

2011 General Service Conference Conference Outcomes

Recommendations made by Conference Committees, if approved by the Conference body, result in **Conference Advisory Actions**. Conference Advisory Actions are then referred to the General Service Board or G.S.O. for action/implementation. **Additional Committee Considerations** are 'strong' suggestions to the Trustees' Committees, G.S.O. and/or the General Service Board. They are not voted on by the full body.

The following is the 2011 Conference agenda, by Committee, with the final outcome shown for each item.

Agenda

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

It was recommended that: The theme for the 2012 General Service Conference be:
"Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age"

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

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

It was recommended that: The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2012 General Service Conference:

- a) Carrying the A.A. Message:

1. Still Our Primary Purpose
2. Social Web Sites
3. Young People in A.A.
4. Importance of Sponsorship

- b) Change – Essential to A.A.'s Growth:

1. Service: Our Third Legacy
2. Spirit of Rotation
3. Diversity – Let's Keep Our Doors Open for Any Who May Suffer from Alcoholism
4. Archives – Where the Past Meets the Present

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed a request from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics planned for the 2012 General Service Conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics to two for the 2012 General Service Conference.

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

It was recommended that: The following be the workshop topic for the 2012 General Service Conference: "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare."

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

There were no recommendations or additional considerations related to the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee considered a request that the trustees' Committee on the Conference meet annually with the Conference Committee on Agenda to address matters concerning the Conference agenda. Following a lengthy discussion, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Conference meet/confer with the Conference Committee on Agenda prior to the winter quarterly board meeting to address matters concerning the Conference week agenda.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee agreed that the concept of combining the A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community DVD with a compilation of C.P.C. literature would be very useful in C.P.C. service work. The committee requested the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibility explore replacing the current A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community DVD with a new DVD compilation that includes the following existing material:

- Table of Contents
- Introduction letter that includes references to aa.org and the resources available for professionals on the website
- If You are a Professional
- Information on Alcoholics Anonymous
- A.A. Membership Survey
- Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community
- About A.A. – Newsletter for Professional (3-4 selected issues)
- Is A.A. for Me?
- A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community videos

The committee requested that the trustees' bring back a report and draft product to the 2012 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community.

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee discussed a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne and took no action.

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed a draft service piece regarding use of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in C.P.C. endeavors and suggested including the piece in the C.P.C. Kit with minor edits suggested by the committee.

- D. C.P.C. Kit and Workbook

1. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
2. List of goals and project suggestions for C.P.C. committees.
3. Sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals.
4. Sample guide letter for healthcare professional school administrators.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

- That the list of goals and project suggestions for C.P.C. committees be added to the C.P.C. workbook.
- The committee reviewed the Fellowship sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals. The committee requested that a summary of shared experience from C.P.C. committees and professionals for one-on-one C.P.C. contact with professionals be included in the C.P.C. Workbook.
- The committee suggested adding to bullets on page 20 of the C.P.C. Workbook regarding suggested elements in C.P.C. letters:
 - Invitation to accompany professionals or students to open A.A. meetings
 - Invitation to present on what A.A. is and is not.

Corrections

- A. Review progress report from trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." The committee particularly agreed with the suggestion already forwarded to the Publications Department to include content in the draft revision that would appeal to the young incarcerated alcoholic. The committee looks forward to seeing a full draft of the revised pamphlet at the 2012 General Service Conference, and encourages the Publications Department to consider more a more standard pamphlet-sized format, if feasible, while still preserving the elements of the existing easy-to-read format.

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

It was recommended that: The following changes be made to the pamphlet “A.A in Correctional Facilities”:

That the text in the section on “Meetings” which reads,

“Since the Twelve Steps are the basis of our recovery in A.A., many groups hold Step meetings. The leader might share a bit of his or her story and talk briefly about a particular Step and then throw the meeting open for discussion. Each type of meeting serves a different purpose; all are needed.”

Be replaced with:

“Many groups also hold Step meetings, Tradition meetings or Big Book studies. Each type of meeting serves a different purpose; all are needed.”

