

A SUMMARY:

**ADVISORY ACTIONS
OF THE
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

1951-1993

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AGENDA

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

1951

The following subjects were selected to be put before the 1951 Conference:

- a. Should nonalcoholics continue to serve on the board of trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation? (The Conference voted affirmatively, with complete unanimity.)
- b. This Conference feels that in future years, A.A. textbook literature should have Conference approval. (Prior to the vote on this subject, it was pointed out that adoption of the suggestion would not preclude the continued issuance of various printed documents by "non-Foundation" sources. No desire to review, edit, or censor non-Foundation material was implied. The objective was to provide in the future a means of *distinguishing* Foundation literature from that issued locally or by non-A.A. interests.)
- c. It is the sense of this Conference that our temporary Charter, as outlined in the "Third Legacy" pamphlet, is suitable for the coming three years and that the general principles guiding assemblies are also approved.

1952

At this Conference, the Agenda Committee was composed of five members and a secretary. They reported that before recommending topics for the 1953 Conference, they would correspond with all Conference committees, the board of trustees, and G.S.O.

1953

It was felt that whenever controversial issues arise after due discussion and to avoid both needless hassling on the Conference floor and postponement, and where apparently no conclusion is imminent, the chair should immediately select a committee of second-year delegates from the hat and ask them to retire to another room, talk the matter over, and come back with a recommendation.

1954 It was recommended that:

Delegates having suggestions for the agenda for the closed or "unchaperoned" Conference session send such suggestions to the Conference secretary at least 90 days prior to the next Conference.

1957 It was recommended that:

G.S.O. continue the briefing sessions for new delegates prior to the opening of Conference deliberations.

1959 It was recommended that:

The G.S.O. reports be given more time to provide more

human-interest anecdotes, and that they be scheduled as the first order of business, one after the other, and not with other reports. Ten minutes is suggested for each report.

The General Service Board report and those of its committees be limited to five minutes each.

Delegates speaking from the floor limit themselves to three minutes.

1961 It was recommended that:

Area highlights be reported half by first-year and half by second-year delegates; this will give new delegates the benefit of second-year delegates' experience.

1962 It was recommended that:

The Area-Delegates-Only meeting be scheduled earlier in the Conference; that it be held on Thursday evening.

1963 It was recommended that:

Subjects should be submitted to the Agenda Committee throughout the year as they come up; that July and October Policy Committee meetings also review Conference discussion subjects.

If an important agenda subject comes to the attention of A.A.W.S. after approval of tentative agenda in October, it, as well as an indication of which previously approved subject is to be eliminated, if any, be brought to the attention of the Agenda Committee for reaction prior to G.S.B.'s final determination.

Any items not included on current agenda be offered to the succeeding committee.

Area highlights continue to express a central theme.

1964 It was recommended that:

The 1965 Conference cover a six-day period.

The responsibilities and motions of the Conference committees be explained thoroughly prior to the selection of committee members at future Conferences.

Committee members review background material on previous Conferences' actions as a guide in preparing recommendations for the 1965 Conference agenda.

Consideration be given to the possibility of permitting past delegates to attend future Conferences at their own expense as spectators.

Consideration be given to the possibility of scheduling a workshop session on the functions of Conference committees.

A sharing session involving delegates and the G.S.O. staff be scheduled in 1965, and that the possibility of joint meetings of such Conference committees as Agenda and Policy be considered.

1965 It was recommended that:

The Policy Committee and the board of trustees inform the Agenda Committee members of actions taken on proposed agenda subjects, and a brief reason be given for rejections, if any.

Subjects approved for the agenda by Policy and board be made available to delegates through the **Interim Report [Quarterly Report]**, following the January quarterly meeting.

The Delegates-Only meeting be held before any consideration of the five-year trustees' plan.

1966 It was recommended that:

The Agenda and Admissions Committees be combined, to be called the Conference Committee on Agenda and Admissions.

1967 It was recommended that:

A review be made of Third Legacy electoral procedures.

More emphasis be placed upon workshops, and that we explore the possibility of breaking up into smaller groups after presentations; also, that a fresh look be taken at the method of forming workshops, using area size and population as criteria rather than region.

Delegates send agenda recommendations to G.S.O. before October.

1968 It was recommended that:

A study of admissions procedures be conducted and that the Agenda/Admissions Committee meet in the fall of 1968 in New York after preliminary exploration through correspondence.

1969 It was recommended that:

The Conference format rotate emphasis on workshops and presentations on a yearly basis, with greater emphasis upon workshops.

1970 It was recommended that:

Where time permits, all [suggested] Conference agenda subjects received during the year be referred to the Agenda/Admissions Committee before presentation to the Conference and board Policy Committees for final approval.

1971 It was recommended that:

The Agenda/Admissions Committee remain Agenda/Admissions, and that the Admissions part of this committee not become a part of the Committee on Conference Policy, as suggested by a former delegate.

The A.A. meeting on Monday night be retained, and that the G.S.O. staff be presented for short A.A. talks every other year, with a delegate chairman; also, that there be two delegate speakers with a delegate chairman on alternate years; further,

that this format be reviewed every **year** by the Agenda/Admissions Committee.

The same format be used for workshops for next year's Conference, and the number of workshops be a minimum of two-more if possible.

Specific time be allotted to all speakers, and the bell rung no matter who is speaking; presentations be kept in brief form; nothing vital be scheduled after a presentation or session which may become controversial; gripe sessions be held between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. when they can run into the evening session and not interfere with an important session; priorities be established as to which subjects are best for the groups as a whole; and Agenda/Admissions members send in opinions as to what modifications of present agenda should be made for next year's agenda prior to November 1, 1971.

In view of the heavy agenda this year and the apparent problem in completing it on time, some items (possibly of lower priority) be shown as optional subjects. These should be so placed on the agenda that if we run out of time on earlier subjects, the optional items could be eliminated for that specific year.

The subject of clubs be a major item on the 1972 Conference agenda.

The idea of considering February 14 or the month of February as a permanent special memorial time for Bill and others who have departed be placed on the agenda of the 1972 Conference.

It is the primary responsibility of the duly elected delegates to see that the heretofore agreed-upon contribution of \$150 toward Conference expenses be paid by March 1; if not received by March 1, a letter be sent directly to the delegate, pointing out that unless this area shares in the expenses of the Conference, said delegate will be referred to the Agenda/Admissions Committee for discussion.

1972 It was recommended that:

All motions to be acted upon by the delegation, as much as possible, be submitted in writing beforehand and, if time permits, be distributed to the delegates by mail.

Delegate participation in some way be scheduled on Monday.

Consideration be given to the following suggested agenda item: A scheduled workshop on inactive members be on the agenda for the 1973 Conference, and that there be no outline material (no scheduled questions).

1973 It was recommended that:

In order to improve the functioning of the Agenda/Admissions Committee, members of that committee, when writing to G.S.O., indicate in their letters when they wish copies to be sent to the other members of the committee.

Background material be sent to members of the Agenda/Admissions Committee on suggestions received for Conference agenda items.

Results of the Conference evaluation questionnaire be sent to members of the Agenda/Admissions Committee.

The Conference *declined to* approve the following recommendations of the Agenda/Admissions Committee:

- a. That the Agenda/Admissions Committee participate as a committee in the final approval of suggested agenda items and their distribution to the various committees, etc., and no longer be restricted to just making recommendations.
- b. That the trustees study the feasibility of the Agenda/Admissions Committee holding a full committee meeting for proper and adequate evaluation and deliberation of suggested Conference items, including selection of the Conference theme and the evaluation of the preceding Conference agenda, prior to the Conference.
- c. The committee also wishes to have the newly elected Agenda/Admissions Committee chairman become co-chairman immediately upon being elected, and full chairman when the present chairman's term as delegate expires on December 31.

1974 It was recommended that:

The Committee on Conference Policy consider the following recommendation: That as many Conference agenda items as possible be finalized for approval at the October Policy and Board meetings so that the November *Quarterly Report* will reflect this approval and allow for early assembly discussions; and that further agenda items be forwarded to the delegates as soon as they have been approved.

The 1975 Conference theme be built around "Unity, Love, and Service."

The following agenda topics be considered for the 1975 Conference:

- a. Discussion or workshop on the growing trend of holding regional get-togethers for the past and present delegates and trustees
- b. Presentation followed by a workshop on Twelve Concepts
- c. Presentation on "Understanding and Living the A.A. Traditions-Delegates Share Their Experience"
- d. Workshop on understanding the role of A.A. members who wear "two hats"
- e. Workshop on the responsibilities of district committee members
- f. Presentation on "Group Support for Group Service."

The midweek A.A. meeting continue to be scheduled, with the understanding that it may be omitted if time is needed to discuss unfinished Conference business.

1975 It was recommended that:

Having reviewed the recommendation received from the Committee on Conference Policy/ Admissions that the opening night A.A. meeting should always include the General Service Office and Grapevine staff members, the original recommendation (197 1 Action) be retained.

In view of the fact that the 1974 Conference spent many hours discussing the question of special purpose groups, further discussion of this subject would not be productive at the present time; therefore, it was unanimously recommended that a two-year moratorium (until 1977) be placed on discussion of special purpose groups.

The following suggestions for the 1976 Conference agenda be considered:

- a. Presentation followed by a workshop on sponsorship of the new member.
- b. Public information presentation and workshop with emphasis on the importance of carrying the message in this way.
- c. The suggestion from the Conference Institutions Committee that the subject of A.A. in hospitals be discussed at the Conference was accepted, and the committee suggests that the subject can best be discussed in a structured workshop.
- d. One unstructured workshop be retained.
- e. Presentation and discussion on A.A. Literature.
- f. The Ask-It Basket be retained in a one- to one and-a-half-hour session.
- g. Visit to G.S.O. and Grapevine be continued unless the time is needed for Conference business.

The delegates make every effort to send to G.S.O. no later than October 1 their suggestions for the 1976 Conference agenda, and those of their G.S.R.s and area committee members, for consideration.

The same basic format for the Conference agenda be retained.

The 1976 Conference theme be built around "Sponsorship."

1976 It was recommended that:

The following suggestions for the 1977 General Service Conference be considered:

- a. The 1975 General Service Conference recommended a two-year moratorium be placed on the discussion of special purpose groups. The 1976 Agenda Committee, after much discussion, recommended that at this time there is no need for further discussion of this subject.
- b. Presentations followed by a workshop on the importance of rotation throughout the Fellowship.

- c. Cooperation and communication among all levels of service.
- d. Report on the A.A. directories.
- e. The word "Report" be added to Area Service Highlights.
- f. Roll call of the Conference members be taken at the opening session of the 1977 General Service Conference.
- g. Presentation followed by a workshop on the Conference Charter and Warranties.
- h. The importance of the role of the alternate in service.

The 1977 Conference theme be built around "The A.A. Group."

1977 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting be reviewed every year; it was further recommended that in 1978 the A.A. meeting be chaired by a G.S.O. staff member with three delegate speakers.

The following be subjects for presentations at the 1978 Conference:

- a. Finance
- b. Let's Carry the A.A. Message
- c. How Our General Service Office Serves Us
- d. The Participation of the G.S.R., the Vital Link Between the A.A. Group and the General Service Conference

The following be subjects for discussion at the 1978 Conference:

- a. Are We Letting Others Do Our Work?
- b. Who Establishes Policy in A.A.? You, That's Who

The following be topics for workshops at the 1978 Conference:

A.A.-What We Can Do for the Alcoholic Working with Others Inside and Outside A.A.

The theme for the 1978 Conference be built around "The Individual and the Group: Growth Through Participation"; it was further recommended that the Twelve Steps, with emphasis on the Twelfth Step, be incorporated into the 1978 Conference agenda.

All Conference mailings and the monthly letter to delegates be sent to alternate delegates.

1978 It was recommended that:

The theme of the 1979 General Service Conference be built around "The Legacies: Our Heritage and My Responsibility."

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at

the 1979 Conference consist of six speakers-three delegates and three members of the G.S.O. /GV staff-and that all members of the G.S.O. and GV staff be seated on the dais; it was further recommended that the format of the meeting be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

The following be subjects for presentations at the 1979 Conference:

- a. Archives
- b. The Three Legacies
- c. Let Gratitude Be Our Attitude
- d. Are We Building a Class Distinction in Service?
- e. The Vote and the Voice-Who Is in Control?
- f. Our Responsibilities to the Future
- g. How Do Roundups, Jamborees, Cruises, Rallies, etc., Fit Into A.A. Tradition?

A topic for a workshop at the 1979 Conference be "Group Autonomy and A.A. Unity," and that a question be included in this workshop concerning the difference between an A.A. group and an A.A. meeting.

The subject of listing special interest groups in the A.A. directories not be included on the agenda of the 1979 Conference.

In response to a request from a past delegate that levels of service (group, district, and area) be explored to try to determine if the current structure provides maximum opportunity for the best possible service in the Fellowship, the committee felt that the current structure does provide such opportunity.

1979 It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1980 General Service Conference be built around "Participation-the Key to Recovery."

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1980 Conference consist of one leader and five speakers-three delegates and two staff members (one G.S.O. and one GV). It was further recommended that the format of the meeting should be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

With regard to the committee's recommendations for presentation/discussion topics (among them "Working With Others," "The Role of the Alternate at All Levels of Service," "The Cornerstone of Structure-the G.S.R.," "Where There Is Good Service Structure, There Is Growth in A.A. Membership," and "Let's Not Squander Our Inheritance"), the Conference retain the general idea of the topics, but the Conference Agenda Committee make additional suggestions.

At the 1980 General Service Conference, there be three workshops: two structured and one unstructured; it was further recommended that one of the workshops be on the topic "Working With Others."

During the roll call at the 1980 Conference, Conference members should stand when their names are called.

In response to a request from members of one of the workshops, a discussion on "How are expenses for service workers at all levels of service met in your area?" be included on the agenda of the 1980 General Service Conference.

1980 It was recommended that:

The theme for the 1981 General Service Conference be built around "A.A. Takes Its Inventory-General Service Conference Structure."

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1981 Conference consist of five speakers-three delegates and two staff members (one G.S.O. and one GV) - and one leader; it was further recommended that the format of the meeting should be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

The following presentation/discussion subjects be considered for the 1981 Conference:

- a. The Spiritual Meaning of Anonymity (on opening day if feasible)
- b. Let's Examine Our Committee System
- c. Should Clubs be Entitled to the A.A. Group Discount on Literature?

At next year's Conference, we have two structured workshops, with one workshop topic to be "Let's Examine Our Committee System."

There be a "What's on Your Mind?" session or sharing session scheduled for the full Conference body instead of a third workshop.

1981 It was recommended that:

Suggestions for a possible theme for the 1982 General Service Conference be built around one of the following:

- a. Equal Voice-Equal Responsibility
- b. Equal Authority-Equal Responsibility
- c. The Traditions-The Way to Unity
- d. A.A.-Its Structure

The following presentation/discussion subjects be considered for the 1982 Conference:

- a. Equal Authority-Equal Responsibility (on the opening morning if feasible)
- b. How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Outside Agencies

At next year's Conference, we have two structured workshops:
a. How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Outside Agencies

b. Why A.A. Works-The Traditions

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1982 Conference consist of five speakers-one trustee, two delegates, and two staff members (one G.S.O. and one GV) - and one delegate chairing. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting should be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

1982 It was recommended that:

The following be considered for the 1983 Conference theme:

- a. Group Responsibilities in Service-Back to Basics
- b. The A.A. Member-Service, Privileges, and Responsibilities
- c. Anonymity-Our Spiritual Foundation

The following presentation/discussion subjects be considered for the 1983 Conference:

- a. How Is the A.A. Member's Voice Heard at the General Service Conference?

Through an Informed Group Conscience
Through Correspondence to G.S.O.
Through District Activity
Through His/Her Delegate

- b. The Member, the Group, and Their Money

The Cost of Involvement in Service
How Are District Activities Funded?
What Will a Dollar in the Basket Do Today?

- c. Sponsorship

In Recovery
In Service

The following structured workshops be considered for the 1983 Conference:

- a. Communications: Group-G.S.R.-D.C.M.
- b. Informed Group Conscience
- c. Rotation in Service

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1983 Conference consist of five speakers-one trustee, two delegates, and two staff members (one G.S.O. and one GV) -- and one delegate chairing. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

1983 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1984 Conference consist of five speakers--one trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one GV) - and one delegate chairing. It was further recommended that the format of the meeting be reviewed each year by the Conference Agenda Committee.

The following be considered for the 1984 Conference theme:

- a. Our Primary Purpose
- b. The Frontier for A.A.'s Future-The Group
- c. Gratitude-The Language of the Heart

The following presentation/discussion topics be considered for the 1984 Conference:

- a. How Does A.A. Respond to a Changing World?

Are We Listening to the Newcomer?
Open-Mindedness
Working With Third Parties

- b. The Informed Group Conscience-My Obligation

To Understand the Steps
To Understand the Traditions
To Understand the Concepts

- c. Sobriety-What Is It?

At next year's Conference, the following structured workshops be considered:

- a. Solutions for Everyday Problems in A.A.
- b. How Does A.A. Respond to a Changing World?

The Conference Agenda Committee secretary outline the procedure for selecting Conference items and send it to the Agenda Committee members with their February letter.

Conference Agenda Committee members wait seven days from the date of the postmark before replying to the Agenda Committee secretary's request for approval of the trustees' Conference Committee recommendations regarding the next year's Conference agenda.

1984 It was recommended that:

At the dinner of the 1985 General Service Conference, there be a light system on the podium and the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the meeting.

In addition to the meeting chairperson, the format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 1985 Conference remain the same as 1984, consisting of a delegate leader to introduce five speakers-one trustee, two delegates, two staff

members (one G.S.O. and one GV).

The following suggestions be made for a possible theme for the 1985 Conference with grateful recognition that we will celebrate A.A.'s 50th Anniversary in 1985:

- a. Service-The Golden Key
- b. Love and Service
- c. Golden Moments of Reflection

The following presentation/discussion and/or workshop topics be considered for the 1985 Conference:

- a. Will the Hand of A.A. Always Be There?

The Middle Years of Sobriety-A Dangerous Time
Are We Diluting Ourselves?
Communication Within the Fellowship

- b. The Warranties

- c. Beyond the Seventh Tradition-Group Responsibility

In the Meeting Place
To the Newcomer

- d. Fifty Years of Caring and Sharing

In Treatment Centers
In Correctional Facilities
With Young People
In the Group

- e. The G.S.R.-The Key Role

Obtaining the Most Qualified Member
The Service Sponsor

1985 It was recommended that:

At the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 36th General Service Conference, there be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the meeting.

In addition to the meeting chairperson, the format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 36th General Service Conference remain the same as 1985, consisting of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers-one trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one Grapevine).

For a possible theme for the 36th General Service Conference, the following suggestions be made:

- a. Service: Our Legacy of Life
- b. The Third Legacy: Hope for the Future

c. A.A.'s Future: Our Responsibility

The following presentation/discussion topics for the 1986 Conference be considered:

a. The Committee System

Do We Trust It?
Does It Eliminate Conflict?

b. Responsibility In Service

Why Are You a General Service Representative?
Why Are You a District Committee Member?
Why Are You an Area Officer?
Why Are You a Trustee?

c. Trusted Servants

Do We Trust Them?
Ultimate Authority-Are We Listening?
Are Trusted Servants Informed?
The Importance of Rotation

The following two workshops be considered for the 36th General Service Conference:

a. Letting Go of Old Ideas

Suggesting that the following be specifically addressed in the workshop questions:

New Ways of Carrying the A.A. Message
Are We Getting Too Rigid?

b. A.A.'s Impact On the World

With emphasis on:

Are We Being Friendly With Our Friends?
How A.A. Cooperates

1986 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner at the 37th General Service Conference consist of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers-one Class B trustee, two delegates, two staff members (one G.S.O. and one GV).

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the meeting.

The microphone be checked before the A.A. meeting and the speakers be advised to speak clearly into the microphone and limit their talks to ten minutes each.

One of the following four suggestions be the theme of the 37th General Service Conference:

a. Our Primary Purpose-The Second Fifty Years

b. The Promises: Our Today-Their Tomorrow

c. The Seventh Tradition-A Turning Point

d. A.A.-A Spiritualized Society

The following presentation/discussion topics for the 1987 Conference be:

a. Are We Carrying the Message to All?

b. Area Structure

General Service Representative
District Committee Member
Area Committee
Delegate

c. Finance

Can G.S.O. be Self-supporting Through Group Contributions Only?
What About the Birthday Plan?
Can Groups Pledge Contributions?
Group Support to District, Area and Intergroup

d. Publishing-Too Much?

A.A. World Services
A.A. Grapevine

e. Maintaining the Basics -- A.A.'s Principles

Our Primary Purpose
The Twelve Steps
The Twelve Traditions
The Twelve Concepts-How Can We Live the Concepts in Service?

f. Right of Decision

Two Workshops for the 1987 Conference be:

Unity-Let's Talk About It
Living Sober-Growing Together or Growing Apart?

1987 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner of the 38th General Service Conference consist of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers: One Class B trustee, two delegates, two A.A. members alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, Archives or corporate boards; and that their talks be limited to ten minutes each.

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated as chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the A.A. meeting.

“Self-Support” be a presentation/discussion topic for the next five years, in keeping with the spirit of the Seventh Tradition.

The theme of the 38th General Service Conference be “Our Singleness of Purpose-Key to Unity.”

A workshop topic be on the theme “Our Singleness of Purpose-Key to Unity.” A second workshop be scheduled, if time permits, with the subject to be determined at the trustees’ Conference Committee’s discretion.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1988 Conference:

- a. Self-Support
- b. Singleness Of Purpose-Key To Unity
Groups vs Meetings
Are We Being *Too* Friendly With Our Friends?
Our Primary Purpose-Is Our Message Clear?
- c. Focus On The Positive
Communications-Challenges
What Are We Doing Right?
Spirit Of Rotation

It was recommended, by floor action, that:

The consideration of inviting intergroups and central offices into the general service structure be referred to the Agenda Committee for the 1988 Conference.

1988 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner of the 39th General Service Conference consist of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, two A.A. members alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, Archives or corporate boards and that their talks be limited to ten minutes each.

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated as chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the A.A. meeting.

The theme of the 39th General Service Conference be “Anonymity-Our Past, Present and Future” or “Anonymity – Living Our Traditions.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1989 Conference:

- a. Self-support
- b. G.S.O. Finances
- c. Anonymity

How it Developed
Its Necessity Today
Principles Before Personalities

d. Back to Basics

The Group in the Structure
Sponsorship in Recovery and Service
A.A. Literature-Tool or Mandate

A workshop topic be on the Conference theme and a second workshop on “Love and Service” be scheduled if time permits.

A “What’s on Your Mind?” session continue to be scheduled in the beginning of the week.

We continue the practice of allowing more time for Committee meetings.

1989 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the opening dinner of the 40th General Service Conference consist of the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee as leader to introduce five speakers: One Class B trustee, two delegates, two A.A. members, alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, Archives and corporate boards.

There be a light system on the podium; the chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be designated as chairperson of the A.A. meeting and that his or her duties be limited to introducing the leader and monitoring the time of the A.A. meeting.

The following themes be considered for the 1990 General Service Conference:

- a. Home Group-Where Love and Service Begin
- b. Home Group-Our Link to the Fellowship
- c. Home Group-Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.’s Future.”

