

April 2008

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION

Conference Committee on Literature

- The committee recommended that the pamphlet “44 Questions” be retitled “Questions and Answers about the A.A. Program of Recovery from Alcoholism.”

Conference Committee on Public Information

- 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, and that no current television public service announcements be retired at this time.
- 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.

A.A. members may wish to make their personal wishes on this matter known to their families ahead of time.

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. Following are excerpts from the obituary:

Mr. Wilson gave permission to break his A.A. anonymity upon his death in a signed statement in 1966. The role of Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith as the other 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; its deeper purpose is to keep those fool egos of ours from running hog wild after money and fame at A.A.'s expense.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

- 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.

Conference Committee on Trustees

- 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:

- a) 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.”

- (b) Forward a report on their deliberations to the 2009 Conference Committee on Trustees.

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