And that the heading and text of the section “Step meetings,” which reads,

“Step meetings

In addition to a leader sharing his or her experience with a Step, some groups might read from *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, followed by a discussion. Many groups find listening to cassette tapes on the Steps helpful. (Tapes are available from the General Service Office.)”

Be replaced with:

“Step meetings, Tradition meetings and Big Book studies

Since the Twelve Steps are the basis of our recovery in A.A., many groups hold Step meetings. Some groups read passages from the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* or the Big Book, followed by a discussion.

Groups may also read and discuss the Twelve Traditions, the best answers we have found to the questions “How can A.A. best function?” and “How can A.A. best stay whole and so survive?”

Since the Big Book contains not only directions for how many of our members practice the Twelve Steps, but also a brief history of our Fellowship’s beginnings and personal stories to help newcomers identify with other alcoholics, many A.A. groups devote meeting time to the study of this basic text.

Audio recordings of the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* are available from the General Service Office. The pamphlets “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” may also be helpful.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees committee on Corrections regarding the kit. The committee requested that a process be established for updating the Workbook at each printing which will ensure accurate references to items such as page numbers, A.A. publications, current terminology and statistical information. The committee also

suggested that new Corrections chairs be information that new material may be available that is not yet reflected in the current catalogue.

D. Other

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed the possible need for a comprehensive survey of A.A. program of activities in Correction Facilities similar to the one conducted in 1990, and requested the trustees' Committee on Corrections explore the need for such a survey and report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Corrections.

Finance

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed with appreciation the Seventh Tradition stories received to date and encourage the collection process continue. The committee suggests that the trustees or office can used any stories received to date if the occasion arises.

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

It was recommended that: The following changes be made to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:"

- o "AND" be replaced with "OR" between the pie charts that start on page 12 and an additional "OR" added after the second pie chart.
- o Insert a blank pie chart and distribution text as follows to the beginning of the pie chart examples:



District	_____	%
Area Committee	_____	%
G.S.O.	_____	%
Intergroup/Central Office	_____	%
Other A.A. Service Entities	_____	%
Other A.A. Service Entities	_____	%

- o Other minor editorial changes.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed a request that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook and felt a workbook was not necessary at this time as there is a wealth of information currently available.

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed a request that the trustees' Finance Committee convert the Self-Support packet F-19 to a comprehensive Self-support Kit. The committee requested that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a draft Self-Support Kit to be brought back to the 2012 Conference Finance Committee for review. The kit would include, but not limited to:

M-21	<i>I Am Responsible</i> Wallet Card
M-23	Conference Report (current year)
MG-15	A.A. Guidelines on Finance
P-16	The A.A. Group Pamphlet
P-43	Twelve Traditions Illustrated
P-44	A.A.'s Legacy of Service Traditions Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine
F-42	Self-Support Green Card
FR-2	A.A. Group Contribution Envelope
FR-5	A.A. Birthday Contribution Envelope and Birthday Plan Cover Letter
FV-19	Self-Support Packet – with updated flyers
SMF-176	Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.

- E. Discuss the list forwarded from the 2010 Conference Finance Committee for additional ways to communicate about self-support:
1. Birthday Plan
 2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet
 3. *Box 4-5-9* or Grapevine Articles
 4. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit
 5. Report Costs of Services to Members
 6. Discuss Effects of Inflation
 7. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web site

Additional Committee Consideration: The Conference Finance Committee requests that the trustees' Finance Committee prepare a simple document of Self-Support/financial talking points to be used by the Fellowship, made available on the web site, in the GSR and DCM packets, and in the Self-Support Kit.

Grapevine

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

It was recommended that: In the spirit of being self-supporting while also protecting our Traditions of attraction, anonymity, and non-affiliation, A.A. Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as,

but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products. The committee requests that the Board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. The Committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2012 Grapevine Conference Committee.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee considered permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund and agreed to take no action. The committee noted that the current financial structure is appropriate.

