

“Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support”
58th ANNUAL GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
April 26 - May2, 2008

MY INTRODUCTION

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as delegate to the 58th General Service Conference. At this conference, I was able to see the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts put into action.

I was especially appreciative of the great attendance we had at our Delegate’s Workshop in Red Wing. It really does make a difference to know how all of you feel and which items affect your groups the most. Your committee discussions and comments at the microphone gave me a solid foundation on which to make decisions for the good of A.A. as a whole. I also appreciate those of you who took me aside to share some concerns. It shows me that you really care. At the conference we discussed the difference between “informed” and “instructed” delegates, and I am thankful that our area believes in sending informed delegates.

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

PREPERATION

Preparing for the Conference requires a lot of reading to say the least. The mail is unbelievable. I’m sure my postal carrier is impressed. The e-mails seem to never end. We have a special e-mailing list for Delegates only and its non-stop questions, opinions, ideas and whatever else you can think of. It gets old real fast and makes it difficult to read my regular e-mail. I think everyone else found the same to be true as it’s not as much anymore. A few of us recommended having a bulletin board type of communication tool that we can use where we can choose the topics and replies we want to look at. We’ll be talking about it in our Delegates Only meeting on Saturday night, April 26th. Something new this year was the “Agenda Items Dashboard”. It’s a tool for Delegates to do a quick look for particular agenda items. I really didn’t use it rather I just read everything as in our Area, the Delegate is expected to be fully read and informed on all the agenda items.

On February 15th you get the CD in the mail. The “real” agenda items and background materials. You load it into your computer and make about 56 copies and get them mailed out to the Area Committee members. The next step is to run to Kinko’s and print a hardcopy for yourself and anyone else that requested it in print. Time to start reading. I’ve found that it really pays off to start visiting Districts and having extra CDs with you. It’s a chance to clear up any misconceptions about the agenda items and answer any questions. Off to the Delegates Workshop and the General Service Conference.

58th Annual General Service Conference

Travel to the Conference

I wasn't able to travel to the Conference with any of the Delegates from our Region as my agenda required that I arrive on Friday due to having a presentation to make at 11:15 on Saturday morning to put in a bid for Minneapolis for the 2020 International Convention. I left Minneapolis at 3:15pm and arrived in New York at 7:00pm their time. I decided to take a bus from the airport to the Port Authority bus terminal and walk to the hotel from there. I forgot how crowded the streets are in the Times Square area. I finally arrived at the hotel around 8:30pm and ran in to a number of familiar faces. Mostly Trustees', their wife's and a few Delegates. I had to hit the streets in search of pizza and found what I was looking for. I forgot to fold it while I was eating it.

Trustees Committee on International Conventions

Before doing your presentation for an International Convention to be hosted in your Area, you are brought into room 1503 which is like a holding area until they are ready for you. Julio from our General Service Office was our host in that room. It was fun to meet the Delegates from Los Angeles and Indianapolis while they were waiting. I wasn't nervous until we got the call and were brought down to the 5th floor and had to wait in the hallway before we could enter to do our presentation. I could hear quite a debate going on in the room and then it was our turn. It was the fastest ten minutes of my life. I feel we said all the right things and I was watching the faces and the expressions as we sold Minneapolis. I could tell they had heard a lot already that morning and some were smiling, some were nodding their heads and nobody looked confused or in disagreement with what we said. They had a chalkboard in the corner with a sheet on it and I could see the seven cities listed but couldn't tell what the eight or so categories were that they were checking off to help them make their decisions. They had about five questions when we were done and they pertained to transportation, dorm rooms and hotels. We had the right answers and they were pleased. It really hit me as to where I was and what I was doing when I introduced myself by name and stated I was an alcoholic and they all said "Hi Scott". Some of those faces and voices were the Chairperson of our Board of Trustees, our General Service Office Manager and about fifteen others. It's up to God and the committee process now and I feel good knowing we did our best. More will be revealed later in the week.

New York Intergroup and their hospitality room.

What a great icebreaker!! I met our Conference Coordinator, Doug R. and the Manager of New York Intergroup. I felt right at home. It was an opportunity to meet Delegates and their guests from all across the country and Canada. I was invited to attend an "open" A.A. meeting called the 1728 meeting at 4:00pm on Saturday. There is a reason it's an open meeting. It's called the home group of the Class A Trustees and it meets every board weekend and at the beginning of the Conference. The meeting has been going on for 11 years and it's a place for the Class A's to learn more about the Steps, Traditions and Concepts. If you multiply 12 X 12 X 12, you get 1728 and that's why the strange name for the group. It's a topic meeting and one of our Class A Trustees starts out with a 20 minute talk on the topic. Bill Clark started us out talking on Tradition Two.

58th Annual General Service Conference

Remote Communities

On Sunday morning I attended an optional workshop on remote communities, and found this to be informative and interesting. This pre-Conference meeting was started in 1992. The theme this year was “We Can Get There From Here, Through Communication & Participation”. Presentations were made by Area 15 – South Florida, Area 17 – Hawaii and Area 79 – British Columbia/Yukon.

The presentations from these Delegates had a lot to do with geography and some of the challenges they face. Sylvain, the Delegate from Northwest Quebec really summed it up when he said he can leave home where the temperature is 70, drive for 20 hours, jump in a boat, get on a plane and finally travel by dogsled and the temperature is now -30 at the District meeting. As the Conference week progressed and I spent more time during and after the Conference for fellowship with our friends from Quebec, I needed someone to translate less and less. I never knew I would start to understand the French language.

The Northwest Territories truly are remote communities thousands of miles away from large population centers. Many of these communities are only accessible by plane or river, not by road. Individuals coming out of treatment are going back to communities where, if they want an A.A. meeting, they will have to start it themselves. Those that are sober need to go from a self-centered focus to a service-oriented service. Carry the message to others.

A few other things heard were; Hawaii has a “Cooperation with the Elderly” committee. Some of the Spanish speaking groups in the south are being served by GSO in Mexico. In the Hispanic groups, women are not welcome. Do Areas need to have some non-rotating members on their Remote Communities Committees to maintain the relationships in place?

Geographically in Area 36, we have it made. Our challenges are that of language and culture. We’ve done well in the area of language with the deaf/hard of hearing community and I have to mention that two of the Delegates present needed special equipment because of their hearing problems. We have a Spanish speaking District as quite a number of the other Areas do as well. As we start approaching the Asian communities, culture may be the challenge. I was the only one who mentioned this opportunity to carry our message but others expressed cultural difficulties and distrust with communities in their Areas.

