

2014 General Service Conference

Agenda Item Outcomes

Recommendations made by Conference Committees, if approved by the Conference body, result in Conference **Advisory Actions**. Conference Advisory Actions are then referred to the General Service Board for action/implementation. **Additional Committee Considerations** are suggestions made to Trustees' Committees or the General Service Board.

The following is the 2014 Conference agenda, by Committee, with the final outcome shown for each item. This list includes Additional Considerations and floor actions.

I. Agenda

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

It was recommended that: The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference be:
"Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future"
Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2015 General Service Conference:

"Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action"

- a. Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion
- b. Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group
- c. Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology
- d. Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- C. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

It was recommended that: The Conference Evaluation Form be available in English, French and Spanish beginning in 2015.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and made no changes. The committee discussed providing the General Service Conference Evaluation Form in a digital format and agreed that was not appropriate at this time.

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

It was recommended that: The description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, "Conference Committees," in the 2013- 2014 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, which currently reads:

AGENDA (*trustees' committee: General Service Conference*): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes and presentation/discussion topics.

Be revised to read:

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

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed and discussed their Composition, Scope and Procedure and agreed that point #3 of the current Scope, which is to consider "The Conference Agenda and where appropriate to make suggestions for improvement to the trustees' Committee on the Conference," is ambiguous. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the Conference explore the potential role that the Conference Committee on Agenda might play in the selection process of Agenda items in the future and provide a report to the 2015 Conference Agenda Committee.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee requested that the 2015 Conference Agenda Committee be provided with a report regarding the current and historical process of Agenda item selection.

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

- A. Consider changes to the section, "Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities" in the pamphlet, "If You Are a Professional..."

It was recommended that: The statement in the section *Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities* to A.A. on page 4 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from court programs and treatment facilities. Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.

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

Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a court asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.

- *Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court together with a self-addressed court envelope. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance.*
- *Other groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.*

Be revised to read:

Referrals From Judicial, Health Care, or Other Professionals

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

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

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

- **Groups** cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.
- Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have **an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance.**

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The statement in the section *How to Make Referrals to A.A.* on page 5 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is listed in most telephone directories. (Some professionals call A.A. while the person is in the office, thus giving the individual an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)

*Or, you can contact the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information.
Write:*

*P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org*

Be revised to read:

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

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

*P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org*

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

C. Review contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

It was recommended that: On page 6 in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" the following text be deleted:

"I can't stand the smoking."

There are nonsmoking meetings available. Check the local meeting book for them or contact the local A.A. central office which is listed in your telephone directory.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With the Professional Community Kit and Workbook and suggested:

- Adding an index of past issues of *About A.A.* to the publications tab.
- Including a copy of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in each Kit, subject to cost considerations.
- Include a copy of the April, 2010 A.A. Grapevine article entitled, "Spirituality and 'God Talk,'" by former Class A chair of the General Service Board, Ward Ewing, and a copy of the Fall 2003 *About A.A.* newsletter entitled, "The A.A. Program – Spiritual But Never 'Religious.'"

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

III. Corrections

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

It was recommended that: The section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals," which currently reads:

What A.A. does NOT do

A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover; solicit members; engage in or sponsor research; keep attendance records or case histories; join "councils" of social agencies; 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.

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

What A.A. does NOT do

A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover; solicit members; engage in or sponsor research; keep attendance records or case histories; join "councils" of social agencies (**although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them**); follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide **detox, rehabilitation** or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric

treatment; offer religious services **or host/sponsor retreats**; engage in education about alcohol; provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or any other welfare or social services; provide domestic or vocational counseling; accept any money for its services or any contributions from non-A.A. sources; provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

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

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee noted from the trustees’ report that the number of requests from male inmates (U.S.) for Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) continues to increase at a rate significantly higher than the number of “outside” male volunteers available. The committee discussed ways to increase participation in C.C.S. including:

- Offer presentations on C.C.S. at A.A. events;
- Communicate the importance of C.C.S. to area delegates;
- Increase awareness of C.C.S. at A.A. meetings;
- Make C.C.S. information and forms more accessible at the home group;
- Use G.S.O. and Grapevine publications to encourage C.C.S. participation;
- Consider the topic of C.C.S. for presentations at Regional Forums.

IV. Finance

- A. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and after a lengthy discussion felt an increase was not necessary at this time.

- B. Review Self-Support Packet.

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

- Add the phrase “Your contributions help ensure the future of our Fellowship worldwide” in the “Some facts” section of the card.
- Delete the phrase “Give until it feels good” under “Personal thoughts.”

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

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

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

V. Grapevine

- A. Review Audio Strategy status update.

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

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

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

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

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

- D. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2015 and later.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2015 or later:

1. The Twelve Traditions—Our Experience (working title)
Members share their experience with each of our Twelve A.A. Traditions, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
2. Cartoon Book II (working title)
A collection of cartoons by A.A. members, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or

AAGrapevine.org.

