

Area 47 CNY Assembly Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Delegate at the 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. I will be reporting on the conference to the Area at the:

Delegates Day of Sharing

Saturday, May 19

Church of the Ascension

2 Riverside Street

Rochester, NY 14613

11 AM – 4 PM

ASL Interpreted, Panel Topics, Food! Morning Snacks, Coffee & Lunch, No Registration Fee, Link to the Area Website: <http://aacny.org/wordpress/events/delegate-report-day-of-sharing/>

Below is the Conference Committee Reports, which include the committee recommendations (motions voted on) and additional considerations. I was able to record the voting tallies because this year the electronic voting system was implemented. This made it easy to record the votes on each motion. YES, means in favor of the recommendation and NO means not in favor of the recommendation. Substantial Unanimity, that is 2/3 of the vote, is required for a motion to pass.

At the Day of Sharing I will be providing more details and there will be plenty of time made available for your questions.

The reports are in alphabetical order and last names have been removed except for the Class A, non-alcoholic, Trustees.

In Service,

Joe S.

Delegate, P67/A47 CNY

Conference Committee on Agenda  
Crowne Plaza Times Square  
April 23, 2018: 9 - 11:45 a.m.  
April 24, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on Agenda met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference on April 22, 2018. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda items:

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2019 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be: "Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages." **YES 124 NO 7**

B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2019 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2019 General Service Conference:

1. Yesterday's World – Our Legacies Begin
2. Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service
3. Tomorrow's World – Courage to be Vigilant

**YES 120 NO 16**

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2019 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the following be the workshop topic for the 2019 General Service Conference:

1. Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings. **YES 119 NO 3**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the 2018 General Service Conference Evaluation and noted that the evaluation is now available for delegates to fill out online.
- The committee reviewed the summary of the 2017 General Service Conference evaluations. Noting the low number of respondents, the committee reiterated the obligation that Conference members have to fill out the evaluation.
- The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, which included the

Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference 2016 Report on the Agenda Item Selection Process.

The committee noted that progress has been made on implementing the plan in the 2016 report. However, the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference forwarded a request to the General Service Board to continue to consider enhanced participation of area delegates in the process for selection of agenda items, and no action on this item was reported by the board.

The committee noted the 2016 report suggested that:

Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee could have a conference call with the corresponding trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee. This way, Conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees' committee, and could share regarding those items. This would allow all Conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed Agenda items. Their feedback could be brought to the trustees' committee meeting as background for the discussion.

The committee noted that this has not happened and requested that the trustees' committee chairs implement this conference call portion of the plan starting in January 2019.

- After reviewing the results of the survey of Conference committee chairs about the implementation of the 2016 plan, the committee requested that this sharing be gathered from the Conference committee chairs annually and provided to the Conference Committee on Agenda.
- The committee requested the trustees' committee create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.

Conference Committee on Archives  
Crowne Plaza Times Square  
April 25, 2018: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
April 26, 2018: Noon - 1 p.m.

The Conference Committee on Archives met separately following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives on April 25, 2018. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following agenda item:

- A. Review draft of proposed publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970*.

The committee recommended that the proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes. **YES 126 NO 7**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed a request from the AA Grapevine Board to post the audio recording of the 2017 General Service Conference presentation, “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña” on AA Grapevine’s YouTube channel and took no action for the following reasons:
  - The request is not in accord with the current 2015 Conference Advisory Action, which states, “Audio recordings of General Service Conference final reports and audio recordings of the trustees’ farewell talks given at the closing brunch be made available in accordance with Archives’ policies. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited.”
  - The presentation mentions names of A.A. members.
  - The committee recognizes that the AA Grapevine Board might consider presenting the material at an A.A. event, such as a Regional Forum and post the recording of this on the AA Grapevine Board’s YouTube channel.
  - The committee noted that the audience of General Service Conference presentations are Conference members only and that the focus is not the general public.
- The committee considered a request to develop a policy on distribution of audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations and took no action for similar reasons cited in the preceding committee consideration.
- The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and made the following suggestions:
  - In the sections, “What to Collect?”, “Financing the Archives” and “Ownership of Material,” add text in the appropriate sections that distinguishes archivists from historians and collectors. In addition, add text clarifying that archivists do not appraise items for monetary value and that archives generally do not purchase items. The committee suggested that this new text also be added to the “A.A. Archives” service piece.

Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community  
Crowne Plaza Times Square  
April 23, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon  
April 24, 2018: 8 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities on April 22, 2018. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional."

The committee recommended that text on page 9 of the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" which currently reads:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. In most instances, health care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.

Be revised to read:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. With no membership requirements beyond the desire to stop drinking, members are on an equal footing. What's important is getting the help that is needed, and in most instances, health care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program. **YES 132 NO 2**

The committee recommended that text on page 10 of the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" which currently reads:

A.A. is listed in most telephone directories or local newspapers, and a phone call is all that is needed for help.

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and in most telephone directories by looking for "Alcoholics Anonymous."

Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings nearby. **YES 127 NO 8**

- B. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous.”

The committee recommended that a new section be added beginning on page 16 of the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous,” between the sections “Why Would the Clergy be Concerned with A.A.?” and “Do Any of the Clergy Belong to A.A.?” with text as follows:

**What If You Are a Chaplain in the Military?**

Like other members of the clergy, military chaplains are often the “safest” people a problem drinker can approach. Chaplains can help direct alcoholics to available A.A. meetings, either on or near the base. Additionally, if no meetings are available, chaplains may be able to connect interested alcoholics with other A.A. materials, such as books and pamphlets or A.A.’s magazines, Grapevine and La Viña. Online meetings are also available for those members of the military who may be ~~deployed~~, and chaplains can help get them connected electronically through correspondence groups. (A.A.’s General Service Office can provide information on such resources.) **YES 132 NO 3**

- C. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...”

The committee recommended that text be added to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” on page four, first paragraph, to read (additions in **bold**):

Meetings: At the heart of the program are its meetings, which are conducted autonomously by A.A. groups in cities and towns throughout the world, **even in jails, institutions and on military bases.** **YES 132 NO 2**

The committee recommended that text be added to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” on page four, last section, to read (additions in **bold**):

Referrals From Judicial, Health Care, **Military**, or other Professionals

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from judicial, health care, **military** or other professionals. **YES 131 NO 1**

The committee recommended that text be added to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” in the last full paragraph on page 5, to read (additions in **bold**):

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 [aa.org](http://aa.org) can aid

in finding local resources. **Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are deployed in places where there are no meetings nearby. YES 132 NO 2**

D. Review the trustees' committee report regarding LinkedIn as a platform for reaching professionals.

The committee recommended that A.A. World Services, Inc. develop a company page on LinkedIn with the following goals in mind:

- To offer another digital resource, in addition to www.aa.org, where professionals can find accurate information about A.A.
- To broaden the reach of the About A.A. newsletter for professionals
- To offer a platform where our professional friends may recommend us
- To raise awareness of exhibits staffed by local C.P.C. committees at national and local professional conferences
- To expand the network of our professional friends and perhaps deepen the pool of Class A Trustee candidates
- By our presence on LinkedIn, to reinforce the continuing relevance and efficacy of A.A. to professionals **YES 125 NO 9**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee strongly suggested that those creating the LinkedIn company page consider adding some kind of disclaimer or explanation clarifying that A.A. is not affiliated with any of the organizations who appear in promoted content on the LinkedIn company page.
- The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities consult with health care professionals to determine if there are issues unique to problem drinkers in the military and military veterans, that would be helpful to cover in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for Health Care Professionals."
- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
  - That the updated sample guide letters replace the guide letters currently in the workbook, and that utilizing the guide letters be mentioned in the "Suggested C.P.C. Committee Goals and Projects" section of the workbook.
  - That the "Suggested C.P.C. Committee Goals and Projects" section of the workbook mention contacting military bases and veterans' facilities.

- That when listing professionals whom C.P.C. committees should approach in the workbook, that list should include professionals who come in contact with active members of the military and veterans whenever possible.
- That the text of the pamphlet “Let’s Be Friendly With Our Friends: Friends on the Alcoholism Front” which is currently reprinted in full in the C.P.C. workbook be removed from the workbook.
- That the Membership Survey and the display of the Membership Survey be encouraged for use in C.P.C. work.
- That we continue to look for opportunities to utilize Class A Trustees in C.P.C. work.

