

March 12th, 2011

Iron River, WI

2011 Delegates Workshop Agenda Items

Opening remarks

Role Call of Area Committee Members:

- Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary/Registrar, Treasurer.
- Area Chairs: Archive, Corrections WI, CPC, Finance, Literature, Treatment, Newsletter, PI, and Grapevine.
- District DCM's: 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 08, 09, 10, 13, 14, 18, 22 & 24 were all present.

I. Agenda

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2012 General Service Conference. B.

1. Inventory – Living up to AA Principles.
2. Service – The Heartbeat of AA.
3. Anonymity is the Spiritual Foundation.

B. Presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference

1. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2012 G.S.C.

- a. Living up to our Steps, Traditions and Concepts (Three Legacies)
- b. Getting others interested in Service.
- c. Anonymity in Digital Media.

2. Consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics planned for the 2012 General Service Conference.

It would be beneficial to reduce the number of topics to present a clearer vision of support of the Conference theme. It would also allow for the delegates to focus on addressing the conference items.

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference.

1. Inventory of Group, District , Area and Conference
2. Service: Communication through the service structure.
3. Anonymity in the Digital Age (Group, District and Area levels.

D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

Reviewed – no changes recommended.

E. Consider a request that the trustees' Conference Committee meet annually with the Conference Committee on Agenda and the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions to address matters concerning the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy.

Yes.

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

A. Discuss the concept of a compilation DVD of C.P.C. literature.

Yes, Discuss Concept – Thoughtful consideration must follow this topic.

B. Discuss a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.

We do not believe the letter is necessary.

C. Review a draft service piece regarding use of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in C.P.C. endeavors.

We do not believe the service piece is necessary.

D. C.P.C. Kit and Workbook

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

Yes – Reviewed.

2. List of goals and project suggestions for C.P.C. committees.

“Goals and Suggestions” already in Kt and Workbook – just not labeled as such.

3. Sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals.

Current service piece “For Volunteers Staffing an AA Exhibit”

4. Sample guide letter for healthcare professional school administrators.

Sample adds to six existing letters in workbook. One general “guide” letter could suffice.

III. Corrections

A. Review progress report from trustees’ Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”

Without a copy of the actual draft revision, committee’s progress seems good in theory.

2010 Consideration of photos:

Fellowship – Handshake – fine/ don’t like posyuring of using interracial aspect.

Meeting – Don’t like cropping of face/ would prefer a different angle (back or side)
To avoid shoving face.

Literature - Picture fine as suggested. Remember the Grapevine is secondary, Should use in the background if used,

Service – Sounds good.

Sponsorship - Would prefer to see a pen/coffee/Big Book/ (from above). Inmate with sponsor – could be two men sitting in chairs leaning towards each other.

Pre-release / Pre re-entry.

Don’t like frothy emotional appeal of sunrise or standing in a door/ difficult to depict in a photo – we don’t find this issue necessary.

- B. Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities," including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.

Yes, add references to Big Book. We think "leader" should read "chairperson" : 12 Steps and 12 Traditions should always be listed after Big Book (It is a supplement): Use the word "recordings" in place of "cassette tapes"

- C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Suggest pamphlet "AA @ a Glance" be included. Also preamble, Twelve steps and traditions.

IV. Finance

- A. Review update from trustees' Finance Committee on gathering personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about self-support.

Why did this go through Box 459 instead of the service structure?

Why so few responses? 13 total (Lack of communication or lack of interest?)

If there are more responses, where are the statistics.

- B. Consider two alternative suggestions of ways to revise the pamphlet F-3 "Self-Support: Where Money and Spiritually Mix" forwarded from the trustees' Finance Committee.

There was missing background material (last year Area 74 recommended a pamphlet with an empty pie chart. It was turned down by the conference>) That was not in the background material.

We recommend Alternative 2 because it as an empty pie chart in it. Groups have the right to choose how they distribute their contributions

- C. Consider a request “that the trustees’ Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook, a draft of which is to be made available for the 2012 General Service Conference, to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition.”

Work book would be a new publication – Has cost been projected or considered? The information is already available in pamphlets so we saw no need for this.. Is this the first time

This has been brought up? Yes.