3. Special Needs (working title)

Stories by members who are wheelchair-bound, blind, deaf, ill or with other special needs. How A.A. reaches out to everyone. Previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

4. Diversity in A.A. (working title)

A.A. members of color share their own stories of getting sober—from previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

E. Reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed the request to reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine and took no action.

F. Consider a request “to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the A.A. Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines.”

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

NOT Approved by Conference (Failed)

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

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

- Re-edit the pamphlet for consistency and grammar.
- Use the subtitle “Our Meetings in Print and Other Media” on the cover of the pamphlet and on page 5.

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

H. Review Grapevine Workbook.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the Grapevine Workbook.

Floor Action: To add a single line item to the General Fund budget for La Viña.
(Not approved)

Floor Action: The 64th General Service Conference reaffirm the right of decision of the Grapevine Board to making formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines noting:

- a. That right is already exercised by publication of La Viña in color and
- b. The 2010 Advisory Action recommended a beginning point in bringing La Viña on spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine.

(Not approved)

Floor Action: A.A. Grapevine discontinue publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of The Grapevine Magazine.

(Not approved)

VI. Literature

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

It was recommended that: The revised pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service” be approved.
Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- B. Review revised draft of the proposed pamphlet on spirituality.

It was recommended that: The pamphlet on spirituality with the title “Many Paths to Spirituality” be approved.
Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- C. Discuss suggested change to the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated.”

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed a suggested change to the first paragraph in the section on Concept XII in the pamphlet “Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated” and took no action. The committee noted that the Report and Charter Committee was discussing a similar proposal.

- D. Discuss suggested changes to the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship.”

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed multiple suggestions for changes to the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship” and took no action, noting the current language in the pamphlet is adequate.

- E. Discuss suggested changes to *Living Sober*.

It was recommended that: The committee recommended removing the following text from page five in the Living Sober booklet:

“Many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug alcohol; like addicts of any sort who want to maintain recovery, we have to keep away from the first dose of the drug we have become addicted to.”

NOTE: The committee agreed that the current text added to confusion regarding A.A.'s Singleness of Purpose.

NOT Approved by Conference (Failed)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed a suggestion to reconsider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial A.A. service mark on Conference-approved Literature and, agreeing with past Conference Advisory Actions, took no action.

Floor Action: The Conference consider the use of the circle and triangle on Conference-approved literature as a historical reminder of A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.
(Conference voted not to consider)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed a suggestion to create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness and took no action. The committee agreed that this subject is adequately addressed in current A.A. literature.

Floor Action: The General Service Conference recommended that literature which focuses on "Alcoholics in Recovery with Mental Health Issues" be developed.
(Not approved)

- H. Consider a request to add "Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the Primary Purpose (Blue) card.

It was recommended that: "Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers" be added to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (Blue) Card (F-17) in all three languages when the inventory of the English version is depleted.

The statement will read as follows (addition in bold):

"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. **Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers.**"

(The 1987 General Service Conference made this statement available as an A.A. service piece for those groups who wish to use it.)

NOTE: The committee agreed that this item is available as a service piece for groups and is not intended to limit attendance at anniversaries or other A.A. events.

NOT Approved by Conference (Failed)

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

It was recommended that: A correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices on page XI in the Preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which currently reads:

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

Be replaced with:

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

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

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

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

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

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Approve admission to the 2014 General Service Conference of Jennie H, alternate delegate, Area 85, Northwestern Ontario, in place of Ken B, the Panel 63 delegate for Area 85.

It was recommended that: Jennie H, alternate delegate, Area 85, Northwest Ontario, be seated as

a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Ken B, Panel 63 delegate for Area 85 is unable to attend.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

It was recommended that: Jim S, delegate, Area 1, Alabama/Northwest Florida, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Craig M, Panel 63 delegate for Area 1 is unable to attend.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

It was recommended that: Joyce S, alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario, be seated as a Conference member at the 64th General Service Conference because Mel C, Panel 63 delegate for Area 83 is unable to attend.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- B. Review dates for the 2017 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that: The 67th General Service Conference be held April 23-29, 2017, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- C. Consider a request that an anonymous electronic voting system be utilized at the General Service Conference on all nonelection votes for a trial period.

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

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

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

VIII. Public Information

- A. Review 2014 Comprehensive Media Plan from the trustees' P.I. Committee.

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

- Clarification of some terminology since the plan is distributed widely to A.A. members who may be unfamiliar with media jargon.
- Adding annual review of the plan by the Conference P.I. Committee to the cover memo under "process."
- Emphasis on items not only being "actionable" but also, whenever possible, "measurable."

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee expressed strong support for the forward-looking vision of the Comprehensive Media Plan regarding seeking member-submitted content for future Public Service Announcements, similar to the model used for the Young People's Video Project.