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1990 General Service Conference:

- a. The Importance of the Home Group
In Recovery
For Unity
For Service
- b. Sponsorship
In Recovery
For Unity
For Service
- c. Self-support
- d. G.S.O. Finances

One workshop be held at the 1990 General Service Conference and the topic be on the Conference Theme.

1990 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1991 General Service Conference be as follows: the Chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be chair of the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light timer system; and the Alternate Chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers, one Class B Trustee, two Delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, Archivist, and corporate boards.

In order of preference, the theme for the 1991 General Service Conference be selected from among the following:

- a. Sponsorship: Gratitude in Action
- b. Sponsorship: Our Three Legacies
- c. Sponsorship: The Hand of A.A.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1991 General Service Conference:

a. Sponsorship

Help and Hope
I Am Responsible
A Way of Life

b. Our Collective Humility

How We Identify Ourselves
Anonymity-Our Spiritual Foundation
In All Our Affairs
Self-support Project-Five Years Later
G.S.O. Finances

One Workshop for the 1991 General Service Conference, with the topic to be on the Conference theme.

1991 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1992 General Service Conference be as follows: The chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be chair of the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, archivist, and corporate boards.

The theme for the 1992 General Service Conference be: The A.A. Message in a Changing World.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1992

General Service Conference:

a. The A.A. Message in a Changing World

Our Common Welfare
Unity: Together We Can
The Language of the Heart Worldwide

b. The Joy of Living

The Newcomer: A.A.'s Future
Principles Before Personalities
Humility Through Rotation

c. Love and Service

d. G.S.O. Finances

There be one workshop for the 1992 General Service Conference, with the topic to be on the Conference theme.

1992 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1993 General Service Conference be as follows: The chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be chair of the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, archivist, and corporate boards.

The theme for the 1993 General Service Conference be: A.A. Takes Its Inventory-The General Service Conference structure.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1993 General Service Conference:

a. A.A. Takes Its Inventory

The Purpose of the General Service Conference
The Conference Relation to A.A.
The General Service Conference and Its General Procedures

b. A.A. Takes Its Inventory

Conference Relation to the General Service Board and Its Corporate Services
The General Service Board: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities

c. The General Warranties of the Conference

d. A.A. Takes Its Inventory: Finance

e. A.A. Takes Its Inventory: The Grapevine

There be two workshops for the 1993 General Service Conference: one workshop to be on the Conference theme with the focus to be on the other six articles of the Conference

Charter; and another workshop to be titled "A Vision for Us-Where Are We and Where Are We Going?" with questions to be gathered from the Fellowship.

The proposal of the General Service Board to directly manage A.A.W.S./G.S.O on an experimental basis for nine months not be implemented.

Members of a Conference Committee be informed as soon as practical after it becomes known that an item will be on the agenda of their Conference Committee, rather than waiting until January.

The 1993 Conference Agenda Committee investigate the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee similar in intent to the inventory committee proposed by Area 36 in their April 7, 1992 letter.

1993 It was recommended that:

The format of the A.A. meeting following the Opening Dinner of the 1994 General Service Conference be as follows: The chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee chair the meeting, with his or her duties limited to introducing the meeting leader and monitoring the time allotted by means of a light-timer system; and the alternate chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee be leader of the meeting, introducing five speakers: one Class B trustee, two delegates, and two other A.A. members alternating from among the G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff, archivist, and corporate boards.

The theme for the 1994 General Service Conference be: Spirit of Sacrifice.

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 1994 General Service Conference:

a. Spirit of Sacrifice: Bill's and Dr. Bob's Farewell Messages:

Bill's Message
Dr. Bob's Message

b. Spirit of Sacrifice in the Long Form of the Tradition:

Traditions One, Two and Three
Traditions Four, Five and Six

c. Spirit of Sacrifice in the Long Form of the Traditions:

Traditions Seven, Eight and Nine
Traditions Ten, Eleven and Twelve

The following be the workshop for the 1994 General Service Conference: The Twelfth Step in Action:

a. Where have we been?

b. Where are we now?

c. Where are we going?

CONFERENCE POLICY

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE POLICY AND ADMISSIONS

1954 It was recommended that:

Delegates come to the Conference being only tentatively instructed for the following reasons: a) that each delegate bring to the Conference the thinking of his area; and b) that the maximum wisdom of the Conference be achieved and voted through the exchange of these ideas at the Conference.

The policy adopted by the 1953 Conference in reference to the threequarter majority rule be continued. That policy stated as follows:

No policy should be declared or action taken on matters liable to gravely affect A.A. as a whole unless by consent of at least three-quarters of the members present. A mere majority should not authorize action.

1955 It was recommended that:

The Conference abide by the specific recommendations in Section 7 of the 1965 "Third Legacy Manual" (currently, Chapter V of "The A.A. Service Manual"), whereby no delegate succeed himself. However, it is further provided in Section 7 that in rare cases, when a fully qualified person is not available, a delegate may be reelected at a future date. The Policy Committee felt that the responsibility for this decision lies entirely with the local area.

1956 It was recommended that:

There be an announcement in a future Headquarters bulletin reminding group G.S.R.s that it is their duty to pass the bulletins on to the group secretary, and also suggesting that wherever practical and feasible, the G.S.R. use a group post office box as a mailing address.

1958 It was recommended that:

The suggestion of the name change from General Service Headquarters to General Service Office be adopted.

The participation of institutional groups in the Conference structure be left to the discretion of local Conference assemblies.

1959 It was recommended that:

Consideration and study be made by all delegates during the coming year on the possibility of all G.S.O. group mailings going to the G.S.R.s and that this subject be placed on the 1960 agenda as a discussion subject.

1962 It was recommended that:

The present \$100 paid by Conference areas toward delegate travel expenses be retained.

1963 It was recommended that:

G.S.O. continue to refer local matters back to the area involved, with the suggestion that they contact the local delegate; and that copies of all correspondence referring to such local matters be sent to the delegate.

Notices be sent with the *Exchange Bulletin* (now *Box 4-5-9*) clarifying that the bulletins are for the use of the groups and not exclusively for group secretaries or G.S.R.s.

1964 It was recommended that:

The idea that Conference committees be enlarged from six to eight members be approved.

The proposal that all outgoing Conference committee members serve in an ex-officio capacity for a full year after their terms are concluded be approved.

The proposal that Conference committees select a co-chairman from first-year delegates, to become chairman the second year, be approved.

Communications among Conference committee members be increased when feasible and desirable, to enhance the work of the standing committees.

1965 It was recommended that:

Committee members continue to be chosen by lot, geographically, but this drawing be conducted by the chairman of the Policy Committee of the General Service Board at their January Policy Committee meeting; and that delegates then be advised of their committee by the Conference secretary.

Committees include all delegates as active voting members, advisers being discontinued; and that committees be as uniform in size as possible-not to exceed ten members.

Committee workshops be continued.

1966 It was recommended that:

The present policy of asking outgoing committee members to continue to serve in an ex-officio capacity for one year be continued.

The name of the Other Agencies Committee be changed to coincide with the board's Public Information Committee-namely, to the Conference Committee on Public Information.

1967 It was recommended that:

Ex-officio committee members be continued, but only after being queried following the January Policy Committee meeting, as to whether they would like to continue as ex-officio. Only if they answer in the affirmative will they be kept on the committee list as ex-officio for one year.

1968 It was recommended that:

We maintain the present procedure for selection of Conference

committees on a geographic basis at the January Policy meeting of the board.

Since the language of the General Service Conference is English, and since the Conference is not equipped to provide translators, it is desirable that delegates elected have a knowledge of English.

1969 It was recommended that:

The name of the Conference Policy Committee be changed to The Committee on Conference Policy.

The biographical sketches of the delegates, compiled by G.S.O. and placed in delegates' manuals, would serve no useful purpose to the delegates or G.S.O.

Looking with favor on the proposal "that each Conference area contribute \$150 every year to the support of the General Service Conference," delegates take this proposal back to their areas for consideration. It was further suggested that this item be placed on the 1970 General Service Conference agenda.

1970 It was recommended that:

In keeping with our Traditions, no cameras be allowed at any G.S.O. Conference session. (It was agreed to send questions about using cameras and tape recorders at Conference sessions to the delegates in advance of the Conference meeting.)

It would be in the best interests of the Conference to have a special task force appointed to review the procedures and mechanics of the General Service Conference. (A special task force, appointed by Dr. John Norris, to review procedures and mechanics of the General Service Conference as it is presently constituted, was approved.)

The delegates having accepted the Area Support Proposal, G.S.O. bill the 90 Conference areas for \$150, with a March 1 deadline for sending it to G.S.O.

Resulting from floor discussion, the Fellowship go on record as opposing the use of the title "A.A. Counselor." (The Conference accepted the recommendation.)

The procedure for selecting Conference committee members continue to be from the hat; that no area be represented on any standing committee for more than two consecutive years; that when any state or province has more than one area, no standing committee have more than one member from each state or province.

1971 It was recommended that:

It is not necessary to write to new delegates asking them if they are willing to serve on the committee for which they have been chosen, but rather in the interest of expediency, they will be informed of their committee assignments.

We accept the recommendation from the Conference Committee on Public Information for the formation of a Conference Committee on Professional Relations to correspond with the trustees' Committee on Professional Relations.

Ask-It Basket be continued in its present form and, to avoid confusion, none of the answer sessions be held during meal-time.

The Committee on Conference Policy take over the function of the Conference evaluation handled last year by the task force; that a questionnaire be mailed by the committee members to Panel 20 and 21 delegates within six weeks from the conclusion of this Conference; that this questionnaire be returned to the committee members who will summarize the replies and send this summarization with the originals to the chairman for tabulation. These recommendations will be forwarded by the chairman to the committee secretary.

There is no need for a Conference Committee on Traditions at this time.

Rather than accept the Oklahoma Plan (a plan for restructuring the General Service Conference) as written, the Conference adopt unstructured open workshops, with no specific subjects, on the agenda and that these unstructured workshops be summarized and reported to the Conference.

The Conference accept the task force decisions, as written in Dr. Jack's letter of December 1970, with our appreciation and thanks for the time, effort, and energy expended by this task force.

Agendas for all Conference committees be mailed to all delegates before the Conference.

1972 It was recommended that:

A deadline be specified on the return of all questionnaires sent to delegates.

Because G.S.O. has given each delegate a questionnaire at this year's Conference, the Committee on Conference Policy not make a Conference evaluation this year, but next year review the success or failure of this year's method and determine the method to be used in future Conferences.

All Conference committee agendas continue to be sent to all delegates.

The Conference reaffirm the 1969 Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee recommendation:

"That when an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered a delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined by 'The A.A. Service Manual') that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties."

The agenda of the Conference be structured so that all Conference committee reports be in the hands of the delegates by Friday morning.

1973 It was recommended that:

Conference committees elect an alternate chairman in case the elected chairman is unable to attend the next year's

Conference. Since the chairman is elected by a plurality, the person with the second largest number of votes could be alternate chairman.

An alternate area delegate chairman should be elected; the runner-up could be alternate chairman.

Past delegates should not be elected to serve again, with the exception of the conditions outlined by the Agenda/Admissions Committee, 1973.

The Conference questionnaire and evaluation be continued each year; more space should be given for the answer to question 5—"How do you feel the Conference could be improved?"--and a line added for general comments on accommodations.

Since the action of the 1969 Conference Agenda/ Admissions Committee that "when an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined by 'The A.A. Service Manual') that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties" is already incorporated in "The A.A. Service Manual," there is no further need for reaffirmation.

1974 It was recommended that:

Committee members receive agendas for their committee only, but that other committee agendas be sent upon request. The number of requests received will be reviewed at next year's Conference committee meeting.

Consideration be given to revising the composition, scope and procedure of the Committee on Conference Policy in order to clarify its function.

Ex-officio committee members be discontinued. Past delegates can keep themselves informed of their committee's activity through the present delegate and the **Conference Report**.

Results of the 1974 evaluation questionnaire be forwarded to the delegates when compiled, and that we follow the 1973 Committee on Conference Policy's recommendation that the Conference questionnaire and evaluation be continued each year.

The Committee on Conference Policy accept the recommendation of the Agenda/Admissions Committee that the admissions function of that committee be transferred to the Committee on Conference Policy.

1975 It was recommended that:

Each delegate receive only the agenda pertinent to his/her committee, but may receive any others on request.

Ex-officio members not be restored.

A committee on Traditions not be established, but that it be further recommended that individual delegates assume the responsibility for familiarizing their area groups and members

with the Traditions.

The timing of the 1975 Conference agenda mailing be retained for the 1976 Conference.

The dates for the 1976 Conference be Monday, April 19, through Saturday, April 24, even though this means that the pre-Conference get-together and orientation sessions will be held on Easter Sunday.

It is the responsibility of the area committee to see that the contribution of \$200 toward Conference expenses be paid by March 1, and if not received by March 1, that a letter be sent to the delegate reminding him of this omission.

Having reviewed the 1975 Conference questionnaire, the trustees' Conference Committee consider specific suggestions made by the Conference Policy Committee.

Note: It was the opinion of the trustees, when reviewing the Conference Advisory Actions, that there was great positive value in having delegates participate in the same workshop sections throughout the Conference, and it was their recommendation that this practice be continued for at least another year. They agreed that consideration might be given to rotating staff and trustee participants.

1976 It was recommended that:

The 1976 Conference questionnaire be approved with the following questions added for 1977:

- a. "Do you feel there is enough time for discussion of committee and trustee reports?"
- b. "Do you feel Area Service Highlights are valuable to the Conference as a whole?"

Question 9 of the questionnaire read as follows: "Please list suggestions for improving or changing the Conference."

Since the committee feels that committee meetings should be concluded earlier in the week so that the reports, with discussion thereon, could be had on Thursday, with the final discussion and vote on Friday, a study be made by the appropriate trustees' committee of the feasibility of accomplishing this result by eliminating or shortening the following sessions:

Area Service Highlights
Presentations/Discussions
Workshops

and that a feasibility report be made at the 1977 General Service Conference for further action by the Committee on Conference Policy/Admissions.

1977 It was recommended that:

Current general service board and staff members from foreign countries be granted admission as observers, upon request, to the annual General Service Conference of U.S. and Canada, not to exceed one representative per country, at their own expense; and that the request be made through the General

Service Office in New York.

The recommendations of the Conference Report and Charter and Agenda Committees to retain the Conference Report and Charter Committee, as is, be approved with the additional recommendation that all Conference committees reevaluate their purpose and function during 1978 and report back to the 1979 Conference.

When a situation arises which prevents the trustee committee chairperson from chairing the joint meeting, a Conference committee chairperson be delegated to chair the joint committee meeting at the Conference until a new trustee chairperson can be appointed.

The current Conference Institutions Committee be replaced by two committees to be called Committee on Correctional Facilities and Committee on Treatment Facilities.

1978

The questionnaire for the 28th General Service Conference was satisfactory, and no changes were suggested.

The committee felt that the description in Chapter VII of "The A.A. Service Manual" on why the Conference has committees is adequate, and suggested that reports of the trustees' quarterly meetings continue to be sent to members of the corresponding Conference committees. Communication between committee members and G.S.O. between Conferences should be encouraged.

It was recommended that:

A section be added to Chapter V of "The A.A. Service Manual" regarding applications for additional areas and delegates, and that excerpts from Bill's 1961 memo on the size of the Conference be included as well as the information that application forms are available from the General Service Office.

Selections from Conference talks made by Bill and Bern Smith, beginning with the First General Service Conference in 1951, be circulated to the Conference and trustees' Literature Committees so that consideration could be given to making this material available to the Fellowship in printed form.

The opening date for the 1979 General Service Conference be delayed until April 22 in order to permit delegates to avoid travel complications.

The Conference did not accept the recommendation of the committee re observers at committee meetings. It was the sense of the meeting that we adhere to paragraph 2, "*Composition*" of the Conference ("The A.A. Service Manual," page 23).

1983 It was recommended that:

The 1982 Conference Action be amended to read:

"All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees' committees be encouraged to attend and participate at the joint meetings.

“All nontrustee, nondirector members be encouraged to attend, as observers, the Monday sessions of the Conference and one presentation session related to the committee on which they serve.”

The dates for the 1984 Conference be Monday, April 16, through Saturday, April 21, even though this would include certain religious holidays.

The Conference Committees on Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter consider, at their 1984 committee meetings, the possibility of combining the function of these two committees.

1984 It was recommended that:

The area treasurer from Central and Southeast Ohio be seated as a Conference member, since neither the delegate nor the alternate delegate from that area was able to attend.

After reviewing the 1983 Conference Questionnaire, no change be made on the form at this time.

Tapes of Conference presentations not be made available, affirming the 1979 General Service Board recommendation which prohibits making tapes of any Conference session for distribution outside of the A.A. archives, except for the opening dinner and the closing brunch.

To encourage Spanish-speaking groups and committees to participate in the general service structure:

- a. Areas be encouraged to provide room within their structure for Hispanic districts with a bilingual liaison or D.C.M.
- b. Assemblies be encouraged to provide G.S.R. schools, seminars, or workshops in Spanish.
- c. Successful experience with area structure participation by Hispanic groups be shared in Spanish Box 4-5-9.
- d. Spanish-speaking A.A.s active in service be encouraged to sponsor new members into service.
- e. G.S.O. increase its efforts to provide Spanish service literature.
- f. The trustees' Committee on International Convention/A.A. Regional Forums consider holding a Forum in Puerto Rico.

The functions of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and Conference Report and Charter Committee should not be combined at this time.

We reaffirm the 1980 Policy/Admissions Committee recommendation which reads:

“The Conference reaffirm the importance of the committee system for accomplishing business charged to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, as defined in Chapter 7 of our ‘A.A. Service Manual.’ The importance of clearly stated committee reports and recommendations

was also stressed.”

with particular emphasis on clarity and background information when writing committee recommendations.

The 1985 Conference be held April 14-20, 1985, and that the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions routinely review the dates for the succeeding year's Conference.

1985 It was recommended that:

No change be made in the Conference questionnaire at this time.

The General Service Conference for 1986 be held from April 20 through April 26.

The Conference Policy Committee routinely review the dates for the General Service Conference to be held two years hence.

The 1987 General Service Conference be held from April 26 through May 2.

The decision regarding the South Florida Area invitation to the groups in the Virgin Islands be made by area assemblies involved.

The 1986 Policy/Admissions Committee study the need for a procedure to include into the service structure new states or provinces, U.S./Canadian territories and islands, etc.

1986 It was recommended that:

The revised Conference questionnaire be approved to evaluate the 1987 General Service Conference.

The 38th General Service Conference be scheduled for April 17-23, 1988.

With regard to proposing Floor Actions in the final hours of the Conference, the 1968 recommendation, which was as follows, be reaffirmed:

“That when questions of importance for the Conference could not be sent to the areas in advance, consideration be given to an oral presentation early in the Conference sessions, with discussion and voting to be taken at a later date during the Conference.”

That when matters of great significance having long term effect on the Fellowship or of substantial expense are presented to the floor in the waning hours of the Conference, such matters be referred to the appropriate committee at the next Conference in order for the group conscience to be as informed as possible.

Since some misunderstandings have occurred because of seeming breakdowns in communication, the 1963 recommendation, which was as follows, be reaffirmed:

“Recommended that G.S.O. continue to refer local matters back to the area involved, with the suggestion that they contact the local delegate and that copies of all correspondence referring to such local matters be sent to the delegate.”

Trustees' committees and General Service Office staff continue to inform the area delegates of any significant activities in their areas, whenever possible, in order that the area may offer assistance concerning these activities and that all might be better informed.

At this time there is no need to establish a procedure to include into the service structure, as part of an existing area assembly, new states or provinces, U.S./Canada territories and islands. It was suggested that past experiences be considered. When the General Service Office receives an inquiry about joining the service structure, the staff should encourage local members to develop a district structure and contact an area assembly for inclusion as part of that service structure.

Delegates assume more responsibility in encouraging C. S.R.s and local A.A. members to take their suggestions and concerns to district meetings and area assemblies for consideration in order to accommodate the growing number of topics being submitted for consideration by Conference committees. The committee also suggested sending items for the Conference Agenda to the Conference coordinator as early as possible.

Regarding the suggestion to change the seal designating General Service Conference-approved literature to the Three Legacies seal, no action be taken since the Conference has reserved that seal for Conference-approved literature; however, the committee commends the idea of making the Fellowship more aware of our Three Legacies.

ADMISSIONS

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE POLICY AND ADMISSIONS

1957

The committee approved, as a guide for future Admissions Committees, some of the basic considerations affecting the number of delegates from a state, province, or territory:

- a. The fact that a greater number of delegates means less opportunity for each delegate to take part in the deliberations of the Conference.
- b. The fact that each request for an additional delegate from a state opens the way for requests from other states.
- c. These guides taken from the "Third Legacy Manual" (now "The A.A. Service Manual"):
 1. That no state or province should request an additional delegate unless its A.A. population exceeds these limits: Two delegates serving up to 7,000; three delegates serving up to 12,000; four delegates serving 14,000; five delegates serving 19,000.
 2. That the factor of mileage in a state be taken into consideration in determining the number of delegates

representing a state.

- d. Requests for admission to come from state, provincial, or territorial committees as a whole-rather than from an area-and that such requests provide this information:
 1. A map of the state, province, or territory showing proposed divisions, A.A. population of each, and groups involved.
 2. Assurance that an attempt has been made to cover present areas with present delegates plus an additional number of area committee members.

1958 It was affirmed that:

The Admissions Committee cannot decide how state divisions shall be made or how delegates shall be selected; recommended use of Third Legacy Plan of elections.

In reference to a resolution presented to the committee by a delegate from Michigan, we submit the following:

- a. Area committees within each state or province shall have the authority to remove any delegate, alternate delegate, or committee member for any interruption of sobriety occurring during his term of service to the General Service Conference.
- b. In the event that such action is taken, the Conference Admissions Committee shall be notified so that a replacement may be recognized and seated at the Conference.

In reference to an application for an additional delegate from some groups in Illinois:

- a. The Admissions Committee composed of members of the 1958 Conference feels obliged to honor the "Guide for Future Admissions Committees" as expressed in the Final **Report** of the 1957 Conference.
- b. We find that the delegates from the state of Illinois have not complied with those reports and, neither by virtue of the factors of population nor mileage, can be granted an additional delegate at this time.
- c. We reaffirm the recommendations contained in the report of the 1957 Conference that the committee cannot in any measure decide how state divisions shall be made or how delegates shall be elected-while we do recommend that the Third Legacy Plan of election be used to "avoid conflict between local and world service" ("Third Legacy Manual," Section 6) [now "The A.A. Service Manual," pages 50-5 1].

In reference to an application from all present delegates from California:

- a. Resolved, that since the various California district assemblies have complied with all requests of the Admissions Committee in their application for an additional delegate, that request is granted, thus allotting the

State of California five delegates to the General Service Conference.

b. It is suggested, however, that since this additional delegate will serve an area contiguous with Los Angeles, he and the Los Angeles delegate be elected in alternate years.

c. This leaves to the discretion of the California assemblies the alternative of electing the fifth delegate to be seated for one year in Panel 9, or for two years in Panels 10 and 11. A report of their decision shall be forwarded to the Conference secretary at the earliest possible date.

1961

In view of the large geographical area and increasing population involved, a request was approved for a third delegate from Ontario, Canada, to serve the north and northwest section of the province. The new delegate will be eligible to attend the 1962 Conference. In approving this admission, the delegates cited the opinion of Bill W., surviving cofounder, that each application for a new delegate should be weighed on its merits.

