

South Florida Area 15
Delegate's 59th General Service Conference Report

Good Morning/Afternoon! I'm a member of the Vero Beach Step & Traditions Group in District 6. I have the privilege of serving as your Delegate, Panel 59, Area 15, South Florida, the Bahamas, the US & British Virgin Islands, Antigua & St. Maarten. My name is Ken C. and I'm a grateful recovering alcoholic.

Thank you District __ for hosting the Delegate's 59th General Service Conference Report. _____, and the District Committee, I appreciate all the time in effort in making me feel welcome. Thank you.

First, I want to thank each of you for preparing me for the journey of a lifetime. Each Quarterly, each S.E. Regional Forum, each Southeastern Conference, each Delegates Get-Together, the Special Forum in the Virgin Islands; all these experiences prepared me to represent Alcoholics Anonymous. Attending the Conference was by far the greatest experience of my sobriety and possibly the greatest experience of my lifetime. I wish I could express all the emotion I felt, I can't. I hope it will suffice to say I was humbled, proud and grateful to be a member of the 59th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Conference Guest. The Delegate's Guest is invited to assist in accomplishing the mundane tasks that are necessary for the Delegate to be comfortable and able to partake in an extremely rigorous schedule. It may seem unimportant, but laundry, dry cleaning, breakfast food, snacks, etc. are all extremely appreciated, particularly when you only have 15 minute breaks and meetings are going from 8:00 AM until 11:00 PM. But don't feel bad, they had an extremely busy schedule as well; the New York Intergroup arranged many outings and meetings.

Also, I need to thank my Alternate, Joni E. and Annie C., Registrar for completing my storyboard; I would not have had the time. Joni came across the state and the two of them spent their weekend helping me to present my conference experience to you. Can we give them a hand? Please feel free to look at all the material. I can only ask that you handle it all carefully as it will have many Districts to visit.

I arrived in New York on Friday, April 24th. We arrived at the Crowne Plaza Times Square and checked in. When we went out to meet a friend for dinner, you could just feel the buzz of Times Square. Wow! Times Square is unbelievable, lots of Yellow Cabs, lighted billboards and lots of people! We had a wonderful dinner over in Brooklyn and then a walk down Clinton St. to #182 where Bill W. and Lois lived.

Saturday afternoon we had the Regional Delegates Dinner and Saturday evening was the Delegates Only Meeting where we introduced ourselves, had an orientation on the Committee Process, Full Conference Process and Delegates Reports. In other words – how things are going to work! Two Delegates shared about the 58th General Service Conference, we had questions and answers and closed. We then went to Roxy's for ice cream.

Remote Communities is not part of the Conference and therefore meets Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. This was a fantastic meeting. Remote Communities entails areas where there is difficulty carrying the message due to culture, language or geography. Needless to say we have Island Communities where there are cultural and geographic difficulties; we have two Spanish Linguistic Districts where language is a barrier and the deaf community where language and culture may present challenges. I was quite surprised to see how Remote Communities could be a valuable resource in overcoming many challenges within our area.

Although our committees might overlap, I hope that Area 15 will look at forming a Remote Communities committee.

We broke out into 3 workshops. I chose language and brought up the challenges of our deaf community; lively discussion ensued. Unfortunately time was very limited. My Delegate friend Marty from Area 80, Manitoba shared that his area is 250,000 square miles! There are A.A. members you can meet after traveling 2 days in a plane, a train, a van and then a skimobile! There are A.A. members in remote regions that may only see 1 sober A.A. member in their lifetime!

For your information, there is a copy of the "Remote Communicator: newsletter on my story board.

Registration began on Sunday at 11:00 – 11:30. We received a big brown envelope with our Conference Notebook, Committee Workbook (mine was C.P.C.), a Service Manual and Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference.

The theme of this year's conference was "Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action". And enthusiastic we were. The Conference opened on Sunday, April 26 at 11:00 AM with a welcome from Leonard B., chair, General Service Board. Roll Call was taken by Phyllis H., general manager, G.S.O. I was prepared for the moment when they called my name to feel the overwhelming emotion. I did not. It came a few minutes later when Phyllis said, "I want to present to you, your 59th General Service Conference". Wow! What an overwhelming sense of responsibility and gratitude.