Conference Committee on Corrections  
 Crowne Plaza Times Square  
 April 23, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon  
 April 24, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on Corrections met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees’ Committee on Corrections on April 22, 2018. The committee accepted the report of the trustees’ committee and considered the following agenda items:

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the request to create a pamphlet for inmates who will be released after long-term incarceration and took no action. The committee suggested that correction service materials be revised for this purpose.
- The committee asked the trustees’ Committee on Corrections to update the service materials, “A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - For A.A.s on the Inside” and “A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - For A.A.s on the Outside” with excerpts from existing literature.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Corrections create a letter to corrections professionals to raise awareness about prerelease and Bridging the Gap volunteers.
- The committee noted the benefits of identifying facilities with incarcerated alcoholics to effectively present A.A. to the professionals who work in these settings. This effort could inform the local Fellowship of the need for outside volunteers. The committee suggests the trustees’ Committee on Corrections create a checklist for local committees to be included in the Corrections Kit.



- The committee noted that many correctional facilities have increased their security restrictions for paper materials and suggests the trustees' Committee on Corrections continue to work with the Publishing Department to insure access to A.A. materials for incarcerated alcoholics.
- The committee noted the progress made with producing dubbed versions of the video "A New Freedom" in Spanish and French and suggested adding this video to the Corrections Kit upon completion.
- The committee noted the progress made on the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) in Canada and looks forward to a progress report on this service at the 2019 General Service Conference.
- The committee noted the value of peer-to-peer communications between corrections professionals and looks forward to the creation of letters for use in Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) and Corrections Committees.
- The committee suggested that the links displayed in the video "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls" be updated.
- The committee suggested the trustees' Committee on Corrections discuss ways to utilize A.A. materials for incarcerated alcoholics at juvenile facilities.

Conference Committee on Finance  
 Crowne Plaza Times Square April  
 22, 2018: 3 - 5:00 p.m.  
 April 23, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon  
 April 24, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on Finance met separately three times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee on April 22, 2018. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda item:

A. The committee recommended that the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. **YES 118 NO 13**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed developing a method to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the General Service Board and felt that the consumer price index fluctuates by such small proportions that a change would be costly and not conducive to the Fellowship and took no action.

- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and made the following suggestions to the Publishing Department:
  - The pamphlets “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and “The A.A. Group Treasurer” be consistent in print and revision coding on the back.
  - Adding language regarding group level electronic contributions, passing the “virtual” basket, to the section Passing the Basket in the service piece “The A.A. Group Treasurer” and also be included in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and the Guidelines on Finance.
  - Update illustrative material on the Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet (F-203) to reflect current pamphlet covers and website.
  - Update birthday contribution envelopes per member per year statistics.
  
- The committee had a discussion on the topic of AA Grapevine and suggested the following:
  - That there be a greater online presence.
  - A fact sheet on the topic of Grapevine be included in the Self-Support Packet.
  - That the General Service Board make available issues of Grapevine for distribution purposes through G.S.O. staff assignments.
  
- The committee requested that when A.A.W.S. develops an A.A. app that self-support information be easily accessible. The committee also discussed having access to assignment folders containing literature relevant to the services.

Conference Committee on AA Grapevine  
 Crowne Plaza Times Square  
 April 23, 2018: 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 April 23, 2018: 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
 April 24, 2018: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine met jointly with the AA Grapevine Corporate Board on April 22, 2018, and received reports from the Board Chairperson and the executive editor/publisher. The Committee also met separately three times following the Joint Meeting and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Review report on 2004 Conference Advisory Action on Outside Sales that states: “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.’]”

1. The committee recommended that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. allow sales of Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available), and other products to non-AA entities, such as (but not limited to) hospitals, treatment centers and book stores. [NOTE: As a current practice, AA Grapevine, Inc. does not seek outside sales for magazine subscriptions.] **YES 120 NO 14**
2. The committee recommended that AA Grapevine, Inc. continue to seek opportunities to expand bulk sales. [NOTE: AA Grapevine, Inc. currently offers volume discounts and will respond to requests, rather than solicit sales from outside entities.] **YES 122 NO 9**
3. The committee recommended that AA Grapevine, Inc. provide notification to A.A. World Services’ list of non-A.A. entities to let them know that they can now purchase AA Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available) and other products. **YES 120 NO 13**

B. Reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action regarding La Viña.

The committee recommended that La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color. **YES 128 NO 7**

C. Review revised text of the pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meeting in Print.”

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” be approved and title changed to “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media.” **YES 104 NO 28**

#### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the 2018 Grapevine social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook, and Google for Nonprofits and suggests that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue to explore a social media strategy in their forthcoming strategic plan, taking into account issues regarding anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion.
- The committee reviewed the audio strategy report and thanked AA Grapevine Inc. for including it in their forthcoming strategic plan.
- The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that in the year 2019 or later Grapevine produce the following items:

1. Our Twelve Steps II (working title)  
Stories of experience by members about our Twelve Steps (our last Step book was in 2011).
2. All About Grapevine Reps (working title)  
Helpful and inspiring stories by A.A. members doing service with Grapevine and La Viña.
3. Prayer & Meditation (working title)  
A collection of stories by A.A. members about the many ways they practice Step Eleven.
4. A.A. & Families (working title)  
Stories by A.A. members that illustrate the many ways alcoholism and A.A. has touched our families.
5. Hispanic Members Doing Service in A.A. (working title)  
A collection of stories published in La Viña magazine by members getting sober and active, doing service and carrying the A.A. message.

- The committee reviewed the Grapevine Workbook and suggests that it undergo a comprehensive review and revision, and AA Grapevine, Inc. bring back a progress report to the 2019 Conference Committee on AA Grapevine.
- The committee discussed ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Viña and suggested that all current and past delegates consider it a part of their responsibility to inform the Fellowship about Grapevine and La Viña as tools of sobriety, either through their own efforts or by recruiting others through email and area websites.

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums  
Crowne Plaza Times Square  
April 25, 2018: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums met jointly with the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Selection of cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2030.

The committee recommended that the following two cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2030:

Indianapolis, Indiana  
St. Louis, Missouri

**YES 125 NO 7**

- B. Inviting up to 21 non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2020 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

The committee recommended that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2020 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. **YES 131 NO 3**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums review the Guidelines for Site Selection for the 2035 A.A. International Convention and explore expanding the window of dates in which the 2035 International Convention could be held.
- The committee noted that including forum attendee questionnaire summaries provided helpful information for discussions and suggested that they continue to be a part of the background for the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.
- The committee discussed ways of encouraging interest in Regional and Local Forums and attracting first time attendees and suggested:
  - Compiling notes from the first-timer sharing at a Forum for later distribution to encourage members to attend a future Forum.
  - Reaching out at the local level to young people in A.A. committees, continuing with one-to-one communication and spreading the word as far as possible.
  - Exploring sending Forum informational text blasts to members receiving La Viña text messages.
  - Highlighting that Forums have no registration fee which might appeal to newer members to explore service at this level.

Conference Committee on Literature  
Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan  
April 22, 2018: 4:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.  
April 23, 2018: 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
April 24, 2018: 8 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

The Conference Committee on Literature met separately three times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Literature on April 22, 2018. The committee accepted the revised report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Review draft revision of pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman.”

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.,” be approved.

**YES 122 NO 8**

- B. Review draft revision of pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.”

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,” be approved. **Amended: “Be approved with authority being given to publishing to make minor edits regarding use of gender specific language.” YES 120 NO 12**

- C. Review draft revision of pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services.”

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services” be approved. **YES 125 NO 2**

- D. Review draft pamphlet “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Those Who Sponsor Them.”

The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and ~~those who sponsor them~~ **their sponsors**” be approved. **YES 125 NO 9**

- E. Consider proposed revisions to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

The committee recommended adding an appendix to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress. **YES 57 NO 79 – DID NOT PASS**

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop text for an endnote to be placed at the end of the chapter “Working with Others” in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* which would reflect contemporary shared experience regarding twelve-step calls and working with new prospects, as well as include helpful resources (i.e., the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” and the service material “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare”) and bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **YES 68 NO 59 – (SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY = 85 – DID NOT PASS)**

- F. Consider request to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to include a section on

anonymity, and to bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **YES 127 NO 5**

- G. Consider request to change the subtitle of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.”

The committee recommended the title of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.” be changed to “G.S.R. General Service Representative: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”

**YES 120 NO 11**

- H. Consider request for revision to *Living Sober*.

The committee recommended that following text (originally included in the 1998 edition of *Living Sober*) be added to *Living Sober* following the section titled *Note to Medical Professionals*:

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some, it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson’s advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that “A.A. is against pills.”

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become readdicted to any drug, it’s equally

wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems. **YES 110 NO 25**

- I. Consider request to update the video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive update to the video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure,” to reflect a modernized presentation of the General Service and the A.A. Grapevine offices as well as a contemporary portrayal of the General Service Structure; and bring back a progress report or draft revised video to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **YES 129 NO 6**

- J. Consider request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish “The God Word” (a pamphlet currently published by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain).

