

OREGON AREA POST CONFERENCE REPORTS FOR THE 57TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

AN OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SIX DOCUMENTS

Oregon Area provides experience and training to trusted servants who have made themselves available for a series of service positions that prepare them to serve Alcoholics Anonymous at the General Service Conference each spring in New York City. I presently serve as your delegate and I attended the Conference this last April. I am grateful for this opportunity that you, the groups of Oregon Area, have given me.

What is the General Service Conference and why do we have it? What was it like to participate in the 2007 chapter of this amazing and ongoing story of recovery, unity and service? What was decided there that is important to the future of our fellowship?

These are the questions that Oregon Area Delegates are asked to address each year after the Conference by traveling to communities throughout the Area and reporting back to the AA groups who sent them. This is the means by which the groups participate in the leadership of the movement and assert the authority that our founders left to all of us as a legacy of love and service.

What was decided at the 57TH General Service Conference that is important to the future of our fellowship? I have prepared six documents that are intended to give you detailed information about the actual business that was conducted. Each member can use these documents to answer many of their questions about the decisions that were made.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. What follows is a description of the six documents.

Yours in love and service,

Eric K

THE SIX DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT #1: An Index of Documents 2-6

The upper left box provides an, "Index of the Index," that shows that the Committees are ordered in the document alphabetically with the two secondary committees, Archives and International Conventions/Regional Forums, listed at the end. Down the left side of the page is a list of the agenda items, one on each line. To the right are five columns that guide us to information in documents 2-6 that relates to those particular agenda items. On the back of this document is a flow chart that shows how the process of the Conference unfolds. You may find it useful to keep this flow chart visible as you go through the descriptions of documents 2-6.

DOCUMENT #2: Agenda Item Summaries – January-April, 2007

Here we have a document that was created by another area and is reprinted with the permission of their delegate. That Area is in the process of deciding if they will post Agenda Item Summaries on their website, and for that reason is not identified here. The face sheet includes an index showing that the Committees are ordered in the document alphabetically, also with the two secondary committees at the end. In each box an agenda item (topic) is included in bold font and on the right side of the top line. Below that is a brief summary of the historical context, why it was important to consider and what the delegate needs to know. This document

provides excellent superficial views of the agenda items. Referring to the Flow Chart on the back of Document #1, we see that everything described there leading up to the middle door is the process by which the agenda items are chosen and assigned to a particular committee. This part of the process is completed in January at the Board of Trustees weekend of meetings.

DOCUMENT #3: Oregon Area Delegate Panel Reports – February 25, 2007

This document is made up of reports created by the General Service Representatives (GSR), District Committee Members (DCM) and Area Committee members at our Area Pre-Conference Assembly in February. The face sheet provides a more detailed explanation. These reports were an important way for Oregon Area to bring the voice of the groups into the Group Conscience of AA in the US and Canada. These reports were presented verbally at the Oregon Area Post-Conference Assembly on May 19, 2007.

DOCUMENT #4 - Conference Committee Reports – April 23-24, 2007

All delegates are assigned to one of eleven Conference Committees and possibly another secondary committee. During Monday and Tuesday of the Conference week each committee creates a report. Any recommendations to the Conference or information about that committee's deliberations thought to be important will be included in the report.

DOCUMENT #5: Conference Advisory Actions – April 25-27, 2007

If a Conference Committee report contains recommendations that are approved by the full Conference, those recommendations are then called, "Advisory Actions". They are then forwarded to the General Service Board, where they become binding if approved by the Board. This is explained in the Flow Chart on the back of Document #1 between the last two doors. The General Service Board consists of 21 Trustees who serve without pay and are made up of 14 Class A trustees (alcoholics) and 7 Class B (non-alcoholics).

When AA's founders were seeking to incorporate under the laws of the State of New York, public officials asked them what the difference was between an alcoholic and a non-alcoholic trustee. They were told that the non-alcoholic trustees were the ones that were allowed to consume alcoholic beverages and the alcoholic trustees are the ones that don't drink at all. This understandably caused some confusion among public officials and amusement among AA members. Of course, it did not block the incorporation of AA. :-) This document is provided each year by the paid staff of the General Service Office. All of the Conference committees are ordered alphabetically.

DOCUMENT #6: Additional Committee Considerations – April 25-27, 2007

In the Conference Committee Reports (Document #4) you will see that the reports are divided into, "Recommendations," (which, if approved by the Conference become Advisory Actions) and "Additional Committee Considerations," (which are not voted on by the Conference). Examples of some different types of "Additional Committee Considerations" are: (1) Items discussed but no action recommended, (2) Suggestions that Trustees or Committee Secretaries should add something or change a part of our service materials, (3) A request for information, or (4) A recommended action for Trustees that the committee did not believe the Conference needed to act on in order for it to be carried out.

When discussion of a committee report is complete, the Conference accepts the report without voting on the approval of the Additional Committee Considerations. When that is done, all the Additional Committee Considerations contained in that report are forwarded for inclusion in the Final Report. This document is provided each year by the paid staff of the General Service Office. All of the Conference committees are ordered alphabetically.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Agenda Committee: Role of the committee, my spiritual experience in the Grapevine office, your delegate's performance as Chairperson,

Archives: Bill's permissiveness on who was welcome and what was talked about in meetings,

Concept V Appeal: The first in AA history, the rough draft fell into my lap, the investigation, my fears and egotism, my peace aided by service sponsors (18), an absence of Concept V guidelines in place, how I almost embarrassed myself and the man I admire (20), the non-debate (127-137), the dramatic moment, when I forgot to vote (196),

Self Support: The 2006 Conference, follow-up on group contributions, the retiree's medical trust fund,

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