We reviewed Conference Procedures and we were off to our first Joint Trustee and Conference Committee Meetings. Again, mine was C.P.C. We met the Trustee's Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community, heard their report and asked questions. We had the Opening Dinner and A.A. Meeting. I believe we ended at 9:00 PM.

On Monday, we started with our first Conference Committee Meeting, mine was Cooperation With the Professional Community. Al D., Delegate, Panel 58 from Rhode Island introduced himself as did the rest of the committee. We had a French speaking member, so an Interpreter was present. It never crossed my mind that a person speaking French would be present, so that was quite an eye opener.

On Monday afternoon we had Area Service Highlights from Eastern Canada and the West Central Region. Then we had a General Service Board Report, A.A.W.S Report, Questions and Sharing, Grapevine Board Report, Questions and Sharing, a Presentation/Discussion on Finance and Questions and Sharing. At 4:45 we started Area Service Highlights from the Southeast and Northeast Region.

Well, it's almost my turn up to bat. I'm a little nervous. If I took out one sentence, I was at 1 minute, 58 seconds. Fortunately, the mike does not go dead after two minutes. There is a small device on the podium. Yee, the Conference Coordinator's Secretary controls the "Traffic Light" – Green – 2 minutes, Yellow – 20 seconds, red. My buddy Deborah, from North Carolina, put a napkin over the timer. It seemed to work well! When it was my turn, Howard L., S.E. Regional Trustee introduced me and then put a napkin over the traffic light. Wow, that took all the pressure off. When I was done, I could feel the overwhelming support and camaraderie of the Conference. I had many comments about our area and all the Islands with palm trees. It's really hard not to boast about Area 15.

We had dinner and then Area Service Highlights from the East Central and Pacific Region, a Presentation/Discussion on Humility and Sacrifice and a Sharing Session – What's On Your Mind? We ended at 9:45 PM. Time for ice cream!

On Tuesday, we started bright and early at 9:00 AM with our second respective Conference Committee Meeting. I was fortunate; we completed all our business in the time allotted. Three committees met late in the evening and early in the morning. When we were closing our meeting, we all took turns sharing about our Conference Committee experience. I shared about how I really watched the committee process work at the Conference level and that I had complete trust that what we were recommending was the best for Alcoholics Anonymous. My friend Elaine D. from Canada shared about the extraordinary love and unity he felt. It was quite touching in that Elaine speaks French and communicated through an Interpreter and the language of the heart.

We broke for lunch. By the way, the food was excellent. Lunches were by far the best as they were buffet style. Tuesday afternoon we had Area Service Highlights from the Southwest and Western Canada Regions, a Presentation Discussion on Enthusiasm and Gratitude and What's On Your Mind. Little did we know this would be last "What's On Your Mind" session due to the amount of business we had a responsibility to complete.

During the Presentation/Discussion on Enthusiasm & Gratitude, the Moderator, Rogelio F., Class A Trustee shared for a few moments. He spoke of how our love for each other and the still suffering alcoholic has touched him. He said, "Don't ask why I'm a Class A, don't ask any of us, you've made me a better person." It is so difficult to understand how these men and woman, class A Trustee's can put up with us, spend hours and hours in our business meetings and then say thank you.

Shortly thereafter, Gail N., Delegate from San Diego Imperial gave a talk on "Happy, Joyous and Free". I don't recollect all of her talk, but I remember her talking about us, the Delegates, walking shoulder to shoulder with other A.A.'s and I felt the unity, the togetherness and gratitude.

For your information, the lobby is on the 3rd floor, the Conference was on the 4th Floor. During "What's On Your Mind", a delegate shared that "I have been rocketed into the 4th dimension; little did I know it would take place on the escalator between the 3rd and 4th floor!"