The committee recommended that the pamphlet “The God Word” (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes. **YES 122 NO 13**

- K. Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet based upon A.A.’s Three Legacies.

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop a pamphlet based upon A.A.’s Three Legacies with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together, and including personal stories of members’ experiences with the Three Legacies; and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **YES 89 NO 44 – (SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY = 89 = MOTION PASSES)**

- L. Consider request for the development of a new book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

The committee recommended the trustees’ Literature Committee develop a new book, combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and bring back a progress report or draft manuscript to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **YES 63 NO 71 MOTION DID NOT PASS**

- M. Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics by gathering sharing from



Spanish-speaking women in A.A., and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature. **YES 124 NO 8**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and took no action. The committee noted that the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement are adequately noted in other A.A. literature.
- The committee considered a request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* acknowledging co-founder, Bob S., and took no action. The committee noted that acknowledgement of Bob S. ("Dr. Bob") as cofounder is currently mentioned in two separate places in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- The committee considered a request for the development of a new pamphlet for atheist and agnostic alcoholics and took no action. The committee agreed the recommendation that A.A.W.S. adopt/adapt the pamphlet "The God Word" responded to the need expressed by atheist and agnostic members of A.A.
- The committee requested that G.S.O. Publishing Department add AA Grapevine literature to the list of A.A. Publications noted on the back page of A.A. literature, as additional resources, when appropriate. For example, the AA Grapevine publication *Voices of Women in A.A.* could be added to the list of publications in the pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: Women and A.A." and AA Grapevine publication *Sober and Out* could be listed in the pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A." and *In Our Own Words* could be included as a resource in the pamphlet "Young People and A.A."
- The committee reviewed the trustees' Literature Committee report on "Language Related to Safety in A.A. Literature." The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee develop text regarding safety in A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and bring back the draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed draft text for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or revised draft pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet "Too Young?" The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft revised pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees' Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." The committee looks

forward to reviewing a progress report or draft revised pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

- The committee accepted the 2017 matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions  
Crowne Plaza Times Square April 21, 2018: 3 -3:50 p.m.  
April 22, 2018: 3 - 5:30 p.m.  
April 23, 2018: 9 - 11:15 a.m.  
April 24, 2018: 9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions met four times and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Approve request for one observer from A.A. in India to attend the 2018 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that Valley Kalaiyappa, general secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India be admitted to the 68th General Service Conference as an observer. **YES 130 NO 0**

- B. Review draft process for polling the General Service Conference between annual Conference meetings.

The committee recommended that the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings” be approved. **YES 100 NO 30**

- C. The committee recommended that two consultants, Andrea Pellegrino and Chris DeSantis, from the firm Impact Collaborative be admitted to the 68th General Service Conference on Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27, 2018 as observers. [Note: This was a special request from the chair of the General Service Board for approval of two representatives from the firm Impact Collaborative contracted to conduct a communications audit initiated by the General Service Board.] **YES 110 NO 22**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted the dates April 25-May 1, 2021 for the 71st General Service Conference since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.
- The committee reviewed the report from G.S.O.’s general manager on site selection of the General Service Conference. The committee looks forward to a progress report for review by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

- The committee reviewed the trustees' General Service Conference Committee's Report on Equitable Distribution of the Workload of Conference Committees. The committee encourages the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to continue reviewing options in order to create a workable plan for equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees. The committee looks forward to a plan or progress report on this important process for review by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.
- The committee discussed the request to develop a policy on the use of the Conference dashboard and suggested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference develop an information sheet that reflects shared experience and guidance on usage of the Conference dashboard.
- The committee discussed the question forwarded from the trustees' International Committee: "Does the U.S./Canada [service structure] have a role/responsibility in assisting the development of A.A. structures around the world through sponsoring other countries via direct invitations to observe our General Service Conference?" While wishing to remain open to requests from other country's boards/G.S.O.s, the committee agreed that the U.S./Canada service structure does not have a role/responsibility in assisting other countries *via direct invitations* to observe our General Service Conference rather than at their own request.

Conference Committee on Public  
Information Crowne Plaza Times  
Square April 22, 2018: 4 - 5:30 p.m.  
April 23, 2018: 8 a.m. - Noon  
April 24, 2018: 8 - 11:15 a.m.

The Conference Committee on Public Information met separately three times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Public Information Committee on April 22, 2018. The Committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee, and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Consider approving the proposed video public service announcement (PSA) "Changes."