1962 It was recommended that:

Approval be granted to the request for an additional delegate from the Province of Quebec to represent their French-speaking groups, subject to presentation by Quebec of a complete statistical report supporting their request at the 1963 General Service Conference.

Public Information Committee and Grapevine Editorial Board members who are not Conference members be permitted to attend the Conference as observers without vote, the total number limited to four from the P.I. Committee and four from the Grapevine Editorial Board.

1963 It was recommended that:

An additional delegate be approved for the Province of Quebec to serve French-speaking groups and that the delegate be admitted at the 1964 General Service Conference.

1964 It was recommended that:

A second delegate be admitted from the Atlantic Provinces of Canada.

1965 It was recommended that:

After reviewing the request for an additional delegate from Indiana, such request be granted, effective with the 1966 Conference, on the basis of population, growth, and communications needs in the area.

1966

After review and discussion of the area's needs, it was approved that the Province of Ontario be given a fourth delegate to be elected for the 17th Conference.

It was unanimously moved to adopt the recommendation of the

International Convention Committee in reference to overseas Conference observers: "When a country wishes to have a foreign observer, the foreign observer be a legal resident of the country and a member of A.A."

It was recommended that the Agenda and Admissions Committees be combined and called the Conference Committee on Agenda and Admissions.

1968

The committee approved a third bilingual delegate from the Province of Quebec. This delegate is to be elected on Panel 19 from the new Conference area, Northeast Quebec.

It was recommended that a study of admissions procedures be conducted and that the Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee meet in the fall of 1968 in New York.

1969 It was recommended that:

When an elected delegate cannot attend the annual meeting of the General Service Conference, the alternate delegate seated at the Conference will be considered delegate until notification is sent to G.S.O. by the area committee (as defined in the "Third Legacy Manual") [now "The A.A. Service Manual"] that the originally elected delegate is ready to resume his duties.

A two-year moratorium be declared on applications by the areas for additional delegate representation so that a thorough study can be made of the whole subject.

Non-Conference members from all trustees' committees have permission to attend as observers, two at a time from each committee, the annual meeting of the General Service Conference.

The Agenda/Admissions Committee met in New York on September 7, 1968, and recommended the following:

- a. That a standard form be prepared for use in applications for additional delegates, and that it include pertinent A.A. information.
- b. That each state or province review its own delegate situation to see whether it may not already be overrepresented.

The reaffirmation of the 1957 Conference action which states, "Requests for admission to come from state, provincial, or territorial committees as a whole, rather than from an area," but recommended further discussion regarding the following change:

That where there is more than one delegate in a state or province, a two-thirds majority approval, rather than unanimous approval, be sufficient for future applications for additional representation.

At the same September 7, 1968, meeting, the committee reviewed a request from California for an additional delegate and recommended that it be resubmitted with additional pertinent A.A. information and all five delegates' signatures. As of

February 1969, the California delegates withdrew their application for an additional delegate.

1970 It was recommended that:

Delegates should go back to their areas and determine if any obstacle exists which might create the illusion that an additional delegate is needed.

The following motion was made and carried:

Let it be moved that this committee recommends to the assembled General Service Conference of 1970 that the moratorium be continued until such time as the Long-Range Planning Committee of the General Service Board, in conjunction with the Agenda/Admissions Committee, presents a set of guidelines to a future Conference for its approval.

This is to be done by communication between the members of the two committees, either by mail or by a meeting in the fall if necessary.

It was also recommended:

In view of the fact that we are asking for basic guidelines from this committee and the Long Range Planning Committee, the six proposals pertaining to the size of the Conference should be held in abeyance until we have an opportunity to consider any other ideas, and that each member of the Agenda/Admissions Committee be requested to accept the responsibility of forwarding some suggestions to the secretary of the committee.

1971

Limiting the size of the Conference was referred to the Long-Range Planning Committee by the Agenda/Admissions Committee in 1970 for their consideration. That committee recommended that:

The Conference should not be much larger than it is now; its makeup should remain proportionately similar to its present structure; and the number of nondelegate members should not exceed one-third of the total Conference membership.

Therefore, the two-year moratorium on applications by areas for additional delegate representation which was approved by the 19th Conference be terminated, and detailed questionnaires be prepared for areas seeking additional representation and sent to each area every two years for a reevaluation of the Conference area structure.

Where a delegate does not have his own assembly it was recommended he look forward to establishing one.

1972

In an area submitting an application for an additional delegate, such application should be received by G.S.O. not later than January 1 preceding the Conference.

It was recommended that:

The following be added to the application for additional dele-

gate:

- a. What could another delegate do that more committee members could not do?
- b. A map showing areas as they will exist if a new delegate is allowed.

The request from the British Columbia/Yukon Area for an additional delegate be held in abeyance for another year pending further information and reconsideration during the year.

The matter of the application for an additional delegate from the Province of Quebec be tabled for a period of one year and be returned to the Agenda/Admissions Committee with the following information:

- a. A new map showing areas as they now exist.
- b. A map showing areas as they will exist if a new delegate is allowed.
- c. Show where area meetings are being held in 1972, how each delegate is elected, and how he reports to his area, bearing in mind the suggestions in "The A.A. Service Manual."
- d. Suggest that they also redistrict their areas using more committee members from smaller districts, as suggested in "The A.A. Service Manual."

1973

When an elected delegate is unable to attend the Conference meeting for any reason, a past delegate can be seated in his place if no one else is available, with the proviso that "The A.A. Service Manual," page 59 (Chapter V, "Delegate Term"), be reworded as follows:

A delegate serves one term for two years. The Conference is on record in its attitude toward delegate rotation. However, the question has arisen: Can a delegate be reelected at some future date? The Conference strongly recommends limiting the term of a delegate to one two-year term, with the exception of an alternate delegate who, after filling one year of the delegate's term, may be elected to serve his own term.

And in the last paragraph, page 59, the following change be made: "The Conference recommends that all areas have alternate delegates ."

In an area where the above situation exists, the secretary of the Agenda/Admissions Committee shall be provided with the information concerning the extent of the efforts made to replace the delegate with someone who has not previously served in that capacity in order to inform the members of the Agenda/Admissions Committee, who will promptly voice their disapproval, if any.

The Conference *declined* to approve the following recommendations of the Agenda/Admissions Committee:

- a. A fourth delegate would not provide for the Province of

Quebec any benefits which could not be met more adequately by enlarging and developing the district committee structure, as suggested by "The A.A. Service Manual" and in the guidelines suggested by the Agenda/Admissions Committee statement on the Size of the Conference and Procedure for Application for Additional Delegate.

b. The responsibility of the alternate delegate be more fully developed.

c. The action of the three Quebec Provincial Committees in recommending that the present three areas be represented by bilingual delegates will distribute the responsibilities more equitably.

In declining to approve the committee recommendation, the Conference voted that Quebec be allowed a fourth delegate.

1976 It was recommended that:

There is insufficient time allotted at the Conference for adequate discussion of committee reports before the vote is called for upon each report.

1977 It was recommended that:

Current general service board and staff members from foreign countries be granted admission as observers, upon request, to the annual General Service Conference of the United States and Canada, not to exceed one representative per country, at their own expense, and that the request be made through G.S.O. in New York.

When a situation arises which prevents the trustees committee chairperson from chairing the joint meeting, a Conference committee chairperson be delegated to chair the joint committee meeting at the Conference until a new trustees' committee chairperson can be appointed.

The current Conference Institutions Committee be replaced by two committees to be called Committee on Correctional Facilities and Committee on Treatment Facilities.

1979 It was recommended that:

Directors-elect not attend the Conference as observers prior to their election, as they will attend as Conference members for four years after taking office.

No arbitrary ceiling be set on the number of G.S.O./GV staff eligible to vote, but that the delegates *never* have less than 66 2/3% of the total Conference votes. If more staff members are added, some method of rotation of staff eligible to vote may be necessary. In response to a request that delegates represent not less than 75% of voting Conference members, this was considered an unrealistic figure. The committee pointed out that office personnel (exclusive of staff) assisting at the Conference are not participants in Conference sessions. Observers have no voice and no vote; they do not participate in Conference deliberations.

The Conference Committee on Trustees always have at least

nine members, so that there will always be enough to constitute one-half of the committee votes in regional elections.

When delegates are polled prior to the Conference, they be asked to give their number of years in general service work as well as age and length of sobriety.

The committee reaffirmed previous action that two non-trustee members of each trustees' committee may attend as observers with no voice and no vote.

1980 It was recommended that:

Since neither the Panel 29 delegate from Northeastern Quebec (Area 89) nor his alternate is able to attend this 30th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, the Committee on Conference Policy and Admissions recommends to this Conference that the area chairperson, Gabriel LaPointe, be allowed to be seated.

The Conference reaffirm the recommendation of the 1977 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows:

In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of trustees' committees on P.I., C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be distributed to the delegate members of the corresponding Conference committees after each trustees' committee meeting.

1981 It was recommended that:

The request for an additional delegate from Area 81 (New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island, Canada) be denied.

The printing of the Ask-It Basket questions and answers in their present form be discontinued.

Some criteria should be set by the Conference on what constitutes an Advisory Action, and that members of the Policy/Admissions Committee study the matter and present some sort of guidelines for consideration by members of the 1982 General Service Conference.

1982 It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate for Southern New Jersey, Ruth Nichol, be seated to replace delegate Madge Mansfield, who had to leave the Conference on Tuesday, April 20.

All nontrustee, nondirector members of the trustees' committees be encouraged to attend and participate at the joint meetings and Monday sessions of the Conference and as observers at one presentation session related to the committee on which they serve.

Each Conference committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level.

1983 No admissions request.

1984 No admissions request.

1985 No admissions request.

1986 No admissions request.

1987 It was recommended that:

The area chairperson from Eastern Massachusetts be seated as a Conference member, since neither the delegate nor the alternate delegate from that area is able to attend.

The 39th General Service Conference be scheduled for April 23-29, 1989. These dates will not conflict with Easter or Passover.

While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of Area Archives and Archives Committees, with the resulting benefit to General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives should not be formed at this time because the needs of local Archives Committees are being well served by the trustees' Archives Committee and the General Service Office Archivist.

The 1982 Policy Committee Advisory Action:

"Each Conference Committee carefully consider their Agenda Items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the Policy Level,"

be reaffirmed; and this Advisory Action of 1982 be read by each Conference Committee chairperson at the opening of the Conference Committee meetings.

To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of costs be part of that recommendation.

1988 It was recommended that:

Ron Carr, General Service trustee, Australia, be admitted to the 38th General Service Conference, as an observer.

The 40th General Service Conference be scheduled for April 22-28, 1990.

The comments under questions one and two in the 38th General Service Conference Questionnaire be used in planning the next Conference, but not included in the final results of the 1988 Conference Evaluation.

The Policy/Admissions Committee continue to study geographical representation and distribution of General Service delegates.

Ample time for Conference Committees to meet and conduct their business be provided for on the Conference Agenda.

1989 It was recommended that:

The 41st General Service Conference be held April 14-20, 1991 with an alternative date of April 21-27, 1991, based on hotel accommodations and availability.

The 1979 Conference Action be reaffirmed: "Conference Committee selection continue to be by lot with the widest possible geographical distribution." It was the sense of the meeting that any other method could erode the confidence of the Conference in the committee system.

That all Conference-approved literature shall be developed within the Conference structure, but that identification of need may be established by use of questionnaires developed in cooperation with the appropriate standing Conference committees.

The 1987 Conference Action from the Policy/Admissions Committee be modified to read:

"Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation."

That the words "and timely" be added to the end of Question #6 on the 1990 Conference questionnaire, and that space be allowed for comments. (The Question would read: "Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. adequate and timely?")

1990 It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Colorado be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate who is ill and unable to attend.

The 42nd General Service Conference be held April 26-May 2, 1992, since this week will not conflict with Easter or Passover.

The 43rd General Service Conference be held April 18 - April 24, 1993 with an alternate date of April 25-May 1, 1993, based on hotel accommodations and availability, realizing the need for reserving hotel space well in advance.

A standing committee for central and intergroup offices not be formed at this time. The committee felt that many of the problems expressed by central offices and intergroups are "home issues," and that the doors of communications need to be opened at the area level. The committee would like to stress the importance of delegates establishing contact with offices in their areas and assuring them they do have a voice in the Fellowship through their existing area service structure. The committee suggests that the sharing received by this committee from areas and central/intergroup offices, regarding their experiences of cooperation and communication, be reviewed by the G.S.O. staff with the idea of incorporating into the Guidelines on central/intergroup offices.

There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee to be composed of one delegate from each region, who could serve as the Site Selection Committee for the International

Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed in 1995 by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

1991 It was recommended that:

The 44th General Service Conference be held April 17-23, 1994, with an alternative date of April 10-16, 1994, if needed for hotel availability, since these dates do not conflict with certain religious holidays.

The policy for establishing new delegate areas in place at this time, as described concisely in *The A.A. Service Manual*, is adequate to allow for the gradual growth of the Conference, and provides for a representative cross-section of A.A.

The trustees' Conference Committee consider a presentation/discussion topic on New Delegate Areas for the 1992 Conference, focusing on existing delegate areas, procedures for new delegate areas and future A.A. growth.

It was recommended, by floor action, that:

The 1992 General Service Conference annual meeting be held in the city of New York.

1992 It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Area 30, Eastern Massachusetts, Bob McElroy, be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, Ronald Gauthier, who is unable to attend.

The Annual Conference Questionnaire be reviewed in the future by the Conference Committee on Agenda, instead of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

The 45th General Service Conference be held April 30-May 6, 1995, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

A revised, amplified form "Application for Additional Delegate Area" be approved.

The Conference review in April of the same year any request for a new Delegate Area submitted to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee by January 1st of that year.

Final Conference Committee agendas be automatically sent to all Conference members no later than March 15 each year.

1993 It was recommended that:

The alternate delegate from Area 62, South Carolina, George Rollings, be seated as a Conference member in place of the delegate, Joe McGarity, who is unable to attend.

The 46th General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 1996, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

The area delegate term not be extended to three years, since the current two-year term offers a wider opportunity for service, and helps maintain continuity throughout the A.A. structure.

In response to the proposal to create a standing Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums, the 1900 General Service Conference Action #3 be reaffirmed, as follows:

"There be a continuation of the Conference International Convention Ad Hoc Committee, which would also address issues of Regional Forums, through 1995. This committee, to be composed of one delegate from each region, could serve as the Site-Selection Committee for the International Convention in the year 2000. The committee suggests this recommendation be reviewed in 1995 by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions."

In response to the proposal to create a Conference Committee on Archives, the 1987 General Service Conference Action #45 be reaffirmed as follows:

"While the committee recognizes the need for and encourages the development of area Archives and Archives committees, with the resulting benefit to the General Service and the Fellowship as a whole, a Conference Archives Committee should not be formed at this time because the needs of local Archives committees are being well served by the trustees' Archives Committee and the General Service Office Archivist."

In order for groups/districts/areas to fully participate in the Conference process, the following steps be taken:

- a) Conference agenda items be submitted as early as possible but no later than January 15 each year.
- b) Final Conference committee agendas be automatically sent to all Conference members by February 15 each year.
- c) Background material for each specific committee be sent to its members by February 15 each year, with other committees' background material available upon request.

CONFERENCE REPORT AND CHARTER

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE REPORT AND CHARTER COMMITTEE

Committee actions over the years include:

Recommended that each G.S.R. be urged to obtain a copy of the *Conference Report* for his or her group, or that each area committee purchase a copy for each group in the area.

Continued to recommend that first names and last initials only of A.A. members be shown in the main body of the *Conference Report* (and the Conference issue of Box 4-5-9), but that full names and addresses may be used in the roster or end-of-book section. Further, that should the booklet be given to a nonalcoholic individual or agency, anonymity may be preserved by

cutting along perforated lines of the roster pages of the report before it is given out. (Reaffirmed in 1969 and 1970; reconsidered in 1975)

Updating the terminology of the Conference Charter.

1955

The permanent Charter of the Conference was ratified.

1963

The committee noted that a one-page agenda of the General Service Conference will be added to the 1963 *Final Conference Report*.

1965

The committee recommended the use of the Early Bird edition of the *Conference Digest* to help delegates in preparing their talks to their groups following the Conference.

The committee disapproved a proposal to bind past *Final Conference Reports* for sale to delegates, committee members, and groups.

1966 It was recommended that:

The summary of all previous Conference Advisory Actions, now mimeographed and sent yearly to all Conference members, should include only the actions on the first 15 Conferences (1951-1965), and should be a chapter in the new "Third Legacy Manual" (now "The A.A. Service Manual") when it is written. Then only the most recent actions will have to be compiled and distributed annually and all readers of the Manual can see what actions the Conference took in its first formative years (Policy, and Report and Charter).

The digest of Questions and Answers of previous Conferences (also mimeographed and sent each year to all Conference members) be condensed more.

Permanent records of the minutes of all Conference committee meetings are established at G.S.O., available as needed, but such detailed reports need not necessarily be printed in the Final Conference Report unless acted upon by the entire Conference (Report and Charter).

1968

The committee reviewed and made initial recommendations concerning the draft of material submitted to them in connection with the revision of the "Third Legacy Manual" (now "The A.A. Service Manual"), and agreed to review further this material and additional chapters referred to them. It is hoped this revision will be completed prior to the 19th Conference meeting. The reaction of the committee to the initial material was that the format represented a great improvement.

It was recommended that a memorandum from the Southwest regional trustee, updating the terminology of the Conference Charter, be accepted as presented to the committee for review.

1969

The committee approved the final draft of "The A.A. Service Manual," a new revision of the "Third Legacy Manual," with the understanding that minor editorial changes can still be made which do not affect meaning or content.

The committee unanimously approved the suggested changes to the Conference Charter:

- a. That Article 1, paragraph 1, line 2, be amended by the addition of the words "the Twelve Steps"; the sentence now to read: "... the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of the world services, and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous."
- b. That Article 3, paragraph 2, line 1, be amended to read; "But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A.," instead of "... the A.A. Tradition, etc." Also it be understood that the new approved procedure for electing general service trustees-at-large be incorporated in the Charter.

1970 It was recommended that:

The roster section of the *Final Conference Report* have dotted guidelines indicated near the pamphlet's spine so that in the event the report is given to anyone outside the Fellowship, the delegate involved should accept the responsibility for removing these pages.

A wording change be made in Article 10, line 11, of the Conference Charter, substituting the words "general service trustee-at-large" for "regional general service trustee."

1971

The committee stated that the summary of the Ask-It Basket questions and answers in its present form is an important and valuable reference aid and suggested the following to make this material even more useful:

- a. Date the current summary and date each additional entry hereafter, and provide a cover index for easier research.
- b. Suggest this material be made available to the general Fellowship, perhaps in the form of a handbook, as a salable item to all groups, with particular attention given to G.S.R. and committee member distribution.

It was recommended that the Advisory Actions summary be retained in its present loose-leaf form, but with the addition of a cover index and updated each year.

1972 It was recommended that:

The Literature Committee consider combining the summaries of the Ask-It Basket and the Advisory Actions into a single loose-leaf binder to be offered, as such, to groups and members as a salable item.

Wherever the term “trustees-at-large” appears in “The A.A. Service Manual,” the wording be changed to “general service trustee, United States,” and “general service trustee, Canada” in line with the board’s recommendation for change in its bylaws as accepted by this Conference.

Any future changes to be considered in the Conference Charter or “The A.A. Service Manual” be brought to the attention of the committee’s chairman through the secretary for the sharing of this information before it is finally adopted.

1973

The committee reviewed and approved rough layouts of the 1973 Conference issue of Box 4-5-9 and the **Conference Report**. The committee also approved the new designations “1973 General Service Conference issue, Early Bird Edition” to be added to the masthead of Box 4-5-9.

The committee reviewed and approved certain updating, factual material, and terminology in “The A.A. Service Manual,” and approved additional information respecting the delegate’s term, as well as alternate, as recommended by the Agenda/Admissions Committee. The new printing of “The A.A. Service Manual” will be available sometime this summer.

1974 It was recommended that:

Committee members review and return completed draft of the **Conference Report** one week after its receipt.

A suggestion be made to all A.A. groups to purchase the **Conference Report**.

In an effort to familiarize A.A. members (especially those involved in service work) with the Twelve Concepts, the committee suggested that:

- a. G.S.O. include a flyer in the Group Handbook informing new groups of the Twelve Concepts as a helpful tool in service work.
- b. The short form of the Twelve Concepts be included in a future issue of **Box 4-5-9**.
- c. The short form of the Twelve Concepts be included in “The A.A. Service Manual” when it is rerun.

As the Conference voted to use the alternate electoral procedure for Class B regional trustees, the committee approved amending paragraph 3, page 98, of “The A.A. Service Manual” and Article 10 of the Conference Charter to reflect the change in the electoral procedure.

1975 It was recommended that:

“The A.A. Service Manual” be updated to include the following changes on page 30:

The glossary of Conference language be simplified, repetitive terms, such as “area committee member” and “district committee member” be deleted, and the term “district committee member” be used exclusively.

The use of full names in the 1975 **Conference Report** be included throughout the report since the report is **confidential**.

In order to familiarize A.A.s (at group level) with the Twelve Concepts, the trustees’ Literature Committee consider publishing the Twelve Concepts in pamphlet form similar to “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

The committee review and return completed draft of the **Conference Report** one week after its receipt.

Study and consideration be given to adding the “Rights of Appeal and Petition” to the Conference Charter, according to Bill’s wishes, so that action may be taken on this at a future Conference.

1976

It was resolved that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed.

In case a change is needed in the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Steps, or Warranties of Article 12 wherever the words “registered A.A. groups of the world,” “registered groups,” or “directory listed groups” appear in “The A.A. Service Manual” and “Twelve Concepts for World Service,” a bracketed sentence be inserted to state: “This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.”

It was recommended that:

All groups be encouraged to subscribe to **Box 4-5-9**, and a further suggestion was made to include in “The Bulletin Board” of **Box 4-5-9** a subscription form carrying information on the rate per copy and bulk rate.

The “Rights of Appeal and Petition” not be added to the Conference Charter at this time, but that a footnote be added to page 113 of “The A.A. Service Manual” where the short form of the Twelve Concepts appears, stating: “The Twelve Concepts for World Service (long form) should be studied in detail.”

1977 It was recommended that:

The Conference Report and Charter Committee continue to exist.

A revision be made in the text of Article 5 on page 24 of “The A.A. Service Manual” so that it conforms with current A.A. structure, and that the committee consider at the 1978 Conference any necessary updating of the first 11 articles of the Conference Charter.

Preparation of “The A.A. Service Manual” in loose-leaf form not be considered at this time.

No recommendation be made at this time regarding a suggested procedure for the filling of midterm vacancies on area committees.

1978 It was recommended that:

Article 5 on page 24 of "The A.A. Service Manual" be amended to read:

Area assemblies: Composition of: Assemblies, designated as area assemblies, are composed of the elected general service representatives of all A.A. groups desiring to participate, district committee members, and area committee officers in each of the delegate areas of the United States and Canada.

Changes on page 53 of "The A.A. Service Manual" be made to read:

After group expenses are met, a suggested division among the three services listed above is the 60-30-10 Plan (60%, intergroup or central office; 30%, General Service Office; and 10%, area committee).

At the end of the third paragraph on page 39 of "The A.A. Service Manual," the following be added: "When redistricting, group approval is essential."

The map on page 97 of "The A.A. Service Manual" read: Southeast Region (includes Puerto Rico and the Bahama Islands).

