

Document: #5

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 57TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE - April 2007

The following recommendations were approved by the 57th General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2008 General Service Conference be: “Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support.”
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2008 General Service Conference:
 - a) Communication and Participation:
 1. Sharing the Message of Service
 2. Our Key to Keeping A.A. Strong
 3. Leadership in A.A.: Building Communication
 - b) Unity:
 1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First
 2. Principles Before Personalities
 3. Diversity: Reaching Out to All Alcoholics
 - c) Self-Support:
 1. Self-Supporting Through Members' Voluntary Contributions Only
 2. Contempt Prior to Investigation
 3. Responsibility to Communicate and Participate
3. The following be the workshop topic for the 2008 General Service Conference: “Love and Tolerance, Now More Than Ever.”

Archives¹

It was recommended that:

4. Any future proposed project involving widespread distribution of archival recordings be submitted to the Conference Archives Committee so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Correctional Facilities

It was recommended that:

5. The draft informational media presentation featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training programs for correctional personnel be approved with a suggested change to be reviewed and approved by the trustees' Committee on Corrections.

Finance

It was recommended that:

6. The annual limit contributed to the General Service Board from individual A.A. members be increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and that bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and continue to be on a one-time basis and not in perpetuity.
7. The following text: "G.S.R. travel expenses to attend service functions" be added to the sentence "Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, A. A. literature, local meeting lists)" on page 7, paragraph 3, first sentence of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (F-3) as these expenses are suggested in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

8. The Grapevine and La Viña include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

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

Literature

It was recommended that:

9. The following text from *The A.A. Service Manual* be added to “The A.A. Group” and the “G.S.R.” pamphlets:

“Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support for their general service representatives to attend service functions.”

10. The title of the pamphlet “Can A.A. Help Me Too?” subtitled “Black/African Americans Share Their Stories” be changed to “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic.”
11. The pamphlet, “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs” be revised to include current experience of A.A. members and that a revised draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Literature.
12. The Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be produced, keeping in mind the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on contents, story selection, and process, as follows:

I. Contents

A. *The Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book to be similar in page count to the English Fourth Edition Big Book*

B. *The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,” and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.’s writings and does not require Conference-approval.*

C. *Personal Stories:*

- *Retain selected stories from current Spanish-language Second Edition.*
- *Select stories from A.A.’s La Viña magazine.*
- *Select new stories from Spanish-speaking membership.*
- *Stories to be designated to three main sections similar to the English Fourth Edition Big Book.*

II. Story Solicitation

A. *Within the United States and Canada and internationally to Spanish-speaking countries.*

III. Story Selection Process

A. *To be under the direction of the trustees' Literature subcommittee on the Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book.*

B. *Story selection subcommittee:*

- *All bilingual – Spanish and English:*
- *Spanish editors.*
- *Spanish-speaking staff members.*
- *Chair to appoint some subcommittee members from the Fellowship.*

C. *Basic Selection Criteria:*

- *To use the same criteria as the English Fourth Edition Big Book based on Bill W.'s recommendations.*
- *Each story must, as Bill W. recommended, reach out to the newcomer who is still looking for the A.A. solution.*
- *Each story must be a standard A.A. story that tells what it was like, what happened, and what it is like today.*

and, that the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book include:

- *Updated translations of Bill's Own Story, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, the stories "Alcoholics Anonymous #3" and "Women Suffer Too."*
- *The existing twelve original stories from the Second Edition Spanish-language Big Book.*
- *Up to 32 new selected Spanish-language stories.*
- *Translations of the Forewords to the English Edition and the Foreword to the existing edition.*
- *A new Foreword to be developed by the Publications Department explaining the process and development of the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book.*

The committee acknowledged that the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.'s writings and recognized that translations of Bill W.'s writings do not require Conference-approval.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

13. Hari B, alternate delegate, Area 81, New Brunswick/PEI, be seated as a Conference member at the 57th General Service Conference because Adrien G, the Panel 56 delegate for Area 81 is unable to attend.

14. The 60th General Service Conference be held April 18-24, 2010, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

15. The 2007 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2004 A.A. Membership Survey.
16. The public service announcement "A Force of Nature," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.
17. The television public service announcement "A Force of Nature" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
18. The 2002 Conference Advisory Action that states "After the initial four years this cycle would continue with the oldest P.S.A. [public service announcement] being replaced each year" be reaffirmed and a new P.S.A. be developed for review by the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, and the oldest P.S.A. in the four year plan be replaced.
19. The trustees' Committee on Public Information develop their suggestion for a video project that would include video/digital submissions from the Fellowship, with selected submissions to be compiled and used in carrying the A.A. message to young people. The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information:
 - Develop clear guidelines for the request and submission of videos (or digital files) at their July 2007 meeting and that the guidelines be consistent with A.A. Traditions and appropriate safety/legal concerns.
 - Create a timetable at their July 2007 meeting for the request of video/digital submissions from the Fellowship.
 - Develop a draft from video/digital submissions or progress report to be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information for review.