The committee recommended that the video PSA "Changes" be approved with the following revision: That the line "That's where A.A. came to my rescue" be replaced with "A.A. offered a solution." **YES 124 NO 7**

The committee recommended that in addition to the work of local committees, the video PSA, "Changes" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 and that the information gathered from the

process be forwarded to the 2019 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

**YES 131 NO 1**

- B. Consider approving a Young People's Video submission.

The committee recommended that the Young People's Video submission be approved. **YES 115 NO 19**

- C. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" that expands content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve and adds information related to safety in A.A.

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," with expand content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve, be approved. **YES 122 NO 6**

The committee recommended that the trustees' Committee on Public Information develop language reflecting that A.A.'s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and that calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. A progress report or draft language is requested to be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information. **YES 125 NO 9**

- D. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" that updates language, contact information and information on the prevalence and severity of alcoholism and add information related to safety in A.A.

The committee recommended that the updated pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved. **YES 124 NO 10**

- E. Review a progress report on the A.A.W.S. Google for Nonprofit YouTube channel.

The committee recommended that a progress report including website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information. **YES 121 NO 9**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2017 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2018 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan and noted the importance of the trustees' continued exploration of social media and social network platforms to carry the A.A. message to the public.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2017 report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding the usefulness and relevance of video public service announcements.
- The committee reviewed the 2017 trustees' Public Information Committee Report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the A.A. message and requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information continue to develop information on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants including information on the cost of implementing a six month trial and the cost of a full year's implementation and that a progress report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed the contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook, and suggested that the information in the P.I. Workbook in the section Approaching Local Broadcast Facilities be updated to reflect changes in how G.S.O. delivers public service announcements.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter  
 Crowne Plaza Times Square  
 April 22, 2018: 3 - 5:45 p.m.  
 April 23, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon  
 April 24, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on Report and Charter met three times and considered the following Agenda items:

A. *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2018-2020 Edition:*

1. Consider adding "Panel" to the *Glossary of Service Terms*.

The committee recommended that the following text be added to the *Glossary of Service Terms*:

A panel is a numerical designation that refers to a group of delegates elected to begin serving at the General Service Conference in a particular year. Each panel is numbered for the Conference at which the Area's delegate will first serve. The twoyear cycle frequently applies to area committee officers and committee members, as well. **YES 122 NO 6**

2. Consider adding on page S75, above the section A.A. World Services, Inc., charts or text boxes that visually display the member positions on each of the three corporate boards.

The committee recommended that text boxes that visually display the member positions on each of the three corporate boards be added to Chapter Ten in the section on A.A. World Services, Inc. **YES 127 NO 3**

3. The committee reviewed revisions from the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The committee recommended that in the section, "AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD," in the *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, a footnote be added to the portion of the Resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter with the following text:

\*Bill uses the term "registered." A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications.

**YES 124 NO 6**

4. The committee reviewed editorial updates from the G.S.O. Publishing Department.

The committee recommended that text be added to the section "Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights" reflecting the A.A.W.S. copyright statement on "The Blue People" graphic. **YES 128 NO 4**

5. Consider developing a plan with a revised editorial review process.

The committee recommended that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the AA Grapevine Board review *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter biennially, only in printing years. **YES 126 NO 6**

The committee recommended that following publication of the 2018-2020 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. **YES 115 NO 15**

- B. Consider request that any Conference Committee Additional Committee Considerations be published in their entirety including any statements in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.
1. The committee recommended that any Additional Committee Considerations be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version. **YES 124 NO 5**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- 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, 2018-2020 Edition* and the 2018 General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and accepted the updates.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the 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 and the Grapevine Board.
- The committee considered a request to add text to *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding standing committees from “The A.A. Group” pamphlet and took no action. The committee suggested that the Publishing Department consider adding more language regarding local service committees in possible future service manual rewrites.
- The committee considered a request for changes to Chapters 2, 3, and 5 in *The A.A. Service Manual* and took no action. The committee suggested that if an extensive rewrite of the chapters is undertaken, the Publishing Department review these chapters for possible future editions of the manual.
- The committee considered a request to remove the statement from the section “Area Newsletters” in *The A.A. Service Manual*, “Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other A.A. material” and took no action. The committee noted that the statement as it stands is informative to those with questions concerning the circle and triangle.
- The committee considered a request to update the “Third Legacy Procedure” chart on page S22 in *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested that the chart would be updated to correct inconsistencies.
- The committee reviewed a Publishing report with suggestions on how changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* could be made available to the Fellowship in non-printing years

and took no action. The committee noted that substantive changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* can be found in the *Final Conference Report* and the Report and Charter Conference Committee's History and Highlights of Actions.