58th Annual General Service Conference

Delegates Only Meetings

We had two delegates only meetings, one on our first Saturday evening together and another one on Tuesday evening. I appreciated the experience of Panel 57 delegates teaching the Panel 58 delegates.

It was emphasized that we bring the experience and viewpoint from our own areas but vote for the General Service Conference as a whole.

We received an orientation from the Panel 57 delegates on what to expect in the coming week. Different delegates presented on the committee process, the full conference process and the delegate reports. We also heard 2-minute reports from two delegates from each region. The committee process was emphasized. The committee members usually have more background material and information available than the rest of the conference. The committees strive for substantial unanimity, i.e. 2/3 majority vote. The Panel 57 Delegate from Hawaii made the statement “We are now part of A.A. history”. That was an eye opener and something I hadn’t considered.

At our Tuesday night meeting we elected a Delegate Conference Chairperson by drawing a name out of the hat. The chairperson for the next conference will be Joe B., delegate from Area 09, Mid-Southern California. The Alternate Delegate Chair to next years Conference is our own John T. from Area 63, South Dakota. The Panel 58 new delegates were encouraged to ask questions at the Tuesday night meeting. I expressed concerns about the committee process, and whether or not we would feel free to disagree or raise different viewpoints. Other delegates from the West Central Region expressed the same concerns. Fortunately, I did not feel pressured to go along with the majority, and I saw many delegates bring up different viewpoints while discussing the agenda items. I believe that every agenda item received a full hearing.

This was an issue concerning e-mails that was brought up on Sunday night and if we should have a bulletin board of sorts to help sort out all the topics and communications. There is a mass sending ability for all Delegates to get a message out and when other Delegates respond, it goes to everyone. Some days when I would get home and check e-mail, I would have 30 – 40 to get through. It made it hard and I was getting behind on e-mails from within our own Area. Our solution on Tuesday night was to not respond to “all”. Hopefully that will clear up the problem.

OPENING SESSION

Leonard Blumenthal, Chair of the General Service Board, welcomed all attendees. Leonard talked about the January deadline for proposed Conference agenda items and minority reports. He announced the resignation of Greg M. that will be effective at the end of this year and that group and individual contributions to GSO hit 6.5 million dollars this past year. That was a first. Greg M., General Manager of the General Service Office did the roll call. We were greeted by France J., Delegate Chairperson from Northeast Quebec. France surprised the whole Conference as she gave her entire talk in English and then did an abbreviated version in Spanish. She only speaks French. Chuck B., outgoing Class B Trustee from our own West Central Region, gave the keynote address. Chuck stated; “we must strive to keep our primary purpose first and foremost as we progress through the week and do what is best for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.”

My being admitted as a Conference Member

In order for someone to be admitted to the Conference that isn’t a Conference member, the Policy/Admissions Committee has to meet prior to the opening of the Conference. They deliberate and approve or disapprove the admission of visitors or Alternate Delegates. I’m my case, I’m considered an Alternate Delegate until the full Conference votes to allow me in as a Delegate. The Conference opens on Sunday and the first order of business is this voting process. All were in favor of allowing me in as a

58th Annual General Service Conference

Delegate. We also allowed the GSO General Manager and Class A Trustee from Great Brittan as well as the two Regional Trustees' from Mexico. We had to stand and be welcomed by all.

Opening Dinner

The opening diner is on Sunday night and is for Conference members and their guests. My guest was my younger brother from Philadelphia. It's a combination of a formal diner and open speaker meeting. We had five speakers representing Delegates, Corporate Directors, Staff members, and Trustees. Each speaker was allowed 20 minutes. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow Conference members and their family members who sacrifice so much by supporting us in our time consuming endeavors for this fellowship.

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD REPORTS

Leonard Blumenthal, LL.D., Chairperson of the General Service Board

Once again we come together to conduct our annual Conference, our 58th. The theme, Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support, is particularly relevant in light of our experiences since our last Conference. We have been continually reminded that “Actions speak loader than words,” and communication rings hollow if not implemented. We are also reminded that self-support leads to mutual support, which leads to unity.

This week we will hear much that will enable us to make decisions based on an informed group conscience. The communication among us will allow and encourage us to participate. Putting thought into actions should be our measure of success.

May the God of your understanding be with you during your deliberations this week.

Howard L., Chairperson of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Board

A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. employees agree that our purpose, expressed through requested services and publications of A.A. literature, is to enable members and groups to enlarge their Twelfth Step work, and share A.A.'s solution with each suffering alcoholic.

At board meetings we utilize the committee system to thoroughly consider requests, gather background material and report to the full board. The board, in turn, discusses committee reports and votes on any recommendations presented by a board committee. In addition, each committee and the board as a whole conduct long-range and strategic planning.

Ray M., Grapevine Board Report

The A.A. Grapevine has served the Fellowship of A.A. for sixty-four years now. Now it is up to us, working together, to make sure its magazines are there to convey the hope and help our program offers alcoholics today and in days to come. A.A. has transformed our lives in ways we once didn't know were possible; we are fortunate to be able to share our stories in the pages of the Grapevine and La Vina.

58th Annual General Service Conference

Vincent Keefe, Treasurer of the General Service Board

As you know, our revenue essentially comes from two sources: profit from literature sales and contributions. We should all be encouraged that contributions in 2007 were again higher than the previous year, in this case by about \$457,800 (7.5%). This represents the tenth year in a row that contributions have increased over the previous year and continues to reflect a positive trend.

While total contribution dollars were higher again this year, the number of groups listed at G.S.O. was slightly less (199 groups fewer), and as noted above the percent of groups contributing declined ever so slightly (three tenths of one percent). It is important to remember that the statistics we discuss concerning number of groups, membership and averages are only a reflection of the information we capture on “our systems.” We report to you what you report to us.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND/OR ACTIVITIES

Presentations and Workshops

Second-year delegates, trustees and GSO staff presented on the following topics:

Unity:

- Our Common Welfare Should Come First.
- Principals before Personalities.
- Diversity: Reaching Out To All Alcoholics.

Communication and Participation:

- Sharing the Message of Service.
- Our Key to Keeping A.A. Strong.
- Leadership in A.A.: Building Communication.

The A.A. Grapevine:

- Unity and Communication.
- Participation: The Privilege of Passing It On.

