. service entities, such as public information committees and

institutions committees; (2) those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, such as treatment programs and professional groups; and (3) schools, churches, service clubs, etc.

- d. Although the film is intended *primarily* for use outside A.A., prints be made available on a rental basis to any A.A. entities wishing to show it.
- e. With the exception of one or two selected test areas, the use of the film on television be delayed for one year to give the General Service Conference an opportunity to gain real experience with the reaction of the Fellowship and the public to the film.
- f. Anyone involved in showing the film during the coming year be asked to submit a brief evaluation on a prepared form to G.S.O.
- g. The results of the evaluation and the distribution policy be reviewed by the 1980 Conference Public Information Committee.

**1980** It was recommended that:

The film "A.A.—An Inside View" be released for general distribution.

When there is a television showing of "A.A.—An Inside View," the delegate be notified, if possible.

The 1980 A.A. membership survey be done.

TV spots nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5 be accepted, and that spot no. 2 be sent back for revision, taking out some of the "lonely" words and stressing more "drinking" words. The committee felt TV and radio spots should be made in both French and Spanish.

The trustees' P.I. Committee's explanation of why all spots should not be signed for the hearing-impaired be accepted (the reason being that some deal with telephone use); one TV spot has subtitles, and this is sufficient.

When updating the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings," pages 9 and 10 give short answers to questions instead of references to another pamphlet.

"A.A. in Your Community" be discontinued since this pamphlet is so much like "A Brief Guide" and "A.A. at a Glance"; it was found to be unnecessary to have two pamphlets so much alike.

The trustees' P.I. Committee take excerpts from the current pamphlet "Too Young?" and make it into a flyer for teenagers. The committee particularly liked the 12 questions illustrated at the end. (The current proposed draft for such a flyer was rejected.)

There be a substantial reduction in the price of the pamphlet "Too Young?" to encourage a wider distribution of the current pamphlet.

The pictures of Bill W. and Dr. Bob remain in the film "A.A.—An Inside View." (Floor Action)

The Conference reaffirm the recommendation of the 1977 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows: "In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees' committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting." (Policy)

**1981** It was recommended that:

The 1980 membership survey be accepted as reported and that the trustees' P.I. Committee and A.A.W.S. develop a pamphlet, tabletop display, and wall poster of survey results, if feasible.

The rewrite of the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" now go into production.

The comments from the February 1, 1981, General Sharing Session on "Attraction, Promotion, Information?" be added to the P.I. Workbook, in the section "How to Do P.I.," and to the P.I. Guidelines.

All areas be notified before announcements on the availability of television or radio spots are sent to radio and television stations, so that local autonomy can be exercised. (Floor Action)

**1982** It was recommended that:

The additional TV public service announcements be distributed as follows:

- a. G.S.O. will announce availability to delegates and P.I. committees.
- b. The announcement will include a listing of local TV stations that requested spots in 1980-81, so that P.I. committees may initiate contact with the stations.
- c. Committees ordering public service announcements may indicate if they wish spots sent to them or directly to stations.
- d. Four-color storyboard brochures, developed by the trustees' P.I. Committee, will accompany the mailing.
- e. G.S.O. will contact and fill requests made by television network headquarters.

The sampling method for conducting the future membership survey be reevaluated by:

- a. The trustees' Public Information Committee, which is requested to explore the value of designing a program to reselect A.A. groups listed at G.S.O., on a random basis by area.
- b. Area delegates, who are asked to consider the feasibility of distributing survey material to preselected A.A. groups in their areas.

The possibility of conducting a future membership survey on a random basis by area be an agenda subject for the 1983 Conference.

A.A.W.S. explore the feasibility of producing a small, low-cost cardboard literature display rack for public information purposes.

**1983** It was recommended that:

A membership survey be undertaken in 1983.

The 1983 membership survey be conducted on a random basis, by area.

A reference to photographs be added to the Anonymity Card—The third paragraph to read as follows:

Thus, we respectfully ask that no A.A. speaker—or, indeed, any A.A. member—be identified by full name or photograph in published or broadcast reports of our meetings.

The trustees' Public Information Committee develop a feature story regarding A.A.'s primary purpose, highlighting the cross section of alcoholics now sober in A.A. and including, if practical, the A.A. Preamble.

A.A.W.S. explore the feasibility of translating the sound tracks of existing TV public service announcements into Spanish.

**1984** It was recommended that:

The flyer, one-way display, and poster on "The A.A. Member" be updated to include information from the 1983 membership survey.

The Spanish translations of "Picking Up the Phone" (30 seconds), "Calling A.A." (60 seconds), "First Meeting" (30 seconds), and "B.G.'s Advice" (30 seconds) be made available

to the Fellowship.

Public information news be regularly included in *Box 4-5-9*, eliminating the *P.I./C.P.C. Bulletin*.

All P.I. committees be contacted on the availability of "A.A.—An Inside View" in conjunction with the 50th anniversary P.I. efforts. They, in turn, would contact local independent TV stations. The committee further recommended that there be an article published in *Box 4-5-9* about this P.I. effort.

A 60-second video draft of footage taken from "A.A.—An Inside View," describing what A.A. is and is not and to possibly include the Preamble, be completed for use in conjunction with P.I. efforts for the International Convention, pending approval as a P.I. expenditure by A.A.W.S., Inc.

The Spanish version of the 30-second public service announcement "B.G.'s Advice" be prepared with subtitles in Spanish for the hearing-impaired for approval at the 1985 General Service Conference.

A new radio tape about young people in A.A. be prepared for approval at the 1985 Conference.

**1985** It was recommended that:

The phrase used in the membership surveys, No. 14, "Were you addicted to any drugs other than alcohol" be reworded to, "Were you addicted to drugs," in support of our singleness of purpose.

The new TV 30-20-10-second public service announcements be developed for approval at the 1986 General Service Conference as suggested by the trustees' Public Information Committee, and requested by the major networks.

The phrase "or check your local newspapers" be added to the present ending statement on the radio public service announcements.

The request to drop the phrase "A.A.—It Works" from all video public service announcements not be approved.

The wording in the fourth line, second page of the flyer "A.A. at a Glance"—"past illness" be changed to "alcoholism."

The new radio public service announcements for young people, as presented by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with the exception of the Danny S. story.

The words "and drugging" in the Kevin P. story in the radio public service announcement be deleted.

The delivery plan for the new young people's public service announcements to preselected radio stations be approved as presented by the trustees' Public Information Committee, which would include notification to the delegates, central offices and public information committees well in advance of airing.

An anonymity reaffirmation be read at the big meeting during the International Convention in Montreal.

An anonymity letter be sent to *Publishers' Weekly*, the book publishers magazine, and *Folio*, the magazine publishing magazine, reaffirming A.A.'s position on the Anonymity Traditions.

Our Anonymity Traditions be reaffirmed through letters to all general service representatives, articles in the Grapevine, and *Box 4-5-9*.

The idea for a film, filmstrip, videotape or some other such instrument targeting young people be referred to the trustees' Public Information Committee for consideration, and that a report be returned to the Conference Public Information Committee in 1986.

**1986** It was recommended that:

The focus in public service announcements be on alcoholism identification, although mention of addictions as part of a "story" is acceptable.

The 1986 Membership Survey be taken in the same manner as the 1983 survey.

Question 14 of the Membership Survey questionnaire read as follows: "In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?"

Three new television public service announcements of 30, 20, 10 seconds respectively be approved. In addition, the committee recommended that the 30-second spot and the 20-second spot be made available with different voice-over endings—either "Look us up in the phone book or check your local newspaper" or "Look us up in the phone book."

The 28-minute film targeting young people be made, with the provision that in any "Reprise" sections in the final film, the focus be on alcoholism only. The committee further recommended that the film be brought to the 1987 General Service Conference for approval.

**1987** It was recommended that:

The flyer, one-way display, and poster "The A.A. Member" be updated to reflect the findings from the 1986 Membership Survey.

The film targeting young people be approved for completion and distribution; and videocassette versions of the film be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information explore the feasibility of adapting the new film targeting young people into Spanish and French.

The graphics in the flyer "A Message to Teenagers" be updated with the new graphics from "Too Young?"

**1988** It was recommended that:

The word "fight" be changed to the words "deal with" in item 6 under "What A.A. Does Not Do" in the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous," so that the sentence will read "But A.A. does cooperate with organizations that deal with alcoholism."

A discussion outline for the film "Young People and A.A." is not needed at this time.

New radio spots be developed to reach specific audiences currently being targeted by radio stations and brought back to the 1989 Conference Public Information Committee for approval.

The 1971 General Service Conference Action be reaffirmed:

"A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his death, but in each situation the final decision must rest with the family."

Further, the A.A. Archives continue to protect the anonymity of deceased A.A. members as well as other members.

The A.A. Fact File be updated to correct inaccuracies, and that the corrected material be sent to the 1988 Conference Public Information Committee members for their approval prior to publication.

**1989** It was recommended that:

Ten new English radio public service announcements (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) with tag line changed to "Alcoholics Anonymous—phone or check your newspaper" be approved for distribution by G.S.O.

One additional English radio P.S.A. with the tag line changed to "Alcoholics Anonymous—phone or check your newspaper" titled "Liberated Woman" be approved for distribution by G.S.O.

Two Spanish radio P.S.A.s titled "I Would Not Kiss My Children" and "Completely Bankrupt" be approved for distribution by G.S.O.

The 1989 Membership Survey be conducted on a random basis, by area; and that we use the same questionnaire used in the 1986 survey.

The following items be added to the Public Information Workbook for use by convention P.I. chairperson:

- a. "Memo to News Directors, Writers, and Commentators."
- b. "Guide for a Convention Press Release" with one paragraph changed to delete all but the first name and last initial of the speakers and all other information that identifies convention speakers.
- c. "Press Kit" to be used at Convention Press Conferences.

Change the Public Information chairperson paragraph of the A.A. Guidelines on Conferences and Conventions to include references to the material now available to convention P.I. chairpeople.

A service piece providing guidelines for taping A.A. talks be prepared and brought to the 1990 General Service Conference for review and added to the A.A. Guidelines on Conferences and Conventions.

The following 1980 Conference Action be reaffirmed:

"In keeping with our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions, A.A. members who are requested to videotape talks and meetings preserve anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, and videotapes, realizing that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. The committee further recommended that talks by A.A. members be given in person rather than videotaped, in view of the temptation for videotaping to place personalities before principles."

A.A.W.S., Inc., give television stations and A.A. service entities the opportunity to use shortened versions of any of our films now available to the public but strongly urge they be used in their entirety when possible in order to maintain the integrity of the A.A. message.

No action be taken on the request to drop "It Works" from existing video P.S.A.s.

**1990** It was recommended that:

"The A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet, the one-way display and the poster be updated to reflect the findings from the 1989 Membership Survey.

"The A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet, the one-way display and poster reflect all the findings of the 1989 Membership Survey. The answer to Question #14 in the A.A. survey pertaining to drugs should be presented as follows:

"In addition to their alcoholism X% of members indicated they were addicted to drugs," and include the disclaimer "A.A.'s primary purpose is recovery from alcoholism."

The trustees' Committee on Public Information review the background of the entire survey and each question on the survey questionnaire, to determine which questions should be included or deleted from the 1992 Membership Survey. This information should be given to the 1991 Conference Public Information Committee as promptly as possible.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information consider the feasibility of developing video and television public service announcements with the focus on younger A.A. members and all minorities, within the framework of A.A.'s desire to carry its message to all alcoholics, and bring a recommendation back to the 1991 General Service Conference.

The trustees' Committee on General Service Conference consider a Conference theme, workshop or presentation on the question of affiliation, to be presented as soon as possible.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The following ten changes on the 1992 Membership Survey Questionnaire in a report from the trustees' Membership Survey subcommittee be approved:

1. Add the meeting name to the top of the form (on the same line as Town/City, State, Date).
2. The statement of purpose at the top of the questionnaire conform to the one used in the final brochure. The current brochure copy (1989) is as follows: The purpose of the survey has been to keep A.A. members informed on current trends in membership characteristics, and to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the professional community and to the general public as part of the effort to reach those who still suffer from alcoholism.
3. Combine categories 1 and 2 in question #5 into one question which would read: 1. Newspaper, magazine, radio or TV.
4. Add a category to question #5 (just above the last one, 15. Other) which would read: 14. Court order.
5. It was suggested that the categories listed in question #8, ("What is the general nature of your employment now?") be changed to accepted and established standard categories.
6. That question #9, "What is the specific nature of your employment now?", be eliminated from the questionnaire.
7. To eliminate the question #10b on questionnaire. ("Is it at the group at which you are filling out this questionnaire?")
8. Regarding the counseling questions: eliminate numbers #12b and #13b, which read:  
What was the most helpful (Check one):  
Medical Psychological Spiritual Other
9. Omit question #16, which reads: "Does your doctor present A.A. as a program of recovery to his patients?"
10. Omit question #17, which reads: "Has your doctor been to an A.A. meeting?"

The trustee's Public Information Committee, in preparing the 1992 Membership Survey Questionnaire, reconsider Question #14 of the 1989 Membership Survey Questionnaire ("In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?"), and that the trustees' P.I. Committee forward their findings with an explanation of their decision to the Conference Public Information Committee at least one month prior to the start of the 1992 General Service Conference.

The pilot footage for a video targeting younger people and minorities be approved, and that the 15-minute video production be authorized at a total cost of \$82,000 and be presented to the 1992 Conference for final approval.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information be authorized to spend \$4,000 for storyboards or other visual aids that outline a proposed film or video on the Traditions with focus on anonymity, and bring their proposals for production to the 1992 Conference.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The 1992 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:

- a. Add item "f" to Question #3: "this is my first A.A. meeting."
- b. Revise item "1" of Question #5 to read: "Newspaper, magazine, radio or TV."
- c. Change Question #9 to read: "Do you belong to an A.A. Home Group?"
- d. Revise item "a" of Question #10 to read: "Do you have a sponsor?"

- e. Change item "b" of Question #10 to read: "Did you get a sponsor within 90 days of coming to A.A.?"

That Question #14, "In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?" be removed from the 1992 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire because the question:

- a. emphasizes problems other than alcohol;
- b. has a tendency to lead to disunity;
- c. could be construed as conflicting with our primary purpose.

The 1992 Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis, as was done in the 1989 Membership Survey.

The video directed to young alcoholics be approved for distribution with one editing change: delete the segment at approximately 3 minutes, 23 seconds of the tape run that appears to show a drug transaction during a street scene; and add the anonymity disclaimer that appears at the beginning of the video to the closing credits.

The outline for an ongoing Traditions Communications Program not be developed. This project does not fall within the Scope of the Conference Public Information Committee, does not appear to be covered by the Scope of the trustees' Public Information Committee, and does not respond to an expressed need.

All materials already developed for the Traditions Communications Program be available to future Conference committees that may wish to consider utilizing some or all of this information.

The six-segment Public Service Announcement directed to teens and seniors, produced by three California Area Assemblies, be approved with the tag line changed to read:

"Alcoholics Anonymous—look us up in the phone book, or check your newspaper."

Future audio-visual proposals be reviewed by the appropriate Conference committee prior to expenditure commitments to insure maximum economy and communication within the Fellowship.

**1993** It was recommended that:

The results contained in the final draft of the 1992 Membership Survey be applied to update the survey pamphlet, poster and one-way display.

The trustees' Public Information Committee undertake a thorough study, followed by a complete report that particularly addresses the need for, and the effectiveness of, A.A. Membership Surveys within the context of our *singleness of purpose*.

Each area delegate encourage discussions within all A.A. groups on the spiritual principles of Anonymity, including photographs, publications and posthumous Anonymity, as related to our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions.

The radio public service announcement R-06 be discontinued as an inventory or catalog item, because these spots contain mixed messages about what A.A. is, and the A.A. message is better communicated in other radio spots.

The trustees' Subcommittee on Radio and Television Public Service Announcements carefully review the radio spots contained in R-09, with particular attention to spot #5, "We are All in This Together," and report back to the 1994 Conference Public Information Committee.

The General Service Office review the current practice of mailing label distribution and devise a new policy that will encompass the principle of anonymity. (Floor Action)



**1994** It was recommended that:

The revised Public Information Workbook be produced in a soft-cover format similar to the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

**1995** It was recommended that:

The Anonymity Statement Card, revised to include anonymity reminders regarding videotaping and full names on audiotapes, be approved.

The revised and reformatted Membership Survey Questionnaire developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee in preparation for a 1996 Membership Survey be approved with the addition of the following new categories/questions:

- race
- are you physically disabled?
- marital status

The committee further recommended that the question on previous questionnaires "Does your doctor know that you are in A.A.?" be reinstated, because this important information is not implied in the other questions.

**1996** It was recommended that:

The 1996 Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 1992 Membership Survey.

**1997** It was recommended that:

The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 1996 Membership Survey.

The draft of the revised 1998 Membership Survey Questionnaire be approved.

A minimum of three television Public Service Announcements emphasizing membership of young people, membership of minorities and generic A.A. information be produced (cost not to exceed \$40,000) and be presented to the 1998 Conference Public Information Committee for approval.

The Public Information Service Kit and Workbook be designated as service material rather than "A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature."

**1998** It was recommended that:

The four proposed television Public Service Announcements developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee emphasizing membership of young people, minorities and generic A.A. information be approved.

Inventory items TV-25 and TV-34 be removed from current inventory and the following three Public Service Announcements extracted from these two inventory items be incorporated into a new P.S.A. inventory item:

- B.G.'s Advice: 30 seconds (from TV-25)
- B.G.'s Advice: 30 seconds with subtitles (from TV-25)
- High/Low Bottom: 20 seconds (from TV-34)

The 1998 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 1996 A.A. Membership Survey.

**1999** It was recommended that:

A subsection titled "A.A. Literature for Special Needs" be added to the "A.A. Fact File" in the section on A.A. Literature and agreed that the Publications Department develop the appropriate text since it pertains to catalog information.

The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 1998 Membership Survey.

The 1966 and 1974 Advisory Actions which stated that the film "Bill's Own Story" be for use by A.A. groups only, and that this film be released to Al-Anon groups under the same conditions, be reaffirmed.

**2000** It was recommended that:

Changes concerning Anonymity on the Internet be made in these Conference-approved materials: "A.A. Fact File," "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous," "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" and "Understanding Anonymity."

The 2001 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire be approved with the deletion of Question #17 (regarding whether physical disability affects attendance or participation in A.A. meetings), since the responses to this question have been inconclusive in two previous surveys and the committee recognized that there are other more effective ways of determining how the A.A. message can be better carried to those who have these difficulties.

**2001** It was recommended that:

The 2001 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 1998 A.A. Membership Survey.

A new television Public Service Announcement (approximate cost \$30,000) be developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, because a more current P.S.A. might increase media usage and better reach the still-suffering alcoholic.

**2002** It was recommended that:

The "A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2001 Membership Survey.

The television public service announcement developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee be approved to better reach the still-suffering alcoholic.

A four-year replacement schedule for television public service announcements (P.S.A.s) be implemented to replace one television P.S.A. each year over the next four years, with an estimated production budget for each P.S.A. of \$30,000, not including inflationary increases.

*Note: After the initial four years, this cycle would continue, with the oldest P.S.A. being replaced each year, and the budget reviewed annually. Proposed new P.S.A.s require Conference approval before distribution.*

In addition to the work of local committees, the newly produced television public service announcement (P.S.A.) be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, and that information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2003 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

"A.A.'s Movement-Wide Public Information Policy," approved by the 1956 General Service Conference stating:

*"In all public relationships, A.A.'s sole objective is to help the still-suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him, and to those who may be interested in his problem, our own experience as individuals and as a fellowship in learning to live without alcohol.*

*"We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism."*

Be amended to read:

*"In all public relationships, A.A.'s sole objective is to help still-suffering alcoholics. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to still-suffering alcoholics, and to those who may be interested in their problem, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol.*

*"We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism."*

**2003** It was recommended that:

The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), "We Know What It's Like," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee be approved.

The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), "We Know What It's Like," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2004 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

The 2004 Membership Survey Questionnaire be approved with the addition of "Skilled Trade" to Question 12: "What is the nature of your employment status now?"

The General Service Board explore ways that input from the Fellowship regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site may be addressed by a trustees' committee with a relevant Conference committee, and report back to the 2004 Conference Public Information Committee.

**2004** It was recommended that:

The tag line on all radio P.S.A.s be changed from "Look us up in the phone book" or "Phone or check your newspaper," to the tag line, "Look us up. Check your phone book, newspaper or aa.org."

After reviewing the report from the General Service Board on oversight of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site:

- a. The A.A.W.S. Board should continue to manage the Web site through its Services Committee.
- b. Any correspondence, requests for changes or requests for reports on the Web site would continue to be responded to by the A.A.W.S. Board.
- c. The A.A.W.S. Board would be responsible for preparing a quarterly report to the trustees' Public Information Committee for their review. The report would include the following information:
  - Changes to the Web site
  - Updates on Web site activity
  - A summary of requests or correspondence from the Fellowship regarding the Web site and a summary of actions taken by the A.A.W.S. Board in response to those requests or correspondence
- d. The A.A.W.S. Board would prepare an annual report for the trustees' P.I. Committee summarizing all Web site quarterly report information. The report along with any additional comments from the trustees' Committee would be forwarded to the Conference P.I. Committee for their consideration.
- e. The Conference Public Information Committee agenda would include a permanent agenda item, "Consider report from the trustees' P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site."

As with the placing of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book on the Web site, the A.A.W.S. Board may consult the General Service Conference, trustees' P.I. Committee, the Conference P.I. Committee and any other trustees' committee or Conference committee, as appropriate, if major changes were to be made to the G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

The 2004 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2001 A.A. Membership Survey.

Centralized distribution and tracking of the two newest public service announcements "Reach Out" and "We Know What It's Like" be continued over the next year at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. (Floor Action)

**2005** It was recommended that:

The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2004 Membership Survey with the following revision to the reporting categories under "Length of Sobriety":

- Sober more than 10 years.
- Sober between 5-10 years.
- Sober between 1-5 years.
- Sober less than 1 year.

to better reflect the range in which the "average" appears.

The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), "Living in Chaos," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee be approved.

The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), "Living in Chaos," be translated into French and Spanish, centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a total cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2006 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

The phrase "and taking pills" be removed from the P.S.A. "Teenager," spot #6, on the radio P.S.A. CD item #R-10.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information take the initial steps proposed to determine the feasibility of replacing two videos, "A.A. — Rap With Us" and "Young People and A.A.," with estimated initial project costs not to exceed \$20,000, and report back to the 2006 Conference Public Information Committee.

Distribution of the video "Alcoholics Anonymous — An Inside View" be discontinued since it is outdated.

**2006** It was recommended that:

The television public service announcement (P.S.A.) "Testimonials," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved, completing a four-year replacement schedule initiated by the 2002 General Service Conference.

The 2002 Advisory Action that states, "After the initial four years, this cycle would continue with the oldest P.S.A. being replaced each year" be reaffirmed and that a new P.S.A. be developed for review by the 2007 Conference Committee on Public Information at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 and the oldest P.S.A. in the four-year plan be replaced.

The television public service announcement (P.S.A.) "Testimonials" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$31,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The section on "Marital Status" in the "A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire" be revised and retitled as "Domestic Status" with the following four options:

- Married
- Single

- Divorced
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

The option "Internet" be added to the "2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire" under Question 11: "Please indicate no more than two of the following entities that you feel were most influential in your decision to come to your first A.A. meeting."

The "2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire" be approved.

The videos "Young People and A.A." and "A.A.: Rap with Us" be replaced and that the trustees' Committee on Public Information develop an idea for a film, video tape or some other such instrument targeting young people, including storyboards and estimated costs, taking into consideration the findings in the January 2006 trustees' report on Videos for Young People with the widest possible diversity range, and that a report be forwarded to the 2007 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.

**2007** It was recommended that:

The 2007 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2004 A.A. Membership Survey.

The public service announcement "A Force of Nature," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.

The television public service announcement "A Force of Nature" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The 2002 Conference Advisory Action that states "After the initial four years this cycle would continue with the oldest P.S.A. [public service announcement] being replaced each year" be reaffirmed and a new P.S.A. be developed for review by the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, and the oldest P.S.A. in the four year plan be replaced.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information develop their suggestion for a video project that would include video/digital submissions from the Fellowship, with selected submissions to be compiled and used in carrying the A.A. message to young people. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information:

- Develop clear guidelines for the request and submission of videos (or digital files) at their July 2007 meeting and that the guidelines be consistent with A.A. Traditions and appropriate safety/legal concerns.
- Create a timetable at their July 2007 meeting for the request of video/digital submissions from the Fellowship.
- Develop a draft from video/digital submissions or progress report to be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information for review.

Note: Estimated development cost is \$28,000

The list of early signs of alcoholism derived from A.A. Conference-approved literature forwarded by the trustees' Committee on Public Information replace the current list of early signs in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."

A section on posthumous anonymity be developed by the Publications Department for inclusion in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and a draft be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.

The words "Young, old. Rich, poor. Black, white." under the section titled ALCOHOLISM be deleted from the pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers."

**2008** It was recommended that:

The 2008 television public service announcement, "I Thought," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved and that reference to newspapers be added to the tag line.

The 2008 television public service announcement, "I Thought," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The Conference Committee on Public Information annually review current television public service announcements for relevance and usefulness, retiring a P.S.A. only when it is no longer relevant and/or useful to the Fellowship.

The Conference Committee on Public Information annually assess the need for a new television public service announcement.

The script for Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD (R-10) be revised and updated and brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Public Information.

The Membership Survey pamphlet and one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2007 Membership Survey.

A wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous be developed and brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Public Information.

**2009** It was recommended that:

The updated pamphlet, "A Message to Teenagers," containing text and graphics from the current, "Too Young?" pamphlet, be approved with minor changes.

The wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous be approved with minor changes.

A new A.A. television public service announcement be developed for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, and that full faces of actors portraying A.A. members not be shown in this P.S.A. Note: The committee suggested that older alcoholics and alcoholics with special needs be portrayed in this P.S.A.

The revised script for "Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD," omitting P.S.A. #15, be approved with minor changes and recorded at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

The four selected A.A. Videos for Young People be approved with minor changes.

The videos, "A.A.—Rap With Us" and "Young People and A.A.," be discontinued.

The draft 2010 Membership Survey Questionnaire be approved.

**2010** It was recommended that:

The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.

The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," under Facts About Anonymity on page 10, to read as follows:

"A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still-living A.A. members should be respected in obit-

uaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice.”

The A.A. Video for Young People titled “Animation” be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: “For more information, search ‘Young People’ at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).”

The term “drying out” be replaced with “detox” and “rehabilitation” replace “sanitarium” in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer so that the phrase reads “...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services...” and the entire section reads as follows:

#### **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” or 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.”

The trustees’ Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

**2011** It was recommended that:

The 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey.

The following “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates” be approved:

Videos produced and distributed by the General Service Board or its affiliated corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., that include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor’s full face, unless:

- a. The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with the A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not in fact or in appearance place personalities before principles, and
- b. The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such video.

For purposes of this Policy, a “video” is any item of visual media in which a live actor appears, regardless of the medium in which the video is presented (DVD, film, electronic file, etc.).

For purposes of this Policy, a “potential A.A. member” is a character in a video who is portrayed as seeking help from A.A., or who is portrayed as the recipient of Twelfth Step work in any form.

Existing videos using actors to portray A.A. members or

potential A.A. members may continue to be produced and distributed until retired from service.

The videos “Markings on the Journey,” and “Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions,” each of which is currently distributed only to A.A. groups, as well as “Bill’s Own Story,” which also has restricted distribution, may continue to be produced and distributed.

A copy of this policy shall be given to all entities participating in the production of a video prior to commencement of production. The background documentation for the policy will always be distributed with the policy.

A culturally sensitive Spanish–language Public Service Announcement be developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee, independent of any English language P.S.A. (production cost not to exceed \$40,000) to better ensure the hand of A.A. is there whenever anyone anywhere reaches out.

The revised “Understanding Anonymity” pamphlet be approved.

The revised “The A.A. Fact File” be approved.

The section titled “How You Can Find A.A. in Your Town” in “A.A. At a Glance” be changed to “How To Find A.A.,” and that that section which reads:

*“Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory. In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can.”*

be amended to read:

*“Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory, your local newspaper or “How to Find A.A. Meetings” on the home page of our Web site [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can.”*

**2012** It was recommended that:

The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey with minor editorial changes.

The video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits.

The video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza,” be centrally distributed, tacked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2013 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

The revised “Anonymity Wallet Card” be approved.

## **REPORT AND CHARTER**

### **Advisory Actions relevant to the CONFERENCE REPORT AND CHARTER COMMITTEE**

**1951** It was recommended that:

Confirmed plans to submit the Conference Report to all members on or about June 1, 1951. Film strips of the slide presentations showing Grapevine and General Service Office functions will also be released at that time. A special condensed version of the Conference Report will be distributed to all A.A. Groups.

That Bill should make a recording of his Third Legacy talk, to be available for distribution.

Our temporary charter, as outlined in the Third Legacy pamphlet, is suitable for the coming three years and that the general principles guiding Assemblies are also approved. (Agenda)

The primary report to area groups and A.A. members consist of the filmstrip presentation approved for general issue illustrating the services rendered by the Grapevine and the General Service Office and the information that the services rendered by the Grapevine and the General Service Office should not be curtailed. (Finance)

**1952** It was recommended that:

An attempt be made to get the first draft of the 1952 Conference report to all delegates within three weeks following the close of the Conference and prior to publication of the June "Grapevine," as requested by the delegates. A digest of "Conference Highlights" will also be mailed to all groups.

**1955** It was recommended that:

The proposed permanent "Charter of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous—North American Section" be adopted subject to approval of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of A.A. (Floor Action)

**1957** It was recommended that:

The first draft of the Conference report be reviewed by all Conference delegates and that suggestions and comments be sent to the Conference secretary before the deadline for the Final Report.

As Bill has suggested, the third article of the Conference Charter, i.e. Conference Relations to A.A. (Second paragraph page 58 of the Third Legacy Manual), be amended to read: "But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in A.A. tradition or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention." If this amendment is made, the seventh paragraph on page 57 of the Third Legacy Manual must also be amended to read: "excepting, however, that any amendment of Article 12 of the Charter or of A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions must have the consent of A.A. groups as provided in Article 3 of the Charter."

**1958** It was recommended that:

The first draft of the 1958 final Conference Report be referred to members of their Committee for consideration, suggestions and corrections as soon as it is completed.

**1959** It was recommended that:

The first draft of the 1959 Conference Report be referred to the members of this Committee for suggestions and corrections as soon as it is completed.

**1960** It was recommended that:

The first draft of the 1960 Conference Report be referred to the members of this Committee for their consideration, suggestions, and corrections when it is completed.

**1961** It was recommended that:

The first draft of the 1961 Conference Report will be referred to the members of the Committee for their consideration, suggestions, and corrections immediately after the Conference. The draft will then be returned within ten days after thorough review by the Committee and the mailing of the Final Report will not be delayed.