Well, it's now 2:45. It's time to go to GSO. Here come the Delegates. We arrived in mass. Many of our guests were still there. We signed in and took the elevator to the 11th floor. We were greeted by the receptionist and then could have an escorted tour. The staff had prepared a reception room with all kinds of beverages and deserts. You had to feel special! I was amazed, we do great work. To see all the books in various languages and the archives was stunning. I went in just about every office, checked out the surroundings and the view. As you know, most of the staff rotates assignments, they also rotate offices. Most of us had our picture taken with Phyllis, our new General Manager. Several of the Delegates had their picture taken in her office, at her desk, with their feet up! I tried to get a business card from every staff member, I might have succeeded. It was interesting to me; it felt like "my office". I think that is the way it is supposed to feel and the staff works hard at that.

We left the office. I now had an opportunity to possibly take Annie for a quick visit to the actual Conference room and get a few pictures. I found Doug Richardson, the staff Conference Coordinator and asked his permission. I was excited to show Annie our Conference room, but I was not expecting her reaction. She walked in the room and just started crying. They were tears of gratitude I'm certain. She said, "from jail to the 59th General Service Conference". This was truly a very special moment we shared together, I wish I could have shared that moment with each of you. This report will have to suffice.

It was now time for the Delegates Dinner and Delegates Only Meeting. The dinner and meeting was great and just a time to enjoy each others company. I think we ended about 9:00 and then it was time... ..ice cream with our S.E. Regional Trustee, Howard L. Howard was treating

us at the Stardust Diner. What a blast! The waiters and waitresses are preparing to work on Broadway. They sing and perform on top of the tables and chairs. There were 3 regions present, so we had a major portion of the diner.

It's now Wednesday, April 29, 9:00 AM. We skipped all workshops and started with Conference Committee on Agenda due to our heavy work load.

Time for Action! Discussion and Voting!!!!

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 59TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 59th General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

2. The theme for the 2010 General Service Conference be: "Practicing A.A.'s Principles – the Pathway to Unity."
3. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2010 General Service Conference:
 - a) Practicing These Principles in All Our "Service" Affairs:
 1. What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?
 2. Love and Tolerance is Our Code.
 3. Setting an Example – Attraction to Service.
 - b) Unity Through Inventory:
 1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First.
 2. This We Owe to A.A.'s Future.
 3. What Happens After Inventory?
 - c) General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:
 1. How it Works.
 2. Collective Participation.
 3. Communication – The Key to an Informed Decision.
4. The following be the workshop topic for the 2010 General Service Conference: "Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process" and that all background provided to the 2009 Conference Agenda Committee regarding the "General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process," be sent to the members of the 60th General Service Conference in February 2010 as background for the 2010 Conference workshop session along with any additional related background material that may be compiled by the General Service Board, the trustees' Committee on the Conference, the General Service Office, or other sources.

At 11:45 we broke for our Regional Luncheon for Delegates. First, the Region allowed me to present a bid for the 2012 S.E. Regional Forum. I am pleased to report that we will be holding the 2012 S.E. Regional Forum at the Boca Raton Marriott @ Towne Centre.

We each presented our candidates from our respective areas. We resumed the afternoon session and elected our S.E Regional Trustee by 3rd legacy. I am pleased to inform you that our new S.E. Regional Trustee is El K., past delegate, South Carolina.

The East Central Regional trustee was then elected.

It was now time for election of the Trustee-at-large/U.S. This was very exciting. I am pleased to inform you that our new Trustee-at-large/U.S is Don M., past delegate, Louisiana. I am certain that both candidates will serve us well.

At 3:15 we had Presentation/Discussion on the A.A. Grapevine, and then we broke for dinner and resumed Committee Reports and Discussion at 7:30 PM.

At 9:00 PM we started Report & Charter.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

29. The sentence "A nontrustee director can serve up to four one-year terms" be added to the end of the section "Choosing Nontrustee Directors For A.A. World Services and The A.A. Grapevine" on page S75 of the The A.A. Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service so that it reads as follows:

"The remaining candidates are interviewed by the corporate board's nominating committee which recommends a nominee to the full board. The name and resume of the nominee are then forwarded to the trustees' Nominating Committee, for approval by the General Service Board and the General Service Conference. Per the A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine By-laws, a nontrustee director can serve up to four one-year terms."

