

February 2011

August 2010 - February 2011
List of Proposed General Service Conference Agenda Items
Upon Which the Trustees' Committees Took No Action

I. Archives

1. The committee had a thorough discussion of the proposal to establish a standing Conference Archives Committee and agreed to take no action on this proposal. The committee noted that it may be helpful if more time was allotted to the Conference Committee on Archives to conduct its business during the week of the Conference. The committee agreed to forward the suggestion that "The Conference Committee on Archives meet outside of the time allotted for their Joint Committee Meeting" to the trustees' Committee on Conference.

II. Conference

1. The committee discussed a request "to specifically bar and prohibit the use of the decline to consider procedure" related to Floor Actions and took no action. The committee noted that as the revised Floor Action procedure was only instituted at the 60th General Service Conference, it would like to see the procedure utilized by the Conference for a few more years to determine its effectiveness.
2. The committee discussed a proposal that "any modifications to A.A. Conference-approved literature excluding *The A.A. Service Manual combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service* and the *Final Conference Report* be reviewed by the Fellowship prior to being reviewed by the assigned trustees' committee" and took no action. The committee noted that the proposed Conference Inventory Plan that may be adopted by the General Service Conference will include specific inventory questions that will provide an opportunity for discussion regarding procedures for changes to Conference-approved literature.
3. The committee discussed a proposal from a trustee "that an appeal process be developed whereby rejection of an agenda item by a trustees' committee would be appealable to the General Service Conference" and took no action. The committee noted that the proposed Conference Inventory Plan that may be adopted by the General Service Conference will include specific inventory questions that will provide an opportunity for discussion regarding the agenda selection process.
4. The committee discussed at length a request that each Conference committee have an agenda item specifically designated for review of past Advisory Actions for compliance, outdated actions, and/or items not in practice and took no action. The committee noted that each Conference committee already has, as an annual agenda item, a review of its History and Actions; if an action is deemed outdated or inconsistent with a current practice, specific suggestions regarding a possible change can be brought to the attention of the appropriate committee.
5. The committee discussed a request to extend the length of the General Service Conference schedule. They noted that the schedule was reviewed and changes were made to allow more time for committee reports and Conference business.

6. The committee discussed a suggestion to prioritize Conference agenda items and took no action. The committee members felt that each Conference committee is autonomous and is able to manage and address proposed agenda items.
7. The committee discussed at length a request to establish guidelines for the Conference Agenda Committee and the trustees' Conference Committee to communicate and interface for approval of any/all proposed General Service Conference agenda items and took no action. It was the sense of the committee that the process currently in place for the review and disposition of agenda items is effective in allowing the Conference to conduct its business.
8. The committee discussed a request that "the Grapevine Committee at the 61st General Service Conference consider recognition of La Vigne by the General Service Conference as the International French journal of Alcoholics Anonymous (since each issue of La Vigne cannot go through the Conference-approved process, the Conference recognizes La Vigne A.A. as the International French Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous)." The committee agreed to forward the request to the General Service Board.

Note: The General Service Board agreed to table until their July 30, 2011 Summer Quarterly Meeting.

III. Corrections

1. The committee reviewed further background on a request to create "a piece of conference-approved literature for the young incarcerated alcoholic" and took no action. However, after an extensive discussion regarding the specific concerns of young, incarcerated alcoholics, existing A.A. literature, and the financial cost of developing an entirely new piece of literature, the committee agreed to incorporate this suggestion into its progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Corrections regarding the ongoing revision of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." The committee believed the revision of this pamphlet could include content designed to reach young people, and asked the staff member to communicate this suggestion to the Publications Department, which has already begun a draft revision.

IV. Finance

1. The committee discussed a request that the Conference Committee on Finance review and discuss the current Defined Benefit Pension Plan and took no action because the Chair of the Trustees' Finance Committee will request a subcommittee be formed to analyze and communicate about the current plan.