- The committee discussed the A.A. Directories and noted there were no requests for changes at this time. The committee also reviewed a memo from the G.S.O. General Manager informing the committee that the A.A. Directories, Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S. would not be printed in 2018 due to the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system.

Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

Crowne Plaza Times Square

Monday, April 23, 2018: 9 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Tuesday, April 24, 2018: 8 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities met separately two times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities on Sunday, April 22, 2018. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda items:

- A. Review proposed revisions to the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics."

The committee recommended that the title of the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" be changed to "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers."

**YES 117 NO 16**

The committee recommended that the proposed changes by the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities to the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" be approved with additional revisions.

**YES 125 NO 5**

- B. Discuss ways that remote communities concerns might be addressed by the Conference.

The committee recommended that the Scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities, be expanded as follows (additions in **bold**):

The purpose of a Treatment and Accessibilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the treatment setting to the A.A. **Fellowship. In addition, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups serving those who experience barriers to accessing the A.A. message and participating in A.A.'s three legacies – Recovery, Unity, and Service. Finally, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups striving to**



**ensure that A.A. members who live in underserved or remote communities — communities difficult to reach because of geography, language or culture — have access to the A.A. message.**

The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in non-correctional in-patient and out-patient treatment settings, as well as to **A.A.s who experience access barriers**, and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements. **YES 124 NO 11**

#### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee requested that the staff secretary forward suggested further revisions to the pamphlet “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” to the Publishing Department for consideration.
- The committee reviewed the report “Cooperation with Armed Services Exploration Strategies” from the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities and suggested the following:
  - Review existing literature and service material with a military focus to expand on the topic of accessibilities.
  - Consider including in existing A.A. literature shared experience from members on active duty as well as veterans.
  - Consider creating A.A. guidelines with a focus on carrying the message to those in the Armed Services.
  - Consider whether creating a PSA as a method of carrying the message to those in the Armed Services would be effective.
  - Consider the need for a national veteran’s workshop.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities focus on carrying the message to veterans in VA facilities, active service members stationed in local military facilities in the U.S. and Canada, and active military personnel who are deployed outside the U.S. and Canada.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities consider producing a Remote Communities Kit and Workbook.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities review literature and service material to determine if experience related to carrying the message for underserved and remote communities is included.

- The committee reviewed the summary of sharing from A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing from the trustees' committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community /Treatment and Accessibilities and suggested the following:
  - Continue exploring ways to meet the needs of A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.
  - Request shared experience from A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing regarding the types of technology used for participation in A.A.
  - Review the A.A. website to determine if it is accessible to A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.
  - Request shared experience from groups about the ways they are lowering access barriers in carrying the message to A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and include sharing in existing literature and service material.
  - Suggest the AA Grapevine develop a book that includes shared experience from A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and are overcoming access barriers.
- The committee suggested that a service piece be developed to help new committee chairs in getting started in Treatment and Accessibilities service.

Conference Committee on Trustees  
 Crowne Plaza Times Square  
 April 23, 2018: 9 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.  
 April 23, 2018: 5:30 - 7 p.m.  
 April 23, 2018: 8:45 - 9:30 p.m.  
 April 24, 2018: 9 a.m. - Noon

The Conference Committee on Trustees met separately four times following the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Committee on Nominating on April 22, 2018. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following Agenda items:

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

The committee recommended the following slate of trustees of the General Service Board for election at the annual meetings of the members of the General Service Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Services Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A (Non-Alcoholic) Trustees

Leslie S Backus., B.A.  
 Hon. Christine Carpenter  
 Michele Grinberg., J.D.

Class B Trustees

Thomas A.  
 Cathy B.  
 Carole B.

Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle  
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C  
Nancy McCarthy  
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Beau B.  
Mark E.  
Yolanda F.  
Kathryn F.  
Scott H.  
Jan L.  
David N.  
Newton P.  
Richard P.  
Ginger R.-B.  
Cate W.