A paragraph or two be added on suggested guidelines for area and central office newsletters, possibly at the end of the chapter on page 87 of "The A.A. Service Manual."

G.S.O. expand the index in the back of "The A.A. Service Manual" for review by the Conference Report and Charter Committee in 1979.

The following be added to page 46 of "The A.A. Service Manual": "Alternate D.C.M.s are also voting members of the committee in the absence of the D.C.M." (Delete "See preceding chapter.")

All groups in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Bahama Islands be listed in the next printing of the *Eastern U.S. Directory*.

The recommendation of the Committee on Conference Policy/Admissions be accepted-that a section be added to Chapter V in "The A.A. Service Manual" regarding applications for additional areas and delegates, and that excerpts from Bill's 1961 memo on the size of the Conference be included as well as the information that application forms are available from G.S.O.

The scope of the committee be expanded to include the responsibility for proposing changes in the format or composition of the six directories: *Eastern U.S.*, ***Western U.S.***, ***Canadian***, ***International***, ***Hospitals***, and ***Prisons***. It was recommended further that this proposal be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review at its quarterly meeting in July, in order to avoid possible overlap or duplication of the various Conference committees' functions.

The Conference did not accept the committee's recommenda-

tion to include in "The A.A. Service Manual," in chapters relative to service work, the suggestion that trusted servants at all levels be reimbursed for expenses in service work.

1979 It was recommended that:

Article 2, page 23, of "The A.A. Service Manual" (1978 edition) be amended to read:

Composition: The Conference (U.S. and Canada) shall be composed of area delegates, the trustees of the General Service Board, directors of A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, and staff members of the Grapevine and General Service Office.

The following sentence be included in "The A.A. Service Manual" in an appropriate place other than under *Composition* (of the Conference): "Foreign visitors as the Conference may wish to invite may attend as observers only."

Article 10, paragraph 1, page 25, of "The A.A. Service Manual" be changed to read "may" in place of "will." The sentence would then read: "For trustees-at-large in the U.S. and in Canada, the board may specify certain business or professional qualifications."

The revised and expanded index be included in the next printing of "The A.A. Service Manual."

All six directories print the season (spring, summer, fall, winter) and the year in which each directory is finally printed and distributed.

Listings contained within the *International Directory* for overseas general service offices, central offices, and intergroup offices be in a different color print or bracketed so that they can be more easily recognized.

1980 It was recommended that:

A description of the alternate service worker be added to the Glossary of Conference Language in "The A.A. Service Manual" (page 30) as follows: "Alternates-At group, district, or area levels, assists, supports, and participates in service responsibilities where feasible, depending on local autonomy and local needs."

The role of the alternate G.S.R. ("The A.A. Service Manual," page 36) be further described as follows: "Alternates should be encouraged to assist, participate, and share in responsibilities of the G.S.R., attending district and area meetings where feasible, depending on local needs."

The role of the alternate committee member ("The A.A. Service Manual," page 39) be further described as follows: "Alternate committee members should be encouraged to assist, participate, and share in the D.C.M.'s responsibilities, attending district and area meetings where feasible, depending on local needs."

Page 48 of "The A.A. Service Manual" include a paragraph regarding alternate committee officers, described as follows:

Some areas find it helpful to select alternates for all committee officers, the position of alternate chairperson being especially encouraged. The alternate committee officers may provide continuity at the area level and may or may not be seated as voting members, depending on local autonomy and area needs. Where feasible, alternates are encouraged to share and participate in committee activities as fully as possible. It is suggested that the qualifications of the alternate closely resemble the qualifications for the position they may be assuming.

Sentence 1, section 11, in "The A.A. Service Manual" (page 55), describing delegates' responsibilities, be revised to read: "They assume added responsibilities if the area committee chairperson and alternate chairperson are unable to serve."

The 1974 Conference Action regarding directory listing of A.A. groups be reaffirmed, i.e.: "All A.A. groups should be listed in the *World Directory* in accordance with the description of an A.A. group in the *World Directory*"; it was further recommended that decisions regarding verification of "a true A.A. group" be resolved locally.

1981 It was recommended that:

"The A.A. Service Manual" and "Twelve Concepts for World Service" be combined into one volume.

There be a note added to page 26 of "The A.A. Service Manual," immediately following the Charter and prior to the Resolution, that the principles on which the Charter operates are outlined in "Twelve Concepts," which should be read.

The eligibility requirements in item 7(a), "A Typical Election Assembly Agenda," of "The A.A. Service Manual" (page 50) be clarified by changing the last sentence from "(Those eligible may be incoming or outgoing committee members, or both.)" to "(Those eligible may be present or past committee members.)"

Reference to alternate G.S.R.s as runners-up be eliminated by rewording the description of the alternate G.S.R. on page 36 of "The A.A. Service Manual" to "... elected at the same time, by the same procedure."

That election procedures for alternate D.C.M.s be provided by rewording paragraph 2 under "The Alternate Committee Member" (pages 38 and 39 of "The A.A. Service Manual") to read: "Usually, the alternate is elected at the same time as the regular district committee member, by the same election procedure."

The section referring to alternate delegates as runners-up be eliminated by rewording this section on page 51 of "The A.A. Service Manual" to read: "The alternate delegate is elected next, by the same election procedure."

In the interest of language clarification regarding "odd" and "even" panels on pages 28 and 29 of "The A.A. Service Manual," reference to "elected in" be changed to "elected for."

As the text of Article 5 of the Conference Charter may affect admissions requests, this article be reviewed by both the

Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter Committees with a view toward reporting their findings at a joint meeting at the 1982 Conference.

The *Directory of A.A. Groups in Treatment Facilities* be discontinued.

1983 It was recommended that:

The reinclusion of the past-experiences portions of "The A.A. Service Manual" pertaining to G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s be included on next year's Conference Report and Charter Committee agenda for the purpose of adding personal experience in the area of financial support of G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s.

The committee felt that the eligibility qualifications of D.C.M.s were already spelled out in the service manual and, therefore, no additional input is necessary.

1984 It was recommended that:

The functions of the Conference Policy/Admissions and Report and Charter Committees not be combined at this time.

Examples of personal experiences of G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s, including some examples in the area of financial support, be added to "The A.A. Service Manual" at the ends of the appropriate chapters in an effort to help stimulate involvement for these service positions.

All Conference members collect personal service experiences from some G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s in their areas and submit them to the Conference Report and Charter Committee for its consideration in 1985.

The portion of the Third Legacy procedure (pp. 3 1-32, 50-5 1, 98) of "The A.A. Service Manual" pertaining to the fourth ballot and after be clarified by carrying over a statement from the third ballot which reads, "In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and tied second-place candidates remain."

This portion of the Third Legacy procedure would be **revised** to read as follows:

"After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. (If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and we go the 'hat' immediately. In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and tied second-place candidates remain. If not, the candidate with the smallest total is dropped. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot will be conducted.)"

The definition of a quorum at the General Service Conference described in the Conference Charter on page 23 of "The A.A. Service Manual" is adequately defined and should not be changed.

The following sentence, "The past delegates in many regions annually share their experience, strength, and hope at an informal unofficial meeting (described in Chapter Viii) and invite all newly elected delegates and alternates to attend," be includ-

ed in answer to Question 4, Chapter V, page 56 of "The A.A. Service Manual."

The following sentence, "Some regions have an informal get-together put on by past delegates, and one region's meeting is described in Chapter VIII and has been of value to new delegates in that region," be added to item 4, Chapter V, page 55 of "The A.A. Service Manual."

The following sentence, "This first-year experience can be shared with their successors at the past delegates' annual get-together in their region," be added to item 14, page 56, Chapter V of "The A.A. Service Manual."

The following sentence, "Newly elected delegates and alternate delegates are invited to attend," be included at the end of the "Past Delegates Can Be Helpful" section, Chapter VIII, page 87 of "The A.A. Service Manual."

The recommendation from the General Service Board "That there be a four-year limitation on service of an individual on a trustee committee except for time served as director or trustee" be added to the section on "Trustees' Service Committees," page 103, first paragraph, of "The A.A. Service Manual."

Meeting addresses and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and the directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list.

Publication of the A.A. directories not be suspended.

The A.A.W.S., Inc., Board of Directors appoint a subcommittee to review the content and format of the directories and report to the Conference Report and Charter Committee its findings and suggestions for their consideration.

1985 It was recommended that:

The Bylaws of the General Service Board be amended by adding the short form of the Twelve Concepts.

"The A.A. Service Manual" contain the original "Twelve Concepts for World Service" as adopted by the 12th General Service Conference on April 26, 1962.

Current factual and statistical information-bracketed, foot-noted, asterisked and otherwise referenced-be checked for accuracy and included at the end of each essay in the "Twelve Concepts for World Service."

The factual and statistical information in "Twelve Concepts for World Service" may be updated at the end of each essay whenever practical without having to go through the process of Conference action.

The Scope of the Conference Report and Charter Committee be amended to include the responsibility for the "Twelve Concepts for World Service."

The action taken at the 1984 Conference regarding clarification of the portion of the Third Legacy Procedure pertaining to the

fourth ballot and after be reaffirmed.

There be reaffirmation of the 1984 Conference recommendation regarding the definition of a quorum described in the Conference Charter which reads, "The committee recommended that the definition of a quorum at the General Service Conference described in the Conference Charter on page 23 of 'The A.A. Service Manual' is adequately defined and should not be changed."

References to "nonalcoholic employees" at G.S.O. in "The A.A. Service Manual" be deleted since G.S.O. does not have a policy of hiring only nonalcoholics for the supporting departments.

Item 7a, page 50, in the "Suggestions for the Chairperson on Assemblies" section, referring to those eligible to run for delegate, remain as is, which reads, "Those eligible may be present or past committee members," since the suggestions in the Service Manual are guidelines and each area is autonomous.

Option 3, page 40, in the section on "How Do We Elect the D.C.M.?" be changed by deleting the word "immediate" from the phrase, "Only immediate past G.S.R.s are eligible to run. .

" This option would be revised to read "Only past G.S.R.s are eligible to run. . .

There is no need at the present time to add any additional illustrative charts of the service structure to "The A.A. Service Manual."

The responsibilities of the World Service Meeting Delegates should be included in the Service Manual. The Committee further recommended that a draft of these responsibilities be presented to the Report and Charter Committee in 1986 for their consideration.

A sentence which reads, "Experience is now indicating that many groups are now financially supporting their general service representatives to attend service functions," be added to the last paragraph on page 35 of Chapter II on the General Service Representatives in the Service **Manual**.

A sentence which reads, "Experience is now indicating that many districts are now financially supporting their district committee members to attend service functions" be added to the end of paragraph 2 on page 41 under the section titled "What Does the D.C.M. Do?" in the Service **Manual**.

A committee from the General Service Office be formed to study Article 2 of the Conference Charter and report its findings to the 1986 Report and Charter Committee.

Article 5-8 of the Conference Charter not be changed at the present time.

The format of the A.A. directories be changed by having a three-column page without general service representatives' addresses, zip codes, and membership figures.

Further discussion should be centered on methods of reaching groups which do not list themselves with the General Service Office, and that this problem be addressed through a presenta-

tion at a future General Service Conference.

Copy defining the role of Grapevine representatives at all levels and providing more information about the operation of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. be prepared and presented by the Conference Grapevine Committee to the Report and Charter Committee in 1986 for their consideration.

1986 It was recommended that:

Article 4 of the Conference Charter, on page 24, paragraph two of the *Service Manual* (1985-86 edition), should read:

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of all the Conference members registered.

It will be understood, as a matter of tradition, that a two-thirds vote of Conference members voting shall be considered binding upon the General Service Board and its related corporate services provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum.

The second paragraph, on page 25 of the *Service Manual* (1985-86 edition), be changed to read:

It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members voting, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum, may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its corporate services, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential.

For purposes of consistency, the second sentence of the first paragraph under "Meaning of the Conference Charter," page 23 of the *Service Manual* (1985-86 edition), be changed to read:

It provides, for example, that a majority vote of the Conference shall be considered a suggestion to the board of trustees and G.S.O., but that a two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum, shall be absolutely binding upon the board, regardless of legal considerations.

The draft of the responsibilities of the World Service Meeting delegate be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

No change to the voting members at an area assembly be made in the *Service Manual* (page 83) at this time.

The copy defining the role of the Grapevine Representative at all levels and providing more information about the operation of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. not be accepted at this time, and that new copy be submitted to this committee for review at the 1987 General Service Conference with the objective of creating an 11th Chapter of the *Service Manual* specifically devoted to the Grapevine.

All recommendations on which no Conference action is taken should become part of the History and Highlights of Actions of each Conference committee.

If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and be duly noted in the *Conference Report*.

Double-trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. directories.

The present inclusion of the Concepts in both their long and short form is sufficient in the *Service Manual*.

No changes be made at this time in the "Structure of the Fellowship" chart on page 21 of the 1985-86 edition of the *Service Manual*.

1987 It was recommended that:

An eleventh chapter about the Grapevine be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Article 2 of The Conference Charter, page 24, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the *A.A. Service Manual* be changed to read:

"Foreign lands in many cases have created autonomous General Service Conferences of their own, which rely on the Steps and Traditions protected by the Conference (U.S. and Canada) and in other ways often turn to the actions of the Conference for guidance.

"Consultation between conferences is encouraged. And a formal meeting--The World Service Meeting--of delegates from the various conferences is held once every two years. The U.S./Canada delegates are chosen from The General Service Board.

"In countries where a General Service structure exists, the U.S./Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of the structure.

"Only matters seriously affecting A.A.'s worldwide needs shall be the subject of joint consideration."

(In addition, this article was referred to the 1988 Conference Report and Charter Committee for further consideration.)

The second paragraph on page 25 of *The A.A. Service Manual* (1987-88 edition) be changed to read:

"It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its corporate services, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential."

Paragraph 4, page 98 (after The Twelve Concepts) in *The A.A. Service Manual* (1986-87 edition) be deleted.

No change be made at this time in the definition of an A.A. group in the A.A. Directories.

In an effort to improve area response to annual group printout mailing from G.S.O.:

A summary sheet of the total group changes in the area be sent with the cover letter.

A cutoff date for the printouts be extended to a later date (March 15th)

The title page of the directory be changed to indicate a split-level year, i.e., 1987-88.

Printouts returned from the areas to G.S.O should have group changes clearly indicated.

The 1986 Conference Action regarding the directories not listing "Double-Trouble groups be reaffirmed," i.e. "Double-Trouble groups not be listed in the A.A. Directories;" and the existing Double-Trouble groups in the A.A. Directories be deleted. (Double-Trouble groups are defined as groups with outside affiliation).

1988 It was recommended that:

The Conference Charter should appear 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.

Articles 2, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the Conference Charter be further clarified through a footnote amendment to read as follows:

"Other countries have created autonomous General Service Conference of their own, which rely on the Steps and Traditions that are protected by the United States/Canada Conference. In addition, these other Conferences often turn to the actions of the United States/Canada Conference for guidance.

"Consultation between Conferences is encouraged, and a World Service Meeting of delegates from the various Conferences is held once every two years. The United States/Canada delegates to the World Service Meeting are chosen from the General Service Board.

"In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure."

Section 3 of Concept XI be researched to identify the parts of Section 3 touching on current practices of the General Service Board and A.A. World Services that need footnoting, and that this research be brought back to the 1989 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review and further recommendation.

Footnote 8 to Concept XI be reworded to reflect current practices of the General Service Board, and A.A. World Services, Inc. to read:

"G.S.O. staff members have voting representation on trustees' committees. Additionally, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote as a director of the A.A.W.S. Board."

With minor amendments the proposed revision of the section "How G.S.O. is supported" in *The A.A. Service Manual* to address enhanced participation in self-support replace the existing section in future editions of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The final copy of the A.A. group structure prepared by the Literature Committee be forwarded to the 1989 Conference Committee on Report and Charter for further consideration as an addition to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

A current list of "Literature Published by A.A.W.S.," as well as a separate list of "Literature Published by the A.A. Grapevine," appear in *The A.A. Service Manual* following the chapters on "The General Service Office" and on "The A.A. Grapevine" respectively.

The category "alternate D.C.M." be added to the eligibility options outlined in the section "How Do We Elect the D.C.M?" in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

The sentence "The G.V.R. is to the Grapevine what the G.S.R. is to the G.S.O." in the section "What Does a Grapevine Representative Do?" in *The A.A. Service Manual* be replaced by a sentence which reads "The G.V.R. is the group's contact with the Grapevine office."

The phrase in Concept XI that reads: "Most staff members' assignments are changed yearly" be updated through footnoting to reflect current practices as follows: "Most staff members serve two years on each assignment."

The letter "S" be used as a prefix to the first set of page numbers in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts For World Service*, so as to differentiate between the two sets of page numbers.

A footnote be added to the byline "Bill W." in the chapter "A.A.'s Legacy of Service" in *The A.A. Service Manual*, stating that Bill wrote these words in 1951 and that the piece, therefore, reflects that period.

The 1984 General Service Conference Advisory action be reaffirmed:

"Meeting addresses and times not be included in the A.A. directories, since not only would this add greatly to the printing and mailing costs of the directories, but also, some groups do not have addresses, and directories were not intended to be used as a local meeting list."

The Final Conference Report be sent to all G.S.R.s, with the distribution method and quantity determined by the delegate.

The revised new group information form (March 1988) be reproduced in the section "Group Information" in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

1989 It was recommended that:

The description "What Is an A.A. Group" contained in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be added to the *The A.A. Service Manual*, and that, when adding the material, the circular structure chart of the group be amended to include "Archives Representative."

The A.A.W.S., Inc. policy statement on "Use of A.A.'s Trademarks and Logos" be added to ***The A.A. Service Manual***.

The section "Other Officer Qualifications" in the Area Committee Chapter of ***The A.A. Service Manual*** be amended from:

Other Officer Qualifications

An area committee may have other officers who are responsible for special activities. A public information chairperson, for example, to head up the area P.I. committee is appointed by the area committee chairperson with the approval of the area committee. Some areas have an institutions chairperson, some a convention chairperson. Other areas appoint a finance chairperson whose sole job is keeping contributions coming into area and G.S.O. treasuries. Other assignments handled by special chairpersons or coordinators include: cooperation with the professional community, liaison with central offices or intergroups; preparation of news bulletins; literature; Grapevine, etc.

to:

Other Officers

An area committee may also have officers who are responsible to the committee for special activities. Examples might include a Public Information and Cooperation With Professional Community chairpersons to head up the area P.I. and C.P.C. committees; Correctional and Treatment chairpersons to coordinate this vital Twelfth Step Work; a Literature chairperson to act as liaison between the various service entities on all matters regarding A.A. literature; a Grapevine chairperson to disseminate Grapevine material; an Archives chairperson to record and maintain the history of the area; a Convention chairperson to facilitate the event; a Finance chairperson to encourage self-support for both the area needs and the needs of G.S.O.; a liaison chairperson to foster improved communication between the area and central office/intergroup; and other assignments and responsibilities, as suggested by local area needs.

A description of the position of D.C.M. chairperson not be added to ***The A.A. Service Manual*** at this time,

Footnotes continue to appear in the same manner as in the present 1988-89 ***A.A. Service Manual*** edition for the following reasons:

Footnotes in the first section of ***The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*** appear at the bottom of the page where the text referred to appears, making for easier reading.

In the Twelve ***Concepts*** section, however, these are two types of footnotes or, more specifically, footnotes and end notes.

- a. Footnotes, which are marked with an asterisk (*) and appear at the bottom of each page, reflect changes Bill Wilson made from the original writing in 1962 until shortly before his death in 1971 and are of the entire text of each Concept.
- b. End notes, which are numbered and appear at the end of each Concept, reflect updated factual information that has changed since the original.

The existing footnotes 7 and 8 of Section 3, Concept XI be deleted and, instead, the following footnote to the entire section be included as follows:

In order to meet the changing conditions since the writing of this section, A.A.W.S., Inc., with the approval of the General Service Board, has implemented a two-year rotation of assignments for most staff members, and, since 1987, a merit pay increase system has been established.

Footnote 9 in Section 4, Concept XI in ***The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*** be changed from:

"G.S.O. staff members have voting representation on trustees' committees. Additionally, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote as a director of the A.A.W.S. Board."

to:

"As a director of the A.A.W.S. Board, the staff member serving as staff coordinator has a vote."

In order to economize, the Eastern and Western U.S. Directories be combined.

The listing of clubs be deleted from the A.A. Directories.

The *Final Report* for G.S.R.s be sent to the delegate with the quantity to be determined by each delegate.

The *Final Report* be translated into French and Spanish.

Reinstating of perforated, removable pages for the roster section of the *Final Report* not be done.

General Service Conference committee items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, not be included in the ***Final Report***.

1990 It was recommended that:

There be a revision of the Twelve Concepts section in ***The A.A. Service Manual***, printing the short form of the Concepts as the "Table of Contents," followed by the long form and introduction.

The following text appear in ***The A.A. Service Manual*** in the section "Working Together-General Services and Local Intergroup Services," following item 7 on the election of trustees:

“Some areas find that a liaison between central office/inter-group and the area committee is very helpful. In some areas the liaison has a vote, in others the liaison has a voice but no vote.

“There is more information regarding working together available through the General Service Office and in the pamphlets ‘The A.A. Group’ and ‘Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions,’ as well as in the Guidelines on Central Offices and Intergroups.”

The following be deleted:

“In areas where there are central offices providing the services mentioned previously, general service committees do not attempt to duplicate these services; but in those areas where there is little or no central office activity, the general service committee has frequently undertaken to provide many of these services.”

The General Service Conference *Final Report* continue to be distributed at no charge in English, French and Spanish; and that an informational sheet to ascertain the Report’s usefulness be included with each copy, requesting it be returned to the delegates for forwarding by them to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter by April 1, 1991, as background in planning future distribution.

The present text in *The A.A. Service Manual* on “Use of A.A.’s Trademarks and Logos” be replaced with the A.A.W.S., Inc. amended policy.

Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section in the Conference *Final Report*.

1991 It was recommended that:

The six-point description of an A.A. Group in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be deleted, and be replaced by the following:

The Long Form of Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six, Concept Twelve aptly describe what an A.A. Group is:

Tradition Three:

“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

Warranty Six:

“much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the A.A. Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group; no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles; no fees or dues to be levied-voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from A.A.-membership always to be the choice

of the individual; each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes-it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.”

The existing footnote 7, Concept XI in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, be deleted, as it pertains to merit pay, until the General Service Board seeks and obtains Conference approval of merit pay, being mindful that Bill notes in the introduction to the Concepts:

“The future advocates of structural change need only make out a strong case for their recommendations-a case convincing to both the Trustees and to the Conference.”

The present system of distribution of the General Service Conference *Final Report* (1988 Advisory Action #73. The Conference Final Report be sent to all G.S.R.s with the distribution method and quantity determined by the delegate.) be continued.

The estimated cost of recommendations be included in the Conference *Final Report*.

The text describing How A.A. chooses (Non-Trustee) Directors for A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, and How A.A. Chooses Appointed Committee Members be included in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

1992 It was recommended that:

The “Procedures for Election of Class A Trustees,” previously approved by the General Service Board, be added verbatim to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

A reference to the “gray pages” of the Grapevine on page S 134 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be eliminated in compliance with 1991 Advisory Action #1 1.

The words “(or a vocal majority)” from line 19, page S80 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, be deleted.