Self-Support:

- Self-Supporting Through Members Voluntary Contributions Only.
- Contempt Prior to Investigation.
- Responsibility to Communicate and Participate.

A.A. Around the World:

58th Annual General Service Conference

Area Highlights

Each first year delegate had the opportunity to give a two-minute presentation on area service highlights. I enjoyed hearing other areas' concerns and ideas. Here are some interesting facts:

- A number of the areas call their pre-conference gathering "Mini Conferences".
- Some of the areas automatically make past delegates members of their archives committees.
- An area in Ohio has a committee called "New GSR Services & Pretension".
- Hawaii has a cooperation with the elderly committee

Sharing Session

The following were questions and comments voiced at the sharing sessions:

- Diversity. We talked about diversity and how it affects all of the areas represented.
- Diversity within our service structure. How do we attract others?
- Grapevine. All the areas agreed to make a commitment to 100 new subscriptions over the next year.
- Unity. How to incorporate unity and diversity.
- Self-Support. This topic got tied in with communication.

58th Annual General Service Conference

Regional Meetings

The regions had the opportunity to meet together over two lunches. All of the West Central Regional delegates met along with Chuck B., our regional trustee. In addition to myself, the other delegates present were Lori G., Nebraska; John T., South Dakota; Phil M., North Dakota; Mike M., Iowa; Brooke C., Wyoming; Andrew W., Montana, and Jo Anne N., Northern Minnesota. At our first lunch we discussed the conference process. At our second lunch we reviewed our West Central Regional Service Conference this past March. We also talked about the finances and we decided to raise the admission contribution to \$12.00 due to inflation.

We talked about our option of having an Additional Forum in our Region in 2010 and we met three times to discuss the options. It's a difficult year as we will have a Forum in October 2009 in St. Cloud, a Regional Service Conference in Iowa in February 2010 and an International Convention in San Antonio TX in July of 2010. Can members in our Region afford the time and expense after all that? What will the topic for the Forum be or should we just table the idea and have a Local Forum for a specific need. The answer will be made by the end of May 2008 as that's our deadline with G.S.O.

We had one more casual meeting over "regional ice-cream". The trustees have a tradition of taking out their regional delegates for ice-cream, and I highly approve of this tradition!

When we arrived we were told to sit with a different group of people at each different function and that is what we did. I found that the delegates in our Region really were supportive of each other and we went out for fellowship almost every night and invited others to join us. We saw who was burning out, overly tired, fired up and all the rest of the emotions and really supported each other. I feel very close to them all.

Trip to the General Service Office

On Tuesday afternoon we took the subway to the General Service Office at 475 Riverside Drive. These offices are located in a building used by non-profit entities, so the rent is based on maintenance costs of the building and is extremely reasonable. They had refreshments out for us including a cake celebrating the 58th General Service Conference. I had time to meet with individual staff members in their offices to gain a better understanding of what they do.

Many of the offices have a beautiful view of the Hudson River. The offices are about 4 miles from the Crown Plaza Hotel, and after a ride on a bus up, I walked back with some of the more energetic members along the river. It was good to get a little fresh air after all of those meetings!

I took some time to visit the A.A. Archives and found that I didn't want to leave. Just walking in the door and seeing all the various photographs on the walls kept me there for some time. I plan to revisit at a time when I can plan in spending the day.

58th Annual General Service Conference

COMMITTEE PROCESS

At the area level we talk about using the committee process when submitting proposals or suggestions. But, what do we mean by using the committee process? In general, we ask that the group, district or individual submit a specific concern to the committee that would logically deal with this concern. For example, District 18 recently asked the area committee to consider a proposal to add a glossary to the Big Book. The following sequence of activities may occur as a result of this request:

1. This proposal will be forwarded to the literature committee. The literature committee will consider the background material from District 18 regarding this proposal and will report back to the area committee's business meeting. In response to this proposal, the literature committee may submit a motion to the area committee to add a glossary to the Big Book, or they may disagree with this proposal and take no action on it.
2. If the literature committee submits a motion to the area committee, the District Committee Members (DCM's) take this motion back to the groups for discussion on whether this item should be placed on the assembly agenda for a vote.
3. At the next area committee, the committee votes on whether to place this proposal on the agenda of the next assembly. The groups again have an opportunity to discuss the proposal and to decide how they would like to vote.
4. If the assembly passes this motion, the delegate would submit a proposal to the Conference Secretary to place this proposal on the General Service Conference Agenda for 2008.
5. The Conference Secretary then submits the item to the appropriate trustees committee, most likely the Trustees Committee on Literature. That committee would then make a decision about whether or not to place the item on the General Service Conference Agenda.
6. If they agree that the item should be placed on the agenda, the background material for this item is made available to all areas for discussion at the group or district level.
7. At the 2008 General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Literature reviews the background material regarding this proposal and decides whether to approve the recommendation, to take no action on the recommendation, or to refer to the proposal in an additional consideration for further information on the subject.
8. If the Conference Committee on Literature makes a recommendation to add the glossary to the Big Book, then the whole conference, including delegates, trustees and voting General Service Office staff members, have an opportunity to vote on this issue.

The committee process allows us to thoroughly evaluate all proposals from different viewpoints, increasing our ability to make the best decision for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The committees are not infallible, however, and we do have safeguards in place that prevent one group of people from completely shutting down an idea:

1. Even if a specific committee takes no action on a proposal, a DCM can ask the other DCMs to take this proposal back to the groups for discussion about placing it on the area assembly agenda.
2. At the area assembly, we always allow time under new business for "other items", at which time the General Service Representative (GSR) may make a motion from the floor.
3. If the assembly does not agree with the proposal, the GSR may still submit the proposal directly to the conference.
4. If the proposal makes it to the conference, but does not pass out of committee, any conference member can request a floor action regarding the proposal.

Although we have alternate routes to the General Service Conference, a proposal has the best chance of making it to the conference when it is backed by substantial unanimity from an area. Furthermore, the conference is reluctant to consider most floor actions, so an agenda item has little change of being recommended by the conference unless it is recommended by the committee.

58th Annual General Service Conference

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE COMMITTEE PROCESS

My service on the Conference Committee on Trustees provided me the most significant experiences of the conference. I was able to see Tradition Two come alive, “For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

My experience with the committee process was long, drawn out and emotional. The first time we meet, it’s a joint meeting between the Conference Committee on Trustees’ and the Trustees’ Nominating Committee. Below is the agenda:

1. Introductions – G.S.O. staff.
2. Review Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure – Conference Committee Chair.
3. Review history of the Conference Committee – G.S.O. staff.
4. Report of Trustees’ Committee – Trustees’ Committee Chair.
5. Discussion of Trustees’ Committee Report.
6. Other subjects.