30. All changes to The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service be listed in the edition in which the changes appear for the first time, and organized by source of change (General Service Board, Conference Advisory Action, Conference Committee on Report & Charter, Publications Department). Conference advisory actions will be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

You voted no. I voted yes. We had lengthy discussion and I voted yes because this advisory action provides accountability and tracking. This motion passed, there was a minority opinion, a re-vote which passed and then it was tabled and sent back to committee at 11:00 PM. Discussion resumed at 8:00 AM on Thursday when the revised motion came forward.

31. The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
32. The title "Conference Language" on page S19 be changed to "Glossary of General Service Terms" and that the subheading "A glossary of terms frequently used in general service activities" be removed.

33. The last sentence of page S70 of the 2008-2009 edition of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service in the section “Appointed Committee Members” be changed from “The term of service is four years, renewed on a yearly basis” to “Appointed Committee Members are appointed for one year, but the term may be extended depending on committee projects (maximum four years).”

Note: This language makes the description of the terms of service of Appointed Committee Members consistent with the language in the trustees’ Committee on Nominating Procedure No. 2, “Procedures for Selecting Appointed Committee Members for General Service Board Committees.”

34. Area numbers be inserted next to area names in Appendix D, pages S105 and S106 of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.

11:00 AM

Corrections

It was recommended that:

6. The trustees’ Committee on Corrections undertake a revision of the pamphlet, “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” which will take into consideration
 - More stories of recovery from alcoholism through the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, drawn from Sharing From Behind the Walls, Box 4-5-9 or other available sources.
 - Less use of ‘directive’ language (such as that used in the section on H.A.L.T.).
 - Including photographs that reflect current times.

and that a draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections.

7. The photo on page 18 of the pamphlet, “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” which shows an inmate smoking a hand-rolled cigarette, be replaced with a photo of the current edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, in future reprints, as well as in any revision.

The “hand rolled cigarette” brought some excited laughter!

On Thursday after lunch we had a Presentation/Discussion on Spiritual Program In Action and then resumed Committee Reports and Discussion.

1:50 PM

Literature

The Committee had recommended that the revised draft pamphlet “The A.A. member – Medications and other Drugs” be approved. This recommendation failed and was brought back as a floor motion. I was next at the mike when the question was called. I voted for this pamphlet. There was language regarding medical advice that appeared to be inappropriate. Bill C., MD., Class A Trustee agreed, but felt the pamphlet would be extremely useful and

should not be delayed. 5 Class A Trustees spoke in favor of this pamphlet and felt that it needed to go forward and any changes could be addressed at the next Conference.

It was recommended that:

12. The revised draft pamphlet, "A.A. for the Native North American," be approved.
13. The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a thorough review of the pamphlet, "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and eliminate or revise outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.
14. A Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc. [Note: The approximate cost is \$6,850.]

I did go to the mike and speak in favor of this motion. There was discussion about calling the pamphlet Accessibilities. I shared that South Florida had changed from Accessibilities to Special Needs to reflect the name used by our Conference Committee. This brought a chuckle.

15. A sentence encouraging newcomers to obtain and study the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be added to the pamphlet, "A Newcomer Asks."

This was pretty funny. I went to the mike and let the Conference know that South Florida thought that "study" was a strong directive and a newcomer might balk at this. I asked for a friendly amendment changing the word "study" to "read". The committee did not accept the friendly amendment.

There was a motion to amend changing "obtain and study" to "read". Again there was strong discussion. The question was called. The amendment failed and the original motion passed.

16. The title of the pamphlet, "44 Questions," be changed to "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."

We broke for dinner at 4:30 and resumed our evening session at 7:00 PM with a Presentation/Discussion on the 2010 International Convention. At 7:45 PM we were back to the business at hand. We went through an Additional Consideration for Report and Charter that I referred to earlier and then finished up Corrections.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

22. The updated pamphlet, "A Message to Teenagers," containing selected text and graphics from the current "Too Young?" pamphlet, be approved with minor changes.
23. The wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous be approved with minor changes.

I believe we ended shortly after 11:00 PM.

It's now Friday at 8:00 AM.

24. A new A.A. television public service announcement (P.S.A.) be developed for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, and that full faces of actors portraying A.A. members not be shown in this P.S.A.