- B. Consider report from the trustees' P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the 2013 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. website. The committee requested that when ongoing website projects have made further progress than what was reflected in the distributed background, that relevant updates be communicated to the committee prior to the Conference.

- C. Consider that the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.

It was recommended that: The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

It was recommended that: The 2014 A.A. Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:

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

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

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

Item 11g be changed from "Health professional" to "Medical professional."

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

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

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

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee considered two proposed items from the

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

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

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

D. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

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

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

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

It was recommended that: The video public service announcements "Living in Chaos" and "We Know What It's Like" be discontinued.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

3. Consider production of new video P.S.A.

It was recommended that: A new public service announcement be produced in 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

4. Review final report on the centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the video P.S.A. for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza."

No action taken

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

It was recommended that: The Anonymity Card (F-20) which currently reads:

**A.A. ANONYMITY
(ANNOUNCEMENT FOR READING AT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)**

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on new media technologies such as the Internet.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that "A.A. principles come before personalities."

Be changed to read:

**A.A. ANONYMITY
(ANNOUNCEMENT FOR READING AT A.A. MEETINGS)**

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Anonymity breaks on the Internet, social media and all other forms of public communications are contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level. When we break our anonymity at the public level, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others, and adversely affect A.A. as a whole.

In keeping with this spiritual principle, A.A. speakers and A.A. members ought not be photographed, video recorded, or identified by full name on audio recordings, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including online resources accessible by the public.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that "A.A. principles come before personalities."

[new or changed text highlighted in bold]

NOT Approved by Conference (Failed)

Floor Action: Proposed Anonymity Card

The A.A. principle of anonymity at the public level is one of A.A.'s oldest protections and has helped attract countless newcomers from out of the shadows and into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. Therefore, anonymity breaks on the Internet, social media, and all other forms of public communications are not only contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level, they can scare away a problem drinker reaching out for help.

In the spirit of anonymity A.A. speakers and A.A. members ought not be photographed, video recorded, or identified by full name on audio recordings, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings including online resources accessible to the public. The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of Anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities.

(Conference voted not to consider)

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

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

- G. Discuss how delegates might stimulate local discussions in light of ongoing anonymity concerns.

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

- Pre-Convention registration and communication materials, including AA.org.
- Hospitality suite communication and materials.
- Consideration of an anonymity booth or similar display.

- H. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

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

- Anonymity Online (SM F-197)
- Anonymity Card (F-20)

IX. Report and Charter

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

1. Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.
2. Review revisions from the General Service Board.
3. Review list of editorial updates.
4. Consider draft text for “Advisory Action” and “Additional Committee Consideration” as additions to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19.
5. Consider draft text regarding duties and qualifications of “Secretary and Registrar” on page S45.

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

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.

It was recommended that: The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“**Advisory Action** – Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of a recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole.”

It was recommended that: The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“**Additional Committee Consideration** – An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or made by the Conference as a whole.”

It was recommended that: The section called “Secretary and Registrar” on page S45 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be split into two separate sections called “Secretary” (existing duties and qualifications to remain the same) and “Registrar” to include the following text (additions in **bold**):

Registrar

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*:

- Reconsider the 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights.

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

X. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

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

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

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

- B. Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook.

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

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

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

No recommendations were made

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

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

XI. Trustees

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee;
2. Pacific Regional Trustee.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the Eastern Canada and Pacific regional trustees.

1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee;
Richard B. elected as Class B Regional Trustee
2. Pacific Regional Trustee.
Joel C. elected as Class B Regional Trustee

B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

It was recommended that: The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Corliss R. Burke, B.Ed.
John Fromson, M.D.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees (See note below)

Richard B
Joel C
Joe D
William F
Nancy H
Barbara K
J. Gary L
William N
Chet P
Clayton V
Andrew W
Robert W
Albin Z

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

It was recommended that: The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014:

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
First Vice-Chairperson	Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Second Vice-Chairperson	Nancy H

Treasurer
Secretary

David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Albin Z

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

It was recommended that: The February 2014 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 2014:

Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Donald W. M
Julio E

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2014:

Carole Boerner
Beau Bush
Joe D
Julio E
Phyllis H

J. Gary L
David Noll
William N
Chet P

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2014:

Linda Bergeron
Ami B
William F
Nancy H
Ed Martin

Paz Preciado
Andrew W
Albin Z

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

XII. Archives

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

It was recommended that: The video *Markings on the Journey* be approved.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- B. Review Archives Workbook.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and suggested adding sharing of experience with regard to preservation procedures, as well as on legal considerations for Archives collections.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

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

It was recommended that: An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2015 International Convention.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

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

- Having the Forum Flyer professionally designed so that it would be attractive, perhaps could be used as a table topper;
- Sharing ideas among areas in a region or region-to-region;
- Encouraging those who have attended Regional Forums to share their enthusiasm about their experience – word-of-mouth sharing is really powerful;
- Bring information about the Regional Forum to every district and area event