## 1962

The Committee wishes to note that, in keeping with Concept V and the traditional responsibility of minority reports, Bill's recommendations will be available, with the trustees' comments, in pamphlet form at G.S.O.

## 1963

The committee noted that a one-page agenda of the General Service Conference activities will be added to the 1963 *Final Conference Report*.

Members of the Committee will have an opportunity to review a draft of the *Final Report* and suggest any changes or corrections that may be necessary. Comments will be sent to the Conference Secretary postmarked no later than May 8, 1963.

## 1964

The committee welcomed the opportunity to review a draft of the *Final Conference Report*. Any suggestions, corrections or comments they have will be forwarded to the Conference Secretary no later than May 11, 1964.

## 1965

Recommends use of the Early Bird edition of the *Conference Digest* to help Delegates in preparing their talks to their groups following the Conference.

The committee disapproved a proposal to bind past *Final Conference Reports* for sale to delegates, committee members, and groups.

Agreed that members of this Committee will return rough drafts of the *Conference Report* to G.S.O. one week from time of their receipt.

**1966** It was recommended that:

The summary of all previous Conference Advisory Actions, now mimeographed and sent yearly to all Conference members, should include only the actions of the first 15 Conferences (1951-1965), and should be a chapter in the new "Third Legacy Manual" (now *The A.A. Service Manual*) when it is written. Then only the most recent actions will have to be compiled and distributed annually and all readers of the Manual can see what actions the Conference took in its first formative years (Policy, and Report and Charter).

The digest of Questions and Answers of previous Conferences (also mimeographed and sent each year to all Conference members) be condensed more.

Permanent records of the minutes of all Conference committee meetings should be established at G.S.O., available as needed, but such detailed reports need not necessarily be printed in the Final Conference Report unless acted upon by the entire Conference.

State chairmen as well as delegates should receive the Advisory Actions and the digest of "Questions and Answers."

The "Grapevine" deserves commendation for continuing to carry to its readers news of Conference meetings, and is requested to notify readers they can get copies of the *Final Conference Report* from G.S.O.

Delegates be urged to see that Area G.S. Committees purchase and distribute *Final Conference Reports* to all groups, or get G.S.R.s to do so.

When the "Third Legacy Manual" is updated, it should carry a glossary of terms such as *Area, District, Assembly*, etc. so terms can become more uniform throughout the continent. (Agenda Committee)

The present policy of listings in the *World Directory* be reaffirmed: (Floor Action)

“Traditionally, any two or more alcoholics meeting together for purposes of sobriety may consider themselves an A.A. Group, provided that, as a Group, they are self-supporting and have no outside affiliation. Groups listed in the Directory are registered at their own request. A Directory listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any Group’s approach to, or practice of, the traditional A.A. program.

The policy of “no commercial use,” defined thus in the *Directory*, be reaffirmed: (Floor Action)

“The World Directory is confidential to A.A. members for sharing A.A. information and activities. It is not to be used as a mailing list for any form of solicitation or any commercial venture.”

**1967** It was recommended that:

The Highlights edition of the *Conference Digest* announce the availability of the *Final Conference Report*.

Delegates urge G.S.R.s to order a copy of the *Report* for group use.

The rough draft of the *Final Report* be reviewed and returned one week after receipt.

**1968**

It was recommended that a memorandum from the Southeast regional trustee, updating the terminology of the Conference Charter, be accepted as presented to the committee for review.

The committee reviewed and made initial recommendations concerning the draft of material submitted to them in connection with the revision of the “Third Legacy Manual” (now *The A.A. Service Manual*), and agreed to review further this material and additional chapters referred to them. It is hoped this revision will be completed prior to the 19th Conference meeting. The reaction of the committee to the initial material was that the format represented a great improvement.

Agreed to review and return the rough draft of the *Conference Report* one week from date of its receipt.

**1969**

The committee approved the final draft of *The A.A. Service Manual*, a new revision of the “Third Legacy Manual,” with the understanding that minor editorial changes can still be made which do not affect meaning or content.

The committee unanimously approved the suggested changes to the Conference Charter:

- a. That Article 1, paragraph 1, line 2, be amended by the addition of the words “the Twelve Steps”; the sentence now to read: “. . . the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of the world services, and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.”
- b. That Article 3, paragraph 2, line 1, be amended to read: “But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A.,” instead of “. . . the A.A. Tradition, etc.” Also it be understood that the new approved procedure for electing general service trustees-at-large be incorporated in the Charter.

Agreed that the contents of the 1969 *Conference Report* be simplified by grouping related information by categories to provide ready reference to subject material.

Recommended that the practice of listing first name and last initial of A.A. Conference members in the Conference *Box 4-5-9* and *Final Report* be sustained. Full names and addresses, however, may be used in the roster section only of the *Final Report*.

**1970** It was recommended that:

The use of first names and last initials only in the main content of the *Final Conference Report* and Conference *Box 4-5-9* (Digest) be reaffirmed, but that names will appear in full in the last three and a half pages (roster section) of the *Final Report*.

The roster section of the *Final Conference Report* have dotted guidelines indicated near the pamphlet’s spine so that in the event the report is given to anyone outside the Fellowship, the delegate involved should accept the responsibility of removing these pages.

G.S.O. consider reducing the cost of the *Report* for bulk buying.

A wording change be made in Article 10, line 11, of the Conference Charter, substituting the words “general service trustees-at-large” for “regional general service trustees.”

**1971** It was recommended that:

The summary of the Ask-It Basket questions and answers in its present form is an important and valuable reference aid and suggested the following to make this material even more useful:

- a. Date the current summary and date each additional entry hereafter, and provide a cover index for easier research.
- b. Suggest this material be made available to the general Fellowship, perhaps in the form of a handbook, as a salable item to all groups, with particular attention given to G.S.R. and committee member distribution.

The Advisory Actions summary be retained in its present loose-leaf form, but with the addition of a cover index and updated each year.

Approved of and recommended adoption of a rewording of paragraph two of Article 5 of the Conference Charter (as it was referred to it by the Agenda/Admissions Committee), paragraph two to read: “Generally speaking, each state and province will be entitled to one assembly. However, more than one state or province may be joined to another state or province to form one assembly area. But states and provinces of large A.A. populations and/or whose geography presents communications problems may be entitled to additional assemblies, as provided by *The A.A. Service Manual*, or by any further amendment thereto.”

Next year’s Conference issue of *Box 4-5-9* carry a digest of the agenda, and that, should “In Memoriam” listing be carried, these be confined to past and present trustees and current delegates.

G.S.O. discuss whether or not central offices or Intergroups should be included as a separate chapter in the next updating of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**1972** It was recommended that:

Wherever the term “trustees-at-large” appears in *The A.A. Service Manual*, the wording be changed to “general service trustee, United States,” and “general service trustee, Canada” in line with the board’s recommendation for change in its bylaws as accepted by this Conference.

Any future changes to be considered in the Conference Charter or *The A.A. Service Manual* be brought to the attention of the committee’s chairman through the secretary for the sharing of this information before it is finally adopted.

The Literature Committee consider combining the summaries of the Ask-It Basket and the Advisory Actions into a single loose-leaf binder to be offered, as such, to groups and members as a salable item.

Agreed to return the completed draft of the *Conference Report* one week from date of its receipt.

**1973** It was recommended that:

Rough layouts of the 1973 Conference issue of *Box 4-5-9* and the *Conference Report* and the new designations—“1973

General Service Conference issue, Early Bird Edition” added to the masthead of *Box 4-5-9* be approved.

The A.A.W.S. directors consider changing the name of the pamphlet “Bill on Alcoholism” to “Three Talks by Bill W. to Medical Societies,” since the current title seems confusing and misleading to many readers.

Committee members act as news reporters to assist Janet and Barry in gathering news items for the Conference issue of *Box 4-5-9* and the *Conference Report*.

Committee members review and return the completed draft of the *Conference Report* one week after its receipt.

Certain updating, factual material, and terminology in *The A.A. Service Manual*, and additional information respecting the delegate’s term, as well as alternate, as recommended by the Agenda/Admissions Committee be approved

**1974** It was recommended that:

The committee reviewed and approved rough layouts of the 1974 Conference issue of *Box 4-5-9*.

In an effort to familiarize A.A. members (especially those involved in service work) with the Twelve Concepts, suggested the following:

That G.S.O. include a flyer in the Group Handbook informing new groups of the Concepts as a helpful tool in service work.

That the short form of the Concepts be included in a future issue of *Box 4-5-9*.

That the short form of the Concepts be included in *The A.A. Service Manual* when it is rerun.

Agreed to act as news reporters to assist Janet and Barry in gathering news items for the Conference issue of *Box 4-5-9* and the *Conference Report*.

Agreed to review and return completed draft of the *Conference Report* one week after its receipt.

A suggestion be made to all A.A. groups to purchase the *Conference Report*.

As the Conference voted unanimously to use the alternate electoral procedure for regional trustees, the committee approved amending paragraph 3, page 98, of *The A.A. Service Manual* and Article 10 of the Conference Charter to reflect the change in the electoral procedure.

**1975** It was recommended that:

*The A.A. Service Manual* be updated to include the following changes on page 30:

The glossary of Conference language be simplified; repetitive terms, such as “area committee member” and “district committee member” be deleted, and the term “district committee member” be used exclusively.

The use of full names in the 1975 *Conference Report* be included throughout the report since the report is *confidential*.

In order to familiarize A.A.s (at group level) with the Twelve Concepts, the trustees’ Literature Committee consider publishing the Twelve Concepts in pamphlet form similar to “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

All Conference members act as news reporters by sharing anecdotal material during Conference week with the committee. This material could then be included in the *Conference Report* under a section called “Coffee Break.” The material could be humorous, sentimental, or informational anecdotes about our week together.

A suggestion be made to all A.A. groups to purchase the 1975 *Conference Report*.

The committee review and return the completed draft of the *Conference Report* one week after its receipt.

Study and consideration be given to adding the “Rights of Appeal and Petition” to the Conference Charter, according to Bill’s wishes, so that action may be taken on this at a future Conference.

**1976** It was recommended that:

The “Rights of Appeal and Petition” not be added to the Conference Charter at this time, but that a footnote be added to page 113 of *The A.A. Service Manual* (1975 edition) where the short form of the Twelve Concepts appears, stating, “The Twelve Concepts for World Service (long form) should be studied in detail.”

It was resolved that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed.

In case a change is needed in the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Steps, or Warranties of Article 12 wherever the words “registered A.A. groups of the world,” “registered groups,” or “directory listed groups” appear in *The A.A. Service Manual* and *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, a bracketed sentence be inserted to state: “This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.”

All groups be encouraged to subscribe to *Box 4-5-9*. A further suggestion: Include in “The Bulletin Board” of *Box 4-5-9* a subscription form carrying information on the rate per copy and bulk rate.

A number of changes received from the Conference Committee on Trustees to be made in *The A.A. Service Manual* be approved.

**1977** It was recommended that:

The Conference Report and Charter Committee continue to exist.

A revision be made in the text of Article 5 on page 24 of *The A.A. Service Manual* so that it conforms with current A.A. structure, and that the committee consider at the 1978 Conference any necessary updating of the first 11 articles of the Conference Charter.

Preparation of *The A.A. Service Manual* in loose-leaf form not be considered at this time.

No recommendation be made at this time regarding a suggested procedure for the filling of midterm vacancies on area committees.

A.A. Directories (Floor Action)

- a. States and provinces should be listed alphabetically rather than by region.
- b. The recommendation of the 1974 General Service Conference be reaffirmed, that is: “Only full names and phone numbers that may be used for Twelfth Step referral and meeting information from any source be published. This will be clearly indicated on the group information sheet.”
- c. Each group’s service number (used for G.S.O. records) should be listed with other information.
- d. Group contributions continue to be listed.

**1978** It was recommended that:

Article 5 on page 24 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be amended to read:

*Area assemblies: Composition of:* Assemblies, designated as area assemblies, are composed of the elected general service representatives of all A.A. groups desiring to partic-

ipate, district committee members, and area committee officers in each of the delegate areas of the United States and Canada.

Changes on page 53 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be made to read:

After group expenses are met, a suggested division among the three services listed above is the 60-30-10 Plan (60%, intergroup or central office; 30%, General Service Office; and 10%, area committee).

At the end of the third paragraph on page 39 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following be added: "When redistricting, group approval is essential."

The map on page 97 of *The A.A. Service Manual* read: Southeast Region (includes Puerto Rico and the Bahama Islands).

A paragraph or two be added on suggested guidelines for area and central office newsletters, possibly at the end of the chapter on page 87 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

G.S.O. expand the index in the back of *The A.A. Service Manual* for review by the Conference Report and Charter Committee in 1979.

The following be added to page 46 of *The A.A. Service Manual*: "Alternate D.C.M.s are also voting members of the committee in the absence of the D.C.M." (Delete "See preceding chapter.")

All groups in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahama Islands be listed in the next printing of the *Eastern U.S. A.A. Directory*.

The recommendation of the Committee on Conference Policy/Admissions be accepted—that a section be added to Chapter V in *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding applications for additional areas and delegates, and that excerpts from Bill's 1961 memo on the size of the Conference be included as well as the information that application forms are available from G.S.O.

The scope of the committee be expanded to include the responsibility for proposing changes in the format or composition of the six directories: *Eastern U.S.*, *Western U.S.*, *Canadian*, *International*, *Hospitals*, and *Prisons*. It was recommended further that this proposal be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review at its quarterly meeting in July, in order to avoid possible overlap or duplication of the various Conference committees' functions.

The Conference did not accept the committee's recommendation to include in *The A.A. Service Manual*, in chapters relative to service work, the suggestion that trusted servants at all levels be reimbursed for expenses in service work.

**1979** It was recommended that:

Article 2, page 23, of *The A.A. Service Manual* (1978 edition) be amended to read:

*Composition:* The Conference (U.S. and Canada) shall be composed of area delegates, the trustees of the General Service Board, directors of A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, and staff members of the Grapevine and General Service Office.

The following sentence be included in *The A.A. Service Manual* in an appropriate place other than under Composition (of the Conference): "Foreign visitors as the Conference may wish to invite may attend as observers only."

Article 10, paragraph 1, page 25, of *The A.A. Service Manual* be changed to read "may" in place of "will." The sentence would then read: "For trustees-at-large in the U.S. and in Canada, the board may specify certain business or professional qualifications."

The revised and expanded index be included in the next printing of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

All six directories print the season (spring, summer, fall,

winter) and the year in which each directory is finally printed and distributed.

Listings contained within the *International Directory* for overseas general service offices, central offices, and intergroup offices be in a different color print or bracketed so that they can be more easily recognized.

The names of "alcohol and pills" groups not be listed in the A.A. directories. (Floor Action)

**1980** It was recommended that:

No changes or amendments be made to the first 11 articles of the Conference Charter at this time.

A description of the alternate service worker be added to the Glossary of Conference Language (page 30 of *The A.A. Service Manual* as follows: "Alternate—at group, district, or area levels, assists, supports, and participates in service responsibilities where feasible, depending on local autonomy and local needs."

The role of the alternate G.S.R. (page 36 of *The A.A. Service Manual*) be further described as follows: "Alternates should be encouraged to assist, participate, and share in responsibilities of the G.S.R., attending district and area meetings where feasible, depending on local needs."

The role of the alternate committee member (*The A.A. Service Manual*, page 39) be further described as follows: "Alternate committee members should be encouraged to assist, participate, and share in the D.C.M.'s responsibilities, attending district and area meetings where feasible, depending on local needs."

Page 48 of *The A.A. Service Manual* include a paragraph regarding alternate committee officers, described as follows:

Some areas find it helpful to select alternates for all committee officers, the position of alternate chairperson being especially encouraged. The alternate committee officers may provide continuity at the area level and may or may not be seated as voting members, depending on local autonomy and area needs. Where feasible, alternates are encouraged to share and participate in committee activities as fully as possible. It is suggested that the qualifications of the alternate closely resemble the qualifications for the positions they may be assuming.

Sentence 1, section 11 (page 55 in *The A.A. Service Manual*), describing delegates' responsibilities, be revised to read: "They assume added responsibilities if the area committee chairperson and alternate chairperson are unable to serve."

The 1974 Conference Action regarding directory listing of A.A. groups be reaffirmed ("All A.A. groups should be listed in the World Directory in accordance with the description of an A.A. group in the World Directory"), and further recommended that decisions regarding verification of "a true A.A. group" be resolved locally.

Adding names, addresses, and telephone numbers of district committee members to U.S. and Canadian directories is not feasible at this time.

**1981** It was recommended that:

*The A.A. Service Manual* and *Twelve Concepts for World Service* be combined into one volume.

There be a note added to page 26 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, immediately following the Charter and prior to the Resolution, that the principles on which the Charter operates are outlined in "Twelve Concepts," and they should be read.

The eligibility requirements in item 7(a), "A Typical Election Assembly Agenda," page 50 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be clarified by changing the last sentence from "Those eligible may be incoming or outgoing committee members, or both" to



“Those eligible may be present or past committee members.”

Reference to alternate G.S.R.s as runners-up be eliminated by rewording the description of the alternate G.S.R. on page 36 of *The A.A. Service Manual* to “. . . elected at the same time, by the same procedure.”

That election procedures for alternate D.C.M.s be provided by rewording paragraph 2 under “The Alternate Committee Member” (pages 38 and 39 of *The A.A. Service Manual*) to read: “Usually, the alternate is elected at the same time as the regular district committee member, by the same election procedure.”

The section referring to alternate delegates as runners-up be eliminated by rewording this section on page 51 of *The A.A. Service Manual* to read: “The alternate delegate is elected next, by the same election procedure.”

In the interest of language clarification regarding “odd” and “even” panels on pages 28 and 29 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, reference to “elected in” be changed to “elected for.”

As the text of Article 5 of the Conference Charter may affect admissions requests, this article be reviewed by both the Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter Committees with a view toward reporting their findings at a joint meeting at the 1982 Conference.

The *Directory of A.A. Groups in Treatment Facilities* be discontinued.

The 1977 action regarding listing states and provinces alphabetically in the directories be reaffirmed.

**1982** It was recommended that:

The modifications made by the recommendation of the 1978 General Service Conference to Article 5 of the Conference Charter be reaffirmed.

The following sentence be added in bold type on the cover of A.A. directories under the caveat “CONFIDENTIAL”: “This directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture.” (Literature)

**1983** It was recommended that:

The reinclusion of the past-experiences portions of *The A.A. Service Manual* pertaining to G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s be included on next year’s Conference Report and Charter Committee agenda for the purpose of adding personal experience in the area of financial support of G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s. The committee felt that the eligibility qualifications of D.C.M.s were already spelled out in *The Service Manual* and, therefore, no additional input is necessary.

The Conference Committees on Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter consider, at their 1984 committee meetings, the possibility of combining the function of these two committees. (Policy/Admissions)

**1984** It was recommended that:

The functions of the Conference Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter Committees not be combined at this time.

Examples of personal experiences of G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s, including some examples in the area of financial support, be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* at the ends of the appropriate chapters in an effort to help stimulate involvement for these service positions.

All Conference members collect personal service experiences from some G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s in their areas and submit them to the Conference Report and Charter Committee for its consideration in 1985.

The portion of the Third Legacy procedure (pp. 31-32, 50-51,

98) of *The A.A. Service Manual* pertaining to the fourth ballot and after be clarified by carrying over a statement from the third ballot which reads, “In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and tied second-place candidates remain.”

This portion of the Third Legacy procedure would be revised to read:

“After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. (If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and we go to the ‘hat’ immediately. In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and tied second-place candidates remain. If not, the candidate with the smallest total is dropped. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot will be conducted.)”

The definition of a quorum at the General Service Conference described in the Conference Charter on page 23 of *The A.A. Service Manual* is adequately defined and should not be changed.

The following sentence, “The past delegates in many regions annually share their experience, strength, and hope at an informal unofficial meeting (described in Chapter VIII) and invite all newly elected delegates and alternates to attend,” be included in answer to Question 4, Chapter V, page 56 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The following sentence, “Some regions have an informal get-together put on by past delegates, and one region’s meeting is described in Chapter VIII and has been of value to new delegates in that region,” be added to item 4, Chapter V, page 55 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The following sentence, “This first-year experience can be shared with their successors at the past delegates’ annual get-together in their region,” be added to item 14, page 56, Chapter V of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The following sentence, “Newly elected delegates and alternate delegates are invited to attend,” be included at the end of the “Past Delegates Can Be Helpful” section, Chapter VIII, page 87 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The recommendation from the General Service Board “That there be a four-year limitation on service of an individual on a trustee committee except for time served as director or trustee” be added to the section on “Trustees’ Service Committees,” page 103, first paragraph, of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Meeting addresses and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and the directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list.

Publication of the A.A. directories not be suspended.

The A.A.W.S., Inc., Board of Directors appoint a subcommittee to review the content and format of the directories and report to the Conference Report and Charter Committee its findings and suggestions for their consideration.

The functions of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and Conference Report and Charter Committee should not be combined at this time. (Policy/Admissions)

**1985** It was recommended that:

The Bylaws of the General Service Board be amended by adding the short form of the Twelve Concepts.

*The A.A. Service Manual* contain the original *Twelve Concepts for World Service* as adopted by the 12th General Service Conference on April 26, 1962.

Current factual and statistical information—bracketed, footnoted, asterisked and otherwise referenced—be checked for accuracy and included at the end of each essay in *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

The factual and statistical information in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* may be updated at the end of each essay whenever practical without having to go through the process of Conference action.

The Scope of the Conference Report and Charter Committee be amended to include the responsibility for *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

The action taken at the 1984 Conference regarding clarification of the portion of the Third Legacy Procedure pertaining to the fourth ballot and after be reaffirmed.

There be reaffirmation of the 1984 Conference recommendation regarding the definition of a quorum described in the Conference Charter which reads, “The committee recommended that the definition of a quorum at the General Service Conference described in the Conference Charter on page 23 of *The A.A. Service Manual* is adequately defined and should not be changed.”

References to “nonalcoholic employees” at G.S.O. in *The A.A. Service Manual* be deleted since G.S.O. does not have a policy of hiring only nonalcoholics for the supporting departments.

Item 7a, page 50, in the “Suggestions for the Chairperson on Assemblies” section, referring to those eligible to run for delegate, remain as is, which reads, “Those eligible may be present or past committee members,” since the suggestions in the *Service Manual* are guidelines and each area is autonomous.

Option 3, page 40, in the section on “How Do We Elect the D.C.M.?” be changed by deleting the word “immediate” from the phrase, “Only immediate past G.S.R.s are eligible to run . . .” This option would be revised to read “Only past G.S.R.s are eligible to run . . .”

There is no need at the present time to add any additional illustrative charts of the service structure to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The responsibilities of the World Service Meeting Delegates should be included in the *Service Manual*. The Committee further recommended that a draft of these responsibilities be presented to the Report and Charter Committee in 1986 for their consideration.

A sentence which reads, “Experience is now indicating that many groups are now financially supporting their general service representatives to attend service functions,” be added to the last paragraph on page 35 of Chapter II on the General Service Representatives in the *Service Manual*.

A sentence which reads, “Experience is now indicating that many districts are now financially supporting their district committee members to attend service functions” be added to the end of paragraph 2 on page 41 under the section titled “What Does the D.C.M. Do?” in the *Service Manual*.

A committee from the General Service Office be formed to study Article 2 of the Conference Charter and report its findings to the 1986 Report and Charter Committee.

Article 5-8 of the Conference Charter not be changed at the present time.

The format of the A.A. directories be changed by having a three-column page without general service representatives’ addresses, zip codes, and membership figures.

Further discussion should be centered on methods of reaching groups which do not list themselves with the General Service Office, and that this problem be addressed through a presentation at a future General Service Conference.

Copy defining the role of Grapevine representatives at all lev-

els and providing more information about the operation of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., be prepared and presented by the Conference Grapevine Committee to the Report and Charter Committee in 1986 for their consideration.

**1986** It was recommended that:

Article 4 of the Conference Charter, on page 24, paragraph two of the *Service Manual* (1985-86 edition), should read:

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of all the Conference members registered.

It will be understood, as a matter of tradition, that a two-thirds vote of Conference members voting shall be considered binding upon the General Service Board and its related corporate services, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum.

The second paragraph, on page 25 of the *Service Manual* (1985-86 edition), be changed to read:

It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members voting, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum, may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its corporate services, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential.

For purposes of consistency, the second sentence of the first paragraph under “Meaning of the Conference Charter,” page 23 of the *Service Manual* (1985-86 edition), be changed to read:

It provides, for example, that a majority vote of the Conference shall be considered a suggestion to the board of trustees and G.S.O., but that a two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum, shall be absolutely binding upon the board, regardless of legal considerations.

The draft of the responsibilities of the World Service Meeting delegate be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

No change to the voting members at an area assembly be made in the *Service Manual* (page 83) at this time.

The copy defining the role of the Grapevine Representative at all levels and providing more information about the operation of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., not be accepted at this time, and that new copy be submitted to this committee for review at the 1987 General Service Conference with the objective of creating an 11th Chapter of *The A.A. Service Manual* specifically devoted to the Grapevine.

All recommendations on which no Conference action is taken should become part of the History and Highlights of Actions of each Conference committee.

If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and will be duly noted in the *Conference Report*.

Double-trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. directories.

The present inclusion of the Concepts in both their long and short form is sufficient in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

No changes be made at this time in the “Structure of the Fellowship” chart on page 21 of the 1985-86 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**1987** It was recommended that:

An eleventh chapter about the Grapevine be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Article 2 of The Conference Charter, page 24, paragraphs 2 and 3, of *The A.A. Service Manual* be changed to read:

“Foreign lands in many cases have created autonomous General Service Conferences of their own, which rely on the Steps and Traditions protected by the Conference (U.S. and Canada) and in other ways often turn to the actions of the Conference for guidance.

“Consultation between conferences is encouraged. And a formal meeting—The World Service Meeting—of delegates from the various conferences is held once every two years. The U.S./Canada delegates are chosen from The General Service Board.

“In countries where a General Service structure exists, the U.S./Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of the structure.

“Only matters seriously affecting A.A.’s worldwide needs shall be the subject of joint consideration.”

(In addition, this article was referred to the 1988 Conference Report and Charter Committee for further consideration.)

The second paragraph on page 25 of *The A.A. Service Manual* (1987-88 edition) be changed to read:

“It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its corporate services, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential.”

Paragraph 4, page 98 (after The Twelve Concepts) in *The A.A. Service Manual* (1986-87 edition) be deleted.

No change be made at this time in the definition of an A.A. group in the A.A. Directories.

In an effort to improve area response to the annual group print-out mailing from G.S.O.:

A summary sheet of the total group changes in the area be sent with the cover letter.

A cutoff date for the printouts be extended to a later date (March 15th).

The title page of the directory be changed to indicate a split-level year, i.e., 1987-88.

Printouts returned from the areas to G.S.O. should have group changes clearly indicated.

The 1986 Conference Action regarding the directories not listing “Double-Trouble” groups be reaffirmed, i.e., “Double-Trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. Directories;” and the existing Double-Trouble groups in the A.A. Directories be deleted. (Double-Trouble groups are defined as groups with outside affiliation).

**1988** It was recommended that:

The Conference Charter should appear in its original 1955 form in future editions of *The A.A. Service Manual*, with General Service Conference Advisory Action amendments and editorial changes indicated by footnotes, followed by the current version of the Charter.

Article 2, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the Conference Charter be further clarified through a footnote amendment to read as follows:

“Other countries have created autonomous General Service Conferences of their own, which rely on the Steps and Traditions that are protected by the United States/Canada

Conference. In addition, these other Conferences often turn to the actions of the United States/Canada Conference for guidance.

“Consultation between Conferences is encouraged, and a World Service Meeting of delegates from the various Conferences is held once every two years. The United States/Canada delegates to the World Service Meeting are chosen from the General Service Board.

“In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure.”

Section 3 of Concept XI be researched to identify the parts of Section 3 touching on current practices of the General Service Board and A.A. World Services that need footnoting, and that this research be brought back to the 1989 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review and further recommendation.

Footnote 8 to Concept XI be reworded to reflect current practices of the General Service Board, and A.A. World Services, Inc., to read:

“G.S.O. staff members have voting representation on trustees’ committees. Additionally, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote as a director of the A.A.W.S. Board.”

With minor amendments the proposed revision of the section “How G.S.O. is Supported” in *The A.A. Service Manual* to address enhanced participation in self-support replace the existing section in future editions of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The final copy of the A.A. group structure prepared by the Literature Committee be forwarded to the 1989 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for further consideration as an addition to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

A current list of “Literature Published by A.A.W.S.,” as well as a separate list of “Literature Published by the A.A. Grapevine,” appear in *The A.A. Service Manual* following the chapters on “The General Service Office” and on “The A.A. Grapevine” respectively.

The category “alternate D.C.M.” be added to the eligibility options outlined in the section “How Do We Elect the D.C.M?” in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

A description of the kit sent to the new D.C.M. be included in the section “How Do We Elect the D.C.M.?” in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The sentence “The G.V.R. is to the Grapevine what the G.S.R. is to the G.S.O.” in the section “What Does a Grapevine Representative Do?” in *The A.A. Service Manual* be replaced by a sentence which reads “The G.V.R. is the group’s contact with the Grapevine office.”

The phrase in Concept XI that reads: “Most staff members’ assignments are changed yearly” be updated through footnoting to reflect current practices as follows: “Most staff members serve two years on each assignment.”

The letter “S” be used as a prefix to the first set of page numbers in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, so as to differentiate between the two sets of page numbers.

A footnote be added to the byline “Bill W.” in the chapter “A.A.’s Legacy of Service” in *The A.A. Service Manual*, stating that Bill wrote these words in 1951 and that the piece, therefore, reflects that period.

The 1984 General Service Conference Advisory action be reaffirmed:

“Meeting addresses and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list.”

The *Final Conference Report* be sent to all G.S.R.s, with the distribution method and quantity determined by the delegate.

The revised new group information form (March 1988) be reproduced in the section “Group Information” in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The description “What Is an A.A. Group” contained in “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be added to the *The A.A. Service Manual*, and that, when adding the material, the circular structure chart of the group be amended to include “Archives Representative.”

The A.A.W.S., Inc., policy statement on “Use of A.A.’s Trademarks and Logos” be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The section “Other Officer Qualifications” in the Area Committee Chapter of *The A.A. Service Manual* be amended from:

#### Other Officer Qualifications

An area committee may have other officers who are responsible for special activities. A public information chairperson, for example, to head up the area P.I. committee, is appointed by the area committee chairperson with the approval of the area committee. Some areas have an institutions chairperson, some a convention chairperson. Other areas appoint a finance chairperson whose sole job is keeping contributions coming into area and G.S.O. treasuries. Other assignments handled by special chairpersons or coordinators include: cooperation with the professional community, liaison with central offices or intergroups; preparation of news bulletins; literature; Grapevine, etc.

to:

#### Other Officers

An area committee may also have officers who are responsible to the committee for special activities. Examples might include Public Information and Cooperation With Professional Community chairpersons to head up the area P.I. and C.P.C. committees; Correctional and Treatment chairpersons to coordinate this vital Twelfth Step Work; a Literature chairperson to act as liaison between the various service entities on all matters regarding A.A. literature; a Grapevine chairperson to disseminate Grapevine material; an Archives chairperson to record and maintain the history of the area; a Convention chairperson to facilitate the event; a Finance chairperson to encourage self-support for both the area needs and the needs of G.S.O.; a liaison chairperson to foster improved communication between the area and central office/intergroup; and other assignments and responsibilities, as suggested by local area needs.