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

It was recommended that: The A.A. Grapevine Board, in consultation with the A.A. World Services Board and under the guidance of the General Service Board chairman, continue to investigate what efficiencies and objectives can be accomplished by combining services and sharing resources, including reviewing Concept 11, while still maintaining editorial and corporate independence.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed at length and agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2012 or later:

- Working the Program (working title)
A collection of AA Grapevine stories on recovery from alcoholism
- Happy, Joyous, and Free (working title)
A collection of AA Grapevine stories reflecting experience, strength, hope and humor
- Young and New to AA (working title)
A collection about getting sober young from those who have done it

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

It was recommended that: In order to encourage unity and to support A.A. Grapevine, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine Board establish an ad hoc committee to review and determine actionable items from the A.A. Grapevine Fellowship Sharing Report and that the ad hoc committee have a proportional representation similar to the General Service Conference and be chair by the Chair of the General Service Board

(Recommendation Failed)

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

It was recommended that: The editorial revisions made by the A.A. Grapevine staff to “The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” pamphlet be approved with minor suggestions.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook with appreciation.

- H. Other

Additional Committee Consideration: In order to adhere to our spiritual principle of self-support, the Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine suggests that the A.A. Grapevine Board only propose balanced operating budgets to the General Service Board.

Additional Committee Consideration: A single issue of Grapevine, La Viña and/or La Vigne magazine be included, with an introductory letter that offers AAGrapevine.org information, in the GSR packet for all new GSRs. Format and costs are to be determined jointly A.A. Grapevine and AAWS.

Additional Committee Consideration: Encourage each home group to purchase annual subscriptions.

Additional Committee Consideration: The A.A. Grapevine Board look at distribution techniques of journals similar to the Grapevine, including La Vigne, as well as other General Service structure journals.

Literature

- A. Review the revised draft pamphlet “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs.”

It was recommended that: The revised pamphlet “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs” be approved.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The trustees’ Literature Committee continue to develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee expressed support for the trustees’ efforts to develop a pamphlet which reflects the wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members and asked that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report from the trustees' Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services." The committee expressed appreciation for the work done by the trustees and provided several suggestions for the development of the pamphlet. The committee asked that a draft pamphlet or report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.

- D. Review draft revisions to the *Living Sober* booklet.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the draft revisions to the *Living Sober* booklet forwarded by the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee expressed appreciation for the revisions suggested, and requested that the trustees' Literature Committee continue to review the booklet *Living Sober*, focusing on outdate language and/or practices, and provide a new revision to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.

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

It was recommended that: The following text under "When you're a G.S.R.," in the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative" which currently reads:

"You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. Back in 1953, when the "group contact" was suggested as a new type of trusted servant, the job was seen simply as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information..."

Be replaced with:

"You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. In 1950, a new type of trusted servant, "group representative," was suggested to help in the selection of delegates to the newly-formed General Service Conference. By 1953, the job of "group representative" was also seen as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information...."

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee considered a request to develop an item similar to the Self-Support card or 'green card' to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool and took no action. The committee noted that when an item to promote the use of A.A. literature as a Twelfth step tool is needed, the language and format of this tool is generally best decided by each A.A. service committee or entity, based on their needs and experience.

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee considered the request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that "the trustees' Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous," and after thoughtful discussion agreed to take no action. The committee noted that the trustees' Literature Committee's report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality clarifies that the pamphlet under development will reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members.

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

It was recommended that: The A.A. Preamble be added to the front inside pages of the Big Book and asked that the trustees Literature Committee provide a report that includes sample placement options, and any other consideration, to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.

(Recommendation Failed)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee considered a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office and agreed to take no action at this time. The committee noted that Conference-approved materials describing the General Service Office are currently available.

Policy/Admissions

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee noted that Donald S., the former Panel 61 delegate for Area 22, Northern Indiana, resigned. In February, 2011 Ron F. was elected as the new Panel 61 delegate for Area 22. Therefore, no recommendation from the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions was required in order to seat him as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference.