This was our opportunity to ask questions. I learned right away that there are many varied opinions of the Trustees’ and as to how much trust we have in them. This would be an issue that helped me to grow in love and tolerance, speaking from my heart, and also a reminder of the reason I was sitting in that room.

Our committee met four times after the initial meeting with the Trustees’ Committee. We had an extra meeting Sunday night following the diner and we also had an extra meeting on Monday night following the end of the day’s proceedings. Most committees meet twice after their first meeting with the Trustees’.

We brought in Trustees’ on three different occasions during our deliberations to request more information, clarify specific items and seek insight into their actions. As a committee, we didn’t agree on everything and we spent a lot of time wording recommendations and additional considerations. This is where I learned the difference between the two actions. I was in the minority a number of times and expressed my issues and stood my ground. I refused to vote at one particular moment because the issue had not been discussed enough. All in all, we went away from the process a wiser group having worked with each other.

On the Conference floor I learned that committees really need to act on controversial issues and not choose to take “no action”. Many Conference members came prepared to discuss certain issues that were important to the Fellowship as a whole and when an item comes from a committee as an additional consideration; there is no discussion or vote on that item. You can only ask questions of the committee. This happened enough that Conference members put forth 15 floor actions so these items could be discussed and voted on. This is why the Conference ended at 12:30am on Saturday.

On the other hand, some items came up as recommendations that should have been additional considerations. The majority of the Conference felt that we were cheapening the Conference process.

The positive side to all this was an education on the Twelve Concepts for World Service at work in the General Service Conference.

58th Annual General Service Conference

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

I. Agenda

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

(Passed unanimously)

Recommendation: It was recommended that the following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2009 General Service Conference.

1) Humility and Sacrifice:

- a) Setting an Example
- b) Changing Our Perceptions
- c) Anonymity – Sacrificing our Egos

2) Enthusiasm and Gratitude:

- a) Hope and Purpose from Defeat and Despair
- b) Happy, Joyous and Free
- c) Enthusiasm – A Gift of Inventory

3) Spiritual Program in Action:

- a) Maximum Service – Our Spiritual Benefit
- b) Persistence – The Key to Progress
- c) Living the Traditions

(Passed unanimously)

Recommendation: It was recommended that the following be the workshop topic for the 2009 General Service Conference: “Language of the Heart – Keeping it Simple”

(Passed unanimously)

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form. The committee suggested that the Trustees’ Committee on Conference consider adding a category evaluating the individual Conference member’s committee experience and a category to allow Conference members to rate their overall Conference experience to the Evaluation Form.

58th Annual General Service Conference

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the video segments directed to professionals in the legal/criminal justice and healthcare fields to be streamed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site be approved with suggested changes and that the Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities oversees these changes.

(Passed unanimously)

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the video segments directed to professionals in the employment/human relations field to be streamed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. The committee made suggestions to the Publications department for changes to the video segment and requested that a revised draft be brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review. (Changes not to exceed \$10,000.00)
- The committee requested that the Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities discuss further possible projects directed towards legal/criminal justice system professionals.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the current C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

III. Corrections

Additional Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
 1. That a copy of the annual corrections issue of the Grapevine and La Vina magazines be made available in the Kits, along with a brief list of suggestions about how the magazines may be useful for carrying the message behind the walls. The list of suggestions could include, but is not limited to: mention of the availability of boxes of back issues for a discounted price with the appropriate information about contacting the Grapevine for ordering; the fact that only the July issue is available in a stitched version, and that many facilities may not accept issues with staples; and mention the option for local service opportunities for "stitching parties" to increase the chance of the magazines being allowed into facilities.
 2. That the Grapevine and La Vina magazines be added to the list of Kit Contents, with a mention of the "timelessness" of issues.
 3. That in future reprints of the Corrections Workbook, add the above suggestions for the use of magazines to the section on "Ideas to Stimulate Corrections Twelfth Step Work within A.A." (Found on pages 6&7 of the 2008 Workbook).
 4. That a copy of the DVD "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" be included in the Corrections Kit

58th Annual General Service Conference

- The committee reviewed the service piece “Corrections A.A. Group Handbook” and made the following suggestions:
 1. That when the service piece “Corrections A.A. Group Handbook” (CF-36) is updated, the “A.A. Correctional Facility Group Information Change Form” and the “Suggestions for Leading Beginners Meetings” be added.
 2. That the list of contents of the service material included in “Corrections A.A. Group Handbook” (CF-36) along with the list of materials included in the package sent with the handbook, and a cover page explaining the development, current use, and possible use of the handbook, be included in the section of the Corrections Kit called “Other”.
 3. That the Trustees’ Committee on Corrections consider development of a CD which would contain the contents of “Corrections A.A. Group Handbook” (CF-36) in English, Spanish and French, along with other materials mentioned above – the list of materials included in the package sent with the handbook and a cover page explaining the development, current use, and possible use of the handbook – to be sent to A.A. members upon request for reproduction for use by correctional facilities A.A. meetings and groups.

IV. Finance

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the Trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups and that this information be forwarded to the 2009 Conference Committee on Finance.

(Passed 101 to 22)

Note: The minority opinion spoke and stated that we need more than a year to gather this information from the Fellowship. It’s time to start talking about this in our groups, districts and areas as we will be asked for this information this year.

Additional committee considerations:

- The committee discussed a request that a Finance Kit be developed to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition. Recognizing the need for increased awareness, the committee suggested that A.A.W.S. consider:
 1. Updating/reformatting the Self-Support Packet (FV-19) to include the Finance Guidelines (MG-15).
 2. Adding the information that is included in the Self-Support Packet (FV-19) to the G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.
 3. That the Self-Support Packet (FV-19) be sent to incoming Area Treasurers.
 4. Add the Self-Support Packet (FV-19) to the Conference-approved Literature Catalog.

Note: Our Area felt very strongly about having this Kit available. The Conference is not able to discuss or vote on additional committee considerations but only to ask questions. The committee felt these changes would be adequate. If we still feel strongly about this, let’s get a proposal started and a few letters to G.S.O. wouldn’t hurt.