A description of the position of D.C.M. chairperson not be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* at this time.

Footnotes continue to appear in the same manner as in the present 1988-89 *A.A. Service Manual* edition for the following reasons:

Footnotes in the first section of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* appear at the bottom of the page where the text referred to appears, making for easier reading.

In the Twelve Concepts section, however, there are two types of footnotes or, more specifically, footnotes and end notes.

a. Footnotes, which are marked with an asterisk (\*) and appear at the bottom of each page, reflect changes Bill Wilson made from the original writing in 1962 until shortly before his death in 1971 and are of the entire text of each Concept.

b. End notes, which are numbered and appear at the end of each Concept, reflect updated factual information that has changed since the original.

The existing footnotes 7 and 8 of Section 3, Concept XI be deleted and, instead, the following footnote to the entire section be included as follows:

In order to meet the changing conditions since the writing of this section, A.A.W.S., Inc., with the approval of the General Service Board, has implemented a two-year rotation of assignments for most staff members, and, since 1987, a merit pay increase system has been established.

Footnote 9 in Section 4, Concept XI in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be changed from:

“G.S.O. staff members have voting representation on trustees’ committees. Additionally, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote as a director of the A.A.W.S. Board.”

to:

“As a director of the A.A.W.S. Board, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote.”

In order to economize financially, the Eastern and Western U.S. Directories be combined.

The listing of clubs be deleted from the A.A. Directories.

The *Final Report* for G.S.R.s be sent to the delegate with the quantity to be determined by each delegate.

The *Final Report* be translated into French and Spanish.

Reinstating of perforated, removable pages for the roster section of the *Final Report* not be done.

General Service Conference committee items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, not be included in the *Final Report*.

The 1989 General Service Conference appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of Panel 39 delegates and G.S.O. employees involved with the new computer system to study the problems of group registration and the A.A. directories and bring its recommendations back to the 1990 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1990** It was recommended that:

There be a revision of the Twelve Concepts section in *The A.A. Service Manual*, printing the short form of the Concepts as the “Table of Contents,” followed by the long form and introduction.

The following text appear in *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section “Working Together—General Services and Local Intergroup Services,” following item 7 on the election of trustees:

“Some areas find that a liaison between central office/intergroup and the area committee is very helpful. In some areas the liaison has a vote, in others the liaison has a voice but no vote.

“There is more information regarding working together available through the General Service Office and in the pamphlets ‘The A.A. Group’ and ‘Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions,’ as well as in the Guidelines on Central Offices and Intergroups.”

The following be deleted:

“In areas where there are central offices providing the services mentioned previously, general service committees do not attempt to duplicate these services; but in those areas where there is little or no central office activity, the general service committee has frequently undertaken to provide many of these services.”

The General Service Conference *Final Report* continue to be distributed at no charge in English, French and Spanish; and that an informational sheet to ascertain the Report’s usefulness be included with each copy, requesting it be returned to the delegates for forwarding by them to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter by April 1, 1991, as background in planning future distribution.

The present text in *The A.A. Service Manual* on “Use of A.A.’s Trademarks and Logos” be replaced with the A.A.W.S., Inc., amended policy.

Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section in the *Conference Final Report*.

The Domestic Directories be retained as formatted, and distributed to area officers, D.C.M.s and intergroup/central offices, and be made available for purchase by A.A. groups and members. (Floor Action)

A.A. Domestic Directories and the group information forms include the following: (Floor Action)

#### *Third Tradition (Long Form)*

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

#### *Fifth Tradition (Long Form)*

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose*—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The six-point description of an A.A. Group in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be deleted, and be replaced by the following:

The Long Form of Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six, Concept Twelve aptly describe what an A.A. Group is:

Tradition Three:

“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

Warranty Six:

“. . . much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the A.A. Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group; no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles; no fees or dues to be levied—voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from A.A.—membership always to be the choice of the individual; each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes—it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may

call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.”

The existing footnote 7, Concept XI in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, be deleted, as it pertains to merit pay, until the General Service Board seeks and obtains Conference approval of merit pay, being mindful that Bill notes in the introduction to the Concepts:

“The future advocates of structural change need only make out a strong case for their recommendations—a case convincing to both the Trustees and to the Conference.”

The present system of distribution of the General Service Conference *Final Report* (1988 Advisory Action #73. The *Conference Final Report* be sent to all G.S.R.s with the distribution method and quantity determined by the delegate.) be continued.

The estimated cost of recommendations be included in the *Conference Final Report*.

The text describing How A.A. Chooses (Non-Trustee) Directors for A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, and How A.A. Chooses Appointed Committee Members be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**1992** It was recommended that:

The “Procedures for Election of Class A Trustees,” previously approved by the General Service Board, be added verbatim to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

A reference to the “gray pages” of the Grapevine on page S134 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be eliminated in compliance with 1991 Advisory Action #11.

The words “(or a vocal majority)” from line 19, page S80 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, be deleted.

The third sentence, first paragraph, page S81 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be changed to read “To take care of that situation, the Charter provides that, as a matter of tradition, a two-thirds vote of Conference members voting shall be considered binding upon the General Service Board and its related corporate services, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum.”

The general manager of the General Service Office and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Board devise an equitable system of pay for the G.S.O. staff that embraces the spiritual principles of Concept XI and complies with all applicable laws. (Floor Action)

The trustees’ Committee on Literature develop material on Service Sponsorship to be forwarded to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference Committee on Report and Charter for possible inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Floor Action)

**1993** It was recommended that:

The following be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*: “To encourage participation of the maximum number of groups, some areas have incorporated linguistic districts within their structure. These districts usually have a bilingual D.C.M. or liaison. Their boundaries may be independent of the conventional district boundaries.”

Information on alternate district structures be added to the 1994-95 *A.A. Service Manual*, and that the committee’s background material be referred to Publications to write a revised section on districts for final approval by the 1994 Conference Report and Charter Committee.

**1994** It was recommended that:

The third and fourth paragraphs of “The District” on page S52 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be deleted and replaced by the following text:

## Redistricting

As the number of groups increases, the committee member's problem is met in a number of ways:

- a. The district is divided into two or more districts, each with a committee member to head it.
- b. Local Committee Member (L.C.M.): A large district divides itself into smaller districts (often called subdistricts or local districts), each electing a local committee member. These L.C.M.s may or may not be voting members of the area committee and may or may not hold regular meetings with the G.S.R.s they serve.
- c. District Committee Member Chairperson (D.C.M.C.): A large district in a city or county holds regular meetings led by a D.C.M.C. who serves as the link between the district and the delegate and area committee. Within this large city/county district there are as many districts as are needed to adequately serve the groups. Each of these districts may be called a subdistrict, local district, or zone. Each is served by a district committee member who may hold regular meetings of G.S.R.s. These D.C.M.s may or may not be voting members of the area committee or area assembly.

There are many variations, but the goal is the same: To take care of expansion at the committee-member level. When additional committee members are elected in order to respond to expansion within a district, the qualifications and election method listed for a D.C.M. may serve as a guideline.

The last paragraph and all following material on page S103 in the 1993-94 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section of "Use of A.A.'s Trademarks and Logos" be deleted as it is no longer applicable.

On page S104 in the 1993-94 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the sentences "Include the registered trademark symbol®" and "A fourth symbol (shown on page S103) is confined to Conference-approved literature only, and may not be used" be deleted as they are no longer applicable.

On page S129 in the 1993-94 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* the portion of the following sentence—which is no longer applicable—in bold, stricken-through type be deleted and the italicized print be substituted as follows:

*"This process takes time—months—but the results are worth the effort. When the pamphlet or book is finally completed, it is entitled to (carry the "Conference-approved" seal, having fully earned it) bear the designation, "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved Literature."*

~~[Circle/Triangle Design With Words  
"General Service Conference" is Deleted]~~

No monetary contributions be reflected in any A.A. directory as this information is provided elsewhere and the purpose of the directories is to help traveling A.A. members find meetings and for Twelfth Step purposes.

**1995** It was recommended that:

After reviewing Chapter V of *The A.A. Service Manual* (1994-1995 Edition):

- a. The word "trip" be deleted from the first sentence in the second paragraph under item 2 on page S68.
- b. The following sentence be added to the last paragraph on page S72: "Many area committee treasuries recognize the need for supporting the alternate's expenses separately from the delegate's."

After considering the suggestion to make stronger recommendations for the financial support of the G.S.R., D.C.M., and

other people elected to serve our Fellowship in Chapters II and III in the *The A.A. Service Manual* (1994-1995 Edition):

- a. The last sentence in the last paragraph on page S44, "Experience is now indicating that many groups are now financially supporting their general service representatives to attend service functions," appear as a separate paragraph.
- b. The last sentence on page S54 in the second paragraph under "What Does The D.C.M. Do?" appear as a separate paragraph, with a second sentence added, as follows: "Experience is now indicating that many districts are now financially supporting their district committee members to attend service functions. Invariably this pays off in increased activity, interest and group participation."

**1996** It was recommended that:

The title of the chart on page S23 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be changed from "Structure of the Fellowship" to "The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)" to more accurately describe what is depicted.

To be consistent, the title of the chart on page S46 be changed from "How the A.A. Group Fits into the Structure of the Fellowship" to "How the A.A. Group Fits into the General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)."

The following description of the qualifications and responsibilities of an area registrar be added to Chapter IV of *The A.A. Service Manual* following the paragraphs describing the **Secretary Qualifications**.

In some areas, *registrars* now develop and maintain records of all groups within the area. The records include group information such as group name, meeting location, time, and G.S.R. or contact for the group. Registrars may also be responsible for names, mailing addresses, phone numbers of the G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, district officers, area officers and other area committee members. Another duty of the registrar may be to provide mailing labels for area publications such as a monthly newsletter or a mailing of minutes. A willingness to become organized and computer literacy may be helpful.

The description of Third Legacy Procedure on page S118, item 3 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be reworded as follows to be consistent with the wording on pages S41 and S64 of *The A.A. Service Manual*: "After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the chairperson asks for a motion, second and majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. (If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and we go to the 'hat' immediately...)"

Article 2 of the current Conference Charter remain as is.

A typographical error in Warranty Two in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* on page 66, third paragraph, fourth line: "This set income to the groups..." be corrected to "This net income to the groups..." in the next printing, noting that this typographical error has existed since the first printing of *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

For clarification, third paragraph of the **Preface** to *Twelve Concepts for World Service* be revised as follows:

"Following the recommendation of an ad hoc committee of the A.A. General Service Board, the 1985 General Service Conference recommended that future publication of the Concepts in *The A.A. Service Manual* and the booklet *Twelve Concepts for World Service* be in the original 1962 version,..."

Special International Contacts be listed in A.A. Directories if they serve special populations (young people, doctors, gays and lesbians, etc.) which meet some of the following

criteria: (1) Large membership, (2) Annual international meetings, (3) Regional and state contacts, (4) Maintenance of membership lists and/or directories of special interest meetings for our Twelfth Step purposes, (5) Serve as a “bridge” into the Fellowship.

International correspondence groups such as International Deaf Group by Mail and Groupe Bonjour le Monde be listed in A.A. directories under the category of “International Correspondence meetings” in order to provide additional sharing opportunities for A.A. members.

**1997** It was recommended that:

The selected diagram, as modified, illustrating the Third Legacy Procedure be added to the next edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* adjacent to page S41 to help people new to general service understand the process described on pages S41, S63-64 and S118 of the 1996-1997 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, and that each description of the Third Legacy Procedure in the next edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* refer to the diagram.

The paragraph on page S41 of the 1996-1997 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, reading “After the second ballot (assuming no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds on the first ballot), any candidate having less than *one-fifth* of the total vote will be withdrawn *automatically*, except that the TWO TOP CANDIDATES must remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and tied second-place candidates remain.)” be replaced by “Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one-fifth of the total vote, his or her name is *automatically* withdrawn—except that the top two candidates must remain. (If there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)”; that paragraph (i), page S64, be replaced with the same language; and, that a sentence be added to the description of the Third Legacy procedure on page S118 at the beginning of item 1 “**The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.**”

Because of the importance of this principle to A.A. unity worldwide, there be no change to Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Current Conference Charter.

A thorough review of *The A.A. Service Manual* be undertaken by the Publications Department of the General Service Office for the purpose of increasing readability, consolidating and clarifying the text, and that a preliminary draft be sent to the 1998 Conference Committee on Report and Charter no later than February 1, 1998, for consideration.

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the “International Correspondence Meetings” in A.A. directories, that each listing include the Internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as “mail” contact.

An intergroup serving on-line A.A. meetings should be listed adjacent to on-line A.A. meetings in the section on “International Correspondence Meetings.”

**1999** It was recommended that:

The review of *The A.A. Service Manual* undertaken by the publications department of the General Service Office as the result of a 1997 Conference Advisory Action be accepted, and that the revised manuscript distributed to all Conference members in April 1999 be approved as the 1999-2000 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**2000** It was recommended that:

The description of the A.A. Group (Long Form Tradition Three

and a section of Warranty Six, in Concept Twelve) be added in Chapter Two: “The Group and Its G.S.R.” in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

In the section “Area Newsletters or Bulletins” in Chapter Four: “The Area Assembly and Activities,” the following sentence “Many local publications quote from A.A. literature such as the Big Book, the Twelve and Twelve, *The A.A. Service Manual*, and Conference-approved pamphlets” be removed from *The A.A. Service Manual* and replaced with the following:

“Local A.A. publications are permitted to quote a phrase, sentence or brief paragraph excerpted from A.A. literature such as the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *The A.A. Service Manual* and Conference-approved pamphlets without a prior, written request to do so.”

The phrase “to use their experience, strength and hope” be inserted in the first sentence under “Sharing Sessions” in Chapter Four: “The Area Assembly and Activities” on Page S36 in *The A.A. Service Manual* to read as follows:

“In a sharing session, everyone has a chance to use their experience, strength and hope to contribute ideas and opinions about the welfare of A.A.”

On Page S69 in the subsection titled “Financial Support” under A.A. World Services, Inc., in Chapter Ten: “The Board’s Operating Corporations” the sentence “Some groups set up a regular contribution plan, using various methods” be removed from *The A.A. Service Manual* and replaced with the following two sentences from the previous edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“Many groups have found it convenient to set up a *regular contribution plan* whereby they send in a predetermined percentage each month or each quarter. For part of this—or to make additions to it—they use various methods.”

**2001** It was recommended that:

In the section titled “Third Legacy Procedure” in Chapter One on Page S21 referring to the fifth ballot, the sentence “At this point, balloting usually involves only the top two or three candidates” be removed from *The A.A. Service Manual* and replaced with the following:

“At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first-place candidates remain. In case there are no ties for first-place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.”

“Telephone A.A. meetings” that request to be listed in A.A. Directories be added to the section “International Correspondence Meetings” on page v under a section to be titled “Telephone Meetings.”

**2002** It was recommended that:

The Publications Department add a map of U.S. areas, and a map of Canada areas to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

In keeping with the purpose of the A.A. Directories to provide A.A. members with contact information, the “List of General Service Conference Area Web Sites” be added to the Canadian, Eastern and Western United States A.A. Directories.

**2003** It was recommended that:

The first sentence of the third bullet under “Delegates Duties” in Chapter Six in *The A.A. Service Manual* be replaced with: “Be prepared to attend all area and regional service meetings and assemblies applicable to his/her respective area.”

The following two new bullet points be added as the first and second items under the section titled “Duties” in Chapter Two:

The Group and Its G.S.R. in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

- G.S.R.s attend district meetings
- They also attend area assemblies

In *The A.A. Service Manual* the words “to reprint the Steps, Traditions, and/or the Concepts, and” be added to the first sentence in paragraph three under the section “Area Newsletters or Bulletins” in Chapter Four: The Area Assembly and Activities, to read:

“Local A.A. publications are permitted to reprint the Steps, Traditions, and/or the Concepts, and to quote a phrase, sentence or brief paragraph excerpted from A.A. literature such as the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *The A.A. Service Manual* and Conference-approved pamphlets without a prior, written request to do so.”

**2005** It was recommended that:

The existing chart of the “A.A. Grapevine, Inc.” in *The A.A. Service Manual* be replaced with the updated version.

The following text pertaining to the A.A. Grapevine Digital Archive be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*:

#### **The A.A. Grapevine Digital Archive**

In June 2004, Grapevine articles were preserved electronically and posted on the website, making it possible for A.A. members, professionals working in the field of alcoholism, and others interested in the Fellowship to access almost every Grapevine article and letter ever published.

With articles written by A.A. members from June 1944, when the magazine was first published, to the present, the archive offers a vivid account of A.A. history as well as a view of the Fellowship today. It also makes stories easy to find. Using keywords, visitors can search the archive by location, author, or subject to find the first version of the Traditions, to learn what A.A.s have said about such topics as sponsorship and self-support, and to explore how much—and how little—A.A. has changed. Readers may also browse through the collection by department, topic, or date to find hundreds of jokes and cartoons, along with thousands of articles.

The following text pertaining to the A.A. Grapevine Reprint Policy be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*:

#### **General Guidelines for Reprinting Art and Articles from the A.A. Grapevine**

Permission to reproduce articles or other A.A. Grapevine or La Viña material, either in print or via electronic media (such as web pages), must be obtained from the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Each article or item must be reprinted in its entirety and carry the following credit line:

Copyright © (month, year) A.A. Grapevine, Inc.  
Reprinted with permission.

Organizations, publications, or websites outside of A.A. must add the following:

Permission to reprint the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., copyrighted material [in this publication, organization, or website] does not in any way imply affiliation with or endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

#### **Logo and Artwork**

Only the Grapevine cartoons Victor E. and Clara T. may be reprinted with permission.

The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., does not grant permission to reproduce either its logo or registered trademarks (The A.A.

Grapevine, Inc., Box 1980, The Grapevine, La Viña, etc.) or its artwork or any other cartoons on any other website or in any other publication.

Online meetings in languages in addition to English, French and Spanish be listed in A.A. directories under “ONLINE MEETINGS” with the meeting language indicated next to the listing and in accordance with the 1997 Conference Advisory Action that:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the “International Correspondence Meetings” in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as “mail” contact.

Online meetings listed in A.A. directories under “ONLINE MEETINGS” continue to be listed with an e-mail contact address only, in keeping with the 1997 General Service Conference recommendation that:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the “International Correspondence Meetings” in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as “mail” contact.

**2006** It was recommended that:

The graphic, “Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group,” as it appeared in the 1998-1999 edition, be restored in Chapter 2 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The following descriptive sentence be added to the second paragraph on page S63 of *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section “Trustees-at-large”:

“In the year between the World Service Meetings, the trustees-at-large may attend a Western Hemisphere zonal meeting, the Meeting of the Americas, as delegates representing the U.S. and Canada.”

The statement on page ii of each A.A. Directory located below the box “An A.A. Group” be revised to read:

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY**

As embodied in the Fourth Tradition, the formation and operation of an A.A. group resides exclusively within the group conscience of its members. While, hopefully, every A.A. group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practice of any A.A. group. Groups listed in this directory appear at their own request. A directory listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any group’s approach to, or practice of, the A.A. program.

**2007** It was recommended that:

The second paragraph on p. S29 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, which reads, “In the majority of areas, a district includes six to 20 groups. In metropolitan districts, the number is generally 15 to 20 groups, while in rural or suburban districts the number can be as small as five,” be replaced with the following:

“The number of groups per district varies widely, from as few as five in a rural district to 90 or more in a metropolitan district. Population density and the geographic size of the district, which will affect the ability of the D.C.M. to communicate with the groups, would be key factors determining the number of groups a district will have.”



The following sentence be inserted on p. S72 of the *The A.A. Service Manual* at the beginning of the second paragraph under the heading “Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights”:

“In 1993, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., announced that official use of all of the several circle/triangle trademarks and service marks was being discontinued.”

The Publications Department insert into *The A.A. Service Manual*, where appropriate, the inverted triangle graphic that currently appears annually in the General Service Conference manual.

A paragraph titled “District Information,” which includes an illustration of the District Information Change Form (F-43), be developed for inclusion in Chapter Three in *The A.A. Service Manual* and brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review.

The last sentence in the second paragraph of “The Conference Structure—An Overview” (p. S15) in *The A.A. Service Manual*, which reads: “Today, general service includes all kinds of activities within the Conference structure, carried on by districts, area committees, delegates, trustees, the General Service Office and the Grapevine,” be changed to read as follows:

“Today, general service includes all kinds of activities within the Conference structure, carried on by groups, districts, area committees, delegates, trustees, the General Service Office and the Grapevine.”

**2008** It was recommended that:

The following new section and an illustration of the District Information Change Form (F-43) be added to Chapter Three of *The A.A. Service Manual*, after the section on redistricting:

#### **“District Information**

“It is important that the district send information to the area, G.S.O. and to the local intergroup/central office, if applicable. While local, area and national offices communicate regularly, they have different purposes and different mailing lists.

“There may be one person in the area, frequently the area secretary or the area registrar, who is responsible for transmitting district contact information changes to G.S.O. One simple form has been developed to facilitate this, the District Information Change Form (F-43) shown on the following page. The form is used whenever a district elects a new D.C.M., D.C.M.C., or alternate D.C.M., or when any contact information for the D.C.M., D.C.M.C., or alternate D.C.M. changes. When filling out the form, it is important to fill the sections in for the old information and for the new information, and to note at the top of the form the area and the date when the new information will become effective.”

The Online Intergroup of A.A. (OIAA) be listed in a new section titled “Online Intergroups” under the section “International Correspondence Meetings” in the A.A. Directories above where “Online Meetings” appear; the listing will include the online intergroup Web site and e-mail addresses.

The statement “*This Directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture*” that appears on the cover of A.A. Directories be made significantly more prominent, e.g. use borders, larger type face, etc. **(Rescinded by Floor Action)**

The Advisory Action of the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, Item B2, which recommended that the statement: “This directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture” that appears on the cover of A.A. Directories be made significantly more prominent, e.g. use borders, larger type face, etc., be rescinded. **(Floor Action)**

**2009** It was recommended that:

The sentence “A nontrustee director can serve up to four one-year terms” be added to the end of the section “Choosing Nontrustee Directors for A.A. World Services and The A.A. Grapevine” on page S75 of *The A.A. Service Manual* so that it reads as follows:

The remaining candidates are interviewed by the corporate board’s nominating committee, which recommends a nominee to the full board. The name and resume of the nominee are then forwarded to the trustees’ Nominating Committee, for approval by the General Service Board and the General Service Conference. Per the A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine Bylaws, a nontrustee director can serve up to four one-year terms.”

All changes to *The A.A. Service Manual /Twelve Concepts for World Service* be listed in the edition in which the changes appear for the first time, and organized by source of change (General Service Board, Conference Advisory Action, Conference Committee on Report & Charter, Publications Department). Conference Advisory Actions will be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual /Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

The title “Conference Language” on page S19 be changed to “Glossary of General Service Terms” and that the subheading “*A glossary of terms frequently used in general service activities*” be removed.

The last sentence of page S70 of the 2008-2009 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section “Appointed Committee Members” be changed from “The term of service is four years, renewed on a yearly basis” to “Appointed Committee Members are appointed for one year, but the term may be extended depending on committee projects (maximum four years).”

Note: This language makes the description of the terms of service of Appointed Committee Members consistent with the language in the trustees’ Committee on Nominating Procedure No. 2, “Procedures for Selecting Appointed Committee Members for General Service Board Committees.”

Area numbers be inserted next to area names in Appendix D, pages S105 and S106 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**2010** It was recommended that:

The General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees emeriti to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The Publications Department publish the Area Service Highlights in their entirety in the *Final Report*.

*Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference Final Report.

#### **Note: Rescinded by Floor Action #4.**

The Conference Committee on Report and Charter’s Advisory Action which read:

“That *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.”

Be rescinded and replaced with:

“That the Publications Department work cooperatively with the Conference Committee on Report and Charter on the *Final Report* of the General Service Conference to ensure that all *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee*

Considerations are consistent in format, grammatically correct, and accurately reflect the actions of the General Service Conference.” [See **Advisory Action #33**] (Floor Action)

**2011** It was recommended that:

The following text be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board after the section titled “General Service Trustees” on page S69:

**“Trustees Emeriti**

The General Service Board has designated rotating board chairpersons as trustees emeriti. Trustees emeriti are invited to attend quarterly board meetings of the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference. They are a resource of corporate memory and are often asked to share their experience with past board decisions, how previous General Service Boards conducted business, and the processes they used to reach a group conscience. Trustees emeriti do not vote on any matter before the General Service Board or the Conference.”

The following text on page S67 in *The A.A. Service Manual* under “NOMINATION PROCEDURE” in the section on Regional Trustees:

“2. Two Conference Actions should be kept in mind. In 1977, the Conference recommended that a delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference. And in 1985, it was recommended that ‘no area shall submit an individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.’”

Be replaced with:

“2. Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference.”

The following text on page S68 in *The A.A. Service Manual* under “NOMINATION PROCEDURE” in the section on Trustees-at-large:

“In the areas, the same procedure used in selecting a regional trustee candidate is followed. No area should submit the same name for regional and at-large trustee in the same year.”

Be replaced with:

“Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference.”

The section titled “Inactive Service Workers” in Chapter Four on page S37 in *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised to read:

**“Inactive Service Workers**

How does the area deal with area officers and committee chairs who have been absent from two or more assemblies? While the area assembly needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

The following sections be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* as follows:

Add to Chapter Two, page S28, before section titled “Group Information”:

**“Inactive General Service Representative**

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each group regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the group needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

Add to Chapter Three, page S33, before section titled “The Alternate D.C.M.”:

**“Inactive District Committee Member**

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each district regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the district needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

The following text in the section titled “What Goes On at the Conference” on page S55 in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

**“What Goes On at the Conference**

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting, and business sessions from Monday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations. A closing breakfast on Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. Every other year, a visit to the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

Be replaced with:

**“What Goes On at the Conference**

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features roll call, keynote address, an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting. Business sessions from Sunday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops, and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations.

“Although outside of the Conference, a delegates-only meeting is often held prior to the opening day of the Conference. On Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, a closing breakfast provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. In alternate years, a visit to G.S.O./Grapevine offices or the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

The General Service Board develop text to add to Article 3 in the current Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*, which includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal, for consideration by the 2012 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

**2012** It was recommended that:

All changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

The following term and definition be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* in Chapter One: Introduction to General Service in the section titled Glossary of General Service Terms:

“Rotation – the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership.”

The current illustration on page S16 be modified in the following manner:

- Replacing the bottom section of the illustration that deals with the General Service Board and its two operating corporations with the corresponding section from a previous version, minus the table-and-chair graphic.
- Changing “District Committees” to “Districts.”

## TRUSTEES

### Advisory Actions relevant to the

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

**1951** It was recommended that:

Nonalcoholics should continue to serve on the board of trustees. (Agenda)

The alcoholic members of the board of trustees ought to have a fixed term of office. (Agenda)

The Committee on New Trustees reported the names of the five members who will represent various geographic areas on the Committee. Suggestions for new trustees can be submitted to any Committeeman, or sent direct to the Alcoholic Foundation.

**1952** It was recommended that:

The nonalcoholic trustees continue to serve us without restrictions. (Floor Action)

The trustees appoint a committee of five Conference delegates to study the problem of Congressional incorporation. (Floor Action)

**1953** It was recommended that:

The Board of Trustees feel free to choose the area from which a trustee is to be selected and to recommend the qualifications the prospective trustee should possess. This Conference further expressed its complete confidence in, and appreciation of, the ability of the board to act in this matter. (Floor Action)

The board of trustees be authorized to provide part-time compensation to the president of Works Publishing, Inc. (Alcoholics Anonymous Publishing, Inc.) or any other situation, as needed. (Floor Action)

Approval be given to plans of the trustees for changing the name of The Alcoholic Foundation to a new designation using “Alcoholics Anonymous” coupled with a suitable word, that word not be “international.” (Floor Action)

Alcoholics Anonymous not be incorporated by Congressional action. (Floor Action)

**1954**

It was reported that in 1953, the Trustees Committee passed on the two names submitted to them by the Nominating Committee, and .

The Alcoholic Foundation be authorized, in its discretion to

transfer all of its assets, subject to all of its liabilities, to a corporation to be formed by the existing trustees to be known as The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.; that the existing trustees of the Foundation be asked to serve as trustees and adopt by-laws for such corporation, and that The Alcoholic Foundation be continued as a corporate entity to protect the name, and that The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be authorized to devote such funds as may be necessary to pay any taxes or other expenses to maintain the corporate existence of The Alcoholic Foundation, and that the trustees be further authorized, in their discretion if they deem it advisable, to change the name of The Alcoholic Foundation to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., and simultaneously organize a new corporation under the name of The Alcoholic Foundation, Inc. (Floor Action)

**1955** It was recommended that:

The following plan for selecting Class B trustees from outlying areas be approved:

- a) Canada should always fill one of these positions, the selection rotating from province to province.
- b) The United States should be divided into geographical sections as follows, Area A, Area B, Area C, Area D and Area E.

Area A should consist of: Maine, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maryland, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C

Area B should consist of: Washington, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Minnesota, South Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming and Nebraska.

Area C should consist of: North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.

Area D should consist of: California, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, Arizona, Oklahoma, Utah, and New Mexico.

Area E should consist of: Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Missouri, West Virginia, Michigan, Indiana and Kentucky.

- c) Selection of trustees from outlying areas should be rotated in succession from one geographical section to another.
- d) Assembly Area in the geographical sections should be determined by the largest A.A. population, the selection moving in the second round to the place with the next highest A.A. population.
- e) The Nominating Committee should notify the state or area General Service Conference Committee when there is a vacancy for a Class B trustee from their area and ask the Committee to send in a name of a member to the Nominating Committee. It might be suggested to the state or area committee that it use the Third Legacy pamphlet method of selecting a delegate to select a Class B trustee.

A proposal that ex-trustees of the General Service Board should be permanent members of the Conference, with the privilege of attending sessions at their own expense be rejected. (Floor Action)

A suggestion for changing the ratio of alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees be tabled. (Floor Action)

**1956**

The Committee approved proposed nominations for new trustees received from the Nominating Committee during the past year.

The Conference adopted unanimously the proposal that the current structure of the board of trustees, comprising a total of fif-

teen members, of whom eight are nonalcoholics, should be retained. (Floor Action)

In regard to the ratio of nonalcoholics to alcoholics on the board, the Conference asked the General Service Board to "give the subject further thought" and place it on the agenda of the 1957 Conference so that a specific proposal can be relayed to the groups with the understanding that no Conference action will be sought until 1958. (Floor Action)

The following motion was adopted by the Conference: (Floor Action)

As a temporary policy until we have more experience, if, in the judgment of the General Service Board of A.A. and its Committees who are delegated specific powers with respect thereto, it should appear possible to secure actual reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, they are free to accept same with respect to a sponsored television program or a motion picture, with the understanding that this is only suggested policy and does not constitute a policy that shall be deemed binding in any fashion on future Conferences.