The third sentence, first paragraph, page S81 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be changed to read “To take care of that situation, the Charter provides that, as a matter of tradition, a two-thirds vote of Conference members voting shall be considered binding upon the General Service Board and its related corporate services, provided the total vote constitutes at least a Conference quorum.”

1993 It was recommended that:

The following be added to *The A.A. Service Manual*: “To encourage participation of the maximum number of groups, some areas have incorporated linguistic districts within their structure. These districts usually have a bilingual D.C.M. or liaison. Their boundaries may be independent of the conventional district boundaries.”

Information on alternate district structures be added to the 1994-95 *A.A. Service Manual*, and that the committee’s back-

ground material be referred to Publications to write a revised section on districts for final approval by the 1994 Conference Report and Charter Committee.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

ADVISORY ACTIONS related to work of the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION WITH- THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY*

1960 It was recommended that:

The Study Committee's Fact File be made available to the areas, and that the committee be continued on an interim basis so that necessary changes or revisions may be adopted to make the Fact File increasingly useful to the area.

1961 It was recommended

By the Study Committee that, ever mindful of A.A.'s traditional policy of "cooperation, yes-affiliation, no," the Public Information Committee, when requested to do so, continue to meet with organizations outside A.A. concerned with the problem of alcoholism, for the purpose of improving communications and understanding and discussing mutual problems. (Reaffirmed in 1962.)

1962 It was recommended that:

The delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with the directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies within their respective areas. (Action voted in 1961; reaffirmed in 1962.)

The committee approved the new policy recommended by the Public Information Committee: That the A.A. exhibits be available for display at meetings of appropriate national professional groups without restriction as to the geographic areas they represent.

1963

The committee reaffirmed continuing cooperation on the part of the board and the Public Information Committee with the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, and that delegates be encouraged to maintain communications with alcoholism agencies in their areas.

1964 It was recommended that:

The statement prepared by the Public Information Committee defining A.A.'s position in the field of alcoholism be accepted by the Conference.

Copies of such communications should be sent to the area delegates involved.

G.S.O. correspondence concerning outside organizations and Traditions be shared with the area delegate.

The committee approved a formal statement defining A.A.'s position in the field of alcoholism.

Delegates and committee members were urged to establish communications with other agencies who share A.A.'s concern in this field.

1965 It was recommended that:

Delegates establish lines of communication with directors of tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas. (Further discussion in 1966.)

The Conference reaffirm the comment on question 1 in the pamphlet "Cooperation But Not Affiliation" and request publication of the following in the A.A. Grapevine:

Experience shows that A.A. groups and intergroups or central committees should not operate or manage these ventures. Individual A.A.s frequently set up such related facilities, being careful not to use the A.A. name on solicitation, advertising and publicity. These ventures are usually set up on a nonprofit basis, incorporated under the charitable and educational laws of the state and excluding "Alcoholics Anonymous" from their names.

Hospitals and rest homes and other community rehabilitation aids bear the same relationship to A.A. groups, intergroups or central committees as do any other outside agencies. With full cooperation of the groups in the community they are used for referral, provided A.A.'s tradition of nonendorsement and nonaffiliation is made clear.

Since these ventures are separate from the Fellowship, it is advisable that they operate under names which do not link them to A.A.-under names other than "Twelve Step House," "Alanon House," etc.

The committee reaffirmed that all requests for the *World Directory* received at G.S.O. from other organizations be referred to the area delegate. After following through on such requests and inquiring about the purpose planned for the directory by the organization, the delegate will make the decision regarding its availability.

The Conference Committee on Other Agencies was changed to the Conference Committee on Public Information.

1967

The committee approved a position paper on rehabilitation centers to the effect that such-rehabs, rest homes and hospitals are *not* part of A.A., and therefore are not responsible for adhering to the Traditions of A.A.

It was recommended that:

Delegates continue to establish lines of communication with tax-supported and voluntary alcoholism programs in their areas.

* Called Committee of Professional Relations upon its formation in 1971. This section includes pre-1972 actions related to C.P.C. but based upon reports by the Public Information Committee.

G.S.O. refer requests for the *World Directory* from other agencies to the area delegate for follow-up.

Ways were discussed regarding how A.A.s can best participate in the Annual Alcoholism Information Week, such as holding public meetings and appearing on programs when invited, provided anonymity is preserved; and it was suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee provide information concerning A.A. policy on this matter one month in advance of the event.

1968

The committee approved "Suggestions for Improving A.A.'s Relations with the Medical Profession in the Community," and recommended that it be made available to all A.A. groups.

1969

It was recommended that:

No special material for judges, law enforcement people, or teachers be considered at the present time.

G.S.O. consider sending a questionnaire to delegates and public information committees on the subject of cooperation between A.A. members and affiliates of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs.

1971

The 21st General Service Conference recommended the formation of the Conference Committee on Professional Relations to broaden and supplement the activities of the trustees' committee of the same name established in 1970.

1972 It was recommended that:

A.A. members approach the professional community without anxiety or fear, but with confidence that we have something to offer the alcoholic through the professional.

A.A. members approach the professional with the point of view that we have a mutual interest in helping the alcoholic, and with the idea of sharing our 37 years of experience as a resource for alcoholics.

The pamphlet "If You Are a Professional . . ." be approved with minor editorial changes.

1973 It was recommended that:

The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as the members of the Fellowship cooperate with agencies dealing with alcoholism--welcoming referrals, being guided by applicable Traditions, and keeping in mind as our primary purpose the welfare of the alcoholic and his recovery.

The Conference reaffirm that the furnishing of information about, and explanation of, Alcoholics Anonymous to professional societies is not in violation of the Traditions.

We encourage the use of all present means of communication (Grapevine, *Box* 4-5-9, and appropriate literature) to communicate to A.A. members an understanding of professional relations with emphasis on availability and value of the Guidelines.

1974 It was recommended that:

Information to A.A.s about what is being done in the field of alcoholism is adequately covered in the gray pages of the Grapevine and no additional publication is needed. Some members felt that a well-informed A.A. member is a better servant.

Understanding of the role of the A.A. member who wears "two hats" would be advanced by discussion at assembly or committee meetings. It was also suggested that a workshop on "Live and Let Live" could be helpful in understanding this subject.

The action of previous Conferences be reaffirmed, namely, that A.A.s employed in the alcoholism field be eligible for election as trusted servants at all levels of service. It is up to the individual to assess his or her availability for the time and effort required. The criteria for choosing a trusted servant should be based on A.A. activities rather than on personal employment.

Where possible, A.A. members of an area cooperate with alcoholism counselors in starting A.A. meetings in treatment centers, rather than leaving this responsibility to the counselors.

Establishing area committees on cooperation with the professional community would improve understanding and cooperation in the area.

The name of the Conference Committee on Professional Relations be changed to Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, it was also suggested that the full title be used instead of the initials.

1975

The film "Bill's Own Story" may be shown at A.A. orientation sessions in rehabilitation facilities provided it is under the control of an A.A. member.

Although most A.A.s understand the difference between Twelfth Step work, sponsorship, and referral to A.A., there is still a big need for sponsorship in some areas.

More sharing of the results of cooperation between professionals and A.A.s might improve understanding of professional efforts in the field of alcoholism.

It was recommended that more time be spent on the study of the Traditions by all A.A. members, including those working as professionals in the field. They enable us to better our relations with the professional community and with each other.

1976 It was recommended that:

More effort be directed toward utilizing the service structure we have available to implement our recommendations.

We, as A.A. members, give to A.A. members interested in working or volunteering in the alcoholism field the following suggestions:

- a. Take advantage of the literature already in existence.
- b. Get adequate training.
- c. Have three to five years of good, stable sobriety.
- d. Get and keep a sponsor who does *not* work in the alcoholism field.
- e. Be thoroughly familiar with “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.”
- f. The A.A. member carefully consider whether or not he or she is suited to work in the field of alcoholism.

To alleviate some of the problems involved in sponsoring people coming to A.A. from treatment centers, court/A.S.A.P. programs, etc., we should:

- a. Establish greater communication between the referral sources and local A.A. groups.
- b. Recognize the necessity of meeting the new member where he presently is, listen to him, try to determine what he really knows about the A.A. program.
- c. See that specific programs are set up for sponsoring people from treatment centers into local A.A. groups.

In order to improve communication between A.A. and the professional community, we encourage A.A. members to become active on cooperation with the professional community committees. Where there are existing public information and institutions committees, encourage cooperation among members of all committees, keeping always in mind that our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Specific suggestions: Sponsor your doctor; sponsor your clergyman; sponsor your employer; communicate with the academic world; hold workshops at all service levels.

1977 It was recommended that:

In the spirit of cooperation, we respond to all calls for help with information about A.A., whether the call comes from the alcoholic or from the professional who is calling for his patient or client. As members of A.A. it is our responsibility to try to carry our message of recovery where we can.

We reaffirm the 1976 C.P.C. Conference Committee’s recommendation to “Recognize the necessity of meeting the new member where he presently is, listen to him, try to determine what he really knows about the A.A. program,” and reaffirm the entire 1976 C.P.C. Conference Committee report.

A joint meeting of the Conference and trustees’ Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions would not be practical. However, the committee recommended that the General Service Board

consider the possibility of holding a joint meeting (between the 1977 and 1978 Conferences) of the trustees’ Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions. It was the committee’s feeling that while there is bound to be some overlapping of the responsibilities of the three committees, more specific guidance on who does what is needed. It was also felt that we should do all we can to eliminate any competition so that each committee can function in unity and do the job of carrying the message in the best way possible.

In the interest of communication and cooperation, reports of all three trustees’ committees be distributed to the delegate members of the three corresponding Conference committees after each trustees’ committee meeting.

1978 It was recommended that:

A.A. members who meet with the administration of a treatment facility concerning the formation of an A.A. group on its premises should explain group autonomy, as well as what A.A. can and cannot do (Traditions) and also have a good understanding of the facility’s rules and regulations. After mutual agreements are reached, it is important that this information be shared with the A.A.s who will be attending the group’s meetings. It was suggested that groups meeting in treatment facilities try to abide by the self-support tradition. If money for rent is not accepted by a facility, groups should contribute in some other way. It was also felt that the A.A.s employed by the facility should not run the groups at the facility.

1979 It was recommended that:

A.A. members, through their C.P.C. committees where feasible, assume the responsibility for communicating with treatment facilities and court programs, letting them know which meetings are available for prospective members, including beginners meetings, where possible. Each group’s autonomy should be kept in mind. It was further suggested that sponsorship be made available for those new members coming from treatment facilities. (The committee noted that it did not want to detract from the help provided to alcoholics by the professional community, but wished to be of maximum service through cooperation in helping the alcoholic get involved in group life and understanding of the A.A. program.)

“Problems Other Than Alcohol” be Conference-approved.

1980 It was recommended that:

In keeping with our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions, A.A. members who are requested to videotape talks and meetings preserve anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, and videotapes, realizing that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. The committee further recommended that talks by A.A. members be given in person rather than be videotaped, in view of the temptation for videotaping to place personalities before principles.

The pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate” be revised to include information in regard to the functions of area and local committees on cooperation with the professional community.

A renewed effort be made to inform A.A.s working in the

holism field of our Twelve Traditions, and that they be thoroughly familiar with A.A. Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

A.A. continue to devote effort toward cooperation with the professional community. Recognizing that our Fellowship is experiencing a rapid influx of new members, it was further recommended that A.A. groups remember their primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic by:

- a. Providing greeters to welcome new members and visitors
- b. Emphasizing and accepting the responsibilities of sponsorship
- c. Taking group inventories periodically to determine if the group is fulfilling its primary purpose

The pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous and the Medical Profession" be condensed and rewritten to reflect current information about A.A.

The topic "Is A.A. Devoting More Attention To Our Relationships Outside A.A. Than We Do To What Is Going On Inside A.A.?" be referred to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for consideration as a workshop item at the 1981 General Service Conference.

1981 It was recommended that:

A.A. publish a leaflet addressed to labor and management.

The leaflet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community" be reinstated as General Service Conference-approved literature and put back into distribution as soon as possible.

1982 It was recommended that:

The draft of a pamphlet directed to the medical profession be approved with some minor changes to be made in the editing stage, with the title "A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession."

1983 It was recommended that:

The statement that "A.A. does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc." be included in the pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community," "If You Are a Professional," "How A.A. Members Cooperate," the flyer "A.A. at a Glance" and the A.A. Guidelines on Cooperating With Court, A.S.A.P., and Similar Programs.

1984 It was recommended that:

A statement be included in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession" stating that when physicians recommend A.A. to their patients, the physicians not base their opinion of the effectiveness of A.A. on one or two meetings attended by the patients, but give A.A. a fair trial.

Cooperation with the professional community news be regularly included in **Box** 4-5-9, eliminating the C.P.C. **Bulletin**.

1985 It was recommended that:

The following be inserted in the pamphlets "If You Are a Professional" and "How A.A. Members Cooperate":

The only requirement for membership in A.A. is a desire to stop drinking. If the person is not sure about this point, then he or she is most welcome to attend an open A.A. meeting. If the person is sure that drinking is not his or her problem, then he or she may wish to seek help elsewhere.

The pamphlet "If You Are a Professional" be revised and that a draft of the revision of that pamphlet be returned to the 1986 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for their consideration.

1986 It was recommended that:

The guidelines for use of the Professional Exhibit be as follows:

That the C.P.C. staff person explore the possibility of seeking invitations to exhibit at conferences and conventions of professions outside the field of alcoholism where we've not exhibited before and we perceive a need for an awareness and knowledge of A.A.

That the trustees' C.P.C. Committee review the schedule for the Professional Exhibit annually at their July meeting in order to evaluate the ongoing effectiveness of the exhibit and make recommendations to the C.P.C. staff person for the following year; and that the C.P.C. staff person give a quarterly report to the committee about the Professional Exhibit.

That a letter be sent to delegates, alternates and C.P.C. chairpersons annually to make them aware of the Professional Exhibit.

When an exhibit is scheduled, the staff person notify the area delegate for the city in which it is booked, asking for their assistance in providing volunteers to staff the booth. There will be ample opportunity for local committees to raise any problem issues in connection with the exhibit.

In the pamphlet "A Clergyman Asks About Alcoholics Anonymous" in the fifth paragraph on page 8, the sentence which reads "Newcomers are encouraged to attend one or more meetings a week" be changed to "Newcomers are encouraged to attend meetings as frequently as possible."

No change is required in the wording of Item 3c on page 11 of the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate," since decisions about whether or not such information is provided is up to the group conscience of the A.A. entity involved in accordance with the Fourth Tradition.

The new "If You Are a Professional" pamphlet, with some design suggestions and editorial changes in the manuscript, be approved.

1987 It was recommended that:

The C.P.C. staff person write to all area assembly chairpersons to gather information on their interest in having tabletop exhibits and the areas' desire to purchase them.

The title of the pamphlet "A Clergyman Asks" be changed to "The Clergy Asks" when it comes up for reprint.

1988 It was recommended that:

The following sentence "Dually or multiply addicted persons are asked to seek A.A. membership only if one of their addictions is to alcohol" be deleted in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional" under the section titled "Problems Other Than Alcohol" at the next printing.

After discussing in depth the need for carrying the A.A. message to the black community, the committee decided that the scope of the initiative be broadened to include all minorities with emphasis on the black community and recommended that the C.P.C. secretary and the Public Information secretary consider the suggestions listed in the P.I./C.P.C. Bulletin, Fall 1981, and use them as guidelines for carrying the message to all minorities.

A letter be sent to all area P.I. and C.P.C. chairpersons with these revised suggestions for carrying the A.A. message to minority group members.

In order to follow the progress of this initiative to minorities, the committee requested that the secretary send the committee members a full report of whatever action takes place at the trustees' C.P.C. and P.I. Committees at the July board meeting and that discussion of the initiative be an item on the agenda of the 1989 Conference C.P.C. Committee.

1989 It was recommended that:

The revised text of the pamphlet "A.A. and Occupational Alcoholism Programs" be approved with minor changes.

The title of the pamphlet "A.A. and Occupational Alcoholism Programs" be changed to "A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs."

In carrying the A.A. messages to minorities:

a. The focus and work of the C.P.C. trustees' Committee, C.P.C. staff and all C.P.C. committees continue to gather information on how the A.A. message of recovery can better be carried to and through minorities, minority professionals, and all professionals who work with minorities.

b. That any initiative to better carry the A.A. message to and through minorities media and media which focus on minorities readers, viewers or listeners, and in schools with high minorities populations, be referred to the appropriate public information committees for any continued consideration.

c. That any further consideration of how minorities may better be reached within the A.A. Fellowship with the message of becoming involved in service, be through future consideration by the General Service Conference.

d. That our minorities initiatives reflect our primary concern for helping all alcoholics.

A revised text of the pamphlet "The Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" be placed on the agenda for the 1990 General Service Conference C.P.C. Committee.

The trustees' C.P.C. Committee and G.S.O. staff update the C.P.C. Workbook giving, consideration to including a service piece similar to one submitted by Southern Minnesota Assembly.

Consideration be given to development of a guideline for area C.P.C. committees to set up exhibits at state and local professional conventions.

Consideration be given by the trustees' C.P.C. Committee to the development of a video which addresses the need to inform both professionals and A.A. members how our friends historically have helped the Fellowship and how we can cooperate within the framework of our purpose, experience and Traditions, and that discussion of the feasibility of such a project be placed on the agenda of the 1990 General Service Conference C.P.C. Committee.

1990 It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" be published, with minor changes, once the present supply of the old pamphlet is exhausted.

1991 It was recommended that:

The Preamble, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions be added to the following pamphlets: "A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs," "A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession" and "If You Are a Professional," when pamphlets are reprinted. Estimated cost: \$5,000.

1992 It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Healthcare Professional" be approved, replacing "A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession," because of the need to include information for all healthcare professionals.

The following changes be made in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional" when reprinted:

a. Delete the words "self-help" in two places.

b. Change the second sentence, third paragraph on page 5 to read "Consequently, while we welcome the opportunity to share our principles and methods with others, only they can provide the essential ingredient for success: their common bond."

The Preamble, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be added to all C.P.C. pamphlets when reprinted, to provide consistent and uniform information.

The following paragraphs be added to all C.P.C. pamphlets

when reprinted, to provide consistent and uniform information:

Many local A.A. service committees will, upon request, provide informational presentations for your organization. Sessions can be tailored to meet your needs. A typical agenda might include one or several A.A. films and a presentation by one or more A.A. members on "What A.A. Is and What It Is Not."

Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous.

1993 It was recommended that:

At the next printing of the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community" the following revisions be made:

- a. Change the heading "A.A.'s Position in the Field of Alcoholism" to "A.A. and Alcoholism."
- b. Delete the subheading "How A.A. Views Alcoholism" and change "Alcoholism is, in our opinion . . ." to "From the beginning, many A.A. members have come to believe alcoholism is a progressive illness-spiritual and emotional (or mental), as well as physical."

Because the phrase "A.A.'s position in the field of alcoholism" could imply a point of view or an opinion, consistency in our literature be maintained by changing that phrase wherever it appears in A.A. literature to "A.A. and Alcoholism" or similar wording that would remove the sense of a point-of-view or opinion when such material is due for reprint.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES*

1978 It was recommended that:

The manuscript of the new inmate pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," be accepted pending mail-poll approval by the committee of the final edited version and illustrations; that production then proceed under the direction of the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities, with the word "hell" being omitted from the title; and that consideration be given to the use of color illustrations if financially feasible.

A future Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities consider developing a booklet aimed at the alcoholic inmate, if warranted.

1979 It was recommended that:

Mail-poll approval of "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be confirmed.

* For pre-1978 actions related to correctional facilities, see Institutions.

"Where Do I Go From Here?" and "A.A. at a Glance" be added to the institutions discount packages, and that the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities further explore rearranging the contents of the packages when "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" becomes available.

The trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities explore the feasibility of producing a filmstrip based on "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" and report its findings to the 1980 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities.

1980 It was recommended that:

In helping the inmate "bridge the gap" between "inside" and "outside" A.A.:

- a. Emphasis should be put on cooperation with the correctional facility administration and the judicial system
- b. More emphasis be put on prerelease sponsorship, utilizing responsible A.A. members and recovering ex-inmates where possible.
- c. The local institutions committees be used in referrals to A.A. groups.

A new pamphlet aimed at the dually addicted inmate not be considered at this time.

The pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" be added to Institutions Discount Package Y.

1981 It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic" be continued, but that the recommendation be reviewed again by the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities next year.

1982 It was recommended that:

The following statement be added to the pamphlets "Memo to an Inmate" (page 43, inside box) and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" (page 25): "A.A. does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials."

The pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate" continue to be published.

The pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate" be translated into Spanish. It was also suggested that "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be translated into Spanish due to the high Spanish population in prisons.

1983 It was recommended that:

A Correctional Facilities Workbook be developed for carrying the A.A. message into correctional facilities. Also, that this be developed through the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities and that a draft be prepared for the 1984 Conference, using the survey results and other information.

A letter explaining the Institutions Correspondence Service be

sent twice a year to delegates and correctional facilities chairpersons asking for A.A. volunteers to write inmates on an individual basis.

“It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” and “Carrying the Message Inside the Walls” be translated into Spanish.

1984 It was recommended that:

The Correctional Facilities Workbook, which has now been prepared, be approved for production and distribution.

The following lines from “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be added to page 12 of the “A.A. in Prisons” pamphlet:

“In A.A. groups, the people who get the jobs done are called officers, but our Second Tradition reminds us, Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

“Officers are usually chosen by the group for limited terms of service.

“The jobs they do may have titles. But titles in A.A. do not bring authority or honor; they describe services and responsibilities.

“They are ways of carrying the message. They are forms of Twelfth Step work A.A. members do, primarily to help themselves recover.”

That a specific reference to the year 1974 be deleted from page 17 of “A.A. in Prisons” to keep from dating the pamphlet.

Correctional facilities news be included in Box 4-5-9, eliminating the need for a separate *Correctional Facilities Bulletin*, with concern that costs be held to a reasonable level, and that a larger Box 4-5-9 be indexed and categorized.

1985 It was recommended that:

The language of the pamphlet “Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic” be rewritten in a simpler style, and that two of the seven male stories be replaced by female stories.

There be affirmation of the paramount importance of full compliance with all correctional facilities’ rules and regulations by all A.A.s who carry the message into correctional facilities; A.A. members are “guests” of the facility and subject to all security measures and constraints.

The words “and minorities” be deleted from the pamphlet “A.A. in Prisons.” Thus the sentence in the pamphlet that now reads:

“And it keeps over-ambitious individuals and minorities from ever becoming entrenched in the leadership of group.”

would be changed to read:

“And it keeps over-ambitious individuals from ever becoming entrenched in the leadership of a group.”

Preliminary work begin on the creation of a filmstrip based on

the thoughts contained in the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” directed toward the inmate.

1986 It was recommended that:

In the 4-minute videotape proposal for a 15-minute video/16mm film based on the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” reference to “copping drugs and dealing drugs” on page 1 of the transcript be deleted, as well as the sentence “Anything but drink” on pages 6 and 7 of the transcript, to be replaced with “Just don’t drink.”

This 15-minute film be produced in full to be presented to the 1987 Conference, and that the trustees’ Correctional Facilities Committee monitor and report on the progression of the film during the year.

The outline of the rewrite of the pamphlet “Memo to an Inmate Who May be an Alcoholic” be completed for approval at the 1987 Conference.