Note: The committee suggested that older alcoholics and alcoholics with special needs be portrayed in this P.S.A.

This motion failed due to the cost. The Conference discussed this as a cost cutting measure. This recommendation was reconsidered on a minority opinion and passed.

25. The revised script for "Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD," omitting P.S.A. #15, be approved with minor changes, and recorded at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

26. The four selected A.A. Videos for Young People be approved with minor changes.

The Conference loved these videos. The consensus was that they were very well done.

27. The videos, "A.A. – Rap With Us" and "Young People and A.A.," be discontinued.

28. The draft 2010 Membership Survey Questionnaire be approved.

11:15 PM

Cooperation With the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

5. The video segment directed to professionals in the employment/human relations field to be streamed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site be approved.

Well, this is the committee I served on. It was truly amazing to watch the committee process in action at the Conference level. We had a great chair in Al D., Delegate, Rhode Island. He kept us focused on the tasks at hand. We decided to leave the Video Segment Directed to Professionals for later in the meeting after we went through our other committee business and Additional Committee Considerations – we had a few.

We came to the video and had a few concerns. One member did not like the reference to Alcoholics Anonymous not being a lifetime commitment, it is one day at a time. I thought that there were too many Um's (4) in the 1st segment. We had Chris C., Publications Director come in. He said the "um's" could be edited out for little cost; maybe \$200.00 max. The committee did not seem to be concerned, although it was hysterical how many times we all noticed ourselves using "um"!

We had 3 choices: recommend the video be approved, recommend the video be approved with minor changes (my choice), or send it back to the Trustee's Committee. The committee voted to recommend the video be approved. It was quite amazing to see our work in print. Mary D. our staff secretary and Sheila her assistant, did an amazing job with the text of our report.

Last, but not least, I was elected as Chairperson of this committee. I'm very excited and have the opportunity to attend the General Service Board Weekend in January.

The Conference did approve the video after much discussion on full faces. There was a Minority Opinion and a vote to Reconsider which failed.

Treatment Facilities

It was recommended that:

35. The revised video, Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous, be approved.

Again, there was considerable discussion on full faces. This motion failed, there was a Minority Opinion, a motion to reconsider which passed and then the recommendation passed.

36. The committee's scope be expanded to include service to Special Needs/Accessibilities committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities.

This topic had a lot of discussion as well. I did speak in favor of this recommendation and shared that, although this was not ideal, it was a step in the right direction. The Treatment Committee will now provide oversight and shared experience to the Special Needs Committees. It is thought that this will allow for issues impacting the area of Special Needs to be reviewed by the Conference.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

17. Frank Z., alternate delegate, Area 12, Delaware, be seated as a Conference member at the 59th General Service Conference because Joe S., the Panel 58 delegate for Area 12, passed away.

This actually took place at the beginning of the Conference.

18. Claudio M. from the General Service Board of Brazil, Mario V. from the General Service Board of Colombia and Plinio B., Manager, G.S.O. Colombia, be admitted to the 59th General Service Conference as observers.

This actually took place at the beginning of the Conference. I told Claudio that we would welcome him if he chose to visit one of our assemblies. He thought this was a great idea and was very excited about the prospect of visiting us.

19. The 62nd General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2012 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.
20. The General Service Board develop a procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and bring a draft to the 2010 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for their review.

The committee asked that the following questions from the report, "Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference Subcommittee on Forwarding Minority Reports and Presentations to the General Service Conference" be addressed in the proposed procedure:

- a) To whom does the minority announce that it intends to present a minority report to the Conference?

- b) What is the deadline for making such a decision?
- c) What Conference members, if any, are given advance notice of the decision?
- d) Who is responsible for seeing that the minority report and its documentation are in fact physically made available to the Conference?
- e) What is the deadline for distributing the minority report and its documentation?
- f) To whom are the minority report and its documentation given?

21. The General Service Board develop a plan for the General Service Conference to conduct an inventory of itself that includes a planning committee consisting of representatives of delegates, trustees, directors, nontrustee directors, and staff, and that a progress report be presented to the 2010 Policy/Admissions Committee.