The Conference approved the suggestion that the date of the annual meeting of the board of trustees be changed from January to April, immediately following the Conference, to assure more efficient handling of movement-wide affairs. (Floor Action)

**1957**

The Committee approved the election of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as Class A trustees to fill vacancies created by the resignations of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The Committee recommended the election of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as Class B trustees to fill vacancies upon the expiration of the terms of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and the election of \_\_\_\_\_ as a Class B trustee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of \_\_\_\_\_

The Conference approved a unique new set of by-laws for the General Service Board which had earlier been adopted by the board itself on a contingency basis. (Floor Action)

The Conference tabled the question of changing the ratio of alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees, and recommended consideration at the 1958 Conference. (Floor Action)

**1958** It was recommended that:

Nominations as suggested by the General Service Board Nominating Committee be adopted:

<b>Nonalcoholic</b>	<b>Alcoholic</b>
(Chairman)	
(Vice-Chairman)	(Secretary)
	<u>Emeritus</u>

Consideration be given to the possibility of removing from our by-laws the requirement that Class B trustees sign a blank resignation at the time of their election and/or qualification.

Approval be given to the principle of changing the ratio of trustees of the General Service Board (now eight nonalcoholics and seven A.A. members) to nine alcoholics and nine nonalcoholics. This agreement was reached with the under-

standing that the proposed change will be submitted to the areas for review prior to a formal vote at the 1959 Conference. (Floor Action)

**1959** It was recommended that:

The report of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board be adopted:

<b>Nonalcoholic</b>	<b>Alcoholic</b>
(1st Vice-Chairman)	
(Treasurer)	(2nd V Chair)
	(Secretary)
	<u>Emeritus</u>

The proposal to recommend a change in the current ratio of trustees to nine alcoholics and nine nonalcoholics not be accepted. (History of Trustee Ratio, 1959 Conference Report, page 6.) (Floor Action)

**1960** It was recommended that:

The Report of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board be adopted:

<b>Nonalcoholic</b>	<b>Alcoholic</b>
	(Chairman)
(1st Vice-Chairman)	(Sec.)
	(2nd V.Chair)
	[ —Assistant Secretary]

The request of the delegate from Southern California, Los Angeles Area, for two permanent members of the board of trustees for the area west of the Rocky Mountains was not looked upon favorably. It was recommended that this matter be referred to the Committees on Policy and Nominating of the Board of Trustees for further study and report at the 1961 Conference.

**1961** It was recommended that:

The Report of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board be adopted:

**Class A Trustees**

**Class B Trustees**

**Officers**

- Chairman
- 1st Vice-Chairman
- 2nd Vice-Chairman
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Asst. Secretary

The Conference confirm the action of the trustees of the General Service Board not to approve the request for permanent representation on the General Service Board of two trustees from west of the Rocky Mountains. The matter was referred to the board's Policy Committee for further study.

**1962** It was recommended that:

The Report of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board be adopted:

**Class A Trustees**

**Class B Trustees**

**Officers**

*Chairman*  
*1st Vice Chairman*  
*2nd Vice Chairman*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Ass't. Secretary*

All future Class B nominees, in addition to their special and professional qualifications, have at least ten years continuous A.A. sobriety as an active A.A. member.

The recommendation of the General Service Board that will permit the addition of four board trustees, two of them A.A.'s and two nonalcoholics in accordance with a new electoral method be approved. (Floor Action)

The present ratio of alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees be maintained. (Floor Action)

**1963** It was recommended that:

The report of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board be adopted and the following nominees as trustees and officers of the General Service Board be accepted:

**Class A Trustees**

**Class B Trustees**

**Officers**

*Chairman*  
*1st Vice Chairman*  
*2nd Vice Chairman*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*

The Committee on Trustees thanked the regions involved for their cooperation in following, for the first time, the procedure approved by the 1962 General Service Conference for the nomination of Class B regional trustees in the United States.

In view of the success of the elections on Friday, April 26, the procedure be followed for future elections of Class B regional trustees in the United States.

The nominations of two nonalcoholic trustees to fill vacancies created through enlargement of the General Service Board be approved: \_\_\_\_\_ of Toronto, Canada, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of New York City. (Floor Action)

The nomination of \_\_\_\_\_ as an A.A. Trustee from the New York Area, to replace \_\_\_\_\_, be approved. (Floor Action)

**1964** It was recommended that:

The report of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board be approved and the following nominees as trustees and officers of the General Service Board be accepted:

**Class A Trustees**

(Vacancy)

**Class B Trustees**

**Officers**

*Chairman*  
*1st Vice Chairman*  
*2nd Vice Chairman*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*

The adoption and acceptance of the following nominees as Class B trustees of the General Service Board of A.A.: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The electoral procedure followed in 1963 and 1964 be followed for future elections of Class B regional trustees in the United States.

It was suggested that the delegates search their areas and submit to the General Service Board possible candidates for the position of a Class A trustee. They would submit a summary and these would be placed in the files for future reference. It was suggested, in considering such candidates, the fields of professional and industrial people be given special attention.

**1965** It was recommended that:

The report of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board be approved by the Conference:

**Class A Trustees**

**Class B Trustees**

**Officers**

*Chairman*  
*1st Vice Chairman*

*2nd Vice Chairman  
Treasurer  
Secretary*

The procedures for electing Class B regional trustees continue to be satisfactory.

If two states in an eligible region nominate a candidate to be a regional trustee, a delegate from each state may make a three-minute presentation in support of the candidate.

**1966** It was recommended that:

An A.A. member professionally employed in the field of alcoholism should not be excluded from service on the General Service Board solely for that reason, but it is desirable that the board and its Nominating Committee “maintain the guardianship of Alcoholics Anonymous on a non-professional level.”

No A.A. member living within a 75-mile radius of New York City should, for that reason alone, be excluded from service on the General Service Board as a regional trustee.

No rigid time-of-sobriety requirement should be established in advance for “General Service” (A.A.) trustees, but the board should consider both service experience and “stability of sobriety” in naming such members.

The following trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the Board:

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board:

*Chairman  
1st Vice-Chairman  
2nd Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Asst. Secretary  
Treasurer  
Asst. Treasurer*

The re-structure plan of the General Service Board be approved, changing the board into a body of 14 A.A. (Class B) and 7 non-alcoholic (Class A) trustees. (Floor Action)

The General Service Board consist of eight regional A.A. trustees, six from the U.S., two from Canada. Also, six “General Service” Class B trustees (chosen for business skill)—four from the New York City area, one from Canada, one from anywhere in the U.S. (Floor Action)

A motion to change the Bylaws to restrict Board Chairmanship to nonalcoholics not be carried. (Floor Action)

**1967** It was recommended that:

Only one presentation be made for a trustee candidate.

The revised procedure for pre-selection of trustees be accepted and that the chart for adjustment of starting dates for regional trustees be accepted so that with the 1975 election two regional trustees will come on the board each year and then each regional will have full four-year terms.

The revised procedure for preselection of general service trustees (non-New York):

The board would set up “specifications” to cover the kind of business and professional qualifications needed to fill a vacancy. All states and provinces would be asked to submit qualified names by January 15. The Conference Committee on Trustees would be invited to meet with the trustees’ Nominating Committee in joint session on the Sunday preceding the first Conference session to discuss all candidates and to reduce the number to four for each vacancy. At the Conference annual meeting, the entire Conference would use Third Legacy procedures to select one name for each vacancy for election by the board.]

The General Service Board study the procedures for selecting regional trustees with special consideration given to withdrawals and drawing by lot.

The following be elected trustees of the General Service Board: (Floor Action)

**Non-A.A. Trustees**

**A.A. Trustees**

The following officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the board in April: (Floor Action)

*Chairman  
1st Vice-Chairman  
2nd Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Asst. Secretary*

**1968** It was recommended that:

After reviewing the Composition, Scope and Procedure and History of the committee, the electoral procedures for regional trustees be added to the Committee procedures.

The possibility of electing one trustee candidate from each Conference area, rather than one from each state or province, be studied and explored.

The following candidates be presented for election as trustees to the General Service Board:

The following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting, following the Conference in April:

*Chairman  
1st Vice-Chairman  
2nd Vice-Chairman*

*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*

The Conference approve the name of \_\_\_\_\_ for election at the July Meeting of the General Service Board as an A.A. General Service Trustee.

The revised electoral procedures for A.A. regional trustees be adopted by the General Service Conference and utilized in future elections.

Consideration be given to the possibility of using these revised electoral procedures in all A.A. elections.

In describing the qualifications of the A.A. trustee, emphasis be placed on the fact that the trustee represents the entire Fellowship of A.A. and not a geographical area.

**1969** It was recommended that:

The Conference disapprove the suggestion that a state or province having a regional trustee be eliminated from submitting a candidate to their next regional trustee election.

The following candidates be presented for election as trustees of the General Service Board:

The Conference approve the name of Stephen O., Sr. as an A.A. general service trustee for election at the annual meeting of the General Service Board, to become effective at the end of July, 1969.

The following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting, following the Conference in April.

*Chairman*  
*1st Vice-Chairman*  
*2nd Vice-Chairman*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The Conference disapprove the proposal for a suggested change in electoral procedures for regional trustees which would increase the voting body to all delegates and eliminate the trustees from voting. The reasons for this are: it would increase or encourage politicking on the floor of the Conference and thus divert the delegates from their primary purpose; in all probability it would increase the length of time required by the Conference and, therefore, incur great unnecessary expense. Trustees should have some voice in voting for the person with whom they will be working.

The Conference disapprove a proposal to enable each Conference area, if it so desires, to select its own regional trustee candidate and recommended that it be held over for further study.

The procedure for the election of a general service trustee at large be accepted.

That resumes of all regional trustee candidates be prepared by a person other than the candidate himself. That his qualifications be itemized rather than in paragraph form, limited to one page, using the G.S.O. Resume Sheet.

The "electoral procedure for the election of Class B regional trustee nominee" be used in all Third Legacy elections; and further that this suggestion be incorporated in the *Third Legacy Manual* (*The A.A. Service Manual*) now under revision. (Policy)

**1970** It was recommended that:

A regional or general service trustee-at-large candidate may be elected from each Conference area, or that two or more of the Conference areas within a state or province may jointly propose a single candidate.

The proposal to change the regional trustee candidates' resumes to eliminate any educational background and outside A.A. activities was not in the best interest of A.A., and recommended that we continue to ask for educational background and outside A.A. activities in resumes.

The proposal, i.e., any delegate shall not be eligible as trustee candidate for a full year after ending the term as area delegate, is not consistent with the best interest of A.A., as it would eliminate many qualified candidates, not be accepted.

A regional trustee shall not be a candidate for a general service trustee-at-large.

The proposal regarding a 75-mile (from New York City) limitation on trustee-at-large candidates be rescinded on the basis that it is discriminatory; bylaws to be amended accordingly.

\_\_\_\_\_ serve as a non-A.A. trustee of the General Service Board.

The slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board read by the chairman be accepted:

**Class A**

**Class B**

**1971** It was recommended that:

The words "but not mandatory" be deleted from the description of the A.A. regional trustee and from the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the trustees' Nominating Committee after the words "ten years of continued sobriety is desirable."

The proposed change in election procedures of regional trustees, which suggested that the members of the Conference Committee on Trustees be omitted from the listing of voting members, is not in the best interest of A.A. at this time.

That the slate of members and officers of the General Service Board for the period of April, 1971 through April, 1972, be accepted:

**Class A**

**Class B**

Chairman  
1st Vice-Chairman  
2nd Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary  
Assistant Treasurer

, and be approved for election at the 1971 annual meeting of the General Service Board.

When electoral procedures require an alternate to sit in for an area delegate whose region is electing a trustee because he (the delegate) is also serving on the Conference Committee on Trustees, no voting instructions be given to the alternate.

The area delegate assume the responsibility for sending trustee-candidate resumes to G.S.O.

State of health be included in trustee nominee resumes.

*Voting:* Following a question from the floor regarding the method of determining a two-thirds majority during the election of trustees, delegates voted to continue using the present mathematical formula in determining the percentage of total vote in elections of trustees (rounding to nearest whole: .5 and over to larger figure; below .5 to lower figure). (Floor Action)

**1972** It was recommended that:

The slate of members and officers of the General Service Board be accepted for the period beginning April, 1972 through April, 1973.

**Class A**

**Class B**

Chairman  
1st Vice Chairman  
2nd Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary  
Assistant Treasurer

, submitted by the Grapevine Corporate Board, for Class B general service trustee, effective August 1, 1972, be approved.

A delegate to the General Service Conference shall not be eligible to be proposed for trustee candidate until after he has attended his last Conference, because experience has shown that:

- There is a danger that if the delegate is also a trustee candidate, it may make it difficult for him to concentrate on matters relating to his duties and responsibilities as a delegate.
- There is also a danger that it may impose a hardship on that particular candidate, as many delegates disapprove

of a delegate being a trustee candidate while still serving as delegate.

On resume forms for Class B regional trustees, the heading "Activities Outside of A.A." include clubs, rehabs, and all alcoholism-related activities.

The qualifications and election procedures for Class B general service trustee, as described in *The A.A. Service Manual*, be condensed with reference to the Service Manual page, and placed in *Box 4-5-9* periodically.

The proposal to change the state of Wisconsin to from the West Central Region to the East Central Region be approved. (Floor Action)

The change in bylaws to remove the words "at large" from the title of the general service trustee from the U.S. and general service trustee from Canada be approved. (Floor Action)

**1973** It was recommended that:

The slate of officers and members of the General Service Board be accepted for the period beginning April 1973 through April 1974:

**Class A**

**Class B**

Chairman  
1st Vice Chairman  
2nd Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary  
Assistant Treasurer

The resume of —submitted by A.A.W.S. Corporate Board for Class B General Service trustee, effective April 1973—be approved.

The Conference approve the recommendation from the trustees' Nominating Committee that the following procedure be used when a Conference area requests a change of region:

The delegate from the area requesting a change of region will write, on behalf of the assembly, to the secretary of the Trustees' Nominating Committee, requesting the change of region, and will send copies of the letter to the trustees in the two regions involved.

The delegate will ask the General Service Office to send a letter to all of the area delegates in the two regions involved, requesting them to express their approval/disapproval on an enclosed card. Approval by two-thirds of the delegates from each region involved is required before the proposal is presented to the General Service Conference for their approval. Any resumes received after the established January 15 deadline be returned by G.S.O. to the delegate in the submitting area.

The January 15 deadline be so noted on the resume sheet, and it was suggested that the resumes be sent to the General Service Office by *Registered Mail—Return Receipt Requested*.



Resumes for trustee candidates received at the General Service Office be presented for approval to the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees exactly as received.

In the event circumstances prevent an area's candidate for Class B trustee from serving as trustee, the area will have the right to submit another candidate after the January 15 deadline, subject to the approval of the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees.

Utah's request to change from Southwest to Pacific Region be approved. (Floor Action)

(Western Mass.) be elected General Service trustee, U.S. (Floor Action)

The Questionnaire Regarding Electoral Procedure for Regional Trustees be filled out and sent to G.S.O. by June 1 for study by the Trustees' Nominating Committee at their July 1973 meeting. The trustees' Nominating Committee will make a proposal/proposals to the 1974 Conference for consideration. (Floor Action)

**1974** It was recommended that:

The report of the trustees' Nominating Committee be accepted as presented to the Conference, except for the recommendation to present a resume received after the January 15 deadline to the 1974 Conference to allow the Conference to decide whether or not to honor it, which would override the 1973 Conference action.

The slate of officers and trustees of the General Service Board be accepted for April 1974 to April 1975:

**Class A (nonalcoholic)**

**Class B (A.A. members)**

*Chairman*

*1st Vice-Chairman*

*2nd Vice-Chairman*

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

*Secretary*

*Assistant Treasurer*

A subcommittee be set up to find a more equitable procedure for reducing the number of candidates for general service trustee—U.S./Canada to be presented to the Conference for election. The subcommittee will consist of two members of the Conference Committee on Trustees and two members of the trustees' Nominating Committee. Norm A. and Horton S. will represent the Conference Committee on Trustees on this subcommittee. The subcommittee will submit a proposal or proposals to the Conference Committee on Trustees at the 1975 Conference.

The resume form for regional trustee candidates be reviewed by the trustees' Nominating Committee and the 1975 Conference Committee on Trustees to obtain more specific information on A.A. service work, business experience, and both professional and nonprofessional work in the field of alcoholism. (Guidelines for completing resumes were discussed as a possible solution.)

The trustees' Nominating Committee continue to review resumes for each candidate's eligibility for nomination. Voters to consist of delegates from the region involved, plus an equal number of voters—one-half from the Conference Committee on Trustees and one-half from the trustees' Nominating Committee. (trustees' Nominating Committee recommendation approved by the Conference)

A five-year moratorium be observed at the Conference on discussion of electoral procedures of regional trustees. (trustees' Nominating Committee recommendation approved by the Conference.)

**1975** It was recommended that:

The following addition be made to Class B trustee resume forms in order that more specific information may be obtained in connection with employment in the field of alcoholism:

#### EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIELD OF ALCOHOLISM

Now Working in Field of Alcoholism? \_\_\_\_\_

How Long? \_\_\_\_ Salaried or Volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

With Whom? \_\_\_\_ Title? \_\_\_\_\_

The following procedure be adopted for reducing the number of candidates presented to the Conference in the election of general service trustees, U.S. and Canada:

- Each Conference area may select one candidate, or two or more areas may jointly propose a single candidate via Third Legacy procedure.
- Resumes of all candidates will be reviewed for eligibility by the trustees' Nominating Committee.
- Delegates from each region will caucus prior to the election to reduce the number of candidates, using Third Legacy procedure, to one each in the U.S. and two each in the Canadian regions. A maximum of six candidates for general service trustee—U.S., and a maximum of four candidates for general service trustee—Canada, will be presented to the voting members of the Conference for election.
- Voting members of the Conference will be all delegates from the electing country (U.S. or Canada) and all members of the trustees' Nominating Committee.

Note: The physical arrangements for the caucus of delegates from each region, as required in paragraph c above, should be made during the Conference prior to the election, possibly in the form of regional luncheons.

be elected as a Class A trustee at the annual meeting of the General Service Board.

be elected as a Class B trustee at the annual meeting of the General Service Board.

The following slate of officers and trustees to the General Service Board be accepted for the period beginning April 1975:

**Class A**

**Class B**

Chairman  
First Vice-Chairman  
Second Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary  
Assistant Treasurer

The procedure to be used when a Conference area requests a change of region be reviewed by the 1976 Conference on Trustees in order to clarify the voting rights of an area moving into or out of an electing region.

The request from Alaska to be transferred to the West Canada Region from the Pacific Region was tabled for one year to permit time for all Alaskan groups to be polled on this matter. (Floor Action)

The Eastern and Western Missouri Areas be granted permission to change from the West Central Region to the Southwest Region. (Floor Action)

No further discussion of \_\_\_\_\_ letter concerning St. Luke's Hospital in Phoenix is necessary, and a vote of confidence was unanimously given to \_\_\_\_\_, Class A trustee. (Floor Action)

Delegates be given background information on Class A and general service (in town) trustee nominees when they are presented to the Conference prior to election by the General Service Board. (Floor Action)

**1976** It was recommended that:

The following persons be elected as trustees of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

**Class A**

**Class B**

and that the following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

Chairman  
First Vice-Chairman  
Second Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary  
Assistant Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ be elected as a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board.

\_\_\_\_\_ be elected Class B general service trustee (New York) at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board.

There be no change in the structure of the General Service Board: seven nonalcoholic and 14 alcoholic trustees).

The revised description of the general service trustee (New York), with procedure for election and reasons for it, replace paragraph 1 of "How A.A. Chooses Its General Service Trustees" in *The A.A. Service Manual* (1975 edition, page 100)

and that the recommendation be forwarded to the Conference Report and Charter Committee.

No person be eligible simultaneously as a candidate for both regional trustee and general service trustee—U.S./Canada.

The following revisions be made in the procedure for areas requesting a change of region (*The A.A. Service Manual*, page 97, 1975 edition) (Forwarded to Conference Report and Charter Committee)

- a. That the G.S.R.'s in the area be informed in advance by the area committee of the necessary facts—both advantages and disadvantages—in order to make a sound decision in requesting a change of region; that a simple majority (one-half plus one) of G.S.R.'s be present (or respond to a mail poll) and that two-thirds of the majority present or responding by mail agree before an area petitions for a change of region.
- b. Upon notification by the delegate of the plan to change regions, G.S.O. will provide a form to be filled in by the delegate indicating that the conditions outlined have been fulfilled.
- c. The delegate from the area requesting a change of region will write, on behalf of the assembly, to the secretary of the trustees' Nominating Committee, stating the request and enclosing the completed form. The delegate will also send copies of the letter and form to the trustees in the two regions involved.
- d. The delegate will ask the General Service Office to send a letter to all of the area delegates in the two regions involved, requesting that they obtain the group conscience of their respective areas on the proposed change of region, and that they indicate approval/disapproval on an enclosed card.
- e. Approval by two-thirds of the delegates from each region involved is *required* before the proposal is presented to the General Service Conference for its action. A change of region will become effective at the *end* of the Conference at which it was approved.

The following suggestions for the preelection caucus be added to the procedure to reduce the number of candidates in the election of general service trustee—U.S./Canada. (Forwarded to the Conference Report and Charter Committee.)

Prior to the election meeting, each region will caucus (possibly at regional lunches) during the General Service Conference, with the regional trustee acting as chairman of the session. Using Third Legacy procedure, the number of candidates from the region will be reduced to one for each region in the U.S. and two for each region in Canada. A maximum of six candidates for general service trustee—U.S. and a maximum of four for general service trustee—Canada will be presented to the voting members of the Conference. The names of the candidates will be given to the secretary of the trustees' Nominating Committee following the caucuses.

In the resume for Class B regional trustee, the presence of a separate category on "Employment in the Field of Alcoholism" seems to suggest that such employment is an important recommendation. In its present form, this category seems to have too much weight, and the committee suggests that information about employment in the field of alcoholism be included instead in "Business Experience," with a question such as "Are you a salaried employee in the field of alcoholism?"

**1977** It was recommended that:

The following persons be elected as trustees of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

**Class A**

**Class B**

and that the following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

- Chairman*
- First vice-Chairman*
- Second Vice-Chairman*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*
- Assistant Treasurer*

be elected as a Class A trustee at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board.

and be elected Class B general service trustees (New York) at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board.

The resumes for trustee candidates be sent to G.S.O. by the area delegates as soon as possible after the elections, but no later than *January 1*. Any resume received at G.S.O. after the January 1 deadline will be returned to the delegate in the submitting area.

A delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference, commencing with the 1978 election.

The 1973 Conference action that resumes of trustee candidates be sent to G.S.O. by the area delegate be reaffirmed, and that consideration be given to the use of a special coded envelope for this purpose.

The action taken by mail poll to change the wording in *The A.A. Service Manual* (page 98, paragraph 3, first sentence) from: "Delegates and committee *members*. . ." to: "Delegates and committee *officers* in regions scheduled to select regional trustee candidates will be informed by G.S.O. in August mailing" be reaffirmed.

The mailing regarding the selection of regional trustee candidates continue to be sent to delegates and committee officers.

The trustees' Nominating Committee consider and determine the role and purpose of the general service trustee—U.S./Canada; the responsibility of the general service trustee—U.S./Canada; and that some clearer terminology be used in *The A.A. Service Manual* authorizing the board to determine such additional qualifications or requirements in a candidate as the board may require.

The trustees' Nominating Committee review resume forms for Class B trustees, reconsider the question of employment in the alcoholism field, and refer recommendations to the Conference Committee on Trustees by mail.

The committee would like to go on record as favoring the continuance of having a Class A trustee serve as chairman of the board.

The following Class B regional trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board: East Central U.S. (four years); Southeast U.S (four years). (Floor Action)

**1978** It was recommended that:

The following persons be elected as trustees of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

**Class A**

**Class B**

and that the following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

- Chairman*
- First Vice-Chairman*
- Second Vice-Chairman*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Chairperson Emeritus*

The title "general service trustee—U.S./Canada" be changed to "trustee-at-large."

Trustee candidate resumes continue to carry the question regarding employment in the alcoholism field.

The Conference reaffirm the 1977 recommendation of the Conference Committee on Trustees that a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee continue to serve as chairperson of the board.

After considerable discussion following the presentation on the role of the general service trustee—U.S./Canada, a motion was carried requesting the General Service Board of Trustees to make a study of the possibility of restructuring the A.A. Conference regions and report back to the 1979 Conference. (Floor Action)

The following Class B regional trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board: Pacific U.S. (four years); Eastern Canada (four years). (Floor Action)

**1979** It was recommended that:

The following persons be elected as trustees of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

**Class A**

**Class B**

and that the following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The Statement of Restructuring Trustee Regions be accepted. (The statement recommended no restructuring at this time.)

The Conference reaffirm that if a trustee candidate withdraws after the January 1 deadline, that area may not submit another candidate.

The method of electing trustees-at-large—U.S. and Canada be referred to the trustees'

Nominating Committee. (Floor Action)

The following trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board: Class A (nonalcoholic)—

, ; Class B—  
, trustee-at-large, Canada (four years),  
, Southwest U.S. (four years),  
, Northeast U.S. (four years),  
, general service trustee  
(four years). (Floor Action)

The Conference Committee on Trustees always have at least nine members so that there will always be enough to constitute one-half of the committee votes in regional elections. (Policy)

Previous action that two non-trustee members of each trustees' committee may attend as observers for one-half of one day with no voice and no vote be reaffirmed. (Policy)

**1980** It was recommended that:

be elected as a Class B general service trustee (New York) at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board.

, be elected as a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board

The following persons be elected as trustees of the General Service Board for the period beginning April 1980 through April 1981:

**Class A**

**Class B**

and that the following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The speeches nominating trustee candidates be reduced from three minutes to two minutes at the Conference election session, with delegates giving verbal information not included in the written resume.

Retired G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members should not be excluded from service on the General Service Board and/or the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Corporate Boards solely because of their past staff service.

Owners and operators of alcoholism facilities should not be excluded from service on the General Service Board solely because of their occupations, but it is desirable that the board and its Nominating Committee maintain the guardianship of A.A. on a nonprofessional basis.

**1981** It was recommended that:

The report of the trustees' Nominating Committee be accepted as presented, with an additional recommendation that the method of reducing the number of trustee candidates to be presented to the Conference floor for election of trustee-at-large/Canada remain as it presently appears in *The A.A. Service Manual*, and that this method be reviewed again at the 1982 General Service Conference.

and be elected as Class B general service trustees (New York) at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board.

The following persons be elected as trustees of the General Service Board for the period beginning May 1981 through April 1982:

**Class A**

**Class B**

and the following be elected officers of the General Service Board:

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The question "Are you a salaried employee in the field of alcoholism?" be removed from the regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. and Canada resume sheets.

**1982** It was recommended that:

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1982:

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following be elected as directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.:

The following be elected as directors of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.:

All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees' committees be encouraged to attend and participate at the joint meetings and Monday sessions of the Conference, and as observers at one presentation session related to the committee on which they serve. (Policy/Admissions)

**1983** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1983:

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following be elected as officers of the General Service Board at its annual meeting:

- Chairperson*
- First Vice-Chairperson*
- Second Vice-Chairperson*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

The following be elected as directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.:

The following be elected as directors of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.:

The General Service Board of Trustees cause a study to be made concerning inconsistencies between legal directions and actual practice of rotation in our two corporate boards and committees.

The General Service Board of Trustees explore the possibility of establishing an internal checks-and-balances method that would possibly insure against the inadvertent violation of the spirit of rotation on the corporate boards and committees.

An effort be made to rectify contradictions and inconsistencies between *The A.A. Service Manual* and legal charters and corporate by-laws.

The committee, in the A.A. spirit of trust and love, leaves these suggestions and recommendations in the capable hands of the trustees, requesting they report their doings to the 1984 General Service Conference.

Date of birth replace age, and that date of sobriety replace length of sobriety on the Class B trustee resume forms. The committee also recommended striking marital status from Class B resume forms, in that marital status furnishes no valid bearing on the candidates' qualifications.

Resumes for trustee candidates received at the General Service Office be presented to the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees exactly as received, with the exception that spelling and grammatical errors may be corrected by the General Service Office staff preparing resumes for distribution, retaining the original resumes for reference.

The 1982 Conference Action be amended to read: (Policy/Admissions)

"All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees' committees be encouraged to attend and participate at the joint meetings."

"All nontrustee, nondirector members be encouraged to attend, as observers, the Monday sessions of the Conference and one presentation session related to the committee on which they serve."

**1984** It was recommended that:

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1984:

- Chairperson*
- First Vice-Chairperson*
- Second Vice-Chairperson*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following be elected as directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.:

The following be elected as directors of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.:

Information about bilingual ability not be included on the regional trustee resume forms.

A change be made on the form in which the regional trustee resume sheet requests information on the procedure for election from:

- (1) two-thirds majority, (2) out of hat, (3) other

to:

- (1) Third Legacy procedure, (2) other

Because the proposal from the trustees' Nominating Committee which favors the election of all Class B trustees for a four-year term regardless of when vacancies occur represents a substantive change in policy, the trustees' Nominating Committee conduct a survey of delegates and trustees during the coming year and provide the results to next year's Conference committee for final action. When this survey is sent to delegates and trustees, background material on all aspects should be sent, advising the delegates and trustees of the reasoning involved in arriving at the existing procedures for filling trustee vacancies when a death or resignation occurs.

No change in the current schedule or procedure of electing a trustee-at-large be made at the present time.

**1985** It was recommended that:

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1985:

- Chairperson*
- First Vice-Chairperson*
- Second Vice-Chairperson*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following be elected directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.:

All Class B trustees be elected for a four-year term regardless of when vacancies occur.

There be reaffirmation of the 1977 Conference Advisory Action:

“Resumes for trustee candidates be sent to G.S.O. by the area delegate as soon as possible after the elections, but no later than January 1. Any resumes received at the G.S.O. after the January 1 deadline will be returned to the delegate in the submitting area”

with certain changes so that it will read:

“Resumes for trustee candidates be sent to the General Service Office by the area delegate only, as soon as possible after the elections, but no later January 1. Any resumes received at the General Service Office after the January 1 deadline will be returned to the delegate in the submitting area.”—with certain changed so that it will read—“Resumes for trustee candidates be sent to the General Service Office by the area delegate only, as soon as possible after the elections, but no later than January 1. Any resumes received at the General Service Office after the January 1 deadline will be returned to the delegate in the submitting area and will not be considered by the trustees' Nominating Committee in the current election.”

The 1976 Advisory Action which reads:

“No person be eligible simultaneously as a candidate for both regional trustee and general service trustee-U.S./Canada (changed in 1978 to trustee-at-large, U.S./Canada)”

be changed to read:

“No area shall submit an individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.”