58th Annual General Service Conference

V A.A. Grapevine

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook with appreciation and agreed that no changes were needed at this time.
- The committee discussed the staff report addressing the 2007 Additional Consideration to “explore less expensive formats for the production of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook” and requested that the Grapevine:
 1. Produce a portable GvR (Grapevine Representative) Handbook similar to the recently revised RLV (La Vina Representative) Handbook in size and format for ease of use by the GvR network and for cost containment.
 2. Update and revise the A.A. Grapevine History Booklet.
 3. Continue to offer the current Grapevine Workbook as a free download at the Grapevine Web site.
- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2009 or later two CDs of stories from La Vina on Traditions One through Twelve.
- The committee reconsidered the 2007 General Service Conference Advisory Action recommending that “the Grapevine and La Vina include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer” and no action was taken.
Note: When an item becomes an additional committee consideration, there is no discussion and vote. Only questions can be asked. This went on to become a floor action.
- The committee discussed the Grapevine’s legacy of self-support and encouraged the A.A. Grapevine Inc. to increase the price of subscriptions and publish more articles about self-support in order to uphold that legacy. *Note: The Grapevine increases the subscription price every two years.*
- To increase use of the Grapevine and La Vina and awareness of their roles in A.A. today, the committee made several suggestions, including the following:
 1. That Delegates challenge each of their areas to increase circulation of the Grapevine by at least 100 subscriptions and circulation of La Vina by as much as possible.
 2. That groups buy bulk subscriptions or 50-packs of back issues for distribution in treatment facilities, correctional facilities, and other institutions.
 3. That districts buy subscriptions for local libraries.
 4. That GvR/RLVs use laptops to take subscriptions at A.A. events.
 5. That delegates and Area Grapevine/La Vina chairs exchange information about successful efforts to increase awareness of A.A.’s magazines.
 6. That groups put copies of magazines in grocery stores, Laundromats, and other public places where they might help alcoholics.
 7. That groups hold Grapevine and La Vina meetings.

58th Annual General Service Conference

VI. Literature

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the pamphlet “44 Questions” be renamed “Questions and Answers about the A.A. Program of Recovery from Alcoholism”.
(Failed 83 to 40) *Note: This item came up as a floor action.*

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the selected unedited stories and the draft introduction for the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” and suggested some changes.
- The committee accepted the progress report from the Publications Department on the revision of the pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs”.
- The committee considered a request to reinstate the pamphlet “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic” and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Literature and made changes to clarify that the scope of the committee pertains to “recovery” literature.

VII. Policy/Admissions

Recommendation: The committee recommended that Scott Ahlgren, alternate delegate, Area 36, Southern Minnesota, be seated as a Conference member at the 58th General Service Conference because Samira Anderson, the panel 57 delegate for Area 36 is unable to attend.
(Passed unanimously)

Recommendation: The committee recommended that Jose Trinidad Romero Luna and Elfido Quintas Ordaz from the General Service Board of Central Mexicana; Louise Foxcroft from the General Service Board of Great Britain and Ann Napier, General Secretary G.S.O. Great Britain, be admitted to the 58th General Service Conference as observers.
(Passed unanimously)

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the 61st General Service Conference be held May 1-7 2011, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability, and Bylaws’ deadlines of the General Service Board.
(Passed unanimously)

Recommendation: The committee recommended that representatives from other national A.A. service entities be granted admission as observers upon their request to the annual General Service Conference of the United States and Canada; that admission is not to exceed three countries and two representatives per country; that the request for admission be made through the General Service Office in New York; and that decisions regarding responsibility for guest observer expenses be at the discretion of the General Service Board.
(Passed unanimously)

58th Annual General Service Conference

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the responsibility for the General Service Conference site selection be delegated to the General Service Office management, subject to approval of the General Service Board; and that reports be forwarded to the 2009 General Service Conference.

(Passed 104 to 23) **Note:** *This item was discussed for over an hour. The controversy was the misunderstanding that the Conference may move out of state (NY) to save money. By delegating this task to the General Service Office more time can be devoted to gathering competitive bids so there is leverage in dealing with the current hotel. The Trustees' don't have the time to do this.*

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a proposal that the current secondary Conference Archives Committee be established as a standing Conference Committee and took no action. **Note:** *This item came up as a floor action.*
- The committee noted that the General Service Board, in response to an additional consideration from the 2007 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, will forward a summary of their discussion of the inventory questions which pertain to regional composition and structure to the 2009 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

VIII. Public Information

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the 2008 television public service announcement "I Thought" developed by the Trustees' Public Information Committee be approved.

(Passed 118 to 3) **Note:** *We viewed all four versions of this P.S.A. and the discussion was about adding newspapers to the places you can find Alcoholics Anonymous. Many small towns list their meetings in newspapers.*

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the 2008 television public service announcement "I Thought" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.00, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

(Passed 117 to 8) **Note:** *There was much discussion about using the same vendor for these services. Should we be out price shopping?*

Recommendation: The committee discussed the 2002 – 2006 Conference Advisory Actions regarding replacement and production of television public service announcements, and recommended that the Conference Committee on Public Information annually review current television public service announcements for relevance and usefulness, retiring a P.S.A. only when it is no longer and/or useful to the Fellowship.

(Passed 123 to 2) **Note:** *We asked what tools we have to do this.*

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the Conference Committee on Public Information annually assess the need for a new television public service announcement.

(Passed 124 to 6) **Note:** *The discussion was that we don't have a tool to assess the need. How do we know?*

58th Annual General Service Conference

Recommendation: The committee recommended that a new television public service announcement be developed for review by the 2009 Conference Committee on Public Information, at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00, and that no current television public service announcements be retired at this time.

(Failed 70 to 57) *Note: The discussion centered around the fact that we've got enough P.S.A.s at the present time and we don't have any tool to assess the need for a new one.*

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the script for Combination Radio P.S.A.'s on CD (R-10) be revised and updated and brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Public Information.

(Passed unanimously)

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet and one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2007 Membership Survey.

(Passed unanimously) *Note: There was much discussion as to how relevant the information is. It had to be explained that the information is not intended for members but for those interested in Alcoholics Anonymous.*

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the following section on posthumous anonymity be included in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" on page 9, before the Anonymity at the media level section:

Posthumous anonymity

Q. In general, what is the feeling of the Fellowship in regards to posthumous anonymity?

A. In 1988 the General Service Conference recommended that: The 1971 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed: A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his death, but in each situation the final decision must rest with the family.

