

April 2016

NOTE: These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 66th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 66th General Service Conference:

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and A.A. Grapevine budgets with the pre-Conference material for all future Conferences.
2. The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda Review and Selection Process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference.
3. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate Conference background material, considering all possible methods, with a progress report to be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions that describes the process and costs.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2017 General Service Conference be: "Supporting Our Future."
5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2017 General Service Conference:
 - a. Growth:
 1. Diversity -- Outreach and Attraction
 2. Safety – An Important Consideration
 3. Communication – Today and Tomorrow

b. Participation:

1. Fellowship vs. Membership
2. Leadership: "I am Responsible..."
3. Is Your Voice Heard?

c. Contributions:

1. Spirituality and Money
 2. Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations
 3. Apathy and Power of the Purse
6. The Conference Agenda Committee review the summary of the previous year's Conference evaluations and, where appropriate, make suggestions for improvement to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
7. The General Service Office post to the Conference dashboard, and regularly update information concerning the status of all proposed Conference agenda items.

Archives¹

No recommendations.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. A new section on A.A. and medications be added to the pamphlet "If You are a Professional..." with the following text:

A.A. Members and Medications

A.A. does not provide medical advice; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified health care professional. The suggestions provided in the pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" may help A.A. members minimize the risk of relapse.

9. Text be added to the last paragraph of the first page of the pamphlet "Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" to read (additions in **bold**):

A.A. can help organizations, **corporations and businesses, regardless of size**, contact men and women who have achieved sobriety, and are willing to share their experience freely with anyone who seeks help.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

10. Several minor revisions to the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals” be approved.
11. An introductory paragraph for professionals be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” addressing the notion that while some language in the 1958 pamphlet is dated, the issues are prevalent today, and asked that a draft introductory paragraph be brought back to the 2017 Conference Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee for review.

Corrections

It was recommended that:

12. The video to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” with the title “A New Freedom” be approved.

Finance

No recommendations.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

13. The delegate chair for the Grapevine Conference Committee be allowed the same participation at the January A.A. Grapevine Board Meeting as all other delegate chairs at their corresponding trustees’ committees.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

Literature

It was recommended that:

14. The trustees’ Literature Committee develop a plan that includes a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items, taking into consideration the following: content, relevance, and usefulness; and prioritized by time span since last review. The committee requested that the plan also include an annual report, to be forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee, reflecting the results of their review and any other items for proposed updates or revisions.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

15. The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to include information about young people's conferences and that the proposed text be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee for review.
16. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.
17. The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

18. Mykhailo Araslanov, past World Service Meeting delegate, and Yury Tarnavskyj from Ukraine be admitted to the 66th General Service Conference as observers.
19. Implementation of Phase 1 of the Conference Translation Project to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French, as described in the 2015 Advisory Action, continue with an estimated cost of \$50,000 - \$100,000.
20. The 69th General Service Conference be held April 28-May 4, 2019 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

21. A proposal for implementing a Google-for-Non-Profits account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for review.
22. A proposal for the implementation of a Twitter account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for review.
23. The English- and French-language versions of the video public service announcement "Tengo Esperanza," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to distribution by local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

24. The video public service announcement “I Thought” be discontinued.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

25. A new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, after the “Regional Forums” section with the following text:

Local Forums

In October 2006, the concept of Local Forums was approved by the General Service Board. The purpose of Local Forums is to bring Forum information to A.A. members in remote, sparsely populated areas, urban neighborhoods or underserved A.A. communities. Any A.A. community or service entity may request a one-and-a-half or two day Local Forum. Unlike Regional Forums, the responsibility for Forum expenses such as meeting room rental and miscellaneous expenses are assumed by the Local Forum Committee. The General Service Board will send two participants, one from the Board and one from the General Service Office or Grapevine office, and display literature at Board expense. Like Regional Forums, Board participation in Local Forums requires the approval of the trustees’ Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The Regional Forums coordinator works closely with the Local Forum organizing committee to create an agenda that is responsive to local needs.

26. The following text in endnote 4 be removed from Concept XII on page 73 of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

4. Bill here, apparently inadvertently, used the phrase “in action and spirit,” instead of “in thought and action,” that appears elsewhere in both the Conference Charter and the statement of Concept XII.

27. The following text be removed from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man’s world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women’s superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us — of both sexes — have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our “moms” and “pops,” and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave

us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-woman relatedness that we undertake.

It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they *are* women. 10

28. Endnote 10, on page 59 in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the Concept XI essay be revised by the Publishing Department with language noting that two paragraphs have been removed from the Concept XI essay and are available upon request from the G.S.O. Archives Department as a reference to A.A. history.
29. *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised per existing schedule after the 2016 General Service Conference and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2017 at a savings of approximately \$45,000 - 50,000 in alternate years when a new edition is not published. The next edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* is to be published in 2018 (after the Conference), the subsequent edition in 2020 (after the Conference), etc.
30. The category title "Online Meetings" be changed to "Online Meetings/Online Groups" on page vi and vii in the A.A. Directories.

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

31. The term "Special Needs" be removed from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and throughout the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure. The new name of the committee will be the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

32. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy J. McCarthy
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees

Thomas Ardolf
Richard Boisvert
Carole Boerner
Joel Castellaw
Joe Downey
Bill Farnsworth
Yolanda Flores
Scott Huyghebaert
William Noonan
Chet Parker
Richard Purtell
Bob Wilcox
Cate Wittig
Albin Zezula

33. The appointment of the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Chairperson

First vice-chairperson

Second vice-chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE

Bob Wilcox

Chet Parker

David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Bill Farnsworth

34. The February 2016 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016:

Assistant Treasurer

Assistant Secretary

Donald W. Meurer

Eva Sanchez

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

35. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Richard Boisvert
Beau Bush
Joe Downey
Homer Moeller
David Noll

William Noonan
Richard Purtell
Eva Sanchez
Greg Tobin

36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Lynda Bergeron
Carole Boerner
Ami Brophy
Joel Castellaw
Josh Eggleston

Yolanda Flores
Ivan Lemelle
Paz Preciado
Albin Zezula

37. If a vacancy for a regional trustee occurs prior to September 1 in the first year, then an election for a three-year term would occur at the following General Service Conference (GSC) for the affected region. If a vacancy for a regional trustee occurs between September 1 in the first year and August 31 of the third year then the delegates from the affected region would be given an option to hold an election for a six-year or five-year term, or leave the position vacant, depending on when the vacancy occurs. Regardless of whether the term was for three, five or six years, the regional trustee would be expected to serve two years on one of the two operating corporation boards.

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