A change in wording on the Class B trustee resume forms from: “Date of sobriety” to “Date of last drink” not be made at this time.

**1986** It was recommended that:

With one exception all candidates for regional trustee of Eastern Canada and Pacific U.S. be eligible for election. The reason for the exception was that the resume was submitted by the candidate rather than following a Conference action that states the resume be submitted by the delegate only. (Because of extenuating circumstances, the Conference as a whole accepted his candidacy during the election process on Wednesday.)

The Regional Trustee—G.S.O. Resume Sheet be updated to include the following information from the Conference Advisory Action from 1985: “Resumes for trustee candidate be sent to G.S.O. by the area delegate *only*. . .”

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1986:

- Chairperson*
- First Vice-Chairperson*
- Second Vice-Chairperson*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

The following be elected directors of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.:

**Class B**

The following slate for the Grapevine Board be elected:

The following be elected as directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.:

The Conference reaffirm the 1985 Conference Action using the word *only* in “Resumes for Trustee Candidates be sent to G.S.O. by Area Delegate *only* . . .”

The following be elected directors of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.:

We continue with the current practice of selecting directors for both A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Boards, but that the positions should not necessarily be restricted to residents of New York City and vicinity.

Due to the unforeseen circumstances, the chairperson of the board is authorized to appoint from the existing members of the General Service Board a director of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to fill the vacancy.

A director serving on the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Board not be a candidate for regional trustee or trustee-at-large.

The practice of having a Class A trustee serve as chairperson of the board continue.

**1988** It was recommended that:

All resumes of potential Class A and General Service trustees and directors be sent to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees for their perusal before the General Service Conference.

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1988:

The Conference Committee on Trustees always have at least nine members, so that there will always be enough to constitute one-half of the committee votes in regional elections. (Policy/Admissions)

- Chairperson*
- First Vice-Chairperson*
- Second Vice-Chairperson*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

**1987** It was recommended that:

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in May 1987:

**Class B**

- Chairperson*
- First Vice-Chairperson*
- Second Vice-Chairperson*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

The following slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board be elected:

**Class B**

The following slate of directors for the Grapevine Board be elected:

The following directors for the A.A. World Services Board be elected:

In regard to the suggestion for a Class A trustee with expertise in the area of finance, no additional specific limitations should be made regarding qualifications for candidates, in order that the board have the greatest latitude in selecting candidates for Class A trustee vacancies.

In regard to the suggestion of the selection of corporate board directors of A.A.W.S., Inc. and Grapevine, Inc., not be past delegates, no additional specific limitations should be made regarding qualifications for candidates, in order that the board have the greatest latitude in selecting candidates for these positions.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1989:

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board be elected:

The following slate of directors for the Grapevine Board be elected:

An effort be made to rectify contradictions and inconsistencies between *The A.A. Service Manual* and legal charters and corporate by-laws.

Note: Although the following item did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote to become a Conference recommendation, it did receive a substantial majority and is therefore a strong suggestion for the board's consideration.

The following revised text be approved for substitution and inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

THERE ARE . . .  
TWO TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE

The trustees-at-large (2) serve as members of the trustees' International Committee and other trustees committees or as directors of the corporate boards. They may fill in for regional trustees, as needed and/or requested.

The trustees-at-large—one from the U.S. and one from Canada—serve as the World Service Meeting delegates representing the U.S. and Canada. World Service Meeting delegates participate in two World Service Meetings which are held once every two years, the meeting place alternating between New York City and a location outside

the U.S. and Canada. World Service Meeting delegates should have the same qualifications as any trustee, and also have time both to attend the World Service Meetings and to present and carry out any decisions reached at these meetings.

The trustees-at-large are requested to attend all Regional Forums in their own country and be available on a rotational basis to participate on forum programs.

The trustees-at-large are also available for other A.A. service activities as requested by areas or regions and additional activities as may be requested by the board of trustees.

THERE ARE...  
FOUR GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES

General service trustees are active on one or more of the service corporate boards and must be available, not only every quarter, but any week and, sometimes, any day, for the solution of problems on which G.S.O. or Grapevine staff members need help. Because of this requirement, all general service trustees originally came from New York City or its commuting area and were sometimes known as "in-town trustees." The current practice of selecting general service trustees for both the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine corporate boards will continue, but these positions are no longer restricted to residents of New York City or its vicinity.

While there are no "specialists" in A.A.—only recovered drunks—it has been possible to choose, for general service trusteeships, men and women with the kind of business or professional acumen that is particularly applicable to the problems at hand, whether their backgrounds are in publishing, public relations, or administration. This brings up the question of what qualifications count most in the selection of a trustee....

**1990** It was recommended that:

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1990:

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board be elected:



The following slate of directors be elected for the Grapevine Corporate Board:

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following revised text be approved for substitution and inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

THERE ARE . . .  
TWO TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE

The trustees-at-large (2) serve as members of the trustees' International Committee and other trustees committees or as directors of the corporate boards. They may fill in for regional trustees, as needed and/or requested.

The trustees-at-large—one from the U.S. and one from Canada—serve as the World Service Meeting delegates representing the U.S. and Canada. World Service Meeting delegates participate in two World Service Meetings which are held once every two years, the meeting place alternating between New York City and a location outside the U.S. and Canada. World Service Meeting delegates should have the same qualifications as any trustees, and also have time both to attend the World Service Meetings and to present and carry out any decisions reached at these meetings.

The trustees-at-large are requested to attend all Regional Forums in their own country and be available on a rotational basis to participate on forum programs.

The trustees-at-large are also available for other A.A. service activities as requested by areas or regions and additional activities as may be requested by the board of trustees.

THERE ARE . . .  
FOUR GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES

General service trustees are active on one or more of the service corporate boards and must be available, not only every quarter, but any week and, sometimes, any day, for the solution of problems on which G.S.O. or Grapevine staff members need help. Because of this requirement, all general service trustees originally came from New York City or its commuting area and were sometimes known as "in-town trustees." The current practice of selecting general service trustees for both the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine corporate boards will continue, but these positions are no longer restricted to residents of New York City or its vicinity.

While there are no "specialists" in A.A.—only recovered drunks—it has been possible to choose, for general service trusteeships, men and women with the kind of business or professional acumen that is particularly applicable to the problems at hand, whether their backgrounds are in publishing, public relations, or administration. This brings up the question of what qualifications count most in the selection of a trustee . . . .

**1991** It was recommended that:

The following slate of officers and trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1991:

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The following slate of directors be elected to the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The following slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

The text describing How A.A. Chooses (Non-Trustee) Directors for A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, and How A.A. Chooses Appointed Committee Members be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

**1992** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in May 1992:

**Class A**

**Class B**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

Delegates who become chairpersons of Conference committees, and the delegate chairperson, continue to be invited to attend the quarterly board weekend/General Service Board meeting prior to the General Service Conference.

The "Procedures for Election of Class A Trustees," previously approved by the General Service Board, be added verbatim to *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

**1993** It was recommended that:

Hereafter, Class A trustees be limited to two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Since the committee recognizes the necessity of a degree of flexibility in the terms of Class A trustees, the chairperson of the General Service Board—after approval by that board—is granted the opportunity to extend one (1) additional three-year term for Class A members of the General Board, where necessary.

The chairperson of the General Service Board serve for no more than four consecutive years.

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1993:

**Class A**

**Class B**

*Chairperson*  
*First vice-chairperson*  
*Second vice-chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant treasurer*  
*Assistant secretary*

The slate of directors be elected to the A. A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

**1994** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April, 1994:

**Class A**

**Class B**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

In response to 1993 Conference Advisory Action #38, which pertained to limiting the terms of Class A trustees to two (2) consecutive three-year terms, the amendment, worded as follows, be included for clarification: "The foregoing limitation with respect to the maximum term of service of Class A member trustees shall not be applicable to those Class A member trustees who were serving as such during the 1993 General Service Conference."

All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees' committees be encouraged to attend the opening sessions and participate at the joint committee meetings and be invited to attend the Opening Dinner of the General Service Conference. (Policy/Admissions)

**1995** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in May 1995:

**Class A**

**Class B**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

After a thorough examination of the issues and information available and acknowledging that there may have been problems with communication at many service levels in the past, it was the sense of the committee that there has been improvement and, therefore, in the interest of maintaining A.A. unity and finding there was not sufficient cause, the committee unanimously *recommended* that the proposal to censure the General Service Board be dismissed.

**1996** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1996:

**Class A**

**Class B**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

The suggested guidelines developed by the trustees' Nominating Committee for changing regional boundaries be accepted, and a reference regarding the existence of these guidelines be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* following the section pertaining to Procedures for Requesting Change of Region in Chapter IX.

**1997** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be referred to the annual meeting of members of the respective corporate boards in April 1997:

**Class A**

**Class B**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

Note: General Service Board to operate short one general service trustee between April 1997 and April 1998.

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

The 90th Meridian be the dividing line in the Northwest Territories between the Eastern and Western Canada Regions.

In the election of regional or at-large trustees, when the number to determine 1/5, 1/3 or 2/3 is a fraction, the next higher whole number will be used. (For example: 5-1/3 would be raised to 6.)

**1998** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 1998:

**Class A**

**Class B**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

**1999** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 1999.

**Class A**

**Class B**

**Officers of the General Service Board**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*

*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board:

The slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board:

The following statement be added to the vacancy announcement letters for appointed committee member, nontrustee director, Class A trustee, regional trustee and trustee at-large/ U.S. or Canada: (Floor Action)

“In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons which reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.”

**2000** It was recommended that:

The slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2000:

**Class A**

**Class B**

**Officers of the General Service Board**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-Chairperson*  
*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2000:

The slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2000:

**2001** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2001:

**Class A**

**Class B**

**Officers of the General Service Board**

- Chair*
- First Vice-Chairperson*
- Second Vice-Chairperson*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2001:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2001:

\*Executive editor to be added as a board director when hired/elected.

**2002** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2002:

**Class A**

**Class B**

**Officers of the General Service Board**

- Chair*
- First Vice-chairperson*
- Second Vice-chairperson*
- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2002:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2002:

**2003** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2003:

**Class A Trustees**

**Class B Trustees**

\*The General Service Board will operate with six (rather than seven) Class A trustees between May 2003 and April 2004.

**Officers of the General Service Board**

- Chairperson*
- First Vice-chairperson*
- Second Vice-chairperson*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

\*\*

\*\* to be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in July 2003.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2003:

\*\* to be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in July 2003

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2003:

**2004** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2004:

**Class A**

**Class B**

#### **Officers of the General Service Board**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-chairperson*  
*Second Vice-chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2004:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2004:

**2005** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2005:

**Class A**

**Class B**

#### **Officers of General Service Board**

*Chairperson*  
*First Vice-chairperson*  
*Second Vice-chairperson*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

\*To be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in September 2005

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2005:

\*To be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in September 2005

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2005:

New language, in bold-face below, be added to existing language of the Bylaws of the General Service Board regarding successor terms of Class B trustees in the event of resignation or death:

*In the event that any member trustee shall resign or shall die, the trustees may at any regular or special meeting elect a new member trustee to fill such vacancy, or, alternatively, permit such a vacancy to continue until the next annual meeting of the General Service Board. In the event that the vacancy is that of a Class B member trustee, the successor shall be elected for a period of four years from the date of the meeting at which he or she is elected. **In the case of a Class B regional trustee, the position may be filled at the next annual meeting of the General Service Board by election in accordance with the election procedures for such regional trustee, or, may be left vacant for the balance of the unfilled term with regional coverage being provided by the trustees-at-large or by regional trustees in adjacent regions. If a region chooses to elect a new Class B regional trustee in the event of the resignation or death of the current regional trustee prior to the end of that trustee's term, the region should be informed that such an election would impact the current rotation schedule for Class B regional trustees serving on the A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine Corporate Boards.***

**2006** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., in April 2006:

**Class A**

**Class B**

The following slate of officers be elected at the second quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board in April 2006:

- Chairperson*
- First vice-chairperson*
- Second vice-chairperson*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of A.A. World Services, Inc. in April 2006:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., in April 2006:

The 2006 revised Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be approved.

The 2006 Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be approved.

**2007** It was recommended that:

The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2007:

**Class A**

**Class B (See note below)**

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee.

The following slate of officers be elected at the second quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board in

April 2007:

- Chairperson*
- First vice-chairperson*
- Second vice-chairperson*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*
- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

Note: will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation, July 2007.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of A.A. World Services, Inc. in April 2007:

Note: will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation, July 2007.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. in April 2007:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., the General Service Board consider all eligible Class A (nonalcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees when selecting the chairperson of the General Service Board.

Note: The Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., may be found in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The amendment to the April 2006 Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as forwarded from the General Service Board, be approved. The new language would be:

“In the case of a Class B trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be limited to that number of one-year terms which would result in the term of service of the successor member trustee ending at the same time as the term of the replaced member trustee would have ended, if no vacancy had occurred and the replaced member trustee had served four successive one-year terms.”

Note: The language in the Bylaws, approved in April 2006, which will now be replaced, was:

“In the case of a Class B trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be four years from the date of the meeting at which he or she is elected.”

**2008** It was recommended that:

The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in May 2008:

**Class A**

**Class B (See note below)**

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee.

**Officers of the General Service Board**

- Chairperson*
- First vice-chairperson*
- Second vice-chairperson*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*

The February 2008 appointment by the chair of the General Service Board of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2008:

- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2008:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2008:

Note: The Grapevine Corporate Board will operate short one Class A trustee director.

The amendments to the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws, as forwarded from the General Service Board to include options for interim changes to member trustee ratio and composition in response to the 2007 Advisory Action, which instituted consideration of all eligible Class A and Class B trustees when selecting the chairperson of the General Service Board be approved.

**2009** It was recommended that:

The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in May 2009:

**Class A**

**Class B**

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee and one Class B general service trustee.

On April 27, 2009 the General Service Board approved a motion that the trustees' Nominating committee, in consultation with the A.A.W.S. Board, consider actions to fill the vacant general service trustee position and report their conclusions to the General Service Board at its summer 2009 meeting. At that time the General Service Board may choose to appoint a Class B general service trustee.

**Officers of the General Service Board**

- Chairperson*
- First vice-chairperson*
- Second vice-chairperson*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*

The February 2009 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2009:

- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary* \*

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2009:

\*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, July 2009

Note: The Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board will operate with the Class B trustee-at-large/Canada serving as a director, replacing a Class B general service trustee director.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2009:

Note: The Grapevine Corporate Board will operate short one Class A trustee director.

In light of the extensive confidential information in the trustees' election resumes, resumes of all election candidates would no longer be made available to all Conference members immediately prior to the Conference trustees' election session. Distribution of trustee resumes at the Conference would be limited to only voting delegates and members of the Conference Committee on Trustees and the trustees' Committee on Nominating. The resumes of the elected trustees would be distributed to all Conference members immediately after the election session.



Note: The purpose of this suggested limited distribution of Conference trustee election resumes is to emphasize the General Service Board's and the Conference's commitment to protecting the confidentiality of trustee candidates' resume information.

**Class B**

**2010** It was recommended that:

The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2010:

**Class A**

**Class B**

Officers of the General Service Board

- Chairperson*
- First vice-chairperson*
- Second vice-chairperson*
- Treasurer*
  
- Secretary*

The January 2010 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2010:

- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2010:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2010:

**2011** It was recommended that:

The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in May 2011:

**Class A**

Officers of the General Service Board

- Chairperson*
- First vice-chairperson*
- Second vice-chairperson*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*

The January 2011 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2011:

- Assistant Treasurer*
- Assistant Secretary*

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2011:

- Fragilis quadrupai
- comiter corrupere

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2011:

**2012** It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2012:

**Class A**

**Class B**

The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

## Officers of the General Service Board

*Chairperson*  
*First vice-chairperson*  
*Second vice-chairperson*  
*Treasurer*

### *Secretary*

The January 2012 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Assistant Secretary*

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2012:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2012:

Note: The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Bylaws state that its board shall be comprised of “no less than seven (7) and no more than ten (10) directors.”

### **Advisory Actions concerning AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS**

**1951** It was recommended that:

The subject of A.A. auxiliaries or family groups should be taken back to local groups for further discussion and should be considered at the 1952 General Service Conference. (Agenda)

**1963** It was recommended that:

The Conference reaffirm that G.S.O. continue its current policy of cooperation but not affiliation with Al-Anon. (Policy)

**1967** It was recommended that:

The Conference approve Guidelines for group separation of A.A. and Al-Anon. The Guidelines noted: The use of the word “family” should be deleted from an A.A. group’s name; that so-called “joint groups” can dilute the help available in each Fellowship either A.A. or Al-Anon can hold open discussion meetings but a group cannot be both; that officers should be either A.A.’s or Al-Anon depending upon affiliation and that new members be encouraged to stick to either an A.A. or Al-Anon group since they will get the most help by staying close to the group relating to their problem. (Floor Action)

**1969** It was recommended that:

The Conference approve the recommendation to incorporate

into the existing A.A. Guidelines the questions on how A.A. and Al-Anon can cooperate with regard to central offices and area and regional get-together and conventions. (Floor Action)

QUESTION: “Should A.A. and Al-Anon have combined central (or intergroup) services and offices?”

ANSWER: Both experience and the Twelve Traditions of A.A. and Al-Anon suggest that each Fellowship will function more effectively if each retains separate committees, staff, and facilities for handling telephone and personal calls, as well as separate telephone answering services, intergroup activities, bulletins, meeting lists and all types of twelfth-step services. Also, that the members involved in each service committee or office be A.A. members, if an A.A. facility, and Al-Anon, if an Al-Anon facility.

QUESTION: “How may A.A. and Al-Anon cooperate in area and regional conventions and get-togethers?”

ANSWER: This answer depends on whether it is an A.A. convention or an Al-Anon convention. The former are growing in number.

In accordance with the Twelve Traditions, a convention would be either A.A. or Al-Anon—not both. However, most A.A. convention committees invite Al-Anon to participate by planning its own program, and the committee arranges for facilities for the Al-Anon meetings. If A.A. invites Al-Anon to participate in this manner, all expenses involved in the Al-Anon meetings are paid from the funds of the A.A. Convention Committee.

QUESTION: Should an A.A. Convention committee make a contribution to Al-Anon from the financial profits of the convention?”

ANSWER: In accordance with the self-support Traditions of both Fellowships and to abide by the concept of “cooperation but not affiliation,” it is suggested that A.A. should not make gifts or contributions to Al-Anon. By the same token, A.A. should not accept contributions from Al-Anon.

The Conference also approve the following resolution of gratitude to the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups: (Floor Action)

Whereas, it is the desire of this Conference to confirm the relationship between Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Family Groups, and

Whereas, it is the further desire of this Conference to acknowledge A.A.’s debt of gratitude to the Al-Anon Family Groups, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Alcoholics Anonymous recognizes the special relationship which it enjoys with the Al-Anon Family Groups, a separate but similar fellowship. And be it further resolved that Alcoholics Anonymous wishes to recognize, and hereby does recognize, the great contributions which the Al-Anon Family Groups have made, and are making, in assisting the families of alcoholics everywhere.

**1972** It was recommended that:

The Conference reaffirm A.A. group policy that “Only those with a desire to stop drinking may be members of A.A. groups; only A.A. members are eligible to be officers of A.A. groups; nonalcoholics are welcome at open meetings of A.A.” And, it is suggested that the word “family” not be used in the name of an A.A. group; if A.A.’s and their nonalcoholic mates wish to meet together on a regular basis, they consider these gatherings “meetings” and not A.A. groups. (Floor Action)

Family groups should not be listed under the family group name in the Directory. (Floor Action)

**1976** It was recommended that:

The Conference affirm that Al-Anon be allowed one vote on the Convention Site Committee for the 1980 International Convention. (Floor Action)

**1983** It was recommended that:

We send an invitation to a friend of A.A. to share with us spiritually on Sunday morning at the 1985 International Convention; and we would like that person to be a member of Al-Anon. (Floor Action)

Note: The 1984 General Service Conference recommended that the speakers at the major A.A. meetings all be A.A. members, as it has been at our A.A. International Conventions in the past. (International Convention)

**1986** It was recommended that:

The italicized footnotes regarding Al-Anon at the end of the chapter "To Wives" in the Big Book be retained, as it provides information rather than implying affiliation, but that it be printed in small type as appropriate to a footnote and placed at the bottom of the page. (Literature)

**1998** It was recommended that:

The draft revision of the pamphlet to replace "A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs" be approved with the title "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" and the following changes: (Cooperation with the Professional Community)

In the section to the co-worker, delete the line: Al-Anon is not affiliated with A.A., but its contribution to increased understanding of the A.A. recovery program has been substantial."

In reference to Al-Anon in the text of the pamphlet, insert the text from the footnoted material on page 121 of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* as follows: "Though it is entirely separate from Alcoholics Anonymous, it uses the general principles of the A.A. program as a guide for husbands, wives, relatives, friends, and others close to alcoholics."

### **Advisory Actions concerning CLUBS**

**1960**

The Conference approved the establishment of a Special Conference Study Committee on A.A. and Clubs. (Floor Action)

**1961**

The Conference voted unanimously to authorize the General Service Office to prepare a fact file covering movement-wide experience with several types of clubhouses and their relation to A.A. and the community. The availability of the new fact file is to be announced in the A.A. Exchange Bulletin. (Floor Action)

**1966**

The Conference agreed that running clubs and rehabilitation centers is not the primary purpose of an A.A. Group, but that Tradition Six clearly shows how A.A. members should be guided in helping such facilities. (Floor Action)

**1967**

The Conference voted to accept position papers on (1)

Alcoholic Rehabilitation Centers and (2) Clubs. (Floor Action)

The paper on rehabs noted that there is no such thing as an "A.A. Rehabilitation Center," although such centers may have been identified with the Fellowship because they were organized and directed by A.A. members. It has proven practical to make it a point that they are in no way affiliated with A.A. Then they are in the clear to accept money from sources outside A.A., the position paper said. It was also suggested that the name of such an institution in no way involves A.A. or any terms identified with A.A., that meetings held there be named after the locality rather than the center. The Conference voiced recognition of the fact that rehabs are not a part of A.A. and therefore are not responsible for adhering to A.A. Traditions.

The paper on clubs noted that although there is no such thing as an "A.A. club," many clubs have been identified with A.A. because they are organized and directed by A.A. members and membership is limited to A.A.'s. Clubs where meetings are held and which are maintained for Twelfth Step as well as social purposes can avoid difficulties by abiding by A.A. Traditions. They should not use the A.A. name, however, and should be organized apart from A.A. They should not accept money from outside sources, being supported by membership dues and individual contributions from A.A. members. The question of a paid membership in A.A. does not arise, since A.A. meetings held in clubs are open to all. The Conference voiced recognition of the fact that clubs should operate within A.A. Traditions and abide by them to the fullest.

**1971** It was recommended that:

The subject of clubs be a major item on the 1972 Conference Agenda. (Agenda)

**1972**

The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups

Communications between Conference committee members be increased when feasible and desirable, to enhance the work of the standing committees. Meeting in clubs as long as they are sent to G.S.O. in the name of the group. Letter to be sent to delegates explaining this decision so that they can inform clubs in their areas. (Floor Action)

**1981** It was recommended that:

Clubs not receive the literature discount available to A.A. groups. (Floor Action)

**1989** It was recommended that:

The listing of clubs be deleted from the A.A. Directories. (Report and Charter)

### **Advisory Actions concerning CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

**1952** It was recommended that:

Terms of office for members of Conference Committees who are on the second panel should be extended to two years, in order to ensure a carry-over on each committee of the previous year's experience. Also, that in the future, all new Conference Committee members should be elected for a term of two years. (Policy)

Conference Committee Chairmen should be elected from the new members of the Conference. (Policy)

Conference Committee Secretaries should serve in an advisory capacity only, and should not be entitled to a Committee vote. (Policy)

**1956** It was recommended that:

Each year all Conference Committee Chairmen should be elected from second-year delegates on the Conference Committees, since their previous experience will give continuity of service. (Policy)

**1957** It was recommended that:

An explanation of what is entailed in serving on specific Conference Committees be made before each Committee is selected. (Policy)

**1959** It was recommended that:

The selection of Conference Committees again be the second order of business in the opening morning session. (Agenda)

**1961** It was recommended that:

A Standing Committee on Relations With Outside Agencies be created. (Floor Action)

**1964** It was recommended that:

The idea that Conference committees be enlarged from six to eight members be approved. (Policy)

The proposal that Conference committees select a co-chairman from first-year delegates, to become chairman the second year, be approved. (Policy)

The proposal that all outgoing Conference committee members serve in an ex officio capacity for a full year after their terms are concluded be approved. (Policy)

Procedures for selecting Conference committees be studied during the forthcoming year. (Policy)

Communications between Conference committee members be increased when feasible and desirable, to enhance the work of the standing committees. (Policy)

The responsibilities and functions of Conference committees be explained thoroughly, prior to the selection of committeemen at future Conferences. (Agenda)

**1965** It was recommended that:

Committees include all delegates as active voting members and that alternates or observers be dispensed with. (Agenda)

The present method of choosing committee members be retained. (Agenda)

Committee members continue to be chosen by lot, geographically, and that this drawing be conducted by the chairman of the Policy Committee of the General Service Board at the January Policy Committee meeting. Any delegates' names not received by that date will be added to committees as received. (Policy)

Delegates assigned to committees before the Conference then be advised of their committee assignments by the Conference secretary and given the opportunity to refuse the assignment. Delegates will also receive at this time "Composition, Scope and Procedures" for all Conference Committees and names of Chairman and other members of their Committees. (Policy)

This year's "advisers" become full-fledged Committee members immediately. (Policy)

Co-Chairmen be elected at final meeting of each Conference

Committee. (Policy)

Co-Chairmen be elected by written ballot by all members of a Committee. (Policy)

Co-Chairmen become Chairmen of their Committees immediately following each Conference. (Policy)

Committees be as uniform in size as possible. (Policy)

Committee members can communicate with each other by requesting the secretary to duplicate letters from members and mail to all committee members. (Policy)

Committee workshops be continued. (Policy)

That the title of the Conference "Committee on Relations With Outside Organizations" be changed to "Committee on Relations With Other Committees." (Relations With Other Agencies)

**1966** It was recommended that:

The Agenda and Admissions Committees be combined, to be called the Conference Agenda-Admissions Committee. (Agenda)

The work of the Conference Admissions Committee be given to the old Agenda (now called Agenda-Admissions) Committee. (Policy)

The name of the "Committee on Relations with Other Agencies" be changed to the "Conference Committee on Public Information." (Policy)

The practice of naming ex officio Committee members and the tenure of Committee chairmen be retained,—that is, each new Chairman takes office immediately at the close of the Conference during which he is elected. (Policy)

A Conference Institutions Committee be established. (Floor Action)

**1967** It was recommended that:

Ex officio committee members be continued, but only after being contacted following the January Policy Committee meeting and asked if they would like to continue serving ex officio. Only if they answer in the affirmative will they be kept on the committee list as ex officio for one year. (Policy)

**1968** It was recommended that:

We maintain the present procedure for selection of Conference committees on a geographic basis at the January Policy meeting of the board. (Policy)

**1969** It was recommended that:

The name of the Conference Policy Committee be changed to Committee on Conference Policy. (Policy)

**1970** It was recommended that:

The procedure for selecting Conference committee members continue to be from the hat; that no area be represented on any standing committee for more than two consecutive years; that when any state or province has more than one area, no standing committee will have more than one member from each state or province. (Policy)

**1971** It was recommended that:

There is no need for a Conference Committee on Traditions at this time. (Policy)

It is not necessary to write to new delegates asking them if they are willing to serve on the committee to which they have been chosen, but rather, in the interest of expediency, they will be informed of their committee assignment. (Policy)

We accept the recommendation from the Conference Committee on Public Information for the formation of a

Conference Committee on Professional Relations to correspond with the trustees' Committee on Professional Relations; that five delegates from Panel 22 be drawn by lot for the Conference Committee on Professional Relations; and that four members from Panel 23 will be added to the committee to bring it up to its full complement of nine. The Conference will then have ten Conference Committees comprised of nine members each at the present Conference size. (Policy)

Agendas for all Conference committees be mailed to all delegates before the Conference. (Policy)

The Agenda/Admissions Committee remain Agenda/Admissions; that the "Admissions" part of this committee not become a part of the Committee on Conference Policy, as suggested by a former delegate. (Agenda)

**1972** It was recommended that:

All Conference committee agendas continue to be sent to all delegates. (Policy)

**1973** It was recommended that:

Conference committees elect an alternate chairman in case the elected chairman is unable to attend the next year's Conference. Since the chairman is elected by plurality, the person with the second largest number of votes could be alternate chairman. (Policy)

**1974** It was recommended that:

The "admissions" function of the Agenda/Admissions Committee be transferred to the Committee on Conference Policy, if agreeable to that committee. (Note: in the future the Agenda/Admissions Committee will be called the Committee on the Conference Agenda, and its Scope and History will be amended.) (Agenda)

Committee members receive agendas for their committee only, but that other committee agendas be sent upon request. The number of requests received will be reviewed at next year's Conference committee meeting. (Policy)

Consideration be given to revising the composition, scope and procedure of the Committee on Conference Policy in order to clarify its function. (Policy)

Ex officio committee members be discontinued. Past delegates can keep themselves informed of their committee's activity through the present delegate and the Conference Report. (Policy)

The Committee on Conference Policy accept the recommendation of the Agenda/Admissions Committee that the admissions function of that committee be transferred to the Committee on Conference Policy. (Policy)

**1975** It was recommended that:

Each delegate receive only the agenda pertinent to his/her committee, but may receive any others on request. (Policy/Admissions)

Ex officio members not be restored. (Policy/Admissions)

A committee on Traditions not be established, but that it be further recommended that individual delegates assume the responsibility for familiarizing their area groups and members with the Traditions. (Policy/Admissions)

**1976** It was recommended that:

Since the committee feels that there is insufficient time allotted at the Conference for adequate discussion of committee reports before the vote is called for and also feels that committee meetings should be concluded earlier in the week so that the reports, with discussion thereon, could be had on Thursday, with the final discussion and vote on Friday, a study be made by the appropriate trustees' committee of the feasi-

bility of accomplishing this result by eliminating or shortening the following sessions:

Area Service Highlights  
Presentations/Discussions  
Workshops

and that a feasibility report be made at the 1977 General Service Conference for further action by the Committee on Conference Policy/Admissions. (Policy/Admissions)

**1977** It was recommended that:

The recommendations of the Conference Report and Charter and Agenda Committees to retain the Conference Report and Charter Committee, as is, be approved with the additional recommendation that all Conference committees reevaluate their purpose and function during 1978 and report back to the 1979 Conference. (Policy/Admissions)

The Conference reaffirm the importance of the committee system for accomplishing business charged to the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, as defined in Chapter 7 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The importance of clearly stated committee reports and recommendations was also stressed.

In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees' committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting. (C.P.C.)

