

2010 General Service Conference

Final Agenda Items

Impact Items

Note: These items were chosen by your delegate as agenda items that he feels may have special impact on Alcoholics Anonymous or within our Area. It is a subjective list only. All items on the Final Conference Agenda will impact Alcoholics Anonymous.

This summarizing of information is meant to be used as a starting point, and should not limit your study of the background materials. It was my intention to include an item from each committee but some background materials are sent only to Delegates serving on those committees thus, nothing to work with. Some of the items are video clips and in the case of a couple committees, there was just not much to talk about.

At the Delegate's workshop, the committees will be asking for input from all of the items on their agendas. In the afternoon, the GSR's will have the opportunity to speak on any of the Final Conference Agenda Items.

The lettering of these items matches the same lettering on the full list of agenda items.

IV. Finance

B. "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"

1. Consider request to replace the "pie charts" on page 12 with text such as:

Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine the contribution amounts to the following entities: District; Area; G.S.O. and Intergroup/Central Office, if one services your district.

This item comes from a district in Area 67 (Southeast Texas). They state that the pie charts can be very misleading as to the percentage a group should contribute to each service entity. This item has come up in my home group more than once as well. Is there a disclaimer stating that these charts are examples only and if so, how visible is it? Does your home group use these examples as your percentage for sending financial support to the service entities? How often should a g group change these percentages?

2. Discuss request to include information about A.A. Grapevine.

Make the changes below to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix"

A) Add the following question:

Q: Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine Inc?

A: No. A.A. Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals, and contributions made to GSO do not cover the A.A. Grapevine's operating expenses. The Grapevine's income comes solely from the sale of subscriptions and other publications. Groups support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Vina magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth-Step work.

This item comes from Dorothy H., Chairperson of the A.A. Grapevine Board.

Do we need to send this message to the groups and include it in this pamphlet? Has your group attempted to contribute to the Grapevine with monetary contributions? How true is this statement?

VI. Literature

C. Consider developing Conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

This topic is not new. It was an agenda item two years ago and no action was taken. Last year the request was for a video and no action was taken and it was also a floor action which was sent back to committee. One person states that her father uses the fact that he is an atheist to avoid A.A. meetings and that we need this type of literature for those still suffering alcoholics and yet another view states that this proposed pamphlet undermines the message in the Big Book. The background is extensive and enlightening – enjoy.

H. Consider request that the video, "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised and updated.

This request comes from Area 29 (Maryland).

The request covers a number of points from updated literature to anonymity and also including a broader picture of our service structure including the GSR, DCM, and General Service Board. Last year our area requested that they add a section about the GSR and the Trustees' Literature Committee recommended adding a DCM section as well. The 59th General Service as a whole liked the idea but chose to take no action based on the fellowships financial concerns at the time. Here it is again. The intent of this is not for training but for educational purposes.

I. Consider request to develop a book on the history of "early pioneer women in A.A."

Some of us are familiar with this item as it originated in a woman's group in District 13, Area 36. (Anoka MN) There has been little opposition to this request and I was in the room when the Trustees' Committee on Literature confirmed that we have the needed archives to make this happen. Everyone agreed it is a needed item. Now we have an estimated price tag attached - \$150,000. - \$200,000. to research and write the book. It will take about a year to complete. Is it worth the price?

VIII. Public Information

F. Consider development of a policy on the practice of showing full faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media.

I can't stress strongly enough to read all the pros and cons in the background information. This item comes from area's 14(N. Florida) and 27 (Louisiana) and after reading much of the background, the debate could be endless. This is quite a task to undertake. Will it require more sharing from the fellowship or will the Conference Committee on Public Information attempt to construct a policy? Is it needed? Will it get changed every year?

G. Consider submitting a request to the trustees' Committee on Agenda to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of "Anonymity in a Digital Age."

This is an item that was sent by the Trustees' Committee on Public Information. They recognized the need and opportunities through sponsorship, Tradition Workshops and Forums to help the fellowship become more informed about our tradition of anonymity. By making it the theme for a General Service Conference will more people read the final conference report and will it inspire more workshops and sharing on a local level?

VIII. Report and Charter

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2010 - 2011 Edition:

5. Consider request to (a) publish and distribute *The A.A. Service Manual* every other year and in years not produced, distribute a supplement of changes, and (b) publish the A.A. directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published.

The background is very minimal on this agenda item. It comes from Area 34 (Western Mich.). They ask that we consider the spiritual, practical and financial benefits & liabilities. The cost savings of printing the Directories every other year would be around \$32,000 - \$40,000 including printing and postage. The savings on the A.A. Service Manual would be minimal as it has to be updated frequently and often time to reflect the actions of any given General Service Conference. Is it worth the cost savings?

B. General Service Conference Final Report

1. Consider placing *Additional Committee Considerations, Recommendations That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* and *Floor Actions That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* following the Advisory Actions.

This item comes from Area 39 (Western Missouri). There are a couple of interesting facts concerning this agenda item. Two years ago we asked that the delegates receive a spreadsheet with all the items that didn't make it to the Conference (not forwarded from the Trustees' Committees) and we got it. When I was sitting in the Trustees' Committee Meetings two weeks ago the talk was about making these items more available to the fellowship as to not let them get forgotten. Now we have an agenda item asking that we remember in a very prominent way the items that didn't result in advisory actions. Why would we want to remember all these things that didn't make the grade? Should we remind the fellowship about them? What if they were bad ideas?

X Treatment Facilities

B. Consider a suggestion to change “Treatment Facilities” to “Treatment” in the Conference Committee name and in related A.A. literature where appropriate.

This item comes from a sub-committee of the Trustees’ Committee on Treatment Facilities looking into carrying the message into outpatient treatment settings. I was in the room when the Chair of this sub-committee (Class A non-alcoholic Trustee in the treatment industry) stated that “Treatment Facilities” refers to a building or institution and doesn’t accurately reflect the settings in which addiction treatment is addressed. The term should be more inclusive of the “services” provided. We changed the name of our Corrections Committee in a very similar way a few years ago so is it time to make the same type of change to the name of this committee? How much will it cost to change all the workbooks and literature with the “Treatment Facilities” name on it?

Thank you for taking the time to discuss these items in your groups and districts in such a short period of time. I look forward to hearing all your thoughts and opinions on these items as well as all of the 2010 General Service Conference Agenda Items and please know that your voices are heard.

Thank you,

*Scott A.
Delegate – Area 36*