Note: Estimated development cost is \$28,000

20. The list of early signs of alcoholism derived from A.A. Conference-approved literature forwarded by the trustees' Committee on Public Information replace the current list of early signs in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
21. A section on posthumous anonymity be developed by the Publications Department for inclusion in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and a draft be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.

22. The words “Young, old. Rich, poor. Black, white.” under the section titled ALCOHOLISM be deleted from the pamphlet “A Message to Teenagers.”

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

23. The second paragraph on p. S29 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, which reads, “In the majority of areas, a district includes six to 20 groups. In metropolitan districts, the number is generally 15 to 20 groups, while in rural or suburban districts the number can be as small as five,” be replaced with the following:

“The number of groups per district varies widely, from as few as five in a rural district to 90 or more in a metropolitan district. Population density and the geographic size of the district, which will affect the ability of the D.C.M. to communicate with the groups, would be key factors determining the number of groups a district will have.”

24. The following sentence be inserted on p. S72 of the *The A.A. Service Manual* at the beginning of the second paragraph under the heading “Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights”:

“In 1993, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., announced that official use of all of the several circle/triangle trademarks and service marks was being discontinued.”

25. The Publications Department insert into *The A.A. Service Manual*, where appropriate, the inverted triangle graphic that currently appears annually in the General Service Conference manual.
26. A paragraph titled “District Information,” which includes an illustration of the District Information Change Form (F-43), be developed for inclusion in Chapter Three in *The A.A. Service Manual* and brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review.
27. The last sentence in the second paragraph of “The Conference Structure – An Overview” (p. S15)” in *The A.A. Service Manual*, which reads: “Today, general service includes all kinds of activities within the Conference structure, carried on by districts, area committees, delegates, trustees, the General Service Office and the Grapevine,” be changed to read as follows:

“Today, general service includes all kinds of activities within the Conference structure, carried on by groups, districts, area committees, delegates, trustees, the General Service Office and the Grapevine.”

Treatment Facilities

It was recommended that:

28. The video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be revised, retaining only the script, and that sample footage or a progress report be brought to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities.

Note: The cost would be approximately \$50,000.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

29. 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 April 2007:

Class A Trustees

Leonard M. B, LL.D.
William D. C, M.D.
Ward E, D.D.
The Hon. Rogelio F
Herbert G
Vincent K
Jeanne W

Class B Trustees (See "Note" below)

Charles B
Conley B
Paul C
Dorothy H
John K
Tom K
Jo-Anne L
Howard L
Raymond M
Robert M
Madeleine P
John S
Dorothy W

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

The following slate of officers be elected at the second quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board in April 2007:

Chairperson	Leonard B, LL.D.
First vice-chairperson	Herbert I. G
Second vice-chairperson	William C, M.D.
Treasurer	Vincent K
Secretary	Charles B
Assistant Treasurer	Donald M
Assistant Secretary	Eva S (see "Note" below)

Note: Eva S will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation, July 2007.

30. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of A.A. World Services, Inc. in April 2007:

Paul C	Eva S (See "Note" below)
Roberta L	John S
Howard L	Jane T
George M	Dorothy W
Greg M	

Note: Eva Sanchez will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation, July 2007.

31. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. in April 2007:

Ginger R	Raymond M
James B	Robert M
Robin B	Madeleine P
Herbert G	Andrew T
Dorothy L	

32. In accordance with the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., the General Service Board consider all eligible Class A (nonalcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees when selecting the chairperson of the General Service Board.

Note: The Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., may be found in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

33. The amendment to the April 2006 Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as forwarded from the General Service Board, be approved. The new language would be:

"In the case of a Class B trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be limited to that number of one-year terms which would result in the term of service of the successor member trustee ending at the same time as the term of the replaced member trustee would have ended, if no vacancy had occurred and the replaced member trustee had served four successive one-year terms."

Note: The language in the Bylaws, approved in April 2006, which will now be replaced, was:

"In the case of a Class B trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be four years from the date of the meeting at which he or she is elected."