- D. Consider a request “that the trustees’ Finance Committee convert Self-Support packet F-19 to a comprehensive Finance Kit.”

We are not in favor of this. We felt that the yellow folder FV-19, that already exists is working.

- E. Discuss the list forwarded from the 2010 Conference Finance Committee for additional ways to communicate about self-support:

1. Birthday Plan

Already in effect

2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet

None of knew of this pamphlet.

3. Box 4-5-9 or Grapevine Articles

Not in favor

4. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit

Not in favor

5. Report Costs of Services to Members

6. Discuss Effects of Inflation

7. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web site
Not in favor

V. Grapevine

- A. A. Consider that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies such as but not limited to smart phones, tablets, e-reader, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products.

- a. This violates Traditions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12. We are not in favor of this item.
- b. If we only handled the distribution of the digital format and no one outside of Grapevine – magazine, book and products – then more in favor.

- B. Consider permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund.

Violates tradition 7, statement of purpose.

- C. Review request for a discussion on how to best support the Grapevine magazine.

Be mindful of the results from the 2010 survey.

- D. Consider collections of Grapevine stories for possible publication in the year 2012 or later.

Wait to see the results of the printing of the books we ok'd last year.

- E. Review and discuss the results of the surveys conducted per the 2010 Advisory Action.

Pay attention to discontinued reasons.

Very favorable – self-support – 5:1 in in favor of self support pricing – work within their means.

We ask for a plan of action brought to the conference using the results from the survey.

- F. Review revisions to “The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” pamphlet.

Ok – in favor of the changes

G. Review contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook.

VI. Literature

A. Review the revised draft pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs."

The general idea of experience, strength and hope of this pamphlet and the direction of addressing this issue is a good one, but without the actual revision available for review, we cannot make a decisive opinion.

B. Review progress report from the trustee's Literature Committee on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

We do feel the General Service Conference has overstepped its bounds by begging to create literature that a small specific population has requested. We need to be reminded that the guiding forces ensuring the fellowship of AA are unity and one ultimate authority, a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience.

C. Review progress report from the trustee's Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services."

We agree with the progress of the revision, as per title, we agreed on title. We think the review and creation should stop, because existing conference approved literature including the Big Book already includes such views.

D. Review draft revisions to the Living Sober booklet.

In general we were satisfied with suggested changes, however we feel that since the contents are geared to the newcomer. There should be more than one casual reference made to the steps. This pamphlet does not direct newcomers to the program of action.

E. Consider suggestion to replace the text under "When you're a G.S.R." in the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative."

Yes, consider suggestion, but would like it to occur before next time pamphlet goes to press to avoid destroying or waste of current literature to make this change.

- F. Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-support or “green card” to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool.

We don't do promotion in AA. It's a waste of money.

- G. Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.”

Please consider to reconsider as per the background information presented by the Mount Rainier AA Group.

- H. Consider a request to include the A.A. Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book.

We don't have a strong feeling on way or the other, being that it is in the book already. If it is to be included in the Grapevine format, we would see it best in among the appendices.

- I. Consider a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office.

Unnecessary – we already have the pamphlet “AA GSO and Service manual.

VII. Policy and Admissions

- A. Approve admission to the 2011 General Service Conference of Ron Foor, alternate delegate, Area 22, Northern Indiana, in place of Donald Sheets, the Panel 61 delegate for Are

Approve

- B. Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Peru to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

Approve

- C. Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Great Britain to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers.

Approve

C. Discuss request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference agenda items.

New agenda items/ completed Conference Agenda Items – only no-executive items.

E. Consider the comprehensive plan and estimated cost from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee for the General Service Conference to conduct a thorough inventory of itself.

Consider condensing questions and hold over one Conference. Save the other questions for future Inventory. Conference Save other questions to the “Conference” only – not Fellowship as a whole.

F. Review dates for the 2014 General Service Conference.

1st Choice

G. Discuss request that a formal relationship be developed between the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and the trustees’ Conference Committee to address matters of policy relating to the Conference.

Yes

H. Consider suggestion that the Conference Committee on Archives meet outside of the time allotted for their joint committee meeting with the trustees’ Committee on Archives.