Relative to sponsoring inmates upon release, that area committees, district committees, central/ intergroup office committees, and group correctional facility representatives discuss specific ways to coordinate efforts in sponsoring inmates upon release from prison.

The Institutions Correspondence Service be utilized by groups, as well as by individuals, as a means of effective sponsorship.

1987 It was recommended that:

The 16-minute video based on the pamphlet, “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” be produced for distribution to the Fellowship, with the following deletions: (a) “in this film” be eliminated from the opening statement, and (b) “A.A.” in credit 4, page 7 of the script, be eliminated.

The video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” be produced with closed captions for the hearing impaired, at a cost not exceeding \$1,500.

The finalized draft of the pamphlet, “Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic,” be accepted for distribution to the Fellowship as presented, with the following addition to page 29 under “What A.A. Does Not Do”: “No 14. Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover.”

The Institutions Correspondence Service not be dissolved at this time.

The General Service Office take such steps as are necessary to avoid delay in the Institutions Correspondence Service’s response from G.S.O.

All areas be encouraged to begin working in the direction of establishing an area institutions correspondence service, coordinating this with G.S.O., as necessary.

The trustees’ Committee on Correctional Facilities find a method of adapting the film “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” into the Spanish language.

The trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities consider the feasibility of adapting the film "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" into the French language.

A recommendation to develop a simplified "Twelve Steps Illustrated" pamphlet to carry the message to the illiterate inmate was not accepted by the Conference.

1988 It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "A.A. in Prisons" be replaced with two separate revisions of the material: (1) An easy-to-read pamphlet for inmates and outside A.A.s interested in starting A.A. groups in correctional facilities, which will explain how inside groups are formed and how they function. (2) A brief pamphlet or leaflet to provide information about A.A. to administrators of correctional facilities.

The phrase "A.A. contact" be used in place of "prerelease sponsorship" in A.A. literature and communications about inmates who will soon be released in order to encourage more participation on the part of outside A.A.s.

1989 It was recommended that:

The name of the "Institutions Correspondence Service" (I.C.S.) be changed to "Corrections Correspondence Service" (C.C.S.) as literature comes up for reprint.

That the flyer "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" be replaced with the revised version entitled "Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities."

1990 It was recommended that:

The trustees' committee recommendation for publication of a collection of Correctional Facilities stories from previous Grapevines (and other A.A. sources) be approved.

The trustees' Literature Committee consider adding a story of a young person who entered A.A. while in prison to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A.," because of an expressed need for Correctional Facilities materials addressed to young people.

1991 It was recommended that:

The trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee produce a 60-minute audiotape of selected stories from the booklet *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*, including culturally varied voices and some female stories, in response to an expressed need for audiovisual material. Estimated cost: \$2,475.

1992 It was recommended that:

The Correctional Facilities Workbook be published in a soft-cover format and be enclosed in a folder which would include the appropriate pamphlets and A.A. Guidelines. The committee felt it would allow more versatility for the use of the Workbook within correctional facilities and would result in annual cost savings of \$3,400.

The Correctional Facilities Directory be discontinued. It was

felt by the committee that there is no viable service provided to inmates and the Directory serves no purpose to warrant the annual expenditure of \$5,600.

The following paragraphs be included in the pamphlets "A Message to Correctional Facilities Administrators" and "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" when reprinted:

Many local A.A. service committees will, upon request, provide informational presentations for your organization. Sessions can be tailored to meet your needs. A typical agenda might include one or several A.A. films and a presentation by one or more A.A. members on "What A.A. Is and What It Is Not."

Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous.

1993 No recommendations.

FINANCE

ADVISORY ACTIONS baked upon reports of the CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

1956

The committee outlined the financial needs of the General Service Office and reminded the delegates that though it is traditional not to accumulate more than a prudent amount of money, a certain amount is vital in order to carry the message, and that since A.A. does not accept outside contributions, the only way to secure this money is from voluntary contributions.

A plan was approved whereby older A.A. members write to friends who are no longer active, reminding them of their continued financial responsibility for their General Service Office. This was named the Anniversary Fund Plan.

1960

A new simplified manner of presenting financial data was approved. It was noted with gratitude that for the first time in many years, the budget was met by the voluntary contributions of groups and members.

It was suggested that groups be reminded of the desirability of sending their contributions to G.S.O. on a quarterly or monthly basis.

1961

The committee recommended the adoption or continued use of the so-called Birthday Plan to provide "supplementary" support of A.A.'s world services. (Under the plan, individual members,

on their A.A. birthdays, can contribute \$1.00 per year for each year of sobriety up to a fixed amount—normally \$10.)

The desirability of the \$3.00 per year per member (yardstick) contribution was reaffirmed.

1962 It was recommended that:

Delegates consider various plans to increase support of world services that may prove most adaptable to their own areas, and that the nature and success of various plans used be shared with G.S.O.

G.S.O., in following the policy of declining In Memoriam contributions from nonmembers, limit the standard letter of declination to an expression of gratitude and a statement of tradition on such matters.

Allocation of \$5,000 from the General Fund to assist overseas groups in the preparation and translation of Conference-approved literature in the coming year through a Literature Aid Fund, be approved.

The present \$100 paid by Conference areas toward delegate travel be retained.

1963

In a joint meeting of the trustees' and Conference Finance Committees, it was agreed to reconvene on November 1 and 2, 1963, for the purpose of examining suggestions and recommendations received from delegates to make G.S.O. self-supporting. The end result was that two plans were considered worthy of emphasis:

a. **Monthly Sharing Plan** (now, known as the Regular Contribution Plan): Whereby each group would agree to contribute on a monthly basis and be sent quarterly statements from G.S.O.

b. **Quota Plan**: Based on contributions to be taken up at group anniversary meetings or other special occasions. The \$3.00 per year per member quota be reemphasized and focus placed on individual obligation.

The combined committees also recommended that records of contributions received by G.S.O. in Canadian dollars be clarified with a footnote indicating there is a difference in exchange rate, so the reader will understand that contributions in Canadian dollars are larger than the amount shown.

1964

The committee recorded complete confidence in the operations of G.S.O. and approval of present patterns of compensation for staff members.

Book Discounts/Retirement Fund: The 1964 Conference approved the report of the joint meeting of the General Service Board and the Conference Finance Committee that the present book discount waiver be continued, and that the possibility of a pension program be thoroughly explored and reported back to the next Conference.

1965

Following an analysis of the successful results obtained in test areas during the past year, plans were approved for extending the Monthly Sharing Plan to all U.S. and Canadian groups.

Regarding the Book Discounts/Retirement Fund, it was recommended that:

a. The policy of book discounts being waived by groups, established by 1954 and modified by 1955 Conference actions, be continued.

b. The Reserve Fund, which reached \$307,775.26 as of December 31, 1964, receive no more funds from book discounts waived.

c. For the year 1965 and subsequent years, funds received from book discounts waived, together with funds, if any, determined each year by the Board of Directors of the Grapevine to be available for such purposes, be used to provide retirement income for regular employees of A.A. World Services, Inc., and of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., pursuant to a pension plan or retirement plan in form as may hereafter be adopted by the General Service Board.

1966

The committee approved the Regular Contribution Plan and quarterly statements; voiced favor of the Birthday Plan; and approved by vote the acceptance by G.S.O. of one bequest of not more than \$100 from the estate of a deceased A.A. member.

The committee recommended that:

The delegates' expense allowance revision be studied by all delegates in assemblies, and that the 1967 Conference Finance Committee review findings and recommend such for the Conference Policy Committee.

Groups be educated regarding the functions of G.S.O.

1967

The committee recommended that delegates' expense allowance not be changed.

The committee approved increasing the annual individual contribution ceiling from \$100 to \$200; the ceiling on bequests was also increased to \$200.

1968 It was recommended that:

The Regular Contribution Plan flyer be mailed again to all groups, strongly stressing that committee members, G.S.R.s, secretaries, etc., be kept well informed of any mailings such as this in order to help stimulate interest in contributing to the General Service Office.

1969

The committee discussed the need for a new "money" folder to help increase contributions, and recommended that the folder

last issued in 1963, called "What Happens When You Put \$3.00 in the Hat," be rewritten and brought up to date.

The committee unanimously approved the proposal to change the basis for area support of the General Service Conference wherein each Conference area would contribute \$150 every year to the support of the General Service Conference; all other expenses to be paid by the G.S.O. Group Fund.

1970 It was recommended that:

The Birthday Plan be extended to include the birthdays of individual groups as well as of individual members.

1971

The committee confirmed the General Service Board's authorization to A.A.W.S. Board of Directors to increase the price on books and literature, if and when necessary, to be reviewed by the Conference Finance Committee two years from now.

It was recommended that the delegates obtain the thinking of their areas on the uses of the Bill W. Memorial Fund and communicate their findings to the trustees for guidance.

1972 It was recommended that:

The Group Contribution Fund be combined with the General Fund. This fund is to be utilized for all expenses of the General Service Office, including those formerly charged to both the General Fund and Group Fund, and to be known as the General Fund.

Regarding clubs, the committee agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group. It was recommended that a letter be sent to delegates explaining this decision so that they can inform the clubs in their areas.

It was recommended that a finance packet or kit be sent to all committee members and area chairmen, to include a package of money folders, group contribution and birthday envelopes.

Bill Wilson Memorial Fund: It was agreed to defer the decision on the use of the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund so that the delegates may discuss with their groups the suggestion of a film about A.A., historical or for public information purposes, and come back next year prepared to make a decision on this or some other suggestion. (In 1973 the Conference unanimously recommended that the money in the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund be transferred to the General Fund as expeditiously as possible.)

1973 It was recommended that:

The \$3.00 per year per member yardstick be changed to \$3.65, and be emphasized as a penny a day for sobriety.

To increase group participation, i.e., contributions:

a. Aim mailings at the G.S.R.s, giving them more informa-

tion and asking for their cooperation (copies of correspondence to G.S.R.s to be sent to all delegates).

b. Delegates should **ask** groups to contribute, no matter how little.

c. G.S.O. poll all the delegates, asking them to contribute ideas about methods of informing groups regarding contributing regularly in their respective areas.

d. The "G.S.R. Comer" in *Box 4-5-9* be reinstated to further communications with the G.S.R.s.

The authorization granted to A.A.W.S., Inc., by the 1971 Conference Finance Committee to raise the prices on books and literature, if necessary, be reconfirmed.

The General Service Board Reserve Fund ceiling be raised from \$300,000 to \$500,000 (unanimous recommendation).

1974 It was recommended that:

G.S.O. prepare a guideline for delegates on how to approach committee members and G.S.R.s on the subject of financing, i.e., how one area has tackled the problem.

There be a broader use and explanation of the In Memoriam contribution envelopes.

Delegates emphasize that the cost of G.S.O.'s service to the Fellowship is not covered by contributions from the Fellowship; the deficit has to be made up by A.A.W.S.

The area contribution toward the General Service Conference expenses be raised from \$150 to \$200.

1975 It was recommended that:

Delegates, in reports to their areas, place more emphasis on broadening the base of group support because the committee felt that the dependence on literature income could become detrimental to the Fellowship structure.

The 60-30-10 suggested *group* contribution formula be used, *where applicable and practicable*, as well as the \$3.65 per year per member plan; and that the 60-30-10 Plan should be encouraged by G.S.O. and all delegates: 60% to the intergroup (central office), 30% to G.S.O., 10% to the area committee.

The recommended \$10 maximum on birthday contributions be eliminated from the birthday envelope.

A set of quarterly contribution statements be mailed to all delegates for their areas on a twice yearly basis rather than once a year, as is now the practice. These statements are to cover the six-month period ending June 30, and the 12-month period ending December 31.

Upon reviewing the G.S.O. salary structure, it was considered to be sound. This information is available to delegates upon request.

1976 It was recommended that:

The Finance Committee of the General Service Board examine and restate the meaning of a "prudent reserve" as it relates to the G.S.O. structure.

The General Service Board and A.A. World Services Board of Directors consider reducing the net income from the sale of literature by appropriate means, such as:

- a. Special consideration given to a substantial reduction in the price of the Big Book
- b. Liberalizing the discount structure
- c. Distribution of gratis or low-cost literature to public information committees, institutional committees, or new groups

Delegates should emphasize that the preceding recommendation was made in anticipation of increased group participation, and that further efforts to control literature costs to the Fellowship, the Conference structure, and A.A. unity depend upon a solid base of group support.

1977 It was recommended that:

A prudent reserve be established equal to the preceding year's operating expense of the combined expenses of the General Service Board of A.A., A.A. World Services, Inc., and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. (with the exception of extraordinary expenses); and that the auditing firm be requested to review and comment annually on the availability, feasibility, and adequacy of this reserve.



Book Discounts/Retirement Fund: After review of the board's proposal to return discounts donated to the group, the cost of the employees' retirement plan be charged to general operating expenses, and that the selling price of books be reduced by those amounts previously used for the retirement plan.

A suggested prudent reserve for a group be dependent on local needs; and that a suggested prudent reserve for central offices, intergroups, and area committees preferably be one to twelve months' operating expense, depending on local needs.

1978 It was recommended that:

A new pamphlet on finance, in at least two colors, be prepared and distributed to stress:

- a. Self-support through the 60-30-10 Plan
- b. How the 60-30-10 Plan helps carry the A.A. message around the world

and that the title of the pamphlet be "Self-Supporting? The 60-30-10 Plan."

G.S.O. prepare and distribute a chart illustrating how money flows through the G.S.O. finance structure.

Group treasurers continue to be reached through the G.S.R.s and through the local service level; and further that contribu-

tions be acknowledged, as received, to group treasurers or to whoever the sender may be.

The delegate area contribution to Conference expense be increased from \$200 to \$300.

1979 It was recommended that:

In line with the principle of broadening the base of group support, emphasis should continue to be placed on group contributions. However, it was further recommended that:

- a. The limit on individual contributions should be increased from \$300 to \$500 to compensate for the inflationary factor since the last increase.
- b. Requests should be subject to the same limit as on individual contributions and be on a one-time-only basis and not in perpetuity.

1980 It was recommended that:

The discontinuance of mailing contribution statements to Quebec, requested by Quebec delegates, be referred back to the 1981 Conference Committee on Finance for further study and consideration.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider advising the Canadian subscribers that, when possible, U.S. funds should be used when purchasing a subscription.

1981 It was recommended that:

All future events, such as the International Convention, not be planned to operate on a deficit basis, and it was also recommended that all future events of this type be self-supporting.

The word "suggested" be added to the title of the 60-30-10 Plan folder, and that the words "where applicable and practicable" be added to the copy of panel 3 of the folder.

The graphics of the 60-30-10 Plan folder should indicate that the 60-30-10 formula is flexible and subject to local autonomy, and that the copy give illustrations reflecting the flexibility to meet local needs (for example, the needs of a D.C.M. for travel expenses). It should also give special emphasis to the Regular Contribution Plan.

Because it was felt that the increasing trend of A.A. financial dependence on publishing income was diminishing the Fellowship's traditional support by group contributions, in delegates' reports to their areas, emphasis should be placed on the basic spiritual need for self-support by communicating to their areas, districts, and groups the need to broaden the base of group support.

Contribution statements to groups in Quebec continue to be sent along with a letter written in both French and English thanking those groups that had contributed directly to their district or area, which, in turn, sent its surplus to G.S.O. The letter is to be generated by lists of contributing groups supplied by the delegates from each of the four Quebec areas. The letter will acknowledge the actual amount received by G.S.O. during

a designated period.

Item 3 of the ad hoc committee recommendations of February 3, 1978, be deleted. It reads:

Income earned on that portion of the Reserve Fund attributable to the deferred subscription income will be retained by the General Service Board Reserve Fund as long as the Grapevine has income from operation. In the event of an operating deficit, such income would be credited automatically to the Grapevine to the extent of its deficiency or the limit of such income.

The following paragraph be substituted:

All income earned on that portion of the Reserve Fund attributable to the deferred subscriptions be credited to the Grapevine and reflected on the Grapevine financial statement. The contra amount of the increase in income will be added to the asset account of the General Service Board Reserve Fund.

The reporting and crediting of interest earned on Grapevine unexpired subscription income as originally recommended by the ad hoc committee report of February 3, 1978, be maintained.

1982 It was recommended that:

The following actions be taken in connection with the 60-30-10 pamphlet:

- a. A new concept for the pamphlet to replace the 60-30-10 piece be considered.
- b. All 1981 Advisory Actions, with the exception of the action requesting specific graphics, be incorporated into the new piece; also, emphasis on the Seventh Tradition and how it relates to the individual member be included.
- c. The General Service Office develop the necessary copy and title to further present the need for supporting the A.A. support system.

The Regular Contribution Plan be used to supplement the 60-30-10 Plan.

1983 It was recommended that:

An earlier treatment of illustrating the Regular Contribution Plan in cartoon fashion be revised and reissued to supplement the pamphlet titled "Supporting the A.A. Support System," with the 1967 A.A. Grapevine article titled "A.A.'s Tradition of Self-Support," written by Bill, printed on the reverse of the flyer. Further, this flyer is to be produced in the English, Spanish, and French languages and distributed simultaneously.

The need to decrease dependence on publishing income and the needs for greater participation and increased contributions from the groups to accomplish this goal be simplified conceptually in graphic form.

In keeping with our Seventh Tradition at the group, area, and

G.S.O. level, the Conference stress the importance and necessity of discussing self-support at area and local workshops.

1984 It was recommended that:

Area contributions toward Conference expenses be increased from \$300 to \$400 effective with the 1985 Conference.

Copies of contribution statements sent to the groups be continued to be sent to all delegates on a twice-a-year basis as of June 30 and December 31, with only a list to be sent on the off quarters.

A change be made in the pamphlet titled "Supporting the A.A. Support System" as follows. Where it now reads, "Bequests in wills: acceptable only from A.A.s and only in the year of the A.A.'s death. The limit is \$500." To read, "Bequests in wills: acceptable only from A.A.s and only on a one-time basis and not in perpetuity. The limit is \$500." This change to be made in the next printing.

The past Advisory Action relating to the need for greater participation and increased contributions from groups, to reduce dependence on publishing income, be supplemented with an explanation aimed at the individual A.A. members regarding what happens to their individual contribution, at the group level, and how it helps carry the message worldwide.

1985 It was recommended that:

A guideline on finances be developed by the General Service Office.

A cartoon treatment be approved illustrating need for greater group participation and how the individual contributions at the group level help carry the message worldwide.

1986 It was recommended that:

The finance cartoon flyer be changed in the third panel to list: group expenses, district expenses, intergroup or central office, area committee and General Service Office, eliminating prudent reserve, numerals one to five, and the words "part of the remainder to" and "part to"; and that the 1957 second panel be changed to eliminate the numeral five and the words "part to."

The area delegates strongly consider implementation of the following suggestions to improve contributions to G.S.O., area assemblies, districts, and central or intergroup offices:

- a. G.S.O. make available to all delegates an itemized list of group service expenses and other expenses of the board, combined into one total, representing group services supported by group contributions.
- b. Area delegates contact groups quarterly, either directly or through the D.C.M., distributing self-support pamphlets and contribution statements.
- c. The delegates encourage each group to have a folder which includes a list of addresses to whom monthly contributions could be sent (District, Intergroup/Central Offices, Area Committees and G.S.O.).

- d. Each area affix a list of addresses or stamp addresses on finance flyers and distribute to groups to provide them with the information on “where to send their money.”
- e. Areas could provide groups with pre-addressed envelopes as to where they should contribute to the area treasury.

A film on finance is premature (until the Guidelines on Finance are introduced.)

Because of the many facets, the proposal to have G.S.O. self-supporting through group contributions only not be considered at this time, especially in light of the continuing decrease in the percentage of groups contributing to G.S.O.

The limit contributed from individual A.A. members be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 and bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and be on a one-time only basis and not in perpetuity.

The following changes be made to “Supporting the A.A. Support System” flyer:

- a. The example which includes “district” be made the first illustration in the flyer, reflecting 50% to inter-group/central office, 30% to G.S.O., 10% to area and 10% to district.
- b. The present 60-30-10 Plan illustration will move to a secondary position.

1987 It was recommended that:

The “Supporting the A.A. Support System” pamphlet be revised as follows:

- a. On the first page, change the type style for “group expenses” to bold face.
- b. On the fourth page (the last illustration and description), change the current “40% to G.S.O.” and “60% to Area Committee” to “30% to G.S.O., 30% to Area Committee, 40% to District.”

The concept of the Self-support communications plan be approved; the plan is to provide Self-support information and tools to D.C.M.s and other service people in the Fellowship.

The objectives of the five-year plan be approved and reviewed monthly; the plan projects increased contributions and periodic literature price decrease, which would make A.A. self-supporting in five years or less.

No change in delegates’ fees be made at this time, but that this matter be considered again by the 1988 Conference.

The Conference Committee on Finance reviewed the auditor’s report on the General Service Reserve Fund which states, in his opinion, “that the balance of Reserve Fund at December 31, 1986, is adequate to meet any adverse events which can be foreseen at the present time.”

The Committee recommends the acceptance of the auditor’s opinion that the Reserve Fund is adequate at this time.

The 1977 Conference Advisory Action which reads:

“It was recommended that a prudent reserve be established equal to the preceding year’s operating expense of the combined expenses of the General Service Board of A.A., A.A. Word Services, Inc., and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. (with the exception of extra-ordinary expenses); and that the auditing firm be requested to review and comment annually on the availability, feasibility, and adequacy of this reserve”

be amended to replace the phrase “equal to” with the phrase “not to exceed.”

And that a lower limit to the fund not be provided, inasmuch as the auditor is required to comment on the adequacy of the fund.

1988 It was recommended that:

No change in delegates’ fees be made at this time.

The list of possible demands on the Reserve Fund as presented by the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee be made available as a service piece and this list be attached to the finance presentation and made available to the current members of the Conference.

The trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee’s proposal for handling possible excesses in the Reserve Fund be approved. The proposal would use literature price reductions as the primary mechanism in adjusting the relationship of the Reserve Fund to the Conference-approved limit of one year’s operating expenses.

The statement of clarification recommended by the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee be approved. The statement says that when the auditor comments in his annual financial statements on the availability, feasibility and adequacy of the Reserve Fund, he is measuring the Reserve Fund as of the calendar year just ended, including transfers from such year’s income of the operating entities, against the operating expenses of the consolidated entities (A.A. World Service, Inc., General Service Board of A.A., Inc., and the Grapevine, Inc.), for the same year then ended.

Subject to editorial review, the Self-support Committee’s suggested revisions to the “Supporting the A.A. Support System” pamphlet be approved with the provision that:

- a. titles be indicated for the addresses of Districts, Intergroups/Central Offices, Area Committees, and G.S.O.
- b. a list of services provided to the Fellowship be included under the “Why” section.
- c. the message of the last panel of the cartoon supplement be incorporated.

The committee see the draft reflecting these recommendations.

The cartoon supplement of the pamphlet "Supporting the A.A. Support System" be discontinued immediately.

The 1988 financial reports be presented as a management report to the Conference, based on broad-based allocations. The committee acknowledges that the more detailed computerized general ledger system will provide more accurate allocation when available.

1989 It was recommended that:

The need to send complete audited financial statements to each delegate as soon as they are available has not been demonstrated, but that they will be made available upon request. (Available about April 1st, each year.)

Three-part printouts, which are seen as a better working tool for delegates and D.C.M.s, be sent to the delegates every quarter instead of alternating copies of the contribution quarterly statements and quarterly contribution printouts.

Area contributions for delegate expenses for the Conference be increased to \$600 and that, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion of the Conference costs.