**YES 121 NO 12**

The committee recommended the following slate of officers of the General Service Board for election at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Services Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson	Michele Grinberg, J.D.
First Vice-Chairperson	Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Second Vice-Chairperson	Carole B.
Treasurer	David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Secretary	Thomas A.
Assistant Treasurer	Bob S.
Assistant Secretary	Eva S.*

\*Will be replaced at G.S.O. rotation in 2018.

**YES 127 NO 9**

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

The committee reviewed and recommended the following slate of Directors for election at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Services Conference for disapproval if any:

Tom A.	David N.
Deborah A.	Eva S.*
Cathy B.	Greg T.
Beau B.	Carolyn W.
Homer M.	

\*Will be replaced at G.S.O. rotation in 2018.

**YES 125 NO 5**

C. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

The committee recommended the following slate of directors for election at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Services Conference for disapproval if any:

Carole B.  
Ami B.  
Josh E.  
Mark E.  
Ino F.

Tommi H.  
Nancy McCarthy  
Ginger R.B.  
Cate W.

**YES 128 NO 4**

D. Review report on the regional geographic service structure.

The committee recommended that in the spirit of A.A. parity the process for election of the trustee-at-large/U.S. be revised so that the number of delegates voting from each region be equal to the number of delegates in the smallest region, and that the voting delegates in each region be drawn by lot.

**YES 47 NO 83**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for Eastern Canada regional trustee and Pacific regional trustee.
- The committee thoughtfully reviewed a proposal to censure the General Service Board and after seeking extensive additional input from the general manager of G.S.O., the chair of the General Service Board, and additional General Service Board trustees, agreed to take no action. The committee recognized that the litigation regarding the Printer's Copy Manuscript at Alcoholics Anonymous has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue. The committee believes that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also recognizes that the General Service Board and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board have many legal responsibilities and must sometimes make use of the right of decision, but in the spirit of A.A. unity, the committee asks the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. that:
  - All major decisions made by A.A. World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., the General Service Office or AA Grapevine management be promptly and fully reported to the General Service Board, as appropriate.
  - If the General Service Board, the A.A. World Services or AA Grapevine boards need to initiate a legal proceeding as a plaintiff, that whenever possible, they will consult the members of the General Service Conference before starting such a

proceeding, being ever mindful of A.A. unity and A.A.'s financial prudence. However, the committee understands that sometimes this might not be possible.

The committee recognizes that the General Service Board, A.A. World Services Inc., and AA Grapevine, Inc. could be brought into litigation by other parties and in no way wants to limit their actions required to protect these corporations.

- The committee reviewed a proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S. and General Service Boards and took no action. The committee noted that although a reorganization was not considered necessary at this time, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating develop procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine boards and that a report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees, including all possible options.
- The committee expressed their appreciation for the report on the regional geographic service structure from the trustees' Committee on Nominating and the suggestion that the General Service Board discuss a possible survey of past and current regional trustees regarding their workload and ability to fulfill all their responsibilities. The committee expressed their hope that every option will be considered to allow as many A.A. members as possible the opportunity to serve on the General Service Board.

#### Floor Action #1:

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" be revised to be more inclusive, to apply to both Treatment and Corrections or possibly any alcoholic leaving any institution into the real world. **DECLINE TO CONSIDER: YES 96 NO 39 (SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY = 90)**

#### Floor Action #2:

It was recommended that:

The text on page 18 of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" that currently reads:

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

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most  
telephone directories by looking for "Alcoholics Anonymous." Additionally,

online meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there is no meeting nearby.

**YES 129 NO 3**

Floor Action #3:

It was recommended that:

The General Service Board be censured. **DECLINE TO CONSIDER: YES 96 NO 27**

Floor Action #4:

It was recommended that:

Area Service Highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version. **YES 109 NO 24**

Floor Action #5:

It was recommended that:

The 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference lovingly advises the A.A.W.S. Board, Grapevine Board and General Service Board to refrain from the practice of litigation for the purpose of acquiring property not previously under the direct control of A.A. **DECLINE TO CONSIDER: YES 103 NO 27**

Floor Action #6:

It was recommended that:

The General Service Conference affirm the delegated authority of the General Service Board and operating corporations to protect the intellectual property of Alcoholics Anonymous. **YES 11 NO 117**

Floor Action #7:

It was recommended that:

The informational piece being created by the trustees' Committee on the Conference pertaining to the Conference dashboard include excerpts on How a Group Conscience is Obtained to reflect the integrity and collective conscience of the registered A.A. groups, including registered online groups. **DECLINE TO CONSIDER: YES 94 NO 34**