Yes

I. Review report from the General Service Board regarding Concept V Appeal to the General Service Conference.

No

VIII. Public Information

A. Consider 2010 annual Web site report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.

1. Groups and gatherings are increasing enthusiasm for the adding literature sales, meetings lists and e-books to GSO’s website. Discussions continue.
2. Interoffice Website Committee webmaster will access the feasibility of adding digital editions of Box 459 and making them searchable.

- B. Consider that the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey.

Split over having it at all. Everyone agreed if we're going to do it, we should gather a greater sample. Suggest change 'our' to 'the' in letter.

- C. Consider approval of the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates."

Reread: General Service Inc., should produce now new public information material unless:

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

1. Review current television P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

Nobody thought they were outdated, useless or irrelevant.

2. Consider production of new television P.S.A.s.

No

- D. Consider revisions to "Understanding Anonymity" which include text on the topic of anonymity in the digital age and answers the question "What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?"

No background material.

- F. Consider revisions to "The A.A. Fact File."

Not included

- G. Consider a revision to "A.A. at a Glance."

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

Reviewed – no changes recommended.

IX. Report and Charter

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2011-2012 Edition:

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

Report and Charter shouldn't have received this directive from AAWS. AAWS shall submit to Agenda.

2. Review draft of description on trustees emeriti.

Same as above.

3. Review list of editorial updates.

Same as above.

4. Review revised text forwarded from the 2010 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding the nominating procedure listed as #2 on page S67.

Accept changing Trustee verbiage to "same person" . on two changes S65 and S67.

5. Consider request to change the phrase "new kid on the block" to "a first year delegate" on page S52 under Personal Experience in section "Preparing for the Conference."

Yes.

6. Consider suggestion to revise the text on "inactive service workers" on page S37 in Chapter Four to reflect that the appropriate local entity is responsible for addressing inactive G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s and add similar text to Chapters One and Three.

Yes. Each entity has autonomy on this. Follow the flow of the service structure.

7. Consider request to review and update the section "What Goes On at the Conference" on page S55.

Agree to accurately reflect the conference: Add : after.) Delegates only meetings shall convene Wednesday evening.

B. Conference Charter:

1. Consider request to recommend adding “the right of Petition and Appeal” to the Conference Charter as found in The A.A. Service Manual.

Reconsider this after resolution of # 2

2. Consider request to “address and remedy the inconsistencies between the Current [Conference] Charter and the Original [Conference] Charter” as found in The A.A. Service Manual.

Yes rebuild the original charter.

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

D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

X. Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

A. Review draft recovery pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs.

We did not have a draft pamphlet. Because of copyright issues it is not released yet. So we reviewed the background materials. We discussed the financials vs. carrying the message with identification pamphlets.

Note: This committee did not support this pamphlet last year.

B. Discuss report from the trustees’ Committee regarding changing “Treatment Facilities” Committee to “Treatment” Committee in committee titles and in A.A. literature.

Result – AA Jargon. People in the Fellowship ‘get it’ – matter of linguistics – left with a neutral opinion.

The result will affect us more than the newcomer

C. Consider removing line of dialog from video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.”

3 were for removing the line – reason:

- a. “the word Uncle Sam”
- b. International fellowship line should be inclusive.
- c. Slang

3 were for keeping the line – reason:

- a. It's been there since 1990.
 - b. No opinion
 - c. Culture keeps changing – are we going to keep changing words to keep up?
- C. Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook.
- E. Review contents of Special Needs Kit and Workbook

XI. Trustees

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. Northeast Regional Trustee

Reviewed

2. Southwest Regional Trustee

Reviewed

3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada

Reviewed

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

Okay

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

Okay

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

Pay close

XII. Archives

A. Review Workbook.

We recommend approving proposed changes as follows:

1. They improve the sequence and clarity of information presented.
2. Provide more information as to establishing local archives.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

A. Discuss report on the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

We discussed – it grew from the last convention

- Budget and planning was excellent.
- Work on issues identified especially special needs.

B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums and how areas communicate about upcoming Forums in their region.

Delegates speak more about it. Discussion topics about why and what a Regional Forum is.