Q. Why do obituaries sometimes state that the deceased was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous?

A. There are many reasons why this could occur. Family members and funeral directors sometimes write the obituaries and are not aware of A.A.'s Traditions. On the other hand, the deceased person's A.A. membership may have been revealed due to a conscious decision made beforehand by the A.A. member, or it may have been a conscious decision made by the family.

Q. What about posthumous anonymity in regard to our co-founders?

A. Co-founder Bill W.'s obituary, with photography, appeared on the front page of the New York Times on January 26, 1971. The role of Dr. Robert S. as the other co-founder of the worldwide fellowship was disclosed publicly when the Akron, Ohio, surgeon died of cancer in 1950 after 15 years of uninterrupted sobriety.

In fathering the doctrine that members should not reveal their A.A. affiliation at the public level, Bill W. had explained that anonymity isn't just something to save us from alcoholic shame and stigma; it's deeper purpose is to keep those fool egos of ours from running hog wild after money and fame at A.A.'s expense.

(Failed 121 to 7) *Note: It was brought up the G.S.O. has a policy in place about protecting the anonymity of our co-founders. This recommendation would have passed without the reference to our co-founders and the Conference wasn't willing to re-write it on the Conference floor.*

58th Annual General Service Conference

Recommendation: The committee recommended that a wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous be developed and be brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Public Information.

(Passed 103 to 29) **Note:** *This was an interesting discussion as many of the Conference members viewed this as more junk to hand out. Our area felt very strongly about this and I brought up the point that it's a tool to be used by our members to make contacts and get their foot in the door at schools as well as other institutions. It doesn't have to be just for schools. On mention was to place it in restrooms and other places where it can be seen without there being the pressure of someone seeing you grab a pamphlet.*

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that the proposed 2009 television public service announcement be at least partially directed to older alcoholics, and that previously shot P.S.A. footage be used wherever possible. **Note:** *The Conference chose not to do a P.S.A. for 2009.*
- The committee reviewed the 2007 Annual Report from the Trustees' Committee on Public Information and noted with appreciation the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the Web site.
- The committee reviewed the Trustees' Committee on Public Information's Progress Report on the A.A. Videos for Young People Project with appreciation, and expressed continued enthusiasm for the project.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook and suggested that the new A.A. Guidelines on the Web site be included in the Public Information Kit.

IX. Report and Charter

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the following new section and an illustration of the District Information Change Form ((F-43) be added to Chapter Three of the A.A. Service Manual, after the section on redistricting.

“District Information”

It is important that the district send information to the area, G.S.O. and to the local intergroup/central office, if applicable. While local, area and national offices communicate regularly, they have different purposes and different mailing lists.

There may be one person in the area, frequently the area secretary or the area registrar, who is responsible for transmitting district contact information changes to G.S.O. One simple form has been developed to facilitate this, the District Information Change Form (F-43) shown on the following page. The form is used whenever a district elects a new DCM, DCMC or alternate DCM, or when any contact information for the DCM, DCMC or alternate DCM changes. When filling out the form, it is important to fill the sections in for the old information and for the new information, and to note at the top of the form the area and date when the new information will become effective.

(Passed 113 to 4) **Note:** *There was much discussion about including “Alternate DCMC” to this form. The response from staff was that their group records database only recognizes DCM's and Alternate DCM's at it would serve no purpose for their needs. Most of the areas admitted that*

58th Annual General Service Conference

they don't have DCMC's and it wouldn't serve the areas well either. I asked if the form could be put on the Web site with the group update forms and it will happen.

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the Online Intergroup of A.A. (OIAA) be listed in a new section titled "Online Intergroups" under the section "International Correspondence Meetings" in the A.A. Directories above where "Online Meetings" appear; and include the online intergroup Web site and e-mail addresses.

(Passed 119 to 2)

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the statement "This Directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture" that appears on the front cover of A.A. Directories be made significantly more prominent, e.g. use borders, larger type face etc.

(Passed 109 to 16) **Note:** *This item will later be turned into an additional committee consideration. It came up as a floor action to cancel this recommendation as it may cheapen the Conference process. We are using a Conference Advisory Action to accomplish a simple task like the font size of a statement.*

Recommendation: The committee recommended that an anonymity protected version of the Final Report of the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous be posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site to begin with the 2008 Final Report. This version will not include names and also will not include the final three (3) sections; Conference Committees, Trustees' Committees, and Conference members.

(Failed 122 to 3) **Note:** *It was determined that the Conference Final Report is for members of Alcoholics Anonymous and not for the general public.*

Additional Committee Considerations

- The committee considered a suggestion to place a glossary of terms used in The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service after the text of the A.A. Service Manual and directly preceding the index and took no action.
- The committee voices strong displeasure concerning the manner in which it was bypassed regarding proposed agenda items concerning additional oversight of the A.A. Service Manual. **Note:** *Everyone wanted to know what this was all about. This is the revised wording as the first version had harsher language. The Committee felt that the Trustees Committee had neglected to forward recommendations to their Committee as they felt they had the final oversight concerning the Service Manual. Two floor actions came out of this additional consideration.*

X Treatment Facilities

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the revised video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" be completed with minor changes to the original script and brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities for review.

(Passed 113 to 7)

58th Annual General Service Conference

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed a proposal that the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” (BTG) be rewritten to reflect that the BTG program is used in both Treatment Facilities and Corrections service work and took no action. *Note: The Conference Committee on Corrections didn’t feel it was appropriate for their use.*
- The committee discussed the possible development of Conference-approved literature and/or service material to stimulate A.A. member’s interest in Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work and took no action. The Committee agreed that current Conference-approved literature and service material serves the needs of those involved in Treatment Facilities Twelfth work.
- The Committee reviewed with appreciation the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook and requested that the following pamphlets be included in the Treatment Facilities Kit: “This is A.A.” (P-1), “Message to Teenagers” (F-9), “The A.A. Group” (P-16), and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” (P-15).
- The committee discussed the need for more input from the Fellowship in the area of carrying out our Twelve Step responsibility and agreed that Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work is changing. Based on lack of agenda items, the Committee discussed the possibility of merging with another Conference Committee and concluded that the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities is still viable.
- **XI. Trustees**

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2008:

Class A Trustees

Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.
William D. Clark, M.D.
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
Rogelio R. Flores
Herbert I. Goodman
Terrance M. Bedient FACHE
Jeanne S. Woordford

Class B Trustees (See “Note below)

Ken B.
Conley B.
Paul C.
Dorothy H.
John K.
Victor P.
Howard L.
Raymond M.
Robert (Bob) M.
Madeleine J. P.
John S.
Dorothy W.