The Conference strongly reaffirms the 1986 Conference Advisory Action on self-support which reads:

"That the area delegates strongly consider implementation of the following suggestions to improve contributions to G.S.O., area assemblies, districts, and central or intergroup offices:

- a. G.S.O. make available to all delegates an itemized list of group service expenses and other expenses of the board, combined into one total, representing groups services supported by group contributions. (Now a part of the financial statements in the *Final Conference Report*.)
- b. Area delegates contact groups quarterly, either directly or through the D.C.M., distributing self-support pamphlets and contribution statements.
- c. The delegates encourage each group to have a folder which includes a list of addresses to whom monthly contributions could be sent (district, intergroup/central offices, area committees and G.S.O.).
- d. Each area affix a list of addresses or stamp addresses on finance flyers and distribute to groups to provide them with the information on 'where to send their money.'
- e. Areas could provide groups with preaddressed envelopes as to where they should contribute to the area treasury."

No change be made in the current literature pricing policy after considering a proposal to change the G.S.O. literature pricing from the existing procedure to one fixed price for everyone, including purchasers who buy in bulk.

The self-support pamphlet reflect the idea that the support of

A.A. services (central/intergroup offices, area committee, G.S.O., and district) be a *commitment* by the individual member through his or her home group.

The commitment to the Seventh Tradition on the part of individuals through their home group be emphasized where applicable in other A.A. literature as it comes up for revision.

1990 It was recommended that:

No change be made to the newly revised pamphlet, "Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions," which emphasizes the commitment on the part of the individual A.A. member; and any relationship to intergroups be left to the Conference, and the results of such actions then be reflected in the Self-support pamphlet.

There be a reaffirmation of the 1977 Conference Advisory Action which reads: "A suggested prudent reserve for a group be dependent on local needs; and that a suggested prudent reserve for central offices, intergroups, and area committees preferably be one to twelve months operating expense, depending on local needs."

1991 It was recommended that:

The format of the Finances presentation of the financial information at the General Service Conference be reviewed and that any revisions or changes be considered and forwarded to Conference Finance Committee members prior to the end of the year.

The pamphlet "Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions" not be changed at this time, as there was insufficient input; and there be further input from the areas prior to any action.

The adaptation of the "Self-supporting Through Our Own Contributions" pamphlet tailored to reflect the Quebec area's self-support system not receive Conference approval, because there is already existing Conference-approved literature dealing with the subject.

1992 It was recommended that:

The new computer-monitored Happy Birthday Contribution Plan instituted in 1991 be discontinued immediately and that any database of A.A. members' names and addresses, together with sobriety birthday dates, that may have been created be destroyed.

The financial statements presented to the Fellowship do not show allocation of expenses between various funds and entities until the bases of such allocations can be justified.

The term "Shortfall of group services supported by group contributions" not be used until the basis of allocations resulting in the amount shown as shortfall can be justified.

The request that contributions to the General Service Office from conferences, conventions, and roundups be limited to the maximum amount an individual may contribute in a given year be forwarded to the 1993 Conference Finance Committee, as

there was insufficient information, and that there be input from the areas prior to any action.

1993 It was recommended that:

Contributions from conferences, conventions, and roundups not be limited to the maximum amount an individual may contribute in a given year, and in accordance with our Seventh Tradition, only funds from A.A. members attending the event should be contributed to support A.A. services.

In light of declining contributions, a new self-support pamphlet be prepared deleting the charts and percentages, stressing the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, Bill's vision of self-support, a brief history of A.A. finances, the G.S.R.'s responsibility concerning the financial needs within the service structure, visual aids and description of the various services provided throughout the structure. It is requested that a draft be sent to the 1993 Conference Finance Committee following the October 1993 trustees' Finance Committee meeting, and brought back to the 1994 Conference Finance Committee meeting for approval.

No change be made at this time to delegate fees, but in the spirit of self-support, areas are encouraged to make a contribution, if possible, to defray the average cost per delegate. This statement should be incorporated in the annual Conference notification to delegates of fees due.

GRAPEVINE

ADVISORY ACTIONS

based upon reports of the
CONFERENCE GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE

1957

The committee approved the increasing of the price of the magazine from \$.25 to \$.35 for single copies, and from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for annual subscriptions, effective July 1, 1957 (prices in Canada to be the same as in the U.S., and prices of overseas subscriptions and of bulk mailings to be increased proportionately).

1958 It was recommended that:

Heavy intensive promotions be opposed, but some form of continuous "reminders" be used as needed and at the discretion of the Grapevine Board of Directors.

1959 It was recommended that:

Special reports and Grapevine display material be made available to area delegates and committee members for use at area conferences and conventions.

1960

The committee expressed approval of the special publication, "A.A. Today," to be published July 1, 1960, by the Grapevine

staff in connection with the celebration of A.A.'s 25th anniversary.

1962

Grapevine subscriptions for newcomers are recommended as a useful tool of sobriety; subscriptions to be entered automatically for each newcomer who may reimburse the group when he can.

Grapevine representatives will aim for 100% subscriptions in their groups, with follow-up on expirations to ensure 100% renewals.

1964 It was recommended that:

The Board of Directors of the Grapevine and the General Service Board explore the possibilities of using Grapevine material in a French A.A. magazine.

The committee approved that all Grapevine committee members henceforth be kept informed during the year on all Grapevine matters of Conference importance.

1965 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine use the service of area committees in promoting the sale of the Grapevine at the group and individual levels.

1966

A trial selling of binders which would carry 12 issues of the Grapevine magazine was recommended.

1967 It was recommended that:

The Serenity Prayer be incorporated into the format of the Grapevine to appear every month.

Delegates suggest to groups the need for sponsoring subscriptions to the Grapevine for prisons, jails, and hospitals in their areas.

1968 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine, being the voice of individual A.A. members, continue to publish the opinion of A.A. members, provided, however, that the Grapevine does not add its editorial endorsement to articles, and that it state that the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Grapevine.

1969 It was recommended that:

A.A. World Services, Inc., and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., with the primary purpose of the Fellowship foremost in mind, study their promotional efforts in each other's behalf and extend to each other the fullest cooperation in making the Fellowship aware of the tools of A.A.

All delegates consider it a part of their responsibility to make the Fellowship aware of the Grapevine as a tool of sobriety, either through their own efforts or by recruiting others.

(Reaffirmed in 1971.)

1971 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine Corporate Board be given Conference approval to raise the price of the Grapevine from \$.35 to \$.50 for a single copy, and from \$3.50 to \$5 for a yearly subscription, if the trend of rising costs indicates that the need is there.

1973

The Grapevine Committee unanimously recommends, in view of increasing bad debts, that no new pay-as-you-go groups be accepted after July 31, 1973. Pay-as-you-go groups in good standing, however, will be continued. The committee recommends prepaid subscriptions.

1974 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine continue to publish responsible personal opinions of A.A. members, although the Grapevine does not necessarily endorse those opinions.

The "About Alcoholism" section in the gray pages of the Grapevine continue to report developments in the field of alcoholism even though they may be contrary to A.A. philosophy.

The delegates carry back to their areas a proposal that groups institute the practice of giving birthday or anniversary gift subscriptions, with which the Grapevine will mail appropriate greeting cards.

The use of full names in correspondence with the Grapevine would facilitate A.A. communications. (The Grapevine protects anonymity at all times.)

1975 It was recommended that:

Delegates communicate with the publishers of A.A. newsletters in their areas and urge them to use Grapevine blurbs, discussion topics, or other notices of the Grapevine regularly in their newsletters.

A letter be sent to the remaining pay-as-you-go groups explaining the advantages of prepaid subscriptions and notifying these groups that the pay-as-you-go plan will be terminated as of January 1, 1976. **1976**

1976

We, the members of the Grapevine Committee of Panels 25 and 26, reaffirm the recommendation that areas be encouraged to invite the Grapevine staff to visit state and provincial conferences with the suggestion that the invitation be made to the Grapevine staff directly. The committee feels that personal contact between Grapevine staff and A.A. members will stimulate interest in the Grapevine.

It was recommended that:

Groups or individuals send Grapevine subscriptions to local libraries

Groups be encouraged to increase their subscriptions as their memberships increase.

1977 It was recommended that:

Delegates be responsible for establishing area Grapevine committees, using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

One copy of the Grapevine, along with a Grapevine order form, be included in every kit mailed out to new groups by G.S.O.

The Grapevine continue to publish the "About Alcoholism" section along with the disclaimer (voted unanimously).

1978 It was recommended that:

Delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

A Grapevine information table be made a regular feature at all conferences, conventions, and assemblies. (A Grapevine Conference Display Kit is available at no cost.)

Committees on public information, cooperation with the professional community, correctional facilities, and treatment facilities explore the use of the A.A. Grapevine in their endeavors.

Area and state functions consider Grapevine workshops similar to other workshops held at the area level from time to time.

1979 It was recommended that:

When feasible, groups consider bulk orders as a means of making the Grapevine available at the group.

Grapevine representatives recommend to their groups that they sponsor subscriptions, where possible, for institutions, treatment facilities, and professionals being "sponsored."

The Grapevine office make available Grapevine prepaid gift certificates.

1980 It was recommended that:

Shorter-term subscriptions for groups and treatment facilities not be considered at this time.

Delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

Groups make every effort to introduce newcomers to the Grapevine as one of our best tools in sobriety.

1981 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine provide a discount package of Grapevine miscellaneous items for sale to groups and central offices/inter-groups with a reasonable discount.

Delegates, in their continuing effort to achieve GvRs in their groups, work toward establishing district GvRs.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider increasing the cover price of the Grapevine.

The yearly Grapevine income statement reflect the money held in escrow for unfulfilled subscriptions, and the interest accrued by this amount be shown. (The Conference did not accept this recommendation, but requested that it be tabled and referred to a joint meeting of the 1981 Conference Finance and Grapevine Committees.)

1982 It was recommended that:

The price of miscellaneous items sold by the Grapevine be increased as needed.

No action be taken at this time on quantity sales of Grapevine subscriptions to outside organizations.

1983 It was recommended that:

A trial tape cassette of articles from the Grapevine classic issues be prepared and made available as a special item, with future taping to be considered by the 1984 Conference.

Delegates research the need for the "About Alcoholism" section in their areas, and that the question of the function of and need for this section be brought to the 1984 Conference.

All communications to area Grapevine chairpersons also be sent to delegates.

Making the Grapevine available to outside agencies be left for area service structures to handle, in the spirit of autonomy.

1984 It was recommended that:

Because of the positive response to the trial cassette, the Grapevine produce at least one tape a year as a special item.

The Grapevine continue to publish the "About Alcoholism" section, along with the disclaimer.

The "Portable A.A. Meeting" brochure be included in mailings of G.S.O. bulletins, and that a supply of this brochure be made available to all area Grapevine chairpersons.

The Conference reaffirm the 1977 Conference recommendation that "delegates be responsible for establishing area Grapevine committees, using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group." Also that delegates explore the possibility of utilizing alternates throughout the service structure as Grapevine representatives.

1985 It was recommended that:

Grapevine committees seek ways to work with Public Information, Cooperation With the Professional Community, Correctional Facilities, Treatment Facilities, and other service

committees, with the aim of increasing the use of the Grapevine as a tool in carrying the message.

Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approval process, the Conference recognize The A.A. Grapevine as an international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A workbook be produced for Grapevine committees.

Sections be added to the Service *Manual* defining the role of Grapevine Representatives at all levels, providing more information about the operation of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and refer this item to the Report and Charter Committee.

1986 It was recommended that:

The draft of the workbook for use by Grapevine committees be approved.

The Grapevine produce a trial tape in Spanish and a trial tape in French, at a price comparable to the Grapevine tapes in English. In making this recommendation the committee recognized the possibility of a financial loss, but considers that in this instance the need to carry the message to French-speaking and Spanish-speaking A.A.s makes such a possible loss acceptable.

The 1985 Conference Advisory Action #17 be corrected to read: "Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approved process, the Conference recognizes the A.A. Grapevine as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Because the twelve articles on the Traditions, by B.L. of Manhattan, New York, and the article "The Whisper of Humility" contain the opinions of individuals only, and because they are already reprinted in *Best of the Grapevine*, these articles not be published as a pamphlet.

If the Grapevine Corporate Board approves development of the proposed book of Bill W.'s Grapevine writings, a draft be brought to the 1987 Conference for consideration.

1987 It was recommended that:

Staff monitoring ongoing distribution of Spanish and French Grapevine cassette tapes and report fuller results to the 1988 Conference.

No changes or additions be made to the Preamble.

Delegates focus their efforts on the district service structure as a means of reaching individual groups, in order to make every group aware of the value of the Grapevine as a recovery tool.

Delegates and area Grapevine chairpersons be encouraged to invite Grapevine staff personnel to attend local, area, and regional conventions, forums, and A.A. gatherings.

The Grapevine staff be responsible for communicating updated information to the delegates at appropriate intervals regarding editorial, circulation/fulfillment, and financial matters.

In view of the need for the entire Grapevine operation to be fully accountable to the Fellowship, the committee recognized serious management problems and believes them to be the responsibility of the Grapevine Corporate Board.

The Grapevine Board establish a mechanism for timely communications to all Conference members of actions taken and progress toward resolution of these problems.

A disclaimer be prepared by Grapevine staff for the calendar of events and be printed before each month's listing of coming events.

1988 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine not publish a monthly section of daily messages/reflections.

The matters of format and editorial policy raised in the "Resolution to the A.A. Grapevine" from Area 70, Vermont, be within the right of decision of the Grapevine editorial staff.

The 1987 Conference Advisory Action number 29 be reaffirmed: "The Grapevine staff be responsible for communicating updated information to the delegates at appropriate intervals regarding editorial, circulation/fulfillment, and financial matters."

Since the Grapevine Corporate Board has fully complied with 1987 Advisory Action number 30, timely communication from the board to all Conference members regarding resolution of the management problems is no longer necessary, though the standing practice of sending quarterly Corporate Board minutes to Conference Grapevine Committee members will be continued.

The Grapevine proceed with a one-time trial distribution of complimentary Grapevines to nonsubscribing groups (selected on a random basis) in order to make them aware of the Grapevine as an effective recovery tool. In order to stay within the Grapevine's 1988 budget, the cost of this trial distribution should not exceed \$2,500. Results of this effort and **any** further action of the Corporate Board should be reviewed by the 1989 Conference.

The Grapevine proceed with publication of Bill W.'s collected Grapevine writings, with brief factual introductory material to be prepared by Grapevine staff and approved by the Grapevine Corporate Board.

The 1987 Conference Advisory Action #27 be reaffirmed: "Delegates focus their efforts on the district service structure as a means of reaching individual groups, in order to make every group aware of the value of the Grapevine as a recovery tool."

In order to encourage full participation, the Grapevine consider establishing a Grapevine awareness month, and areas continue to hold Grapevine workshops, Grape-a-thons and Grapevine meetings.

In response to concerns about the elapsed time between ordering and receiving the Grapevine, that the Grapevine Corporate

Board investigate the feasibility of early acknowledgment of new subscription orders.

1989 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine develop an ongoing A.A. history section, drawing on archival material, including area and regional histories.

In recognition of the need for a magazine price increase in the near future, delegates clarify in their area the fact that the Grapevine is supported by subscription income and does not accept group contributions to cover operating expenses in recognition of the need for a magazine price increase in the near future.

1990 It was recommended that:

The words "one-time trial distribution of complimentary Grapevines to nonsubscribing groups" in 1988 Conference Advisory Action #25 no longer be considered binding.

1991 It was recommended that:

The Grapevine discontinue publishing the "About Alcoholism" section.

Because of an expressed need, the Grapevine commence as soon as possible to include at least one article in Spanish in each month's issue.

1992 It was recommended that:

After review of 1991 Conference Advisory Action #12:

- a. The Grapevine continue to include at least one article in Spanish in each month's issue.
- b. As a possible future replacement for the monthly Spanish articles in the magazine, the Grapevine Corporate Board investigate the feasibility of developing a quarterly Spanish newsletter based on original material and translations of current Grapevine articles, and bring cost and format proposals to the 1993 Conference Grapevine committee.

The following proposal from the Grapevine Corporate Board be accepted:

In order to achieve some uniformity of procedure and to gain desired Conference input to Grapevine special items, yet not to compromise the Grapevine Corporate Board's "right of decision" to manage the fiscal affairs of the Grapevine, let it be proposed that:

Based on the positive model of mutual Conference and board involvement in the production of *The Language of the Heart*, the Grapevine Corporate Board offer to the Conference Grapevine Committee, on an ongoing basis, a general list of proposed special items at least two years in advance of possible production in order that the Conference should offer any guidance or register any disapproval they might have. Having so presented the conceptual basis of these special items to the Conference Committee, final

Delegates, in their continuing effort to achieve GvRs in their groups, work toward establishing districtGvRs.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider increasing the cover price of the Grapevine.

The yearly Grapevine income statement reflect the money held in escrow for unfulfilled subscriptions, and the interest accrued by this amount be shown. (The Conference did not accept this recommendation, but requested that it be tabled and referred to a joint meeting of the 1981 Conference Finance and Grapevine Committees.)

1982 It was recommended that:

The price of miscellaneous items sold by the Grapevine be increased as needed.

No action be taken at this time on quantity sales of Grapevine subscriptions to outside organizations.

1983 It was recommended that:

A trial tape cassette of articles from the Grapevine classic issues be prepared and made available as a special item, with future taping to be considered by the 1984 Conference.

Delegates research the need for the "About Alcoholism" section in their areas, and that the question of the function of and need for this section be brought to the 1984 Conference.

All communications to area Grapevine chairpersons also be sent to delegates.

Making the Grapevine available to outside agencies be left for area service structures to handle, in the spirit of autonomy.

1984 It was recommended that:

Because of the positive response to the trial cassette, the Grapevine produce at least one tape a year as a special item.

The Grapevine continue to publish the "About Alcoholism" section, along with the disclaimer.

The "Portable A.A. Meeting" brochure be included in mailings of G.S.O. bulletins, and that a supply of this brochure be made available to all area Grapevine chairpersons.

The Conference reaffirm the 1977 Conference recommendation that "delegates be responsible for establishing area Grapevine committees, using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group." Also that delegates explore the possibility of utilizing alternates throughout the service structure as Grapevine representatives.

1985 It was recommended that:

Grapevine committees seek ways to work with Public Information, Cooperation With the Professional Community, Correctional Facilities, Treatment Facilities, and other service

committees, with the aim of increasing the use of the Grapevine as a tool in carrying the message.

Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approval process, the Conference recognize The A.A. Grapevine as an international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A workbook be produced for Grapevine committees.

Sections be added to the *Service Manual* defining the role of Grapevine Representatives at all levels, providing more information about the operation of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and refer this item to the Report and Charter Committee.

1986 It was recommended that:

The draft of the workbook for use by Grapevine committees be approved.

The Grapevine produce a trial tape in Spanish and a trial tape in French, at a price comparable to the Grapevine tapes in English. In making this recommendation the committee recognized the possibility of a financial loss, but considers that in this instance the need to carry the message to French-speaking and Spanish-speaking A.A.s makes such a possible loss acceptable.

The 1985 Conference Advisory Action #17 be corrected to read: "Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approved process, the Conference recognizes the A.A. Grapevine as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Because the twelve articles on the Traditions, by B.L. of Manhattan, New York, and the article "The Whisper of Humility" contain the opinions of individuals only, and because they are already reprinted in Best of the *Grapevine*, these articles not be published as a pamphlet.

If the Grapevine Corporate Board approves development of the proposed book of Bill W.'s Grapevine writings, a draft be brought to the 1987 Conference for consideration.

1987 It was recommended that:

Staff monitoring ongoing distribution of Spanish and French Grapevine cassette tapes and report fuller results to the 1988 Conference.

No changes or additions be made to the Preamble.

Delegates focus their efforts on the district service structure as a means of reaching individual groups, in order to make every group aware of the value of the Grapevine as a recovery tool.

Delegates and area Grapevine chairpersons be encouraged to invite Grapevine staff personnel to attend local, area, and regional conventions, forums, and A.A. gatherings.

The Grapevine staff be responsible for communicating updated information to the delegates at appropriate intervals regarding editorial, circulation/fulfillment, and financial matters.

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approval for the completed items would rest with the Grapevine Corporate Board.

1993 It was recommended that:

After considering 1992 Advisory Action #12 concerning the feasibility of a quarterly Spanish newsletter:

- a. The current policy of publishing monthly Grapevine articles in Spanish be reaffirmed;
- b. Because of staffing needs and other cost factors, a quarterly newsletter not be implemented at this time;
- c. Delegates and the Grapevine Corporate Board continue to explore different ways of carrying the message to the Spanish community through Grapevine materials.

The Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets.

INSTITUTIONS

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE*

1954

It was affirmed that it was impracticable to list groups in hospitals and prisons in the *World Directory*.

1958 It was recommended that:

Participation of groups in prisons and hospitals in area assemblies was a matter of local autonomy.

1964

It was agreed that in general it was not advisable to accept proxies from regular groups at A.A. assembly meetings. At the same time, it was recognized that groups in correctional institutions and in certain hospitals might be unrepresented at assemblies if they were not permitted to assign their voting privileges to members outside their groups.

1966

The 16th General Service Conference voted unanimously to establish a Conference Institutions Committee on the recommendation of the Conference Policy Committee.

1967 It was recommended that:

An institutions bulletin be prepared and mailed from G.S.O. to A.A. groups in hospitals and prisons, and to institutions committees and sponsors.

A.A.s carrying the message to institutions abide by regulations and cooperate with personnel.

A.A. groups and members on the outside take the responsibility of providing literature to A.A. groups in institutions when possible, in line with the tradition of self-support.

Immediate sponsorship of the outgoing patient or inmate is of major importance in carrying the message to institutions.

Where no such committees exist, all states and areas consider formation of institutions committees to work in cooperation with area committees.

1968 It was recommended that:

Institutions committees be encouraged to use a post office box address so that referrals can be made without using an individual's name and address.

A.A. groups in correctional facilities and hospitals adhere to A.A.'s Fifth Tradition: "Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers"; also, that anyone with problems other than alcohol be made welcome at inside open meetings, but not participate in group activities.

G.S.O. make a survey of the duties performed by local institutions committee chairmen.

1969 It was recommended that:

Guidelines be prepared outlining procedures for A.A. members to follow in working with institutions and ways of informing the nonalcoholic staff about A.A. The following committee recommendations are to be included in the guidelines:

- a. A.A.s attending meetings at prisons or hospitals should be selected carefully so that relations with the institution's staff remain harmonious.
- b. A.A.'s position on membership in institutions groups be defined as follows:

We cannot give A.A. membership to nonalcoholic narcotic addicts and other unrelated groups or organizations. A.A. groups in institutions can welcome anyone with problems other than alcohol to inside *open* meetings, but it is suggested that they do not speak or otherwise participate in these meetings.

A.A.s should work toward coordination of all institutional work in the state or province so that there will be cooperation between all local, intergroup, and general service institutions committees.

The institutions directories be distributed every two years with yearly supplements.

* Also see Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities. In 1977, the Conference Institutions Committee was discontinued and replaced by these two committees.

1970 It was recommended that:

The possibility of separating the hospital and prison services into subcommittees of the present Conference Institutions Committee be discussed with the membership and presented again on the 1971 Institutions committee meeting agenda.

A group institutions representative be chosen at the direction of the group when practical.

This committee help in the formation of an institutions committee in an area where none exists and that A.A. members from other areas who are experienced in institutions committee work be consulted or asked to speak at an area assembly meeting on this subject.