Archives¹

No recommendations.

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

Trustees

It was recommended that:

37. 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 2009:

Class A Trustees

Terrance B.
 Frances B
 Corliss B.
 William C.
 Ward E.
 Rogelio F.
 Jeanne W.

Class B Trustees

Kenneth B.
 Conley B.
 Dorothy H.
 John K.
 Jo-Anne L.
 George M.
 Don M.
 Don M.
 Eleanor N.
 Madeleine P.
 Victor P.
 Pamela R.

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

On April 27, 2009 the General Service Board approved a motion that the trustees' Nominating Committee, in consultation with the A.A.W.S. Board, consider actions to fill the vacant general service trustee position and report their conclusions to the General Service Board at its summer 2009 meeting. At that time the General Service Board may choose to appoint a Class B general service trustee.

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson

Ward E.

First vice-chairperson
Second vice-chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary

Madeleine P.
William C.
Terrance B.
Conley B.

This recommendation had a tremendous amount of passionate discussion. Much of the discussion centered around the vacancy of 2 Trustees. John S., Class B Trustee passed away the week before the Conference quite unexpectedly. Another Class A Trustee has had numerous absences due to personal family situations and will notify the Chairman of the Board within 2 weeks if they are unable to continue to serve.

38. The February 2009 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 2009:

Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Donald M.
Adrienne B.*

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, Summer 2009

39. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2009:

Andrea B.
Adrienne B.*
Phyllis H.
John K.
Roberta L.

Jo-Anne L.
George M.
William N.
Victor P.

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. Staff Rotation, Summer 2009

Note: The Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board will operate with the Class B trustee-at-large/Canada serving as a director, replacing a Class B general service trustee director.

40. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2009:

Ginger B.
Robin B.
Kenneth B.
Conley B.

Nancy H.
Dorothy H.
Don M.
Albin Z.

Note: The Grapevine Corporate Board will operate short one Class A trustee director.

41. In light of the extensive confidential information in the trustees' election resumes, resumes of all election candidates would no longer be made available to all Conference members immediately prior to the Conference trustees' election session. Distribution of trustee resumes at the Conference would be limited to only voting delegates and members of the Conference Committee on Trustees and the trustees' Committee on Nominating. The resumes of the elected trustees would be distributed to all Conference members immediately after the election session.

Note: The purpose of this suggested limited distribution of Conference trustee election resumes is to emphasize the General Service Board's and the Conference's commitment to protecting the confidentiality of trustee candidates' resume information.

###

Finance

It was recommended that:

8. The trustees' Finance Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance:

a) If we continue to use literature profits to partially fund services, should there be a limit?

This was interesting. There was a Friendly Amendment to add the word "partially". Needless to say, this brought on much discussion. The recommendation failed, there was a Minority Opinion, a Motion to Reconsider which passed and the Recommendation passed.

b) If there is a limit, how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?

(The committee requests that the statement of policy "Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous" be distributed as background.)

9. A discussion of additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about Self-Support be included on the agenda for the Conference Finance Committee for the 60th General Service Conference.

Terry B., Treasurer, Class A Trustee who is relatively new to our board, shared that he was quite surprised to learn of our "Perpetual Poverty Policy".

Grapevine

No recommendations.

Just a tidbit. It cost 4.3 cents an issue to print the Grapevine without staples. Also, please spread the word that the PO Box in Grand Central Station is closing this year. The new address is: AA Grapevine, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10115.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

It was recommended that:

10. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2010 International Convention.

11. An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

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

Floor Action

There were 8 Floor Actions. Only one passed.

It was recommended that:

1. The revised 59th Conference pamphlet, "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs," be returned to the trustees' Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature.

Note: This Floor Action refers to the revised draft pamphlet reviewed by the 2009 Conference Literature Committee.

Well, it is now 2:20 AM Saturday.

It is time to close, we have a Farewell Meeting at 8:00 AM.

Thank you and God Bless each of you.

Love in Service,

Ken C.
Delegate, Panel 59
South Florida, Bahamas,
U.S. & British Virgin Islands,
Antigua & St. Maarten