When a situation arises which prevents the trustee committee chairperson from chairing the joint meeting, a Conference committee chairperson be delegated to chair the joint committee meeting at the Conference until a new trustee chairperson can be appointed. (Policy/Admissions)

The current Conference Institutions Committee be replaced by two committees to be called Committee on Correctional Facilities and Committee on Treatment Facilities. (Policy/Admissions)

**1978** It was recommended that:

The committee felt that the description in Chapter VII of *The A.A. Service Manual* on why the Conference has committees is adequate, and suggested that reports of the trustees' quarterly meetings continue to be sent to members of the corresponding Conference committees. Communication between committee members and G.S.O. between Conferences should be encouraged. (Policy/Admissions)

**1979** It was recommended that:

The Conference Committee on Trustees always have at least nine members so that there will always be enough to constitute one-half of the committee votes in regional elections. (Policy/Admissions)

**1980** It was recommended that:

The Conference reaffirm the importance of the committee system for accomplishing business charged to the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, as defined in Chapter 7 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. The importance of clearly stated committee reports and recommendations was also stressed. (Policy/Admissions)

The Conference reaffirm the recommendation of the 1977 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows: "In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees' committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting. (Policy/Admissions)

**1982** It was recommended that:

Each Conference committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. (Policy/Admissions)

**1983** It was recommended that:

The Conference Committees on Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter consider, at their 1984 committee meetings, the possibility of combining the functions of these two committees. (Policy/Admissions)

**1984** It was recommended that:

The functions of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and Conference Report and Charter Committee should not be combined at this time. (Policy/Admissions)

We reaffirm the 1980 Policy/Admissions Committee recommendation which reads:

“The Conference reaffirm the importance of the committee system for accomplishing business charged to the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, as defined in Chapter 7 of *The ‘A.A. Service Manual*. The importance of clearly stated committee reports and recommendations was also stressed.”

with particular emphasis on clarity and background information when writing committee recommendations. (Policy/Admissions)

**1986** It was recommended that:

The 1987 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee consider the formation of a Conference Archives Committee. (Floor Action)

The Conference Committee on Trustees always have at least nine members, so that there will always be enough to constitute one-half of the committee votes in regional elections. (Policy/Admissions)

**1987** It was recommended that:

While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of area archives and archives committees, with the resulting benefit to General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives Committee should not be formed at this time because the needs of local archives committees are being well served by the trustees’ Archives Committee and the General Service Office archivist. (Policy/Admissions)

The 1982 Policy Committee Advisory Action:

“Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level,”

be reaffirmed; and this Advisory Action of 1982 be read by each Conference Committee chairperson at the opening of the Conference Committee meetings. (Policy/Admissions)

To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of costs be part of that recommendation. (Policy/Admissions)

**1988** It was recommended that:

Ample time for Conference Committees to meet and conduct their business be provided for on the Conference Agenda. (Policy/Admissions)

We continue the practice of allowing more time for Committee meetings. (Agenda)

**1989** It was recommended that:

The 1979 Conference Action be reaffirmed: “Conference Committee selection continue to be by lot with the widest possible geographical distribution.” It was the sense of the meeting that any other method could erode the confidence of the Conference in the committee system. (Policy/Admissions)

The 1987 Conference Action from the Policy/Admissions Committee be modified to read: “Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation. (Policy/Admissions)

**1990** It was recommended that:

A standing committee for central and intergroup offices not be formed at this time. The committee felt that many of the problems expressed by central offices and intergroups are “home issues,” and that the doors of communication need to be opened at the area level. The committee would like to stress the importance of delegates establishing contact with offices in their areas and assuring them they do have a voice in the Fellowship through their existing area service structure. The committee suggests that the sharing received by this committee from areas and central/intergroup offices, regarding their experiences of cooperation and communication, be reviewed by the G.S.O. staff with the idea of incorporation into the Guidelines on central/intergroup offices. (Policy/Admissions)

There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee to be composed of one delegate from each region, who could serve as the Site-selection Committee for the International Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed in 1995 by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions. (Policy/Admissions)

**1992** It was recommended that:

Final Conference Committee agendas be automatically sent to all Conference members no later than March 15 each year. (Policy/Admissions)

Members of a Conference Committee be informed as soon as practical after it becomes known that an item will be on the agenda of their Conference Committee, rather than waiting until January. (Agenda)

**1993** It was recommended that:

In response to the proposal to create a standing Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums, the 1990 General Service Conference Action #3 be reaffirmed, as follows:

“There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee, to be composed of one delegate from each region, could serve as the Site-selection Committee for the International Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed in 1995 by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.” (Policy/Admissions)

In response to the proposal to create a Conference Committee on Archives, the 1987 General Service Conference Action #45 be reaffirmed as follows:

“While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of area Archives and Archives committees,

with the resulting benefit to the General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives Committee should not be formed at this time because the needs of local Archives committees are being well served by the trustees' Archives Committee and the General Service Office Archivist." (Policy/Admissions)

**1995** It was recommended that:

The Conference Committee on International Conventions continue to meet on an annual basis, discussing Regional Forums when there are no International Convention items; and that the committee be renamed Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. (Policy/Admissions)

**1996** It was recommended that:

Any sitting delegate on the Conference International Convention/Regional Forums Committee whose area is presenting at the General Service Conference as a possible International Convention site city withdraw from that committee and a replacement be selected. (Policy/Admissions)

**1998** It was recommended that:

A Conference Archives Committee, composed of nine delegates (five from Panel 48 and four from Panel 49), meet at the 49<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference as a secondary committee assignment and that the committee meet jointly with the trustees' Archives Committee. (Policy/Admissions)

**2001** It was recommended that:

An observer's attendance at Conference Committee meetings and Delegates Only Meetings would need individual committee approval. (Policy/Admissions)

### **Advisory Actions concerning DELEGATES and DELEGATES-ONLY MEETINGS**

An innovation of the 1954 General Service Conference was the scheduling of a special session limited to delegates. All other Conference members, including trustees and staff members, were excluded from the meeting. The experiment was considered a success as indicated by the delegates' request that this type of meeting be continued in the future and by their insistence on discussing only those matters affecting A.A. as a whole.

A review of past Conference Reports indicates that in the early years of the Conference, recommendations from the Delegates Only Meeting were sometimes considered Conference Advisory Actions.

**1952**

The Conference made a decision to take no action that would alter present provisions of two-year terms for Conference delegates. Despite the apparent unanimity of opinion in support of a two-year term for delegates, a motion that would have put the Conference on record in favor of such a span of service was tabled before it could be put to a vote. This action was accompanied by a clear expression of Conference opinion that the Conference should not, in any way, usurp the prerogatives of the area committees and local groups. (Floor Action)

**1953** It was recommended that:

Delegate representation should not be changed during the first five-year period. (Policy)

The Third Legacy pamphlet should continue to be followed in determining delegate representation. (Policy)

During the five-year period, all ex-delegates remain on the General Conference mailing list. (Policy)

Delegates remain in office for a full two-year term, expiring in April. (Policy)

**1954**

Delegate representation should not be changed during the first five-year period. (Policy)

The Third Legacy pamphlet should continue to be followed in determining delegate representation. (Policy)

During the five-year period, all ex-delegates remain on the General Conference mailing list. (Policy)

Delegates remain in office for a full two-year term, expiring in April. (Policy)

Delegates come to the Conference being only tentatively instructed for the following reasons: (1) that each delegate bring to the Conference the thinking of his area, and (2) that the maximum wisdom of the Conference be achieved and voted through the exchange of these ideas at the Conference. (Policy)

Chose, for the "Area Delegates Only" session, the following: Weatherform of Alabama as Chairman (2nd-year member), of Dixon, Illinois, as vice-chairman. (1st-year member) (Floor Action)

Agreed on the principle of having a second-year delegate as chairman of "Area Delegates Only" sessions, with the vice-chairman a first-year delegate, succeeding to the chairmanship in the subsequent year. (Floor Action)

**1955**

The proposal that delegates be listed in the A.A. *World Directory* was rejected by the Conference. (Floor Action)

It was recommended that the Conference abide by the specific recommendation in Section #7 of the "Third Legacy Manual", whereby no delegate succeed himself. However, it was further provided in Section #7 that in rare cases, when a fully qualified person is not available, a delegate may be elected at a future date. The Policy Committee felt that the responsibility for this decision lies entirely with the local area. (Policy)

It was recommended that delegates who are receiving duplications of Conference mailings from General Service Headquarters, notify the Conference secretary if they wish this changed. (Policy)

That only incoming and retiring delegates remain on the General Conference mailing list, thus enabling a delegate to receive Conference mailings for a period of four years. (Policy)

**1956**

Agreed that ex-delegates should be kept on the Conference mailing list for a period of ten years following completion of service. (Floor Action)

It was recommended that in the interest of area unity and harmonious functioning, Area delegates receive copies of letters from the General Service staff to Intergroups and Institutional Committees that pertain to services and public relations in each Delegate's own area. (Policy)

**1957**

Designated a "Hospitality Committee" for the 1958 Conference, comprised of seven delegates. (Delegates' Only Meeting)

Selected by lot (Western Missouri) as Chairman of the 1958 "Area Delegates Only" meeting. (Delegates Only Meeting)

The Conference approved establishing a precedent whereby the Chairman of the Area Delegates meeting, at the opening of the meeting, ask each new delegate to stand, be recognized and given an opportunity to speak. (suggested time limit, two minutes!) (Policy)

### 1958

Area committees within each state or province shall have the authority to remove any delegate, alternate delegate or committeeman for any interruption of sobriety occurring during his term to service to the General Service Conference. (Admissions)

In the event that such action is taken, the Conference Admissions Committee shall be notified so that his replacement may be recognized and seated at the Conference. (Admissions)

It was recommended that a poll of Panel 7 delegates be taken to determine their reactions to the length of term of delegates. (Policy)

It was recommended that: accredited delegates from U.S. Territories, possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico should receive the same financial considerations as the delegates from the United States and Canada; as these delegates have been accepted by the Conference as a part of the present Conference structure. (Policy)

### 1959

The Conference voted unanimously to retain the present two-year term of office for delegates. (Floor Action)

The 1959 "Hospitality Committee" was designated. (Delegates Only Meeting)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Chairman of the 1960 "Area Delegates Only" Meeting was selected by drawing a name from a hat. The name of \_\_\_\_\_ of Chicago, Illinois, was drawn. (Delegates Only Meeting)

### 1960

A Hospitality Committee for the 1961 Conference was selected. (Delegates Only Meeting)

It was moved, seconded and approved that the selection of the 1961 "Area Delegates Only" Meeting Chairman be drawn from a hat. The name of \_\_\_\_\_, Rhode Island, was selected. (Delegates Only Meeting)

### 1961

It was suggested that the Southeastern New York Delegate be a member of the Hospitality Committee of future Conferences. (Delegates Only Meeting)

The selection of a Chairman for the "Area Delegates Only" meeting at the 1962 Conference was made by lot, in accordance with previous practice. The delegate is \_\_\_\_\_, Southern Minnesota. (Delegates Only Meeting)

### 1962

It was recommended that the Area-Delegates Meeting be scheduled earlier in the Conference, and recommended that it be held on Thursday evening. (Agenda)

It was recommended that a study be made by the Finance and Budgetary Committee of the General Service Board on the savings which might be made if delegates traveled by Jet Tourist Class, when practical in their areas, and that consideration be given to use of this type of travel. (Finance)

The majority of delegates were in favor of listing delegates and chairmen of area committees in the Directory. It was the sense of the meeting that the element of permission be considered in these listings. (Floor Action)

### 1963

Recommended that G.S.O. continue to refer local matters back to the area involved with the suggestion that they contact the local delegate, and that copies of all correspondence referring to such local matters be sent to the delegate. (Policy)

### 1964

It was recommended that the Area Delegates Only meeting be held on the third evening of the 1965 Conference. (Agenda)

### 1965

Regarding the question of former delegates attending annual meetings of the General Service Conference "without voice or vote" and at their own expense, delegates to the Fifteenth Meeting were not disposed to change the present arrangements which have no provision for Conference attendance by "non-participant" area members. At the same time they recognized that occasions might arise in the future where the welfare of the Fellowship might be enhanced by permitting an ex-delegate to attend a Conference by special invitation. (Floor Action)

Delegates to the 1965 Conference endorsed the value of the two-year term for delegates. (Floor Action)

That the following item be considered by the Policy Committee of the board for next year's agenda:

The Delegates Only Meeting be held before any consideration of the 5-Year Trustees Plan. (Agenda)

### 1966

The 1967 Policy and Finance Committees were asked to reconsider the whole question of delegates' expenses. (Floor Action)

### 1967

Recommended that delegate expense allowance remain unchanged. (Finance and Policy)

The Conference voted overwhelmingly to continue the two-year term for delegates to the Conference. (Floor Action)

### 1968

It was the sense of the meeting that the Delegates Only Meeting be held on Wednesday night, beginning with the 19<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. (Delegates Only Meeting)

\_\_\_\_\_, Manitoba, was elected as the new Delegate Chairman for the 19<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. (Delegates Only Meeting)

### 1969

Recommended that when an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined in the "Third Legacy Manual") that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties. (Agenda/ Admissions)

Agreed that biographical sketches of the delegates, compiled by G.S.O. and placed in delegates' manuals, would serve no useful purpose to the delegates or to G.S.O. (Policy)

Looked with favor on the proposal "that each Conference area contribute \$150 every year to the support of the General Service conference" and suggested the delegates take it back to their areas for consideration. It was further suggested that this item be placed on the 1970 General Service Conference agenda. (Policy)

Suggested that the Sunday afternoon delegates' reception be continued as a hospitality fellowship reception of an informal nature, rather than as a more formal planned or pre-arranged meeting. (Delegates Only Meeting)



, Oklahoma, was elected as the new Delegate Chairman for the 20th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. (Delegates Only Meeting)

### 1970

Reviewed the recommendation that the proposal, i.e., any delegate shall not be eligible as trustee candidate for a full year after ending the term as area delegate, and found this recommendation not consistent with the best interest of A.A. as it would eliminate many qualified candidates and therefore was not accepted. (Trustees)

It was recommended that a separate, one-page agenda be printed for the convenience of the delegates. (Delegates Only Meeting)

It was recommended that the Delegates Only Meeting be held on Tuesday night of the Conference instead of Wednesday night. (Delegates Only Meeting)

Unanimously elected \_\_\_\_\_, Western Massachusetts, as the 1971 Area Delegates' chairman. (Delegates Only Meeting)

### 1971 It was recommended that:

The area delegate assume the responsibility for sending trustee-candidate resumes to G.S.O. (Trustees)

### 1972 It was recommended that:

A delegate to the General Service Conference shall not be eligible to be proposed for trustee candidate until after he has attended his last Conference, because experience has shown that: (Trustees)

- a. There is a danger that if the delegate is also a trustee candidate, it may make it difficult for him to concentrate on matters relating to his duties and responsibilities as a delegate.
- b. There is also a danger that it may impose a hardship on that particular candidate, as many delegates disapprove of a delegate being a trustee candidate while still serving as delegate.

### 1973 It was recommended that:

An alternate area delegate chairman should be elected; the runner-up to the area delegate chairman could be alternate chairman. (Policy/Admissions)

Since the action of the 1969 Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee that "when an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined by *The A.A. Service Manual*), that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties" is already incorporated in *The A.A. Service Manual*, there is no further need for reaffirmation. (Policy)

Past delegates not hold office as G.S.R.s or district committee members, but find other ways to become involved in area service. (Floor action)

### 1974 It was recommended that:

Delegates be asked to assume responsibility for all directory cards in their areas. (Floor Action)

The area contribution toward Conference expenses be raised from \$150 to \$200. (Finance)

### 1975 It was recommended that:

Regional meetings of delegates and past delegates and trustees be encouraged on the basis of fellowship, but further recom-

mended that no actions be taken at these meetings. (Policy/Admissions)

### 1976 It was recommended that:

The delegates make every effort to send to G.S.O., no later than October 1, their suggestions for the 1977 Conference agenda and those of their G.S.R.'s and area committee members for consideration. (Agenda)

### 1977 It was recommended that:

A delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference, commencing with the 1978 election. (Trustees)

All Conference mailings and the monthly letter to delegates also be sent to alternate delegates. (Agenda)

### 1978 It was recommended that:

The delegate area contribution to Conference expense be increased from \$200 to \$300. (Finance)

### 1979 It was recommended that:

No arbitrary ceiling be set on the number of G.S.O./G.V. staff eligible to vote, but that the delegates never have less than 66-2/3% of the total Conference votes. If more staff members are added, some method of rotation of staff eligible to vote may be necessary. In response to a request that delegates represent not less than 75% of voting Conference members, this was considered an unrealistic figure. The committee pointed out that office personnel (exclusive of staff) assisting at the Conference are not participants in Conference sessions. Observers have no voice and no vote; they do not participate in Conference deliberations. (Policy/Admissions)

### 1980 It was recommended that:

Sentence 1, section 11 (page 55 in *The A.A. Service Manual*), describing the delegate's responsibilities, be revised to read: "They assume added responsibilities if the area committee chairperson and alternate chairperson are unable to serve." (Report and Charter)

### 1981 It was recommended that:

The section referring to alternate delegates as runners-up be eliminated by rewording this section on page 51 of *The A.A. Service Manual* to read, "The alternate delegate is elected next, by the same election procedure." (Report and Charter)

### 1984 It was recommended that:

Area contributions toward Conference expenses be increased from \$300 to \$400 effective with the 1985 Conference. (Finance)

The following sentence, "The past delegates in many regions annually share their experience, strength, and hope at an informal unofficial meeting (described in Chapter VIII) and invite all newly elected delegates and alternates to attend," be included in answer to Question 4, Chapter V, page 56 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

The following sentence, "Some regions have an informal get-together put on by past delegates, and one region's meeting is described in Chapter VIII and has been of value to new delegates in that region," be added to item 4, Chapter V, page 55 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

The following sentence, "This first-year experience can be shared with their successors at the past delegates' annual get-together in their region," be added to item 14, page 56, Chapter V of *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

The following sentence, "Newly elected delegates and alternate delegates are invited to attend," be included at the end of the "Past Delegates Can Be Helpful" section, Chapter VIII, page 87 of *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

**1986** It was recommended that:

Since some misunderstandings have occurred because of seeming breakdowns in communication, the 1963 recommendation, which was as follows, be reaffirmed: "Recommended that G.S.O. continue to refer local matters back to the area involved, with the suggestion that they contact the local delegate and that copies of all correspondence referring to such local matters be sent to the delegate." (Policy)

Trustees' committees and General Service Office staff continue to inform the area delegates of any significant activities in their areas, whenever possible, in order that the area may offer assistance concerning these activities and that all might be better informed. (Policy)

**1987** It was recommended that:

The Conference reaffirm the 1985 Conference Action using the word *only* in "Resumes for Trustee Candidates be sent to G.S.O. by Area Delegate *only* . . ." (Trustees)

No change in delegates' fees be made at this time, but that this matter be considered again by the 1988 Conference. (Finance)

**1988** It was recommended that:

No change in delegates' fees be made at this time. (Finance)

The Policy/Admissions Committee continue to study geographical representation and distribution of General Service delegates. (Policy/Admissions)

**1989** It was recommended that:

Area contributions for delegate expenses for the Conference be increased to \$600 and that, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a great portion of the Conference costs. (Finance)

**1991** It was recommended that:

The policy for establishing new delegate areas in place at this time, as described concisely in *The A.A. Service Manual*, is adequate to allow for the gradual growth of the Conference, and provides for a representative cross-section of A.A. (Policy/Admissions)

The trustees' Conference Committee consider a presentation/discussion topic on New Delegate Areas for the 1992 Conference, focusing on existing delegate areas, procedures for new delegate areas and future A.A. growth. (Policy/Admissions)

**1992** It was recommended that:

A revised amplified form "Application for Additional Delegate Area" be approved. (Policy/Admissions)

The Conference review in April of the same year any request for a new Delegate Area submitted to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee by January 1st of that year. (Policy/Admissions)

Delegates who become chairpersons of Conference committees, and the delegate chairperson, continue to be invited to attend the quarterly board weekend/General Service Board meeting prior to the General Service Conference. (Trustees)

**1993** It was recommended that:

No change be made at this time to delegate fees, but in the spir-

it of self-support, areas are encouraged to make a contribution, if possible, to defray the average cost per delegate. This statement should be incorporated in the annual Conference notification to delegates of fees due. (Finance)

The area delegate term not be extended to three years, since the current two-year term offers a wider opportunity for service, and helps maintain continuity throughout the A.A. structure. (Policy/Admissions)

**1997** It was recommended that:

The area contributions for delegates' expenses for the Conference be increased from &600 (U.S.) to \$800 (U.S.) and that, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion of the Conference costs. (Finance)

**1998** It was recommended that:

The timetable for the election of delegates from the West Central Region be revised to allow for a more even distribution of new delegates on each panel as suggested in the proposal submitted by that region. (Policy/Admissions)

The revised timetable for the election of delegates from the West Central Region be accomplished for the election of Panel 50 delegates by having two areas in the West Central Region elect two delegates for one-year terms with the understanding that those two delegates would have the opportunity to stand for his/her own two-year term in the following election as suggested in the proposal submitted by that region. (Policy/Admissions)

The following statement under Delegate Term on page S73 of the 1997-98 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* which reads: (Policy/Admissions)

The Conference strongly recommends limiting the term of delegate to one two-year term, with the exception of an alternate delegate who, after filling one year of the delegate's term, may be elected to serve his or her own term.

Be revised to read:

The Conference strongly recommends limiting the term of delegate to one two-year term, with the exception of an alternate delegate who, after attending one Conference in place of the delegate, may be elected to serve his or her own term.

**2001** It was recommended that:

An observer's attendance at Conference Committee meetings and Delegates Only Meetings would need individual committee approval. (Policy/Admissions)

## **Advisory Actions concerning DIRECTORIES**

**1954**

The Conference voted not to approve the proposal to list Hospital and Prison Groups in the 1955 Directory. (Floor Action)

The Conference adopted a plan that included listing the Group General Service Representative in the A.A. Directory, succeeding the Secretary in the listings, except where the groups may designate the Secretary to "double" as group representative. (Floor Action)

**1956**

It was recommended that area delegates, through their committees, help groups to gain a better understanding of existing

Conference-approved literature. And, in addition, that groups be made aware of the material contained in the Handbook section of the Handbook and Directory and that the Handbook and Directory is for the entire group's use.

### 1957

General Service Headquarters continue to suggest to groups that they write to individuals and companies involved in the mis-use of the Directory, requesting that they be removed from the mailing list and further recommended that a story be carried in the "Exchange Bulletin" about mis-use of the Directory, phrased in such a way that it will help to define the A.A. purposes for which the Directory is intended. (Policy)

**1959** It was recommended that:

Meeting nights be listed in the 1960 Directory. (Policy)

In regard to A.A. misuse of the Directory, the attention of groups again be directed to its purpose, as listed on the inside cover of the Directory. That this be used as a guide and not a rule., as it is not intended to interfere with free communication among A.A.'s in sharing experiences and activities. That non-A.A. misuse be handled as in the past. (Note: These have generally consisted of a letter to the person or agency misusing the Directory, pointing out that the book is confidential and for A.A. use only.) (Policy)

**1960** It was recommended that:

In the future, the General Service Office will use two separate mailings each year to obtain basic information about the groups. One mailing will solicit data for inclusion in the A.A. World Directory published each Spring. The second mailing will be for the purpose of checking and up-dating group mailing addresses recorded at G.S.O. (Floor Action)

**1961** It was recommended that:

A simplified procedure of mailing one card for Directory information be followed for next year's *World Directory*. (Policy)

The Conference reaffirm the 1959 Conference recommendation that in reference to the misuse of the Directory by A.A. members, their attention again be directed to its purpose as listed on the inside cover of the Directory: that it is not to be used as a mailing list for any form of solicitation or any commercial venture. That this be used as a guide and not a rule, as it is not intended to interfere with free communication among A.A.s in sharing experience and activities. (Policy)

### 1962

The Conference approved four specific procedures designed to improve the utility of the A.A. World Directory as an aid to members and groups. (Floor Action)

1. Regarding continuing to carry the membership census of a group in the *World Directory* when it is known that such membership duplicates membership of other groups, it was the sense of the meeting that this problem was taken care of in the 1962 Directory by giving groups the opportunity to use "x" for group membership to indicate that all members are included in other group counts. (For example, Breakfast Groups, Women's Groups, Court Groups, etc.)
2. The delegates favored the listing of Municipal Court meetings under "Special Meetings": with "x" as the membership. In regard to Salvation Army and similar facilities, the feeling seemed to be that well-established A.A. groups meeting regularly and not carrying the name of the facility be listed as regular groups. If meetings are known to have transient attendance and are using the name of the facility, they ought to be listed under "Special Meetings."

3. The delegates favored continuing the policy that G.S.O. staff be guided by the definition of an A.A. group that appears on the front of the *World Directory*. Even though some groups may not practice the traditional A.A. program in the beginning, we should be guided by "group autonomy," it was suggested. Usually the group will, in time, comply with Tradition or become inactive.
4. The majority of delegates were in favor of listing delegates and chairmen of area committees in the Directory. It was the sense of the meeting that the element of permission be considered in these listings.

The recommendation given in the Group Records & Directory report that in the future G.S.O. use the term "reported" rather than "active" membership when requesting membership figures on the Group directory cards be reaffirmed. (Policy)

### 1963

The Conference agreed it would not be practical to list local A.A. newsletters and bulletins in the *World Directory*. (Floor Action)

### 1965

In accordance with past procedure, the *World Directory* should not be made available to other organizations because of its confidential nature. (Other Agencies)

### 1966

The Conference reaffirmed the present policy of listings in the *World Directory*: (Floor Action)

"Traditionally, any two or more alcoholics meeting together for purposes of sobriety may consider themselves an A.A. Group, provided that, as a Group, they are self-supporting and have no outside affiliations. Groups listed in the Directory are registered at their own request. A Directory listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any Group's approach to, or practice of, the traditional A.A. program."

The Conference reaffirmed the policy of "no commercial use," defined thus in the Directory: (Floor Action)

"The *World Directory* is confidential to A.A. members for sharing A.A. information and activities. It is not to be used as a mailing list for any form of solicitation or any commercial venture."

It was the sense of the Conference that information concerning tokens, pins, etc., not be considered an A.A. purpose and the Directory should not be used. (Floor Action)

**1967** It was recommended that:

G.S.O. refer requests for the *World Directory* from other agencies to area delegates for follow-up. (Public Information)

A letter again be sent from G.S.O. to the F.B.I. advising them of the confidential nature of the Directory. (Policy)

**1968** It was recommended that:

A proposition to issue the *World Directory* into two editions be approved,—one for the United States and Canada, the second for all other countries. (Floor Action)

### 1972

It was the sense of the meeting that family groups should not be listed under the family group name in the A.A. Directory. (Floor Action)

It was unanimously agreed that "alcohol and pill" groups not be listed in A.A. directories or meeting lists. (Floor Action)

World Directory, Part I (U.S. & Canada), recommended that a set of specific guidelines on the use of the World Directory be prepared by G.S.O. as soon as possible. Delegates unanimously agreed that their names may be used for any referrals from G.S.O. (Floor Action)

### 1973

Guidelines for use of the *World Directory* as presented to the Conference were unanimously accepted. (Floor Action)

A one-year moratorium on publication of the *World Directory* as presented to the Conference was granted. (Floor Action)

### 1974

The Conference approved the recommendations of the *World Directory* Study Committee that: (Floor Action)

- a. Part I (U.S. and Canada) of the *World Directory* be divided into three sections, each section subdivided by region:  
Eastern United States—Northeast Region, Southeast Region, East Central Region  
Western United States—Pacific Region, West Central Region, Southwest Region  
Canada
- b. Work be scheduled so that Part II of the *World Directory* (all other countries) may be distributed before summer.
- c. A staggered system of mailing, obtaining responses and processing changes on group information cards, be established to facilitate the spreading of work throughout the year.
- d. Only full names and phone numbers that may be used for Twelfth Step referral and meeting information from any source be published. This will be clearly indicated on the group information card.
- e. Group meeting place information be included on back of group information cards. This is for reference at G.S.O. only and not for the directory.
- f. Delegates be asked to assume responsibility for all directory cards in their areas.

The Conference affirmed that all A.A. groups should be listed in the *World Directory*. This action is in accordance with the description of an A.A. group in the *World Directory*. (Floor Action)

**1975** It was recommended that:

Contributions continue to be listed in the A.A. directories, and the contributions from the previous calendar year be used. (Finance)

**1977** It was recommended that:

In regard to A.A. directories: (Floor Action)

- a. States and provinces should be listed alphabetically rather than by region.
- b. The recommendation of the 1974 General Service Conference be reaffirmed, that is : “Only full names and phone numbers that may be used for Twelfth Step referral and meeting information from any source be published. This will be clearly indicated on the group information sheet.”
- c. Each group’s service number (used for G.S.O. records) should be listed with other information.
- d. Group contributions continue to be listed.

**1978** It was recommended that:

All groups in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahama Islands be listed in the next printing of the *Eastern U.S. A.A. Directory*. (Report and Charter)

The scope of the Conference Report and Charter committee be expanded to include the responsibility for proposing changes in the format or composition of the six directories: *Eastern U.S.*, *Western U.S.*, *Canadian*, *International*, *Hospitals*, and *Prisons*. It was recommended further that this proposal be forwarded to the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference for review at its quarterly meeting in July, in order to avoid possible overlap or duplication of the various Conference committees’ functions. (Report and Charter)

**1979** It was recommended that:

All six directories print the season (spring, summer, fall, winter) and the year in which each directory is finally printed and distributed. (Report and Charter)

Listings contained within the *International Directory* for overseas general service offices, central offices, and intergroup offices be in a different color print or bracketed so that they can be more easily recognized. (Report and Charter)

The names of alcohol and pill groups not be listed in A.A. directories. (Floor Action)

**1980** It was recommended that:

The 1974 Conference Action regarding directory listing of A.A. groups be reaffirmed, (“All A.A. groups should be listed in the *World Directory* in accordance with the description of an A.A. group in the *World Directory*”), and further recommended that decisions regarding verification of “a true A.A. group” be resolved locally. (Report and Charter)

Adding names, addresses, and telephone numbers of district committee members to U.S. and Canadian directories is not feasible at this time. (Report and Charter)

**1981** It was recommended that:

The Directory of A.A. Groups in Treatment Facilities be discontinued. (Report and Charter)

The 1977 action regarding listing states and provinces alphabetically in the directories be reaffirmed. (Report and Charter)

**1982** It was recommended that:

The following sentence be added in bold type on the cover of A.A. directories under the caveat “CONFIDENTIAL”: This directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture. (Literature)

**1984** It was recommended that:

Meeting addresses and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and the directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list. (Report and Charter)

Publication of the A.A. directories not be suspended. (Report and Charter)

The A.A.W.S., Inc., Board of Directors appoint a subcommittee to review the content and format of the directories and report to the Conference Report and Charter Committee its findings and suggestions for their consideration. (Report and Charter)

**1985** It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. directories be changed by having a three-column page without general service representatives’ addresses, zip codes, and membership figures. (Report and Charter)

**1986** It was recommended that:

Double-trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. directories. (Report and Charter)

**1987** It was recommended that:

No change be made at this time in the definition of an A.A. group in the A.A. Directories. (Report and Charter)

In an effort to improve area response to annual group printout mailing from G.S.O.: (Report and Charter)

A summary sheet of the total group changes in the area be sent with the cover letter.