V. Grapevine

1. The Grapevine Board discussed a request to explore a new business model for the A.A. Grapevine publishing operation as a "cost center." The Board took no action because the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. has recently contracted with a new fulfillment house at great savings.
2. The Grapevine Board discussed a request that the Grapevine begins to include a recurring section in each publication for members to submit daily reflections or quotes and took no action because the editorial staff will consider many content possibilities to meet the Fellowship's needs and requests, both in print and on-line.
3. The Grapevine Board discussed a request regarding digitizing the literature in Alcoholics Anonymous and took no action because the editorial staff will consider many content possibilities to meet the Fellowship's needs and requests, both in print and on-line.

4. The Grapevine Board discussed a request to put the content of the Grapevine on all A.A. web sites at no charge and took no action because the editorial staff will consider many content possibilities to meet the Fellowship's needs and requests, both in print and on-line.

VI. Literature

1. The committee discussed a request to add an Index at the end of the Big Book and took no action. The committee noted the expressed appreciation for A.A. literature of the submitter, but noted A.A.W.S. Board's policy of not developing Big Book guides or workbooks based on their recognition that "A.A. is a program of self-diagnosis, self-motivation and self-action." Additionally, the A.A.W.S. Board policy states, "it is preferable that the individual member or prospect interpret the literature according to his/her own point of view."
2. The committee discussed a request to change the word "Traditionally" on page 13 of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet and agreed to take no action. The committee expressed appreciation for the thoughtful suggestion, but noted that the request did not reflect a widely expressed need. The committee suggested that the request be kept on file for consideration at a future revision of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.
3. The committee discussed a request to create a video expressing that A.A. is a spiritual versus religious program and agreed to take no action. The committee noted that A.A. videos currently available provide a broad view of Alcoholics Anonymous and the spiritual nature of A.A.
4. The committee reviewed one Area's suggestion to add a footnote to pages 175 and 176 of the book *Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers* and agreed to take no action.

The committee expressed appreciation for the information and documentation provided by the Area, but agreed that the text in the book describes one individual's recollection and that the new information does not contradict the text in *Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers*. The committee asked that the information and documentation provided be shared with the Archives Department to assist in future research on the subject.

VII. Nominating

1. The committee reviewed historical background and sharing regarding benefits and liabilities of allowing the same person to be submitted as candidate for both Regional Trustee and Trustee-at-Large at the same Conference. The committee agreed to take no action on this item noting that the current process works sufficiently well.

Note: Regional trustees from both the East Central and Southeast regions, those regions affected by this situation, as well as the U.S. Trustee-At-Large were in attendance at the meeting and agreed that the current procedure of not allowing the same individual to be submitted as candidate for both Regional Trustee and Trustee-at-Large at the same Conference did not seem to be an issue in their regions.

2. The committee took no action and suggested no change be made to the wording or the position of the "Diversity Statement" in vacancy announcements in which they appear. The committee agreed that the lengthy and thoughtful process undertaken by the 1998, 1999 and 2006 trustees' Committees on Nominating and Conference Committees on Trustees' regarding the wording and placement of the Diversity Statement found in Nominating Procedures No. 2, 4, 11, and 12 was sufficient.

3. The committee reviewed all aspects of an area's suggestion to create a position of Alternate Trustee for the General Service Board and agreed that while having a full Board is ideal, on the past occasions that the Board has experienced unexpected vacancies, they were not critically hampered in the completion of their duties. Therefore, the committee took no action noting that there is not sufficient reason to create a position of Alternate Trustee at this time.

VIII. Public Information

1. The committee reviewed a request from an area that Public Service Announcements for radio be developed to "address alcoholics with additional challenges: blind/visually impaired; lack of mobility. . ." and decided to take no action. The committee noted that there has not been an expressed need throughout the Fellowship for this type of PSA and also could not visualize exactly what the end product would be like.
2. The committee reviewed a request from an area that video Public Service Announcements include sub-titles for the deaf or hearing impaired and decided to take no action because A.A. video Public Service Announcements already include sub-titles for the deaf or hearing impaired.