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

It was recommended that: Oscar C. B. and Jesus C. P. S. from the General Service Structure of Peru be admitted to the 61st General Service Conferences as observers.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: Sheila D. and Martin B. from the General Service Structure of Great Britain be admitted to the 61st General Service Conferences as observers.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee had lengthy discussion on a request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda items, and took no action. Acknowledging the challenge of communicating about agenda items within a short time frame, the committee noted that many delegates are taking advantage of current technology in order to facilitate timely distribution of background within their areas.

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

It was recommended that: The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan formulated by the Conference Inventory Planning Committee.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- F. Review dates for the 2014 General Service Conference.

It was recommended that: The 64th General Service Conference be held April 27-May 3, 2014 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee discussed a request that a formal relationship be developed between the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and the trustee's Conference Committee to address matters of policy relating to the General Service Conference and took no action.

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

It was recommended that: The Conference Committee on Archives meet separately at the General Service Conference following a joint meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The following procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference be established:

1. The minority, expressing a feeling or opinion in light of the right of appeal to the General Service Conference, has been very rare. It is hoped that an individual entitled under Concept V to appeal would exhaust every avenue offered within the General Service Conference structure prior to making an appeal to the General Service Conference.
2. Those entitled to appeal to the General Service Conference are members who, on the inverted triangle of the A.A. service structure, fall *below* the General Service Conference

level – members of staffs, committees, corporate boards or trustees, as referenced, in the first paragraph of Concept V of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

3. The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the General Service Conference delegate chair and to the General Service Office Conference coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference.
4. All Conference members will be given notice through the General Service Office of the minority's decision to file an appeal.
5. Appeals under Concept V, including any minority report and background, must be received in writing 30 days prior to the General Service Conference in order for these materials to be distributed to Conference members. The G.S.O. Conference coordinator will be responsible for seeing that this material is made available to all Conference members within 10 business days after its receipt.
6. The minority's appeal will be presented before the start of deliberation on Committee Reports:
 - The minority will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their appeal.
 - The majority will then be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their position.
7. The discretion to debate a minority's appeal rests with the Conference body.

The chair will ask if there is a motion to decline to consider the minority's appeal. A motion to decline to consider a minority's appeal:

- Must be made without comment.
 - Needs a second.
 - Is not debatable.
 - Requires a *two thirds majority*.
8. If the Conference decides to debate the appeal, it then takes the form of a motion which does not require a second. If passed by substantial unanimity, it becomes an Advisory action.
 9. Whether or not an appeal is debated, a summary of the minority's report and the disposition of the appeal will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

J. Other

It was recommended that: Mike D., alternate delegate, Area 50, Western New York, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because John C., the Panel 60 Delegate for Area 50 resigned.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

It was recommended that: Mel C., alternate delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario International, be seated as a Conference member at the 61st General Service Conference because Robb W., the panel 61 delegate for Area 83 is unable to attend.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

Public Information

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed and accepted the 2010 Annual Report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. website.

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

It was recommended that: The Committee recommended that the 2011 AA. Membership Survey be conducted by areas on a random basis as was done in 2007 A.A. Membership Survey.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The Committee recommended that the following "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates" be approved:

Videos produced and distributed by the General Service Board or its affiliated corporations, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., that include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor's full face, unless:

- a. The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with the A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not in fact or in appearance place personalities before principles and
- b. The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such video.

For purposes of this Policy a 'video' is any item of visual media in which a live actor appears, regardless of the medium in which the video is presented (DVD, film, electronic file, etc.)

For purposes of this Policy, a 'potential A.A. member' is a character in a video who is portrayed as seeking help from A.A., or who is portrayed as the recipient of Twelfth Step work in any form.

Existing videos using actors to portray A.A. members or potential A.A. members may continue to be produced and distributed until retired from service.

The videos 'Markings on the Journey' and 'Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions,' each of which is currently distributed only to A.A. groups, as well as 'Bill's Own Story,' which also has restricted distribution, may continue to be produced and distributed.