A cutoff date for the printouts be extended to a later date (March 15th)

The title page of the directory be changed to indicate a split-level year, i.e., 1987-88.

Printouts returned from the areas to G.S.O should have group changes clearly indicated.

The 1986 Conference Action regarding the directories not listing "Double-Trouble groups be reaffirmed," i.e. "Double-Trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. Directories;" and the existing Double-Trouble groups in the A.A. Directories be deleted. (Double-Trouble groups are defined as groups with outside affiliation). (Report and Charter)

**1988** It was recommended that:

The 1984 General Service Conference Advisory action be reaffirmed: (Report and Charter)

"Meeting address and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list.

**1989** It was recommended that:

The 1989 General Service Conference appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of Panel 39 delegates and G.S.O. employees involved with the new computer system to study the problems of group registration and the A.A. directories and bring its recommendations back to the 1990 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1990** It was recommended that:

The Domestic Directories be retained as formatted, and distributed to area officers, D.C.M.s and intergroup/central offices, and be made available for purchase by A.A. groups and members. (Floor Action)

A.A. Domestic Directories and the group information forms include the following: (Floor Action)

#### *Third Tradition (Long Form)*

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

#### *Fifth Tradition (Long Form)*

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose*—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

In his discussion of the Ninth Tradition our co-founder, Bill, cautions: "Unless there is approximate conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, the group. . . can deteriorate and die."

**1994** It was recommended that:

No monetary contributions be reflected in any A.A. directory as this information is provided elsewhere and the purpose of the directories is to help traveling A.A. members find meetings and for Twelfth Step purposes. (Report and Charter)

The policy on distributing A.A. confidential directories to outside organizations, treatment professionals and others requesting this information, when approved by the Area delegate, be changed as described below, because of the need to respect the autonomy and anonymity of other groups and members, as well as A.A. as a whole: (Cooperation with the Professional Community)

- a. The General Service Office no longer provide A.A. confidential directories outside the Fellowship.
- b. G.S.O. respond to future requests with a friendly letter of explanation enclosing the listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for United States and Canada; and, forward the request to the Area delegate for information and follow up.

**1996** It was recommended that:

Special International Contacts be listed in A.A. Directories if they serve special populations (young people, doctors, gays and lesbians, etc.) which meet some of the following criteria: (1) Large membership, (2) Annual international meetings, (3) Regional and state contacts, (4) Maintenance of membership lists and/or directories of special interest meetings for our Twelfth Step purposes, (5) Serve as a "bridge" into the Fellowship. (Report and Charter)

International correspondence groups such as International Deaf Group by Mail and Groupe Bonjour le Monde be listed in A.A. directories under the category of "International Correspondence meetings" in order to provide additional sharing opportunities for A.A. members. (Report and Charter)

**1997** It was recommended that:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the "International Correspondence Meetings" in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as "mail" contact. (Report and Charter)

An intergroup serving on-line A.A. meetings should be listed adjacent to on-line A.A. meetings in the section on "International Correspondence Meetings." (Report and Charter)

**2001** It was recommended that:

"Telephone A.A. meetings" that request to be listed in A.A. Directories be added to the section "International Correspondence Meetings" on page v under a section to be titled "Telephone Meetings." (Report and Charter)

## **Advisory Actions concerning FILMS, FILMSTRIPS and VIDEOS**

**1951** It was recommended that:

Each delegate advise his committee of the film strip presentation approved for general issue, illustrating the services rendered by the Grapevine and the General Service Office. (Finance)

The primary report to area groups and A.A. members consist of this visual presentation and the information that the services rendered by the Grapevine and the General Service Office should not be curtailed. (Finance)

Film strips of the slide presentations showing Grapevine and General Service Office functions be released June 1, 1951 when the Conference Report is submitted to all members. (Report and Charter)

**1960** It was recommended that:

The Board of Trustees pursue the plan of making a documentary A.A. film for sale to A.A. groups and for use by other interested people at a cost to the General Service Board not to exceed \$7,500; that the plan include provisions for control of the script and for exclusive sale to the groups and others approved by the General Service Board. (Policy)

**1961** It was recommended that:

A special film of representative scenes at the 25th Anniversary Convention in Long Beach, California not be released to groups because of the problems involved in "controlling" showings to prevent violations of A.A.'s anonymity Tradition. (Floor Action)

The Conference approve the trustees' Public Information Committee's procedure of considering financial obligations when G.S.O. is approached by film producers with a proposal for a motion picture on A.A. services. (Policy)

**1964**

It was the sense of the Conference Literature Committee that it would not be practical for committee members to participate in tape or film review. (Literature)

The Conference approved a new filmstrip describing world services made available through G.S.O. (Floor Action)

**1966**

The Conference approved charging half the cost of the film "Bill's Own Story" to the 1965 Budget (\$5,200) and an equal amount to the 1966 Budget. (Finance)

**1968**

The Conference recommended that prints of the "Time for Decision," a film depicting events in the life of an alcoholic which tells about the help offered to him and his family by various organizations, including A.A., be made available to members on a rental basis. (Floor Action)

**1969**

It was felt that the G.S.O. filmstrip was very effective in letting members know about G.S.O. and encouraging them to contribute. The committee suggested that all delegates show the G.S.O. filmstrip as often as possible, just prior to their discussion of the need for contributions and support. (Finance)

**1970**

The Conference recommended better utilization of the G.S.O. filmstrip should be made and suggested that it be distributed in a slide form to make it more convenient to use. (Finance)

**1972** It was recommended that:

Regarding the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund: Agreed to defer the decision on the use of the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund so that the delegates may discuss with their groups the suggestion of a film about A.A., historical or for public information purposes, and come back next year prepared to make a decision on this or some other suggestions. (Floor Action) [In 1973 the Conference unanimously recommended that the money in the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund be transferred to the General Fund as expeditiously as possible.]

**1974** It was recommended that:

In accordance with the General Service Board's recommendation, the film "Bill's Own Story" be released to Al-Anon Family groups, under the same conditions as to A.A. groups. (Public Information)

Because there are so few requests, G.S.O. discontinue distribution of the film "Time for Decision." (Public Information)

**1975** It was recommended that:

The film "Bill's Own Story" may be shown at A.A. orientation sessions in rehab facilities provided it is under the control of an A.A. member. (Cooperation with the Professional Community)

**1977**

After discussion, it was decided that there was no substantial unanimity regarding the showing of the 1960 International Convention film at Regional Forums, and it was also decided that the subject should be discussed in the areas before a final decision is made. It was also suggested that an additional print be obtained and safeguarded. (Floor Action)

**1978** It was recommended that:

The film of the 1960 International Convention in Long Beach, California, be kept for archival purposes only. (Floor Action)

The test film shown to the Conference Literature Committee be expanded to a film approximately 25 minutes in length for the purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the general public, with the understanding that the film will be presented to the 1979 General Service Conference for approval. (Literature)

**1979** It was recommended that:

A voice-over be added at the end of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View," repeating that film techniques have been employed to protect the anonymity of A.A. members. With this addition, the committee recommended that the film be approved by the Conference. [The Conference also stipulated that sound-track audibility be improved.] (Literature)

With regard to the distribution of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View": (Literature)

- a. A.A. World Services retain ownership of the film and control distribution of each copy.
- b. During its first year, the film be released only to those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, and that the area delegate be notified of *all* requests from his or her area for the film.
- c. Priority for distributing the film would be: (1) A.A. service entities, such as public information committees and institutions committees; (2) those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, such as treatment programs and professional groups; and (3) schools, churches, service clubs, etc.
- d. Although the film is intended *primarily* for use outside A.A., prints be made available on a rental basis to any A.A. entities wishing to show it.
- e. With the exception of one or two selected test areas, the use of the film on television be delayed for one year to give the General Service Conference an opportunity to gain real experience with the reaction of the Fellowship and the public to the film.
- f. Anyone involved in showing the film during the coming year be asked to submit a brief evaluation on a prepared form to G.S.O.
- g. The results of the evaluation and the distribution policy be reviewed by the 1980 Conference Public Information Committee.

**1980** It was recommended that:

The pictures of Bill W. and Dr. Bob remain in the film "A.A.—An Inside View." (Floor Action)

The archives filmstrip, "Markings on the Journey," be Conference-approved. (Floor Action)

The film "A.A.—An Inside View" be released for general distribution (Public Information)

In keeping with our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions, A.A. members who are requested to videotape talks and meetings preserve anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, and videotapes, realizing that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. The committee further recommended that talks by A.A. members be given in person rather than videotaped, in view of the temptation for videotaping to place personalities before principles. (Cooperation with the Professional Community)

**1981** It was recommended that:

The filmstrip "Markings on the Journey" be shown within the Fellowship only. (Floor Action)

**1982** It was recommended that:

The suggestion that a filmstrip be produced on the functions of central and intergroup offices not be approved. (Literature)

The suggestion to produce a filmstrip on the functions of the group inventory not be accepted at this time. (Literature.)

**1983** It was recommended that:

The suggestion that a filmstrip be produced on the functions of central and intergroup offices not be approved; and that the 1982 Conference Advisory Action regarding the suggestion for this filmstrip be reaffirmed. (Literature)

**1984** It was recommended that:

The updated version of "P.O. Box 459" filmstrip be approved. (Literature)

A 60-second video draft of footage taken from "A.A.—An Inside View," describing what A.A. is and is not and to possibly include the Preamble, be completed for use in conjunction with P.I. efforts for the International Convention, pending approval as a P.I. expenditure by A.A.W.S., Inc. (Public Information)

**1985** It was recommended that:

Preliminary work begin on the creation of a filmstrip based on the thoughts contained in the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," directed toward the inmate. (Correctional Facilities)

The idea for a film, filmstrip, videotape or some other such instrument targeting your people be referred to the trustees' Public Information Committee for consideration, and that a report be returned to the Conference Public Information Committee in 1986. (Public Information)

**1986** It was recommended that:

In the 4-minute videotape proposal for a 15-minute video/16mm film based on the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," reference to "copping drugs and dealing drugs" on page 1 of the transcript be deleted, as well as the sentence "Anything but drink" on pages 6 and 7 of the transcript, to be replaced with "Just don't drink." (Correctional Facilities)

The 15-minute film be produced in full, to be presented to the 1987 Conference, and that the trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee monitor and report on the progression of the film during the year. (Correctional Facilities)

A film on finance is premature (until the Guidelines on Finance are introduced). (Finance)

The 28-minute film targeting your people be made, with the provision that in any "reprise" sections in the final film, the focus be on alcoholism only. The committee further recommended that the film be brought to the 1987 General Service Conference for approval. (Public Information)

**1987** It was recommended that:

The 16-minute video based on the pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," be produced for distribution to the Fellowship, with the following deletions: (a) "in this film" be eliminated from the opening statement, and (b) "A.A." in credit 4, page 7 of the script, be eliminated. (Correctional Facilities)

The video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be produced with closed captions for the hearing-impaired, at a cost not exceeding \$1,500. (Correctional Facilities)

The film targeting young people be approved for completion and distribution; and videocassette versions of the film be closed-captioned for the hearing-impaired. (Public Information)

The trustees' Committee on Public Information explore the feasibility of adapting the new film targeting your people into Spanish and French. (Public Information)

**1988** It was recommended that:

A discussion outline for the film "Young People and A.A." is not needed at this time. (Public Information)

An audiovisual presentation for Treatment Facilities including three minutes of sample footage be made and brought to the 1989 General Service Conference for further review.

The following topics be included in the film: (Treatment Facilities)

- a. What A.A. is and is not
- b. Anonymity
- c. Traditions
- d. Steps
- e. Meeting types
- f. Sponsorship
- g. Home Groups

The film be appropriate for use by all other related committees, A.A. groups, and as an additional tool for our Twelve Step work. (Treatment Facilities)

The cost of the sample footage be in the neighborhood of \$17,000. (Treatment Facilities)

**1989** It was recommended that:

A 15-minute film be produced for A.A. members carrying the message into treatment facilities and be presented to the 1990 General Service Conference. (Treatment Facilities)

**Note:** Although the following item did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote to become a Conference recommendation, it did receive a substantial majority and is therefore a strong suggestion for the board's consideration.

"Suggested that in the proposed film for treatment facilities that the Louis B. segment of the script be deleted because of implied endorsement of Narcotics Anonymous." (Treatment Facilities)

The 16 mm film entitled "A.A.—An Inside View" be made available for sale in lieu of long-term lease with the understanding that the film's copyright is sufficient protection against misuse by outside agencies. This recommendation is consistent with our distribution policy for our more recent films which are available to the general public. (Literature)

The following 1980 Conference Action be reaffirmed: (Public Information)

“In keeping with our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions, A.A. members who are requested to videotape talks and meetings preserve anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, and videotapes, realizing that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. The committee further recommended that talks by A.A. members be given in person rather than videotaped, in view of the temptation for videotaping to place personalities before principles.”

A.A.W.S., Inc. give television stations and A.A. service entities the opportunity to use shortened versions of any of our films now available to the public but strongly urge they be used in their entirety when possible in order to maintain the integrity of the A.A. message. (Public Information)

**1990** It was recommended that:

The trustees’ Literature Committee study the feasibility of updating the “Circles of Love and Service” filmstrip and video, because of the need to include current information and conditions, and report their findings to the 1991 Conference Literature Committee. (Literature)

The trustees’ Committee on Public Information consider the feasibility of developing video and public service announcements with the focus on younger A.A. members and all minorities, within the framework of A.A.’s desire to carry its message to all alcoholics, and bring a recommendation back to the 1991 General Service Conference. (Public Information)

The film “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” be accepted as presented to meet an expressed need from the A.A. members carrying the message into treatment facilities; and that the film be translated into French and Spanish, and be captioned for deaf and hearing-impaired alcoholics, consistent with recommendations for our other recent videos. (Treatment Facilities)

**1991** It was recommended that:

The “Circles of Love and Service” filmstrip, slides and video not be updated, and that these visual formats be discontinued once the present inventory is depleted. Thereafter, should there be requests for a copy of the video format, it will be provided at cost. (Literature)

The pilot footage for a video targeting younger people and minorities be approved, and that the 15-minute video production be authorized at a total cost of \$82,000 and be presented to the 1992 Conference for final approval. (Public Information)

The trustees’ Committee on Public Information be authorized to spend \$4,000 for storyboards or others visual aids that outline a proposed film or video on the Traditions with focus on anonymity, and bring their proposals for production to the 1992 Conference. (Public Information)

Once supplies are depleted, the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” be revised to include information about “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” and other Conference-approved videos/films relevant to treatment, by inserting the following text just preceding “A few plain suggestions. . .”:

The video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” explains the principles of A.A. and is a wonderful tool for A.A.s making presentations to administrators and staff as well as carrying the message of recovery. (Treatment Facilities)

**1992** It was recommended that:

The video directed to young alcoholics be approved for distribution with one editing change: delete the segment at approximately 3 minutes, 23 seconds of the tape run that appears to show a drug transaction during a street scene; and add the anonymity disclaimer that appears at the beginning of the video to the closing credits. (Public Information)

**1995** It was recommended that:

A video on ways that G.S.O. serves the Fellowship be developed, with accompanying service pamphlet. (Literature)

**Note:** *The committee strongly encouraged the video to include the service structure in some way, similar to the video “Circles of Love and Service,” which has been discontinued.*

**The Cost:** *Current estimates for a 14-minute live action video with voice-over would cost between \$30,000 – \$60,000. The accompanying pamphlet would cost about \$6,000.*

**1996** It was recommended that:

Sample video footage be made that focuses on encouraging more A.A. participation in carrying the message into Correctional Facilities, and brought back to the 1997 General Service Conference for review. (**Note:** The cost would be approximately \$20,000.) (Correctional Facilities)

The following should be reflected in the footage: (Correctional Facilities)

- a. Singleness of purpose
- b. Correctional Facilities workshops
- c. Reaction from men and women inmates attending A.A. meetings at their facility, and from outside members who carry the message inside
- d. Inmate speakers at an A.A. event
- e. Unpredictability and roadblocks to carrying the message inside
- f. How to improve communication within A.A. and with prison administrators
- g. Once A.A.s are involved, how to keep them involved

**1997** It was recommended that:

The video on encouraging more A.A. members to participate in carrying the A.A. message into correctional facilities be completed, and brought back to the 1998 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities for review. (**Note:** The additional cost of completing the video would be approximately \$41,000.) (Correctional Facilities)

The following should be reflected in the video footage: (Correctional Facilities)

- a. Singleness of purpose.
- b. Correctional Facilities workshops.
- c. Reaction from men and women inmates attending A.A. meetings at their facility and from outside members who carry the message inside.
- d. Inmate speakers at an A.A. event.
- e. Unpredictability and roadblocks of carrying the message inside.
- f. How to improve communication within A.A. and with prison administrators.
- g. Once A.A.’s are involved, how do we keep them involved.
- h. Emphasis on the outside members’ participation and perspective.

Some video taping of a facsimile of the 47th General Service Conference, as well as of a Conference committee, be permitted, keeping in mind the preservation of our Traditions of anonymity. (For possible inclusion in the video on G.S.O., the Grapevine and the service structure). (Literature)

After reviewing with appreciation the rough cut of the video on G.S.O., the Grapevine and the service structure, that a final cut of the video be prepared by the trustees’ Literature Committee and forwarded to the 1998 Conference Literature Committee for approval, accompanied by its service piece and



including modifications provided to the trustees' Literature Committee. (Literature)

**1998** It was recommended that:

The video entitled "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls," developed to encourage more A.A. members to participate in carrying the message into correctional facilities, be approved with two minor focus adjustments to safeguard the anonymity of A.A. members. (Correctional Facilities)

The video "You're a.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure," be approved for distribution. (Literature)

**1999** It was recommended that:

The 1966 and 1974 Advisory Actions which stated that the film "Bill's Own Story" be for use by A.A. groups only, and that this film be released to Al-Anon groups under the same conditions be reaffirmed. (Public Information)

**Note:** *According to the Final Report of the 1966 General Service Conference, it was reported that the film was providing A.A. members worldwide with a unique opportunity to hear from Bill and Lois directly but there was no advisory action limiting the film to A.A. groups only.*

### **Advisory Actions concerning THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE**

**1958** It was recommended that:

The suggestion of the name change from General Service Headquarters to General Service Office be adopted. (Policy)

**1962** It was recommended that:

The report on long-range translation needs be adopted as follows:

The criteria for determining in what languages A.A. material should be translated should be based on the prevalence of alcoholism amongst persons speaking the language

G.S.O. exercise a tighter control over translations of approved material.

Data on A.A. population and its location should be an important factor in allocating loans for local preparation of A.A. literature. It should also be correlated with data on the major languages of the world.

G.S.O. assume the initiative in preparation of literature.

G.S.O. assume the responsibility for free distribution of foreign language literature to doctors, lawyers, etc., if possible through local A.A. contacts, providing that the Budget and Finance Committee feels that it is feasible.

Financing for foreign language literature be based on need rather than in terms of actual available dollars.

Our services to overseas groups be substantial so that we may count on the financial support of the groups in the more developed countries.

The suggestion that a review of the preparation of native literature be adopted as outlined.

**1964** It was recommended that:

The pattern of G.S.O. employee compensation endorsed by the Conference, following the discussion of staff salaries, be approved. (Policy)

**1966** It was recommended that:

New monthly "Information sheets" on local Intergroup (or

Central) office activities will be compiled and mailed monthly by G.S.O., and one G.S.O. Staff member will be assigned to coordinate this service. (Floor Action)

To help A.A. grow in small communities both local Area General Service Committees and G.S.O. should try to furnish specific services in addition to those already provided. (Floor Action)

A pension plan for G.S.O. employees be approved. (Finance)

**1970** It was recommended that:

The General Service Office have the right to choose the hotel for the 1971 General Service Conference without conferring further with the delegates to the Conference. (Delegates Only Meeting)

**1972** It was recommended that:

Regarding local misunderstandings, the Conference approve the following resolution:

This, the 22nd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, feels that G.S.O. should not be asked to intervene or otherwise involve itself in local disputes or misunderstandings. (Floor Action)

**1976** It was recommended that:

Up to \$5,000 be authorized for a professional study of the feasibility of relocating G.S.O., the result of this study to be reported at the 1977 Conference. (Floor Action)

**1977** It was recommended that:

It would not be in the best interest of the Fellowship to relocate the General Service Office at this time. (Floor Action)

**1978** It was recommended that:

The recommendation of the 1977 General Service Conference that it would not be in the best interest of the Fellowship to relocate the General Service Office at this time be reaffirmed. (Floor Action)

**1979** It was recommended that:

No arbitrary ceiling be set on the number of G.S.O./G.V. staff eligible to vote, but that the delegates never have less than 66-2/3% of the total Conference votes. If more staff members are added, some method of rotation of staff eligible to vote may be necessary. In response to a request that delegates represent not less than 75% of voting Conference members, this was considered an unrealistic figure. The committee pointed out that office personnel (exclusive of staff) assisting at the Conference are not participants in Conference sessions. Observers have no voice and no vote; they do not participate in Conference deliberations. (Policy/Admissions)

**1980** It was recommended that:

When G.S.O. and Grapevine offices are expanded, the offices be modernized and the appearance of the reception area and office as a whole be vastly improved. (Floor Action)

**1985** It was recommended that:

The general manager designate a staff person to coordinate and pull together (at the General Service Office), all available information about spreading the A.A. message to the native North American population, including but not limited to (1) translation of their languages and dialects, (2) experiences of various A.A. groups in their contact with these populations and to explore with a view toward consolidating and expanding A.A.'s experience in these areas; to report back to the 1986

General Service Conference through whatever committee the general manager feels is appropriate. (Floor Action) [Note: This project was initiated as part of the Cooperation with the Professional Community assignment]

References to “nonalcoholic employees” at G.S.O. in *The A.A. Service Manual* be deleted since G.S.O. does not have a policy of hiring only nonalcoholics for the supporting departments. (Report and Charter)

A committee from the General Service Office be formed to study Article 2 of the Conference Charter and reports its findings to the 1986 Report and Charter Committee. (Report and Charter)

**1988** It was recommended that:

Footnote 8 to Concept XI be reworded to reflect current practices of the General Service Board, and A.A. World Services, Inc. to read: (Report and Charter)

“G.S.O. staff members have voting representation on trustees’ committees. Additionally, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote as a director of the A.A.W.S. Board.”

The phrase in Concept XI that reads: Most staff members’ assignments are changed yearly” be updated through footnoting to reflect current practices as follows: “Most staff members serve two years on each assignment.” (Report and Charter)

**1989** It was recommended that:

The existing footnotes 7 and 8 of Section 3, Concept XI be deleted and, instead, the following footnote to the entire section be included as follows: (Report and Charter)

In order to meet the changing conditions since the writing of this section, A.A.W.S., Inc., with the approval of the General Service Board, has implemented a two-year rotation of assignments for most staff members, and, since 1987, a merit pay increase system has been established.

Footnote 9 in Section 4, Concept XI in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be changed from: (Report and Charter)

“G.S.O. staff members have voting representation on trustees’ committees. Additionally, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote as a director of the A.A.W.S. Board.”

to:

“As a director of the A.A.W.S. Board, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote.”

**1990** It was recommended that:

The General Service Office delay processing new A.A. group information forms for 30 days in order to allow the local A.A. structure to participate in the process. (Floor Action)

**1991** It was recommended that:

The existing footnote 7, Concept XI in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, be deleted, as it pertains to merit pay, until the General Service Board seeks and obtains Conference approval of merit pay, being mindful that Bill notes in the introduction to the Concepts: “The future advocates of structural change need only make out a strong case for their recommendations—a case convincing to both the Trustees and to the Conference. (Report and Charter)

**1992** It was recommended that:

The general manager of the General Service Office and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Board devise an equitable system of pay for the G.S.O. staff that embraces the spiritual principles of Concept XI and complies with applicable laws. (Floor Action)

**1993** It was recommended that:

The General Service Office review the current practice of mailing label distribution and devise a new policy that will encompass the principle of anonymity. (Floor Action)

## **Advisory Actions Concerning GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES and GROUPS**

For advisory actions concerning group contributions and group finances, please see the Finance Committee Advisory Actions.

**1951** It was recommended that:

A special condensed version of the Conference Report be distributed to all groups. (Report and Charter)

**1952** It was recommended that:

A digest of “Conference Highlights” be mailed to all groups. (Report and Charter)

**1953** It was recommended that:

Groups who have not corresponded with Headquarters for two years or more be taken off the mailing list; and that the names of such groups be referred to state delegates for follow-up purposes. (Policy)

Any group with a regular secretary, registered with Headquarters, shall be entitled to one vote in a state assembly meeting. (Policy)

**1954** It was recommended that:

Two parts of a three-part proposal for a “General Service Representative” Plan be adopted by the Conference: They are: (Floor Action)

- a. That the group representative described in the Third Legacy Pamphlet be designated the “general service representative.”
- b. That the general service representative, in addition to electing his area committeeman and regional delegate to the General Service Conference, should act as the representative of the group in General Service activities and as the representative of A.A.’s General Services in the group.

Under this plan, the group representative will be listed in the A.A. Directory, succeeding the secretary in the listings, except where the groups may designate the secretary to “double” as group representative.

Any group with a regular secretary, registered with Headquarters, shall be entitled to one vote in a state assembly meeting. (Policy)

The proposal to list hospital and prison groups in the 1955 Directory not be approved. (Floor Action)

**1956** It was recommended that:

There be an announcement in a future Headquarters bulletin reminding group general service representatives that it is their duty to pass bulletins on to the group secretary, and also suggesting that, wherever practical, the general service representative use a group post office box as a mailing address. (Policy)

The Conference approved a motion asking that General Service Headquarters designate Thanksgiving Week each year as “A.A. Gratitude Week” and this action be noted in the annual pre-Thanksgiving appeals to the groups to help support A.A.’s services. (Floor Action)

Conceding the seriousness of the problem caused by lack of uniformity in group mailing addresses, the Conference agreed no policy "directives" should be issued. The Conference urged the Policy Committee to explore this problem and expressed faith that general service representatives could be increasingly helpful in keeping Headquarters advised of changes of group addresses. (Floor Action)

**1957** It was recommended that:

General Service Headquarters continue to suggest to groups that they write to individuals and companies involved in the mis-use of the Directory, requesting that they be removed from the mailing list and that a story be carried in the "Exchange Bulletin" about mis-use of the Directory, phrased in such a way that it will help to define the A.A. purpose for which the Directory is intended. (Policy)

General Service Headquarters designate Thanksgiving Week as "A.A. Gratitude Week." In this connection, it is to be suggested to groups that a special appeal for funds to support A.A.'s world services be made at local meetings. (Floor Action)

**1958** It was recommended that:

The matter of a correct membership census be left up to the discretion of local groups with the added suggestion that the local group endeavor to obtain an inclusive count as far as is possible that would indicate not only those members how participating, but also those presently sober in A.A. who are not known to have affiliated with other groups. Further, that each delegate incorporate in his report to his area the need for an accurate census and stress the importance of this matter. (Policy)

The delegate incorporate in his report to his area the importance of a permanent group mailing address with the added suggestion that this be a P.O. Box whenever practicable. (Policy)

The suggestion of the name change from General Service Headquarters to General Service Office be adopted. (Policy)

The participation of institutional groups in the Conference structure be left to the discretion of local Conference assemblies. (Policy)

**1959** It was recommended that:

In regard to A.A. misuse of the Directory, the attention of groups again be directed to its purpose, as listed on inside cover of Directory. That this be used as a guide and not a rule, as it is not intended to interfere with free communication among A.A.'s in sharing experiences and activities. That non-A.A. misuse be handled as in the past. (Policy)

Consideration and study be made by all delegates during the coming year on the possibility of all G.S.O. group mailings going to the G.S.R.s and that this subject be placed on the 1960 agenda as a discussion subject. (Policy)

**1961** It was recommended that:

A form be filled in and signed by G.S.R.s who wish to receive duplicate mailings from G.S.O. (Policy)

**1962** It was recommended that:

The recommendation given in the Group Records & Directory report that in the future G.S.O. use the term "reported" rather than "active" membership when requesting membership figures on the Group directory cards be affirmed. (Policy)

Next year's Group Information card include a request for information as to the Conference area in which the group is included. (Policy)

**1963** It was recommended that:

Notices of newly listed and delisted groups be sent only to the areas concerned. (Policy)

Notices be sent with the Exchange Bulletin (now Box 4-5-9) clarifying that the bulletins are for the use of the groups and not exclusively for group secretaries or G.S.R.s. (Policy)

A plan to explore the possibility of making General Services increasingly self-supporting by encouraging groups to contribute on the basis of monthly sharing (regular monthly contributions) be approved. (Floor Action)

**1964** It was recommended that:

The Conference had approved the proposal that areas which volunteered on an experimental basis will have their G.S.R.s receive G.S.O. mailings exclusively. (Policy)

On the use of proxies, whereby one G.S.R. who attends an A.A. area assembly is able to cast ballots for absent representatives, it was the sense of the meeting, reflected in a showing of hands after a brief discussion of the subject, that the proxy system of voting could lead to abuses and that few areas were prepared to endorse the practice at this time, as far as general representation of regular groups was concerned. At the same time, it was recognized that groups in correctional institutions and in certain hospitals might be unrepresented at area assemblies if they were not permitted to assign their voting privileges to members outside their groups. (Floor Action)

**1965** It was recommended that:

All G.S.R.s receive the group mailings from the General Service Office. (Policy)

**1967** It was recommended that:

Delegates urge G.S.R.s to order a copy of the Conference Report for group use. (Report and Charter)

**1970** It was recommended that:

The area committees consider a symposium on services that would include an educational program for G.S.R.s in the workings of their groups and their relation to G.S.O. The need to employ more articulate people, especially in the role of G.S.R., was stressed. (Finance)

Occasionally group discussions center around the Conference-approved pamphlet, such as "Sponsorship," "Is A.A. for You?" "This Is A.A." or any of the others that would be suitable for such discussion. (Literature)

**1972** It was recommended that:

The suggestion that A.A. group should not be named after an A.A. member or nonalcoholic, living or deceased. (Floor Action)

A.A. group policy was reaffirmed that "Only those with a desire to stop drinking may be members of A.A. groups; only A.A. members are eligible to be officers of A.A. groups; non-alcoholics are welcome at open meetings of A.A." And it is suggested that the word "family" not be used in the name of an A.A. group: if A.A.s and their nonalcoholic mates wish to meet together on a regular basis, they consider these gatherings "meetings" and not A.A. groups. [See also Directories section regarding listing in the directory.] (Floor Action)

Tape-making at all types of A.A. meetings with the possible exception of closed meetings, is helpful to some A.A.'s and the decision of making tapes be left to group autonomy. (Floor Action)

**1973** It was recommended that:

A discussion of special purpose groups be an agenda item for the 1974 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

The Conference suggest that past delegates not hold office as G.S.R.'s or district committee members but find other ways to become involved in area service. (Floor Action)

Newcomers should learn about, and become involved in, the A.A. service structure as soon as possible. (Floor Action)

**1974** It was recommended that:

All A.A. groups should be listed in the *World Directory*\* in accordance with the description of an "A.A. Group" long carried in the *World Directory*: (Floor Action)

"Traditionally, two or more alcoholics meeting together for purposes of sobriety may consider themselves an A.A. group, provided that as a group they are self-supporting and have no outside affiliation. Groups listed in the directory are listing at their own request. A directory listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any group's approach to or practice of the traditional A.A. program."