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

58th Annual General Service Conference

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.
First Vice-Chairperson	Herbert I. Goodman
Second Vice-Chairperson	William D. Clark, M.D.
Treasurer	Terrance M. Bedient FACHE
Secretary	Robert M.
Assistant Treasurer	Donald W. Meurer
Assistant Secretary	Adrienne B.

(Passed with 8 apposed)

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2008:

Paul C.	Adrienne B.
Roberta L.	John S.
John K.	Jane T.
George M.	Dorothy W.
Greg M.	

(Passed unanimously)

Recommendation: The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2008:

Ginger R. B.	Raymond M.
James B.	Dorothy H.
Robin B.	Madeline J. P.
Conley B.	Andrew J. (Andy) T.

Note: The Grapevine Corporate Board will operate short one Class A Trustee Director.

(Passed with 3 apposed)

58th Annual General Service Conference

Recommendation: The committee recommended that, in order to further clarify the language regarding the length of service of the General Manager, G.S.O., the Trustees' Committee on Nominating:

1. Consider replacing paragraph three of Nominating Procedure No. 9 approved by the General Service Board on February 4, 2008 which reads:

“The General Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board without an employment contract and as an at-will employee. While there is no term of office as such, most recently, applicants have been asked for a commitment of five to seven years. It has been generally recognized that it is in the best interest of the Board and the individual to agree on the probable length of service in this position”.

With the following language:

The General Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board without an employment contract and as an at-will employee. While there is no term of office as such, it is in the best interest of the Board and the individual to agree on a maximum length of employment for this position at the time of hire.

2. Forward a report on their deliberations to the 2009 Conference Committee on Trustees.
(Failed 84 to 50) **Note:** *The purpose of this proposal was to clarify that this is an employment issue and not a service issue and to make no reference to any implied employment contract or length of service. (5 to 7 years) The Trustees' Nominating Committee has until the end of this year to consider the language of this procedure as they have to hire a new General Manager.*

Recommendation: The committee recommended that amendments to the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws as forwarded from the General Service Board to include options for interim changes to member trustee ratio and composition in response to the 2007 Conference Advisory Action which instituted consideration of all eligible Class A and Class B trustees when selecting the Chairperson of the General Service Board be approved.

(Passed 121 to 1)

58th Annual General Service Conference

Additional committee considerations:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B Trustee candidates for the West Central and Western Canada Regions.

Candidates for the West Central Region:

Jim R.	Iowa
Charles C.	Northern Minnesota
Dennis B.	Southern Minnesota
Scott W.	Montana
Ken B.	Nebraska
Nada B.	North Dakota
Lisa R.	South Dakota
David M.	Wyoming

Ken B. was elected West Central Regional Trustee from the hat.

Candidates for the Western Canada Region:

Victor P.	Alberta/ Northwest Territories
Maureen M.	British Columbia/Yukon
Robin F.	Manitoba
Randy M.	Saskatchewan

Victor P. was elected Western Canada Regional Trustee from the hat.

- The committee discussed a request to revisit the 2007 General Service Conference Advisory Action to consider all eligible Class A and Class B trustees when selecting the Chairperson of the General Service Board and took no action. **Note:** *This became a floor action.*
- In response to a recommendation from an area steering committee, the Committee asked the Trustees' Committee on Nominating:
 1. To amend the General Service Board Bylaws so that a Class B Regional Trustee elected to a partial term as the result of a resignation, death, retirement, removal or disqualification of a Class B Regional Trustee may stand for an additional full term of service subsequent to filling the term of service of the replaced trustee member.
 2. To consider comparable amendments to the General Service Board Bylaws regarding an unexpected vacancy of a Class B trustee-at-large.
 3. To forward the amended General Service Board Bylaws to the 2009 Conference Committee on Trustees for approval.

58th Annual General Service Conference

XII. Archives

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook, and accepted the revisions and proposed format changes, including the new language intended to foster awareness of copyright issues, with minor edits.
- The committee requested that the G.S.O. Archives' "Statements of Policy" related to accessing the Archives, as well as the "Sound and Video Access Policies," be added to the next printing of the Archives Workbook.
- The committee discussed various ideas for creatively making A.A.'s archives and history more readily available to the Fellowship in the future; these included:
 1. Exploring ways to convey the experience of visiting the G.S.O. and the Archives for those who have not visited New York.
 2. Continuing the development (currently in progress) of an extensive, illustrated timeline of A.A.'s history, for the Archives portal of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
 3. Placing the Archives policies in a more prominent area of the Archives portal of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
 4. Clarifying those services and materials that the Archives Department makes available to A.A. members and others.
 5. Include frequently asked questions and answers about A.A.'s Archives and history to the Archives portal of the G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
 6. Welcoming sharing and experience from Area and District Archives Committees for inclusion in the workbook and Markings; Your Archives Interchange.
 7. Submitting insightful articles to Box 459, or the Grapevine, that express the significance of archives and history to a wider audience.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

Recommendation: After thoughtful deliberation, the Committee recommended that the under noted four cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2020.

Detroit
Los Angeles
New Orleans
Vancouver, B.C.

(Passed 130 to 1)

58th Annual General Service Conference

Recommendation: The Committee recommended that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2010 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. (Passed all in favor)

Committee considerations:

- The committee discussed the following ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums and suggested:
 1. That to increase local participation, areas where a Regional Forum is scheduled begin early in the year asking districts to consider not scheduling district functions that would conflict with the Forum dates.
 2. That Local Forums be held in conjunction with State Conventions, and other non-service A.A. events.
 3. That information about Local Forums be mailed to all delegates again this year.
 4. That information about Local Forums be communicated to intergroups and central offices.
 5. That area's consider extending one day service events into two day events with the inclusion of a Local Forum.

Floor Action 1

To amend the 1959 Conference Advisory Action to display the Puerto Rican Flag with the United States and Canadian Flags, to also include the British, Bahamian, and Dutch Flags which are presented at the General Service Conference as part of Area 15.

Submitted by:

Bill Q.

Area 15, Panel 57

Failed 98 to 20

Floor Action 2

That the Trustees' Conference Committee develop policies and process for the selection of Conference agenda items, the selection of background material for these items, and present these to the 2009 Conference for review.