A copy of this policy will always be given to all entities participating in the production of a video prior to commencement of production. The background for the policy will always be distributed with the policy.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

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

Additional Committee Consideration: *The committee reviewed all the current A.A. T.V. public service announcements and agreed with trustees' Public Information Committee's report that found them all to be relevant and useful.*

- b. Consider production of new television P.S.A.s.

It was recommended that: A culturally sensitive Spanish-language Public Service Announcement be developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, independent of any English language P.S.A. (production cost not to exceed \$40,000) to better ensure the hand of A.A. is there whenever anyone anywhere reaches out.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The revised "Understanding Anonymity" pamphlet be approved.
Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The revised "The A.A. Fact File" be approved.
Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The section titled "How You Can Find A.A. in Your Town" in "A.A. At a Glance" be changed to "How To Find A.A.," and that the section which reads:

"Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory. In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can."

Be amended to read:

“Look for Alcoholics Anonymous in any telephone directory, your local newspaper or “How to Find A.A. Meetings” on the home page of our website www.aa.org. In most urban areas, a central A.A. office or intergroup, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can.”

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee suggested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee explore alternative packaging of the Public Information Kit and report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Public Information including cost information.

- I. Other

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee expressed support for the trustees’ Public Information Committee to develop a comprehensive media plan.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee suggested that ‘The A.A. Fact File’ be revised and updated every three years.

Report and Charter

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

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

Additional Committee Consideration: In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions. The committee suggested that the A.A.W.S. Board consider adding examples to clarify what “other entities” refers to on page S74 in the last paragraph under FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

2. Review draft of description on trustees emeriti.

It was recommended that: The following text be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board after the section titled “General Service Trustees” on page S69:

“Trustees Emeriti

The General Service Board has designated rotating board chairpersons as trustees emeriti. Trustees emeriti are invited to attend quarterly board meetings of the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference. They are a resource of corporate memory and are often asked to share their experience with past board decisions, how previous General Service Boards conducted business, and the processes they used to reach a group conscience. Trustees emeriti do not vote on any matter before the General Service Board or the Conference.”

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

3. Review list of editorial updates.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publications Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested some revisions.

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

It was recommended that: The committee recommended that that following text on page S67 in *The A.A. Service Manual* under “NOMINATION PROCEDURE” in the section on Regional Trustees:

“2. Two Conference Actions should be kept in mind. In 1977, the Conference recommended that a delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference. And in 1985, it was recommended that ‘no area shall submit an individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.’”

Be replaced with:

“2. Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as trustee candidate until one year after his or her last conference.”

It was recommended that: The following text on page s68 in the A.A. Service Manual under “NOMINATION PROCEDURE” in the section on Trustees-at-large:

“In the areas, the same procedure used in selecting a regional trustee candidate is followed. No area should submit the same name for regional and at-large trustee in the same year.”

Be replaced with:

“Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference.”

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee considered the request to change the phrase “new kid on the block” with “a first year delegate” on page S2 under Personal Experience in section “Preparing for Conference” in *The A.A. Service Manual* and took no action. The committee agreed that this quote from a past delegate should not be altered and it adequately expresses the sentiment.

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

It was recommended that: The section titled “Inactive Service Workers” in Chapter Four on page S37 in *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised to read:

“Inactive Service Workers

How does the area deal with area officers and committee chairs who have been absent from two or more assemblies? While the area assembly needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

It was recommended that: The following sections be added to *The A.A. Service Manual* as follows:

Add to Chapter Two, page S28, before section titled “Group Information”:

“Inactive General Service Representative

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each group regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the group needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

Add to Chapter Three, page S33, before section titled “The Alternate D.C.M.”:

“Inactive District Committee Member

A.A. relies on the autonomy of each district regarding the period of time and involvement that constitutes inactivity. While the district needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.”

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The following text in the section titled “What Goes On at the Conference” on page S55 in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“What Goes On at the Conference

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting, and

business sessions from Monday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops and trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations. A closing provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. Every other year, a visit to the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

Be replaced with :

“What Goes On at the Conference

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features roll call, keynote address, an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting. Business sessions from Sunday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops, and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions (see Chapter Eight for more on the committee system), and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations.