*\*Conference members agreed that any A.A. member ideally should be welcome at any A.A. meeting. This would apply even to meetings held by members sharing special interests who choose (in line with Tradition Four on group autonomy) group names which may sound somewhat restrictive (such as groups for men only, women only, physicians, study, ethnic groups, those speaking certain languages, young people, priests, gay groups, policemen, beginners, lawyers and other professions or vocations, etc.)—especially when no other meeting is available for an alcoholic who needs a meeting.*

A suggestion be made to all A.A. groups to purchase the Conference Report. (Report and Charter)

**1975** It was recommended that:

A suggestion be made to all A.A. groups to purchase the 1975 Conference Report. (Report and Charter)

**1976** It was recommended that:

It was resolved that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed. (Report and Charter)

In case a change is needed in the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Steps, or Warranties of Article 12 wherever the words "registered A.A. groups of the world," "registered groups," or "directory listed groups" appear in *The A.A. Service Manual* and *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, a bracketed sentence be inserted to state: "This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world." (Report and "Charter")

All groups be encouraged to subscribe to *Box 4-5-9*. A further suggestion: Include in "The Bulletin Board" of *Box 4-5-9* a subscription form carrying information on the rate per copy and bulk rate. (Report and Charter)

**1977** It was recommended that:

Each group's service number (used for G.S.O. records) should be listed in the directory with other information. (Floor Action)

Group contributions continue to be listed in the directory. (Floor Action)

A.A. groups be discouraged from selling literature not distributed by the General Service Office and the Grapevine. (Floor Action)

A suggested prudent reserve for a group be dependent on local needs; and that a suggested prudent reserve for central offices,

intergroups, and area committees preferable be one to twelve months' operating expense, depending on local needs. (Finance)

**1978** It was recommended that:

All groups in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahama Islands be listed in the next printing of the *Eastern U.S. A.A. Directory*. (Report and Charter)

Group treasurers continue to be reached through the G.S.R.s and through the local service level. It was further recommended that, when it becomes feasible, contributions be acknowledged, as received, to group treasurers or to whomever the sender may be. (Finance)

**1979** It was recommended that:

The names of "alcohol and pills" groups not be listed in the A.A. directories. (Floor Action)

**1980** It was recommended that:

The role of the alternate G.S.R. (page 36 of *The A.A. Service Manual*) be further described as follows: "Alternates should be encouraged to assist, participate, and share in responsibilities of the G.S.R., attending district and area meetings where feasible, depending on local needs. (Report and Charter)

The 1974 Conference Action regarding directory listing of A.A. groups be reaffirmed. ("All A.A. groups should be listed in the World Directory in accordance with the description of an A.A. group in the *World Directory*"), and further recommended that decisions regarding verification of "a true A.A. group" be resolved locally. (Report and Charter)

**1981** It was recommended that:

Reference to alternate G.S.R.s as runners-up be eliminated by rewording the description of the alternate G.S.R. on page 36 of *The A.A. Service Manual* to ". . . elected at the same time, by the same procedure." (Report and Charter)

The *Directory of A.A. Groups in Treatment Facilities* be discontinued. (Report and Charter)

**1983** It was recommended that:

The reinclusion of the past-experiences portions of *The A.A. Service Manual* pertaining to G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s be included on next year's Conference Report and Charter Committee agenda for the purpose of adding personal experience in the area of financial support of G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s. The committee felt that the eligibility qualifications of D.C.M.s were already spelled out in the Service Manual and, therefore, no additional input is necessary.

**1984** It was recommended that:

To encourage Spanish-speaking groups and committees to participate in the general service structure: (Policy/Admissions)

- a. Areas be encouraged to provide room within their structure for Hispanic districts with a bilingual liaison or D.C.M.
- b. Assemblies be encouraged to provide G.S.R. schools, seminars, or workshops in Spanish.
- c. Successful experience with area structure participation by Hispanic groups be shared in Spanish Box 4-5-9.
- d. Spanish-speaking A.A.s active in service be encouraged to sponsor new members into service.
- e. G.S.O. increase its efforts to provide Spanish service literature.
- f. The trustees' Committee on International Convention/A.A. Regional Forums consider holding a Forum in Puerto Rico.

Examples of personal experiences of G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s, including some examples in the area of financial support, be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* at the ends of the appropriate chapters in an effort to help stimulate involvement for these service positions. (Report and Charter)

All Conference members collect personal service experiences from some G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s in their areas and submit them to the Conference Report and Charter Committee for its consideration in 1985. (Report and Charter)

Meeting addresses and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and the directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list. (Report and Charter)

**1985** It was recommended that:

Option 3, page 40, in the section on “How Do We Elect the D.C.M.?” in *The A.A. Service Manual* be changed by deleting the word “immediate” from the phrase, “Only immediate past G.S.R.s are eligible to run. . . .” This option would be revised to read “Only past G.S.R.s are eligible to run. . . .” (Report and Charter)

A sentence which reads, “Experience is now indicating that many groups are now financially supporting their general service representatives to attend service functions,” be added to the last paragraph on page 35 of Chapter II on the General Service Representatives in the Service Manual. (Report and Charter)

Further discussion should be centered on methods of reaching groups which do not list themselves with the General Service Office, and that this problem be addressed through a presentation at a future General Service Conference. (Report and Charter)

**1986** It was recommended that:

Delegates assume more responsibility in encouraging G.S.R.s and local A.A. members to take their suggestions and concerns to district meetings and area assemblies for consideration in order to accommodate the growing number of topics being submitted for consideration by Conference committees. The committee also suggested sending items for the Conference Agenda to the Conference coordinator as early as possible. (Policy/Admissions)

Double-trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. directories. (Report and Charter)

**1987** It was recommended that:

No change be made at this time in the definition of an A.A. group in the A.A. Directories. (Report and Charter)

The 1986 Conference Action regarding the directories not listing Double-Trouble groups be reaffirmed, i.e. “Double-Trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. Directories”; and the existing Double-Trouble groups in the A.A. Directories be deleted. (Double-Trouble groups are defined as groups with outside affiliation.) (Report and Charter)

**1988** It was recommended that:

The final copy of the A.A. group structure prepared by the Literature Committee be forwarded to the 1989 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for further consideration as an addition to *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

The 1984 General Service Conference Advisory action be reaffirmed: (Report and Charter)

“Meeting addresses and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list.”

The *Final Conference Report* be sent to all G.S.R.s, with the distribution method and quantity determined by the delegate. (Report and Charter)

The revised new group information form (March 1988) be reproduced in the section “Group Information” in *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

**1989** It was recommended that:

The description “What Is an A.A. Group” contained in “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be added to the *The A.A. Service Manual*, and that, when adding the material, the circular structure chart of the group be amended to include “Archives Representative.” (Report and Charter)

The Final Conference Report for G.S.R.s be sent to the delegate with the quantity to be determined by each delegate. (Report and Charter)

The 1989 General Service Conference appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of Panel 39 delegates and G.S.O. employees involved with the new computer system to study the problems of group registration and the A.A. directories and bring its recommendations back to the 1990 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

**1990** It was recommended that:

The General Service Office delay processing new A.A. group information forms for 30 days in order to allow the local A.A. structure to participate in the process. (Floor Action)

The Domestic Directories be retained as formatted, and distributed to area officers, D.C.M.s and intergroup/central offices, and be made available for purchase by A.A. groups and members. (Floor Action)

A.A. Domestic Directories and the group information forms include the following: (Floor Action)

#### *Third Tradition (Long Form)*

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

#### *Fifth Tradition (Long Form)*

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose*—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**1991** It was recommended that:

The six-point description of an A.A. Group in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be deleted, and be replaced by the following: (Report and Charter)

The Long Form of Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six, Concept Twelve aptly describe what an A.A. Group is:

Tradition Three:

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

Warranty Six:

“. . . much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the A.A. Traditions accord to the individual

member and to his group; no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles; no fees or dues to be levied—voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from A.A.—membership always to be the choice of the individual; each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes—it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.”

The present system of distribution of the General Service Conference *Final Report* (1988 Advisory Action #73. The Conference Final Report be sent to all G.S.R.s with the distribution method and quantity determined by the delegate.) be continued. (Report and Charter)

**1993** It was recommended that:

The following be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*: “To encourage participation of the maximum number of groups, some areas have incorporated linguistic districts within their structure. These districts usually have a bilingual D.C.M. or liaison. Their boundaries may be independent of the conventional district boundaries. (Report and Charter)

**1995** It was recommended that:

After considering the suggestion to make stronger recommendations for the financial support of the G.S.R., D.C.M., and other people elected to serve our Fellowship in Chapters II and III in the *The A.A. Service Manual* (1994-1995 Edition): (Report and Charter)

- a. The last sentence in the last paragraph on page S44, “Experience is now indicating that many groups are now financially supporting their general service representatives to attend service functions,” appear as a separate paragraph.
- b. The last sentence on page S54 in the second paragraph under “What Does The D.C.M. Do?” appear as a separate paragraph, with a second sentence added, as follows: “Experience is now indicating that many districts are now financially supporting their district committee members to attend service functions. Invariably this pays off in increased activity, interest and group participation.”

**2000** It was recommended that:

The description of the A.A. Group (Long Form Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six, in Concept Twelve) be added in Chapter Two: “The Group and Its G.S.R.” in *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

### **Advisory Actions concerning OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS**

**1953** It was recommended that:

Alcoholics Anonymous not incorporate. (Floor Action)

**1957** It was recommended that:

Rather than having General Service Headquarters, prepare and sell large-scale productions of the A.A. seal, actual production of the “blow-ups” be left to the Areas, for reasons of economy. (Floor Action)

In addition to initials, such symbols should contain the words “Recovery,” “Unity” and “Service” arranged in the following positions: the word “Recovery” to be parallel with the base of

the triangle, the word “Unity” to be parallel with the left-hand leg of the triangle and the word “Service” to be parallel with the right-hand leg of the triangle. (Floor Action)

**1958**

In regard to the attitude of the movement as a whole toward the use of so-called A.A. “chips,” “tokens,” “lapel emblems” and similar devices, the consensus was that this was a matter for local autonomy and not one on which the Conference should record a definite position in behalf of the movement. (Floor Action)

Since the use of tokens of sobriety is a matter of local taste and custom, there seems to be no expressed need at the present time for a standard token of sobriety and no need for A.A. Publishing, Inc. to carry such an item. (Literature)

Recognized the original use of the word “honest” before “desire to stop drinking” and its deletion from the Traditions as part of the evolution of the A.A. movement. Any change to be left to the discretion of A.A. Publishing, Inc. (Literature)

The Conference voted unanimously to ask Bill W. to provide continuing leadership on all projects of movement-wide concern in which he is currently interested. (Floor Action)

The Conference approved the action of the General Service Board in re-assigning to Bill royalty rights in his three books (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*), and in books he may write in the future, for the duration of the copyrights involved. (Floor Action)

**1961**

The following motion was adopted unanimously: (Floor Action)

“The Conference recognizes that the publication of cheap editions of A.A. books would probably reduce the income to World Services, and Bill W’s personal income. This Conference unanimously suggests the following to the Trustees: To add a rider to Bill’s royalty contract to the effect that, if cheaper books are ever published, Bill’s royalties be increased by an amount sufficient to keep the royalty income at the same average level it had been for the five years before cheaper books were published; (further, that) as time goes on, if inflation erodes the purchasing power of this income, the Trustees will adjust the royalties to produce the same approximate purchasing power; this to be effective during the lifetime of Bill and Lois and Bill’s legatees.”

**1963**

The Conference approved the action of the General Service Board of Trustees in making a special monthly grant to Ebby T., the man who helped co-founder Bill W. achieve sobriety and who was indirectly responsible for creation of the A.A. Fellowship. (Floor Action)

The committee studied the request that a representative of the Young People in A.A. be permitted to attend the General Service Conference as an observer. It was the feeling of the Committee that all A.A.’s in the United States and Canada are being served adequately under the existing procedure. (Admissions)

Wishes to go on record as thanking the Tape Committee for their work in preparing and providing tapes of A.A. talks to groups at low cost. (Policy)

Suggested that G.S.O. review throughout coming year appropriate expression of gratitude to Bill and Lois—for presentation to the 1964 Conference. (Agenda)

**1966** It was recommended that:

New monthly “information sheets” on local Intergroup (or Central ) office activities be compiled and mailed monthly by

G.S.O., and one G.S.O. staff member be assigned to coordinate this service. Conference members also urged Area General Service Committees to work harder at bringing local Intergroup (or Central) offices into the Third Legacy communications network at the local level. (Floor Action)

### 1970

A motion was made and carried that the 20<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference go on record as opposing the use of the title "A.A. Counselor." (Floor Action)

### 1972

The Conference agreed that tape-making at all types of A.A. meetings, with the possible exception of closed meetings, is helpful to some A.A.'s and that the decision of making tapes be left to group autonomy. (Floor Action)

It was moved that G.S.O. prepare a clear-cut statement of what A.A. is and what it is not, and unanimously agreed that "alcohol and pill" groups not be listed in A.A. directories and meeting lists. (Floor Action)

In accordance with A.A.'s Tradition of self-support, the Conference voted unanimously that A.A. not accept "Stepping Stones" property (the home of Bill and Lois W.) for any purpose. (Floor Action)

The Conference agreed to defer decision on the use of the Bill W. Memorial Fund so that delegates may discuss with their groups the suggestion of a film about A.A., historical or for public information purposes, and come back next year prepared to make a decision on this, or some other suggestions. (Floor Action)

### 1973 It was recommended that:

The money in the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund be transferred to the General Fund as expeditiously as possible. (Floor Action)

The Conference approve the recommendation from the Trustees' Nominating Committee that the following procedure be used when a Conference area requests a change of region: (Trustees)

The delegate from the area requesting a change of region will write, on behalf of the assembly, to the secretary of the Trustees' Nominating Committee, requesting the change of region, and will send copies of the letter to the trustees in the two regions involved.

The delegate will ask the General Service Office to send a letter to all of the area delegates in the two regions involved, requesting them to express their approval/disapproval on an enclosed card. Approval by two-thirds of the delegates from each region involved is required before the proposal is presented to the General Service Conference for their approval.

### 1974 It was recommended that:

Private picture-taking should not occur at A.A. events. (Floor Action)

### 1975 It was recommended that:

The procedure to be used when a Conference area requests a change of region be reviewed by the 1976 Conference Committee on Trustees in order to clarify the voting rights of an area moving into or out of an electing region. (Trustees)

We drop the term "two-hatter" in our official literature and use instead "A.A. member employed in the field of alcoholism" or the equivalent. (Floor Action)

### 1976 It was recommended that:

The following revisions be made in the procedure for areas requesting a change of region (*The A.A. Service Manual*, page 97, 1975 edition) (Forwarded to Conference Report and Charter Committee) (Trustees)

- a. That the G.S.R.s in the area be informed in advance by the area committee of the necessary facts—both advantages and disadvantages—in order to make a sound decision in requesting a change of region; that a simple majority (one-half plus one) of G.S.R.'s be present (or respond to a mail poll) and that two-thirds of the majority present or responding by mail agree before an area petitions for a change of region.
- b. Upon notification by the delegate of the plan to change regions, G.S.O. will provide a form to be filled in by the delegate indicating that the conditions outlined have been fulfilled.
- c. The delegate from the area requesting a change of region will write, on behalf of the assembly, to the secretary of the trustees' Nominating Committee, stating the request and enclosing the completed form. The delegate will also send copies of the letter and form to the trustees in the two regions involved.
- d. The delegate will ask the General Service Office to send a letter to all of the area delegates in the two regions involved, requesting that they obtain the group conscience of their respective areas on the proposed change of region, and that they indicate approval/disapproval on an enclosed card.
- e. Approval by two-thirds of the delegates from each region involved is required before the proposal is presented to the General Service Conference for its action. A change of region will become effective at the end of the Conference at which it was approved.

In case a change is needed in the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Steps, or the Six Warranties of Article 12, wherever the words "registered A.A. groups of the world," "registered groups" or "directory-listed groups" appear in *The A.A. Service Manual* and Twelve Concepts for World Service," a bracketed sentence be inserted to state, "This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world." (Report and Charter)

### 1985 It was recommended that:

The general manager designate a staff person to coordinate and pull together (at the General Service Office), all available information about spreading the A.A. message to the native North American population, including but not limited to (1) translations of their languages and dialects, (2) experiences of various A.A. groups in their contact with these populations, and to explore with a view toward consolidating and expanding A.A.'s experience in these areas; to report back to the 1986 Conference through whatever committee the General Manager feels is appropriate. (Floor Action)

### 1987 It was recommended that:

The consideration of inviting intergroups and central offices into the general service structure be referred to the Agenda Committee for the 1988 Conference. (Floor Action)

### 1989 It was recommended that:

The A.A.W.S., Inc. policy statement on "Use of A.A.'s Trademarks and Logos" be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

### 1990 It was recommended that:

A standing committee for central and intergroup offices not be formed at this time. The committee felt that many of the problems expressed by central offices and intergroups are "home issues," and that the doors of communication need to be opened at the area level. The committee would like to

stress the importance of delegates establishing contact with offices in their areas and assuring them they do have a voice in the Fellowship through their existing area service structure. The committee suggests that the sharing received by this committee from areas and central/intergroup offices, regarding their experiences of cooperation and communication, be reviewed by the G.S.O. staff with the idea of incorporation into the Guidelines on central/intergroup offices. (Policy/Admissions)

The following text appear in *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section "Working Together—General Services and Local Intergroup Services," following item 7 on the election of trustees: (Report and Charter)

"Some areas find that a liaison between central office/intergroup and the area committee is very helpful. In some areas the liaison has a vote, in others the liaison has a voice but no vote.

"There is more information regarding working together available through the General Service Office and in the pamphlets 'The A.A. Group' and 'Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions,' as well as in the Guidelines on Central Offices and Intergroups."

The following be deleted: (Report and Charter)

"In areas where there are central offices providing the services mentioned previously, general service committees do not attempt to duplicate these services; but in those areas where there is little or no central office activity, the general service committee has frequently undertaken to provide many of these services."

**1992** It was recommended that:

A feasibility study be undertaken by the General Service Board of all possible methods by which sobriety chips/medallions may be made available to the A.A. Fellowship; and that: (Floor Action)

- a) The study culminate in a report to an ad hoc committee of 1993 Conference delegates.
- b) The report presented to the ad hoc committee also be mailed to all 1993 Conference members by March 15, 1993.
- c) The ad hoc committee be charged with bringing forward a recommendation to the 1993 Conference reporting conclusions.

**1993** It was recommended that:

The General Service Office review the current practice of mailing-label distribution and devise a new policy that will encompass the principle of anonymity. (Floor Action)

In agreement with the consensus of the 1958 General Service Conference, the use of sobriety chips/medallions is a matter for local autonomy and not one on which the Conference should record a definite position in behalf of the movement. (Floor Action)

It is not appropriate for A.A.W.S., Inc. or the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to produce or license the production of sobriety chips/medallions. (Floor Action)

**1994** It was recommended that:

The last paragraph and all following material on page S103 in the 1993-94 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* in the section "Use of A.A.'s Trademarks and Logos" be deleted as it is no longer applicable. (Report and Charter)

On page S104 in the 1993-94 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the sentences "Include the registered trademark symbol ®" and "A fourth symbol (shown on page S103) is

confined to Conference-approved literature only, and may not be used" be deleted as they are no longer applicable. (Report and Charter)

On page S129 in the 1993-94 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* the portion of the following sentence—which is no longer applicable—in bold, stricken through type be deleted and the italicized print be substituted as follows: (Report and Charter)

*"This process takes time—months—but the results are worth the effort. When the pamphlet or book is finally completed, it is entitled to {carry the "Conference-approved" seal, having fully earned it} bear the designation, "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved Literature."*

[Circle/Triangle Design With Words "General Service Conference" is Deleted]

**1995** It was recommended that:

After a thorough examination of the issues and information available and acknowledging that there may have been problems with communication at many service levels in the past, it was the sense of the committee that there has been improvement and, therefore, in the interest of maintaining A.A. unity and finding there was not sufficient cause, the committee unanimously recommended that the proposal to censure the General Service Board be dismissed. (Trustees)

**1996** It was recommended that:

The suggested guidelines developed by the trustees' Nominating Committee for changing regional boundaries be accepted, and a reference regarding the existence of these guidelines be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* following the section pertaining to Procedures for Requesting Change of Region in Chapter IX. (Trustees)

**1999** It was recommended that:

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board policy which states, "Whenever a discount or subsidy is that which would be offered to any other organization of similar size requiring a purchased service or product of similar character and magnitude, e.g., convention rates at hotels, it may be accepted. Whenever a discount or subsidy is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, it must be declined." (Finance)

**2003** It was recommended that:

The trial period for use of laptops at the General Service Conference be extended through the 54th Conference. (Floor Action)

**2011** It was recommended that:

The 61st General Service Conference express its appreciation and gratitude for the French-language magazine "La Vigne," and the value it has for French-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the respect "La Vigne" has shown for the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. (Floor Action)

**2012** It was recommended that:

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will



be submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation. (Motion)

**Advisory Actions  
concerning  
OTHER COUNTRIES  
and WORLD SERVICE MEETINGS**

**1956** It was recommended that:

Qualified "observers" from overseas areas be admitted to the 1957 Conference. (Floor Action)

Foreign representatives who have attended the General Service Conference as observers should receive all Conference mailings for a ten-year period. (Policy)

**1959**

The Conference accepted the recommendation of the board's G.S.O. Policy Committee that an invitation be extended to the General Service Boards of Great Britain and Ireland, Ltd., Suomen A.A.-Kerhojen in Finland, Sentralledelsen in Norway, and Stichting Werkgroepen in Holland, to send, this year or next, a member as a correspondent who would be a member of the Conference without vote and, as such, would receive all Conference material. (Floor Action)

**1960**

In view of the importance of communicating the A.A. message to non-English speaking alcoholics in many lands, the Committee recommended that A.A. World Services undertake a thorough study of the immediate and long-range needs for A.A. literature in languages other than English. Pending completion of this study and the submission of detailed recommendations at the 1961 Conference, the Committee recommended that A.A. World Services undertake such additional translations of Conference-approved literature as may be necessary and financially feasible. (Literature)

**1961**

The committee noted that progress has been made in the study of long range translation needs and recommended this study be continued, as authorized by the 1960 Conference. (Literature)

**1962**

The committee studied the suggestion in the 1962 Overseas Conference Report that a condensation of selected G.S.O. service material be prepared for translation into appropriate languages and recommended that this Service material be prepared by G.S.O. in the near future. (Literature)

The committee looked with favor on the continuance of the long-range Translation Program as authorized by the 1960 Conference and confirmed by the 1961 Conference, subject to the approval of any definite plan by the G.S.B. Literature Committee. (Literature and Finance)

The \$5000 subsidy, approved by the 1961 Conference to assist overseas groups in the preparation of Conference-approved literature. be renewed. (Policy)

The report on long-range translation needs be adopted as follows: (Policy)

The criteria for determining in what languages A.A. material should be translated, should be based on the prevalence of alcoholism amongst persons speaking the language

G.S.O. exercise a tighter control over translations of approved material.

Data on A.A. population and its location should be an important factor in allocating loans for local preparation of A.A. literature. It should also be correlated with data on the major languages of the world.

G.S.O. assume the initiative in preparation of literature.

G.S.O. assume the responsibility for free distribution of foreign language literature to doctors, lawyers, etc., if possible through local A.A. contacts, providing that the Budget and Finance Committee feels that it is feasible.

Financing for foreign language literature be based on need rather than in terms of actual available dollars.

Our services to overseas groups be substantial so that we may count on the financial support of the groups in the more developed countries.

The suggestion that a review of the preparation of native literature be adopted as outlined.

The recommendation given in the Overseas report, that a basic pamphlet be prepared and translated in appropriate languages to meet the needs of newly emergent A.A. areas be developed. (Policy)

**1963**

Looked with favor on increased participation by overseas A.A. units in the General Service Conference and recommended that a study of factors involved be made by the G.S.O. staff. (Finance)

A.A.W.S. continue to make available translated literature as needed. (Literature)

**1964**

The Conference approved a plan proposed by the International Committee to assist groups and members in Latin America by sponsoring a workshop at G.S.O. for locally elected representatives from six countries: El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and Colombia. (Floor Action)

**1966**

When A.A. groups or service boards overseas wish to have an observer present at the Conference they will be requested to send someone who is an A.A. member and also a legal resident of the country wishing representation. (Policy)

**1968**

Delegates voted unanimously that the first World Service Meeting be held in New York City, in the fall of 1969, thereby accepting the following seven-point proposal of the Trustees' World Service Planning Committee: (Floor Action)

1. That the first World Serve Meeting be held in New York City in the fall of 1969.
2. That each of the countries invited participate by sending two delegates. That both delegates may be A.A.'s or one A.A. and one non-A.A. That one of the two come from the General Service Board or overall Service Committee and that the other be a salaried or volunteer Staff Member capable of carrying out suggested procedures and responsibilities. Also, that five years of sobriety for the A.A. member is desirable, but two years should be required. And, that elections of delegates be conducted by Third Legacy procedures.
3. That the North American Conference participate by electing two delegates at their "Area Delegates Only: Meeting in 1969. This should be done by Third Legacy electoral procedures. One delegate to be elected from Panel 18, and one from Panel 19.

4. That the chairman of our General Service Board and the manager of the General Service Office be voting delegates. Naturally, Bill W. will also be a voting member.
5. That all trustees, directors of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine, and General Service Office and Grapevine staffs may be invited as non-voting members as their experience is needed for sharing.
6. That the World Service Meeting Planning Committee continue to function and proceed with plans for the World Service Meeting and this this committee be authorized to determine the eligibility of additional countries who may wish to attend, as well as to handle any other questions that might arise in connection with this meeting.
7. That the General Service Board deposit \$5,000 in a special account to be opened for purposes of initial financing of the World Service Meeting.

### 1969

Delegates elected to the World Service Meeting in October, 1969: (Delegates Only Meeting)

Panel 18— , So. Coastal, California.  
 Alternate: , North. Dakota  
 Panel 19— , Cen. Michigan  
 Alternate: , Chicago, Illinois

### 1970

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the 20th General Service Conference accept the following advisory actions of the First World Service Meeting: (Floor Action)

- a. That the First World Service Meeting was worthwhile, and delegates approved the idea of holding future meetings.
- b. Approved having the next meeting in three years, although some were in favor of two or four years.
- c. That the expenses of the next meeting should be shared on a more equitable basis, if possible.
- d. New York be the unanimous choice for the site of the next World Service Meeting, although it was agreed that future meetings should be held in other areas of the world when it becomes feasible.
- e. The principle of rotation regarding the election of delegates to future meetings was accepted. However, it was noted that each country will determine the method of election or appointment of its own delegates. It was suggested that new delegates might be elected on a staggered-rotation basis.
- f. Delegates agreed to the formation of four committees to conduct the business of World Service Meeting until the next gathering: Policy, Finance, Agenda/Admissions, and Literature/Publishing. Delegates agreed that members of these committees would be chosen by lot.

### 1973

The Conference accepted the proposal for electing delegates to the World Service Meeting, representing the U.S. and Canada, in accordance with the procedures followed by other countries. (Floor Action)

### 1976 It was recommended that:

In case a change is needed in the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Steps, or the Six Warranties of Article 12, wherever the words “registered A.A. groups of the world,” “registered groups” or “directory-listed groups” appear in *The A.A.*

*Service Manual* and Twelve Concepts for World Service,” a bracketed sentence be inserted to state, “This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.” (Report and Charter)

### 1977 It was recommended that:

The Fourth World Service Meeting report be accepted. (Floor Action)

Current general service board and staff members from foreign countries be granted admission as observers, upon request, to the annual General Service Conference of U.S. and Canada; not to exceed one representative per country, at their own expense; and that the request be made through the General Service Office in New York. (Policy/Admissions)

### 1979 It was recommended that:

The following sentence be included in *The A.A. Service Manual* in an appropriate place other than under *Composition* (of the Conference): “Foreign visitors as the Conference may wish to invite may attend as observers only.” (Report and Charter)

### 1985 It recommended that:

The responsibilities of the World Service Meeting delegates should be included in the Service Manual. The committee further recommended that a draft of these responsibilities be presented to the Report and Charter Committee in 1986 for their consideration. (Report and Charter)

, General Service trustee, Australia, be admitted to the 38th General Service Conference, as an observer. (Policy/Admissions)

### 1986 It was recommended that:

The draft of the responsibilities of the World Service Meeting delegate be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*. (Report and Charter)

### 1987 It was recommended that:

Article 2 of The Conference Charter, page 24, paragraphs 2 and 3, of *The A.A. Service Manual* be changed to read: (Report and Charter)

“Foreign lands in many cases have created autonomous General Service Conferences of their own, which rely on the Steps and Traditions protected by the Conference (U.S. and Canada) and in other ways often turn to the actions of the Conference for guidance.

“Consultation between conferences is encouraged. And a formal meeting—The World Service Meeting—of delegates from the various conferences is held once every two years. The U.S./Canada delegates are chosen from The General Service Board.

“In countries where a General Service structure exists, the U.S./Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of the structure.

“Only matters seriously affecting A.A.’s worldwide needs shall be the subject of joint consideration.”

(In addition, this article was referred to the 1988 Conference Report and Charter Committee for further consideration.)

### 1988 It was recommended that:

Article 2, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the Conference Charter be further clarified through a footnote amendment to read as follows: (Report and Charter)

“Other countries have created autonomous General Service

Conferences of their own, which rely on the Steps and Traditions that are protected by the United States/Canada Conference. In addition, these other Conferences often turn to the actions of the United States/Canada Conference for guidance.

“Consultation between Conferences is encouraged, and a World Service Meeting of delegates from the various Conferences is held once every two years. The United States/Canada delegates to the World Service Meeting are chosen from the General Service Board.

“In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure.”

**1995** It was recommended that:

, General Service trustee from Australia, be granted permission to attend the 1995 General Service Conference as an observer. (Policy/Admissions)

**1996** It was recommended that:

Article 2 of the Current Conference Charter remain as is. (Report and Charter)

**1997** It was recommended that:

, from Slovakia, be granted permission to attend the 47th General Service Conference as an observer. (Policy/Admissions)

Because of the importance of this principle to A.A. unity worldwide, there be no change to Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Current Conference Charter. (Report and Charter)

**1998** It was recommended that:

, chairperson of the General Service Board in the Netherlands and a World Service Meeting delegate, be invited to attend the 48th General Service Conference as an observer. (Policy/Admissions)