Submitted by:

Gus H.

Area 67, Panel 57

Failed 104 to 13 **Note:** *It was noted that there is a process in place and it's included the workbooks provided to us.*

58th Annual General Service Conference

Floor Action 3

Request that the Trustees' Committee on Nominating and the Conference Trustees' Committee replace the word "good" with "geographical" preceding Cross Section in Nominating Procedure # 9.

Submitted by:

John C. Area 20, Panel 58

Decline to consider.

Floor Action 4

Background material for the Conference Agenda Committee shall include a list of proposed agenda items that were tabled or upon which no action was taken and an explanation of why each proposal was tabled or no action was taken.

Submitted by:

Robert H. Area 62, Panel 58

Failed 78 to 41

Minority opinion was heard.

Vote to reconsider passed 74 to 50

More discussion

Motion failed 66 to 59. *Note: G.S.O. staff volunteered to create a spreadsheet of all proposed agenda items and what actions were taken by the appropriate Trustees' Committees and the reasons for their actions. This information will be sent to all delegates following each Quarterly Board Meeting. It will be the delegates responsibility to contact the appropriate trustee for discussion about the item.*

Floor Action 5

To have the Conference revisit the 2007 General Service Conference Advisory Action to consider all eligible Class A and Class B Trustees' when selecting the Chairperson of the General Service Board.

Submitted by:

Debbie J. Area 93, Panel 57

Floor discussion

Majority vote to recommit and send it back the appropriate Trustees' Committee at the discretion of the Conference Coordinator. *Note: There was much discussion about this and the Conference as a whole could not come to a conclusion.*

58th Annual General Service Conference

Floor Action 6

To consider only all eligible Class A Trustees' when selecting the Chairperson of the General Service Board.

Submitted by:

Gail N. Area 08, Panel 58

Floor discussion

Majority vote to recommit and send it back the appropriate Trustees' Committee at the discretion of the Conference Coordinator. *Note: Same note as floor action # 5.*

Floor Action 7

That the secondary Conference Committee on Archives be established as a standing Conference Committee.

Submitted by:

Dot D. Area 83, Panel 57

Floor discussion

Majority vote to recommit and send it back the appropriate Trustees' Committee at the discretion of the Conference Coordinator.

Floor Action 8

That all pending and future Conference-approved audio visual projects, i.e. P.S.A.s, informational videos, etc. include the end line of:

“Look us up. Check your phone book, newspaper or aa.org.”

Submitted by:

Pat B. Area 38, Panel 57

Decline to consider.

Floor Action 9

That item F of the Public Information's Committee agenda (Posthumous anonymity) be returned to the Trustees' Committee on Public Information for consideration at the General Service Conference in 2009.

Submitted by:

Pat M. Area 11, Panel 57

Decline to consider. *Note: This failed as a recommendation so it may have to be re-submitted as a proposal again.*

58th Annual General Service Conference

Floor Action 10

Consider a request to change the title of the pamphlet “44 Questions” to “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.”.

Submitted by:

John F.

Area 91, Panel 57

No floor discussion.

Majority vote to recommit and send it back the appropriate Trustees’ Committee at the discretion of the Conference Coordinator.

Floor Action 11

Reinstate the pamphlet “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic”.

Submitted by:

Rad M.

Area 92, Panel 58

Decline to consider.

Floor Action 12

That the Trustees’ Committee on Literature develops a pamphlet titled “A.A. for the First Nation” with first nation stories included.

Submitted by:

Paul A.

Area 57, Panel 57

Floor discussion

Motion fails 61 to 49

Motion to reconsider passes with a majority vote.

Majority vote to recommit and send it back the appropriate Trustees’ Committee at the discretion of the Conference Coordinator.

58th Annual General Service Conference

Floor Action 13

To cancel the Advisory Action of the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, item B2, which recommended that the statement: “This directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture” that appears on the cover of the A.A. directories be made significantly more prominent, e.g. use borders, larger type face, etc.

Submitted by:

Madeline P.

Pacific Regional Trustee

Motion passed 96 to 25 *Note: See the note under Report & Charter.*

Floor Action 14

The Conference proposes that the Trustees’ Committee on Public Information conduct an assessment of how A.A. could best utilize new media platforms for Public Information purposes and report its findings to the 2009 Conference Committee on Public Information

Submitted by:

John T.

Area 63, Panel 58

Majority vote to recommit and send it back the appropriate Trustees’ Committee at the discretion of the Conference Coordinator.

Floor Action 15

That the Grapevine and La Vina discontinue the Alcoholism at Large pages on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism.

Submitted by:

Bill N.

Area 65, Panel 57

Motion to recommit

Failed 78 to 39

Floor discussion

Motion failed 94 to 24

It will be sent back to committee. *Note: There was much discussion about this and there will be a survey coming out to gather information from the Fellowship. The Conference could not come to a group conscience concerning this item.*

58th Annual General Service Conference

END OF THE CONFERENCE

The 58th General Service Conference set a record (according to all in attendance) for going into overtime. The Conference is scheduled to close at 5:00pm on Friday and we closed at 12:30am on Saturday. All Conference members were very tired and worn out. Ray M., General Service Trustee, asked Greg M., G.S.O. Manager, to address the Conference about his experience as our General Manager for the past ten years as this will be his last Conference due to his retirement. It was a very moving talk and well received by all. Leonard Blumenthal officially closed the Conference with a talk starting at midnight. On Saturday we had a farewell brunch with talks from out-going Trustees. Vince Keefe, Class A Trustee, Tom K., Western Canada Regional Trustee and Chuck B., West Central Regional Trustee were our speakers. Saturday was concluded with a trip to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois W

MY CLOSING REMARKS

When we arrived at the Conference, Leonard Blumenthal reminded us in his opening talk that we are all here to be part of A.A. history. We heard this same comment a number of times throughout the week and it seemed to hit home around 12:30am on Saturday morning as we closed the Conference. Much of what we did during the week will affect how we carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in years to come. I learned that one voice at a microphone asking a question can implement changes as was my experience. I learned that a loving God as he expresses Himself in a group conscience does exist in this most emotional setting. I learned how effective the minority opinion can be as I watched it change a number of votes throughout the week. Was my life changed by this experience? I feel it was. It was a week of opinions, tears, love, anger, resentments and understanding unlike anything I have ever experienced. This years theme was "Communication and Participation" and I can walk away saying that that's exactly what happened.