Although outside of the Conference, a delegates-only meeting is often held prior to the opening day of the Conference. On Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, a closing breakfast provides opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. In alternate years, a visit to G.S.O./Grapevine offices or the home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County is scheduled.”

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

B. Conference Charter:

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

It was recommended that: The committee recommended that the General Service Board develop text to add to Article 3 in the current Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual* which includes the principles of participation, petition, and appeal for consideration by the 2012 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The committee discussed with appreciation the request to “address and remedy the consistencies” between the Current Conference Charter and the Original Conference Charter – 1955 as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*. The committee recommended acceptance of the un-footnoted editorial changes and

updates that exist in the Current Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The committee also recommended that the following 1988 Advisory Action be reaffirmed:

“The Conference Charter appears in its original 1955 form in future editions of The A.A. Service Manual, with General Service Conference Advisory Action amendments and editorial changes indicated by footnotes, followed by the current version of the Charter.

(Recommendations Withdrawn)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.

- D. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee accepted a report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of The A.A. Service Manual 2011-2012, and the 2011 General Service Conference Report.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

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

It was recommended that: The recovery pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” be approved.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was recommended that: The name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and that these changes be reflected in the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

It was recommended that: The title of the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” be changed to “A.A. in Treatment Settings” and that the term “treatment facilities” be replaced with a more appropriate reference such as “Treatment Committees” or “treatment settings” wherever it appears in the pamphlet.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

Additional Committee Consideration (No Action): The committee considered removing one line of dialog from the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” and took no action. The committee requested instead that the trustees’ Committee review the entire script of the video,

taking into consideration concerns expressed by the Conference Committee, and return a progress report to the Committee at the 2012 Conference.

D. Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook.

Additional Committee Consideration: The Committee Reviewed the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook and:

- Expressed appreciation for the slimmer, less fragile, DVD case to be used for the videos in the Kits in place of the current DVD casings at no additional cost.
- Suggested that the section on “Carrying the Message into Noncorrectional Youth Facilities” in the Workbook be reviewed by the trustee’s Committee for appropriate emphasis on the safety of the A.A. members and the youths involved.
- Reviewed the two suggested Bridging the Gap forms, one for A.A. members requesting a temporary contact to help them connect to A.A. on the outside, and one for A.A. members willing to serve as temporary contacts, and accepted them with minor editorial changes.

E. Review contents of Special Needs Kit and Workbook

Additional Committee Consideration: The Committee reviewed the Special Needs Kit and Workbook and:

- Hoped that there will continue to be A.A. Grapevine issues that include stories from A.A. members with special needs.
- Expressed appreciation for the recent re-pricing of the American Sign Language (ASL) DVDs of the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and hoped that special needs formats will continue to be priced in accordance with their corresponding standard formats wherever fiscally possible.

F. Other

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee suggested that when the pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs is created, formats for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges be produced as soon as fiscally possible.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee requested that the term “treatment facilities” be replaced with a more, appropriate reference such as “Treatment Committee”, “Treatment Committees Kit”, “A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Committees”, etc., wherever it appears in service material.

Trustees

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. Northeast Regional Trustee

The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Northeast Regional Trustee. **Gary L., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was elected via 3rd Legacy Procedures.**

2. Southwest Regional Trustee

The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Southwest Regional Trustee. **Clayton V., Sikeston, Missouri, was elected via 3rd Legacy Procedures.**

3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada

The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Trustee-at-Large/Canada. **Barbara K., Oakwood, Ontario, was elected via 3rd Legacy Procedures.**

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

It was recommended that: The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in May 2011:

Class A Trustees

Terrance M Bedient, FACHE
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.
Corliss Burke
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores
John Fromson, M.D.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.

Class B Trustees

Rod B
Kenneth. B.
Donald C.
Nancy H.
Barbara K.
Roberta L.
Gary L.
George M.
Don M
Don M.
Eleanor N.
Victor P.
Pamela R.
Clayton V.

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Ward B. Ewing, D.D.
First Vice-Chairperson	Victor P.
Second Vice-Chairperson	Frances L. Brisbane, Ph. D.
Treasurer	Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Secretary	Kenneth B.

It was recommended that: The January 2011 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 May 2011:

Assistant Treasurer:	Donald M.
Assistant Secretary:	Doug R.

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws. **Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)**

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

It was 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 2011:

Andrea B.
Rod B.
Joe D.
Phyllis H.
Roberta L.

George M.
William N.
Pamela R.
Rick W.*

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, Summer 2011.

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

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

It was 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 2011:

Ami B.	Eleanor N.
Donald C.	Albin Z.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.	[vacancy]
Nancy H.	[vacancy]
Don M.	

Approved by Conference (Advisory Action)

- E. Other

It was recommended that: The General Service Board take action to improve communication and cooperation among all its Boards and bring a report to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustees.

(Recommendation Failed)

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee examine the impact of the Conference disapproving a recommended slate and bring a report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustees.

Archives

1. Review Workbook.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and accepted the revisions, including a minor change to the Research Application Form and a new section "Tools and Suggested Activities for Archives Committee", which will provide sharing and suggestions for Archives committees.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee requested that the G.S.O. Archivist solicit new material and stories for the "Shared Experiences" section of the Archives Workbook, by contacting Area Archivists and Area Archives Committee Chairs via a memorandum, with a copy to Area Delegates, so that this section can be updated in a future printing of the Workbook. The committee also requested that the "Shared Experiences" section be updated every five years.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop an informational piece on basic archival preservation procedures intended

to provide guidance to local archivists responsible for maintaining the physical and intellectual integrity of the collection.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee accepted the reporting on the 2010 International Convention and noted that the financial results of the Convention showed a profit of \$844,545.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee expressed appreciation to the 2010 International Convention Coordinator, Rick W., for coordinating a successful event celebrating A.A.'s 75th anniversary in San Antonio, Texas. Gratitude was also expressed to the volunteers of the local Host Committee.

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

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed the importance of Regional Forums and how Forums foster unity, enhance communication and provide a unique opportunity for local A.A.s to meet Board members, G.S.O. and Grapevine staff and trusted servants from the region. The committee noted that in 2010, over 1,500 first time Forum attendees were welcomed at Forums.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Forums and how areas communicate about upcoming Forums. The committee noted that flyers for upcoming Forums are being sent electronically from G.S.O. to delegates and D.C.M.s, and the information is accessible through G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. In addition to announcements in local A.A. newsletters, bulletins, at assemblies and meetings and local distribution of Forum Flyers, some local A.A. Web sites include the Forum Flyer or hyperlink to Forum information and registration on G.S.O.s A.A. Web site

61st General Service Conference Floor Actions

1. To allow the committee secretary to have a laptop, projector and a screen in committee meetings. This would allow for real time editing of documents/manuscripts that are agenda items. This would afford committee members to view changes as they make them to ensure the document is truly an accurate presentation of their work and enable a faster turn around time in making the documents available to Conference members prior to presentation on the conference floor.

Floor Action Failed

2. Reinstatement of the full slate of nine directors as constituted by the Grapevine Nominating Committee.

Floor Action Ruled Out of Order

3. The 61st General Service Conference expresses its appreciation and gratitude for the French-language magazine "La Vigne," and the value it has for French-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the respect "La Vigne" has shown for the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Approved by Conference

4. That the trustees' Committee on Conference not meet/confer with the Conference Committee on Agenda prior to the winter Quarterly Board Meeting until such time as an Advisory Action has been approved by the General Service Conference recommending that such a meeting/Conference occur.

Floor Action Withdrawn

5. The "Current Conference Charter" (United States and Canada) as presented in Appendix C to *The AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, 2010-2011 Edition, is hereby accepted as the current Conference Charter, and all changes to the original Charter contained therein are hereby ratified and confirmed. Footnotes to the Conference Charter as printed in *The Service Manual* are not part of the Conference Charter itself, and are included in *The Service Manual* for information purposes only.

Floor Action Failed