The wording of the 1969 Institutions Committee recommendation concerning the definition of A.A.'s position on membership in institutions groups be changed to read as follows:

Open meetings are traditionally open to all interested in A.A., but should be devoted exclusively to the alcoholic problem. Closed meetings should traditionally be restricted to alcoholics.

1971 It was recommended that:

In a discussion of separating the hospital and prison service into subcommittees of the present Institutions Committee, it was the sense of the meeting that the Institutions Committee remain the same.

The delegates give wholehearted support to the efforts of the General Service Office to establish an Institutions Correspondence Service on an individual basis, similar to the Loner Sponsor Service.

The General Service Board participate more directly with the Conference Institutions Committee.

1972 It was recommended that:

The Literature Committee reexamine institutions literature in an attempt to reach all levels of understanding.

The possibility of a trustees' Committee on Institutions be considered.

1973 It was recommended that:

A letter be sent to local institutions committees or contacts asking them to send G.S.O. a list of facilities (both hospitals and prisons) where there are currently no A.A. groups.

The General Service Office conduct a survey by contacting administrative officials or correctional rehabilitation facilities where there are A.A. groups, for a full assessment of A.A. in their facilities.

In the institutional setting, we cooperate with administrative officials to the utmost within the confines of our Traditions and the suggestions contained in "A.A. in Prisons" and "Memo to an Inmate." If, because of prison procedure, inmates are

encouraged to attend A.A. meetings, we have to assume that they are coming for the right reasons. As far as any A.A. member evaluating another A.A. member is concerned, this is totally in opposition to our Traditions.

The 1973 Conference reaffirms the action taken by the 1968 Conference on the use of the *World Directory*:

That the present use of the *World Directory* in institutions be continued in order to provide immediate A.A. sponsorship for new members leaving the institution.

1974 It was recommended that:

The General Service Office send an inquiry to all delegates to find out the functions and structure of the institutions committees in their areas and the body to which committees report.

All institutions committees and outside sponsors make every possible effort to cooperate with institutions' regulations and to maintain good communications with institutions' personnel.

Institutions committees and outside sponsors inform inside A.A. group officers what the outside A.A. members can and cannot do.

1975 It was recommended that:

We endeavor to improve communications between intergroup (central office) and general service institutions committees by emphasizing the concept that general service committees exist to provide service wherever needed, including service to intergroup or central office institutions committees.

One person from each institutions committee be charged with the responsibility of acting as liaison to the other, and that communications may be further improved by: a) exchanging minutes of meetings between the two committees, and b) instituting joint workshops and sharing sessions at area assemblies.

In an effort to place greater emphasis on the importance of hospitals as part of the overall Institutions Committee, delegates, upon returning to their areas, furnish the G.S.O. secretary of the Institutions Committee with the names and addresses of A.A. members who are currently interested in hospital work. The secretary would then be in a position to keep these particular people fully informed of institutional activity, thereby creating a greater interest and more activity in the hospital field.

1976 It was recommended that:

A.A. members on the staff of a hospital or facility should not control A.A. meetings, but cooperate with institutions committees or responsible A.A. members who are carrying the message to that facility; also, to refer to Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

Taking a collection at a hospital A.A. meeting be left to the discretion of the institutions committee.

Next year the 1977 Conference Institutions Committee add to its agenda the following: Define what a rehabilitation facility is and how the institutions committee can handle it.

The trustees' and Conference Institutions Committees be divided into two subcommittees each: Correctional Institutions, and Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centers.

1977 It was recommended that:

The Institutions Committee be dissolved and two new committees-one dealing with Correctional Facilities, and one with Treatment Facilities-be formed.

It is not practical to hold a joint meeting of the Conference and trustees' Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions, but that the quarterly highlights of the trustees' Committees on P.I. C.P.C., Correctional Facilities, and Treatment Facilities be sent to all members of these Conference committees.

There is no need for the institutional groups to receive the A.A. Directory at this time.

It is not within A.A.'s province to define a rehabilitation facility.

The committee will review the outline of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Hell Out of Sitting in a Cell" and also the two pamphlets "A.A. in Prisons" and "A.A. in Hospitals."

LITERATURE

ADVISORY ACTIONS

based upon reports of the CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

1951 It was recommended that:

A.A. textbook literature should have Conference approval.

1952

The committee approved the principle of retaining professional writers on a fee basis when their employment has been authorized, to ensure prompt, efficient handling of editorial responsibilities.

1953 It was recommended that:

A new pamphlet for young alcoholics be prepared, and also a revision of "Medicine Looks at A.A."

A series of stock newspaper stories be prepared for groups to use in local newspapers, and that a series of radio scripts be similarly prepared.

A supplement for the "Third Legacy" pamphlet be introduced, clarifying the suggested duties and responsibilities of G.S.R.s.

1954 It was recommended that:

All Conference-approved literature have on its face an identifying symbol. (This became the circle and the triangle.)

The two pamphlets "Your Third Legacy" and "Your Role in General Service Conference" be combined.

All new literature be in a format suitable for mailing in a # 10 envelope.

The two pamphlets "Structure and Services of A.A." and "Your General Service" be combined.

In action by the whole Conference, the full Conference adopted a resolution that the publication rights of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" not be accepted.

1956 It was recommended that:

A folder on the General Service Representative plan based on an extract from the "Third Legacy Manual" (now "The A.A. Service Manual") be prepared.

An instructive folder, "Is A.A. For You?," priced at \$.05, be prepared.

A new version of "Your Role in the General Service Conference" be prepared.

The 1957 Conference consider the possibility of publishing a leather-bound gift edition of the Big Book.

Bill's new book, *A.A. Comes of Age*, be produced in a first class manner; decisions as to pictures and price be left to the board of trustees.

Consideration be given to the possibility of materials for the specific use of the older member.

Pamphlet literature for institutions continue to be made available in gift packages at a price reduction.

A group A.A. *Exchange Bulletin* (now *Box 4-5-9*) be instituted, incorporating all the special service bulletins previously distributed by the General Service Office.

The symbol "A.A." within a triangle within a circle, together with the words "General Service Conference," be restricted to the use of Conference-approved literature only.

1957

The committee tabled a proposal to publish a gift edition of the Big Book.

1958

The committee rejected a proposal to publish a paperback edition of the Big Book.

It was recommended that A.A. Publishing provide for a basic A.A. book in foreign languages as needed.

The committee recognized the original use of "honest" before "desire to stop drinking" and its deletion from Tradition as part of the evolution of movement, any change to be left to the dis-

cretion of A.A. Publishing.

The committee approved the concept that A.A. Publishing distribute for a year specially priced literature packages of books and pamphlets and report the results to next year's Conference.

1959

The committee approved a new pamphlet for inmate alcoholics.

The committee approved preparation of a pamphlet to inform clergymen of A.A.'s sole purpose and how they can help the alcoholic find sobriety in A.A.

The committee considered a recommendation from the Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies for a brief folder on "Cooperation but Not Affiliation" with outside agencies, and suggested that this be handled as a Grapevine article and reprinted and made available to A.A. members and outside agencies by G.S.O.

1960

It was recommended that, in view of the importance of communicating the A.A. message to non-English-speaking alcoholics in many lands, A.A. World Services, Inc., undertake a thorough study of the immediate and long-range needs for A.A. literature in languages other than English.

1961

The committee recommended retention of the sentence "There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership" in Conference-approved literature.

1962

The committee studied the suggestions in the 1962 *Overseas Conference Report* that condensation of selected G.S.O. service material be prepared for translation into appropriate languages, and recommended that this service material be prepared by G.S.O. in the near future.

The committee recommended that the suggestion for an introductory comic-strip type of A.A. pamphlet be explored further by G.S.O.

A suggestion for preparation of a pamphlet designed to be helpful to social workers was discussed, and the committee recommended that this be given further study by the General Service Office.

The committee accepted Bill's manuscript on "Twelve Concepts" and recommended that it be distributed initially as a supplement to, and eventually an integral part of, the "Third Legacy Manual" (now "The A.A. Service Manual").

1963 It was recommended that:

"Partners, " when revised, be entitled, "The Group Handbook," with the subtitle "How the A.A. Group Starts and Grows."

The need for a study guide to Steps and Traditions or a condensed Twelfth Step book be explored and report back made to the 1964 Conference.

1964 It was recommended that:

The words "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature" be used under the seal on all Conference-approved literature, and that reprints carry the wording "This material has been reprinted with the approval of the A.A. General Service Conference."

A pamphlet, "A.A. in Hospitals," similar to "A.A. in Prisons," be prepared.

The gift edition of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be made available on the occasion of the 30th anniversary in Toronto (full Conference recommendation).

1965 It was recommended that:

A new G.S.R. pamphlet be prepared following the suggestions outlined by the G.S.B. Literature Committee.

The pamphlet "A.A. and the Community" be prepared with emphasis on what A.A. cannot do.

The suggested guideline for conducting newcomers' meetings be used as service material.

In all future pamphlets and in revisions, an effort be made to avoid alphabetical abbreviations and to spell out such abbreviations as G.S.R. and A.A.W.S. "in the interest of clarity and education."

1966 It was recommended that:

The idea of a cartoon format for A.A. Literature be further explored and developed for the purpose of reaching alcoholics who are unable to read well, or who just don't read.

A "Guide for Leading Newcomers' Meetings" be prepared as soon as possible in pamphlet form, and that this guide be placed on the order form.

In recognition of the need for a hardcover book containing Bill's letters, writings, and excerpts from the Grapevine, Big Book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, etc., such a book be published, the format and contents to be determined by the board of trustees; and further, that the title thereof be along the lines of "Selected Writings by Bill."

When the "Third Legacy Manual" (now "The A.A. Service Manual") is updated, it should carry a glossary of terms such as *area*, *district*, *assembly*, etc., so terms can become more uniform throughout the continent.

The sentence "There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership" be retained in the Preamble.

1967

The committee reported that "The A.A. Way of Life" was

anticipated with great interest in all areas; noted enthusiastic reception of the comic book pamphlet, "What Happened to Joe"; voiced high hopes for the Newcomers' Meetings Kit; and expressed interest in upcoming revisions of "A.A. for the Woman," "Young People in A.A.," and "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."

It was suggested that area committees interest groups in Conference-approved literature by using "Let literature carry the message, too" as an agenda item at area meetings and holding discussions on specific pamphlets at sharing sessions and workshops.

The committee recommended to the trustees' Literature Committee that the possibility of translating "What Happened to Joe" into Spanish be explored, and that it ask permission of the Grapevine to reprint Bill's article, "Problems Other Than Alcohol," for use as a pamphlet.

1968 It was recommended that:

Conference-approved literature and G.S.O. Guidelines be displayed and distributed at assembly meetings.

Brief mimeograph service material (not Guideline format) be prepared to provide a listing of source material from Conference-approved literature as an aid to closed-meeting discussions.

The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be brought to the attention of new group officers as they rotate.

A yearly questionnaire be sent to a sampling of A.A. groups to determine literature needs.

1969 It was recommended that:

The story of a young A.A. be added to the next reprint of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and that the present stories be edited, when necessary, in order that current readers will be able to identify.

Material illustrating the General Service Office and the history of A.A. in cartoon style be considered.

More effective ways of displaying Conference-approved literature be explored; that the delegates be polled for their suggestions and results be made available to A.A. groups.

1970 It was recommended that:

Each group choose a member to be responsible for literature display at each meeting.

Occasionally group discussions center around Conference-approved pamphlets such as "Sponsorship," "Is A.A. for You?," "This Is A.A.," or any of the others that would be suitable for such discussions.

The Grapevine reprints of Bill's articles, "Problems Other Than Alcohol" and "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous," be considered by A.A.W.S. for pricing and inclusion in the G.S.O. order blank.

The suggestion of the 1969 Conference Literature Committee that a cartoon-style booklet illustrative of the history of A.A. and service activities of G.S.O. be pursued, but that the history be confined to the early years at G.S.O. so that the project will have cohesion.

"A Clergyman Looks at A.A." be considered for revision if the response from a selected number of A.A. and non-A.A. clergymen to whom it will be mailed for comment warrants it.

Delegates continue to explore the possibility of placing the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and other Conference-approved books in local libraries wherever this has not already been done.

1971 It was recommended that:

The "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet now in preparation be directed toward the alcoholic in the armed services rather than the higher echelon, and that A.A. stories of armed services experiences be forwarded to the committee secretary.

Box 4-5-9 be included on the price list of the regular literature order blank if G.S.O. finds the suggestion feasible.

The delegates assume responsibility for informing A.A.s of all available Conference-approved literature, and that the updated spring and fall literature order blanks which are mailed with *Box 4-5-9* be reviewed at district and assembly meetings.

The Literature Committee, following the general feeling of the Conference, reaffirm both the spirit and the wording of the "I Am Responsible" Declaration from the International Convention held in Toronto in 1965.

The short form of the Twelve Concepts be accepted.

1972 It was recommended that:

G.S.O. be asked to submit suggestions for material and costs with reference to taped literature to the Conference Literature Committee for their recommendations. Deadline: June 1, 1972.

Suggestions for meeting discussion be included in the Group Handbook, using discussion subjects from the A.A. Grapevine if permission is granted.

The Group Inventory material submitted to the committee be recommended to G.S.O. as possible service material.

A cartoon leaflet on service responsibilities be considered by A.A.W.S.

The *Twenty-Four Hour Book* not be confirmed as Conference-approved literature.

It be suggested that when a local A.A. facility (central office, intergroup, group, etc.) sells non-Conference-approved literature, it be clearly designated as such.

G.S.O. review the content of *Box 4-5-9* with the idea of making the material in it more like the kind of information now

included in the Quarterly **Report**.

1973 It was recommended that:

The words "sometimes heavily" be deleted from question 5 in the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?"

The preparation of an illustrated or cartoon-style "Young People and A.A." pamphlet be explored.

The Unity Declaration be added to all A.A. Literature when feasible and economical, and be referred to A.A. World Services, Inc., for follow-through.

A.A.W.S., Inc., be asked to study the possibility of having a reproduction made of the original Big Book .

1974 It was recommended that:

The progress report of the Big Book subcommittee be approved with the added suggestion that a story regarding retired persons be particularly considered.

The pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be reviewed and rewritten to include Twelfth Step calls as well as sponsorship, with a new suggested title: "Twelfth Step Calls and Sponsorship."

In memory of A. A.'s co-founders, the last talk of each be prepared in pamphlet form and distributed.

The Grapevine reprints "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous," "Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends," and "Problems Other Than Alcohol" be prepared in standard pamphlet form.

The trustees' Literature Committee explore the need for a pamphlet on taking the Fourth and Fifth Steps.

1975 It was recommended that:

The original "Is A.A. for You?" pamphlet be dropped and the simplified version be used.

"The Alcoholic Husband" and "The Alcoholic Wife" be combined into one pamphlet called "The Alcoholic Mate" or another appropriate title.

The reprints "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous," "Our Critics Can Be Our Benefactors," and "A.A. as a Community Resource" be dropped.

A paragraph to an appropriate A.A. pamphlet dealing with the problem of the use of mood-changing pills by A.A. members who hold group office should *not* be added because it was felt that this decision is up to local autonomy.

An illustrated pamphlet like "What Happened to Joe" and "It Happened to Alice," directed to teenage and pre-teenage alcoholics, be prepared.

Two teenage stories be added to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A."

Previous Conference action to display non-Conference-approved literature and Conference-approved literature **separately** be reaffirmed.

A feasibility study regarding a paperback edition of the Big Book and alternatives be made and reported on at the 1976 Conference.

1976 It was recommended that:

Delegates take back to their areas a statement to the effect that the Big Book, **Alcoholics Anonymous**, third edition, is not being changed-that only the stories have been updated and some new ones added.

The pamphlet "So You Think You're Different" have a new title-"Do You Think You're Different?"-and that the agnostic story, "My Name Is Jan," be added, and the Spanish story, "My Name Is Maria," be deleted.

The new title for the combined pamphlets "The Alcoholic Wife" and "The Alcoholic Husband" be "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?" with a subtitle, "A.A.'s message of hope." The third draft was accepted as presented.

The new title for the teenage cartoon pamphlet be "Teenagers and A.A." The manuscript was unanimously accepted.

Action on pamphlets directed to special groups of alcoholics be deferred until after the publication of "Do You Think You're Different?"

The present terminology used regarding the word "suggested" when referring to the Twelve Steps is consistent with that employed in the Big Book, Twelve and Twelve, and other A.A. literature, and should remain as is.

The trustees' Literature Committee look into reproducing "How It Works" in wallet-sized cards.

1977 It was recommended that:

A story be added to the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" under the title "My name is _____ and I am an alcoholic (with a language barrier)," and that the emphasis in the story should be on feeling the barrier rather than on the particular language, for example, Spanish or French.

The Conference-approved seal on A.A. Literature remain as it is.

The proposal on "Living Sober Longer" not be pursued further as there is not sufficient need for such a pamphlet.

The Responsibility Declaration not be changed as it was made at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto.

Literature survey results be mailed to all delegates within a few months.

A.A.W.S. proceed with the project of a joint biography of Dr. Bob and Bill.

The publication of a facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book should not be undertaken as it would destroy the sentimental value of the actual first edition.

It was suggested that A.A. groups be discouraged from selling literature not distributed by the General Service Office and the Grapevine.

1978 It was recommended that:

Neither a story about someone with a language barrier nor a story about a physician be added to the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" at this time.

In the next printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the foreword of the second edition be included as it was originally published in the second edition.

It was strongly recommended that the delegates should be made aware of any changes under consideration in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* prior to publication.

No changes be made in the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?," as there is no need for clarification,

The test film shown to the Conference Literature Committee be expanded to a film approximately 25 minutes in length for the purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the general public with the understanding that the film will be presented to the 1979 General Service Conference for approval prior to distribution.

A change be made in the scope of the committee to read: "To review new literature and audiovisual needs," and that this proposal be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review at its quarterly meeting in July in order to avoid possible overlap or duplication of the various Conference committees' functions.

1979 It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be expanded to include previous Conference Advisory Actions recommending that A.A. groups should not be named after institutions in which they meet or for persons either living or deceased, and that the word "family" should not be part of the name of the group.

Jo's story be substituted for Lisa's story in the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." when it is next reprinted.

The Twelve Steps of A.A. be included in the pamphlet "Too Young?" when it is next reprinted.

A voice-over be added at the end of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous--An Inside View," repeating that film techniques have been employed to protect the anonymity of A.A. members. With this addition, the committee recommended that the film be approved by the Conference.

With regard to the distribution of the film "Alcoholics Anonymous--An Inside View":

- a. A.A. World Services retain ownership of the film and control distribution of each copy.
- b. During its first year, the film be released only to those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, and that the area delegate be notified of *all* requests from his or her area for the film.
- c. Priority for distributing the film would be: (1) A.A. service entities, such as public information committees and institutions committees; (2) those with an expressed, direct interest in helping the sick alcoholic, such as treatment programs and professional groups; and (3) schools, churches, service clubs, etc.
- d. Although the film is intended *primarily* for use outside A.A., prints be made available on a rental basis to any A.A. entities wishing to show it.
- e. With the exception of one or two selected test areas, the use of the film on television be delayed for one year to give the General Service Conference an opportunity to gain real experience with the reaction of the Fellowship and the public to the film.
- f. Anyone involved in showing the film during the coming year be asked to submit a brief evaluation on a prepared form to G.S.O.
- g. The results of the evaluation and the distribution policy be reviewed by the 1980 Conference Public Information committee.

The pamphlet for the older alcoholic be approved by the Conference with the title "Now It's Time to Start Living" and the subtitle "Stories of Those Who Came to A.A. in Their Later Years."

No pamphlet or booklet concerning the Fourth Step be considered at this time because this information is provided in the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

The biographies of Dr. Bob and Bill W. be published as separate books rather than as a joint biography.

A study committee composed of delegates, trustees, and staff be appointed to study the advisability of, and procedures for, having Conference-approved literature and service material distributed by G.S.O.

1980 It was recommended that:

The change in the title of the pamphlet for older people, from "Now It's Time to Start Living" to "Time to Start Living," be approved.

The unedited manuscript of "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers" be accepted.

The pamphlet from Great Britain entitled "A Newcomer Asks" be adopted and adapted.

The Responsibility Declaration not be changed.

The suggestion to add a definition of the slogans to the book *As Bill Sees It* not be accepted because it was felt that the slogans may be defined in many different ways.

The following pamphlets, leaflets, and flyers be approved with their present content:

- “Where Do I Go From Here?”
- “Your A.A. G.S.O.”
- “G.S .R.”
- “Self-Supporting? The 60-30- 10 Plan”
- “Inside A. A.”
- “Carrying the Message Inside the Walls”
- “Circles of Love and Service”
- “A.A. in Your Community”
- “A. A. at a Glance”
- “The A. A. Member”
- “If You Are a Professional”

Any factual or statistical information may be updated whenever practical without having to go through the process of Conference action, i.e., whenever inventory runs low, a new survey is completed, etc. In addition, minor copy cuts to make room for new material added to publications may be made when necessary.

Since A.A. Guidelines are a reflection of collective experience that is shared through G.S.O., relating to specialized topics not necessarily relevant to all groups or A.A. members generally (i.e., armed forces, clubs, answering services, occupational programs), the A.A. Guidelines may be produced or revised when new information or other contingencies arise, at the discretion of the G.S.O. staff without Conference approval.

The Conference-approved seal may be positioned or placed wherever practical on a piece of literature so approved.

1981 It was recommended that:

The suggestion to publish a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be tabled until the 1982 Conference to allow time for all delegates to get the group conscience from the groups in their areas.

The suggestion to publish a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be placed on the 1982 Conference Literature Committee agenda.

The suggestion to include information about meeting newcomers from treatment centers “where they are” be added to “The A.A. Group” pamphlet when it is next reprinted; the suggested information to read as follows:

Welcoming newcomers from treatment centers keeping in mind that they usually have already gotten sober and have been given some introduction to the A.A. program.

The suggestion to put a two-year moratorium on any new literature not be accepted.

A subcommittee be formed, consisting of a member from each

trustee committee involved in the preparation of literature, to review already existing pamphlets with an eye to which pamphlets could be combined or dropped; and their report be given to the 1982 Conference.

A footnote be added to Tradition Eight in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, page 169, to update the job description of present-day G.S.O. staff members; the suggested footnote to read as follows:

The work of present-day staff members has no counterpart among the job categories of commercial organizations. These A.A.s bring a wide range of business and professional experience to their service at G.S.O.

The suggestion to include the Twelve Traditions in all recovery pamphlets when feasible be accepted.

1982 It was recommended that:

A draft of a pamphlet be developed for the homosexual alcoholic to be considered by next year's Conference.

The suggestion that a filmstrip be produced on the functions of central and intergroup offices not be approved.

Since the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* is available on cassette tapes, there is no need to print the book in large type at this time.

The suggestion to seek Conference approval for “Problems Other Than Alcohol (Excerpts)” be approved.

An index and illustrations be included in “The A.A. Group” pamphlet.

The following sentence be added in bold type on the cover of A.A. directories under the caveat “CONFIDENTIAL”: “This directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture.”

1983 It was recommended that:

The distribution of the pamphlet “The A.A. Member and Drug Abuse” be continued at this time until it is revised for consideration by the 1984 Conference.

The revision of Chapter 21 of the booklet “Living Sober” be accepted. The following changes be made in the pamphlets:

- a. “Is A. A. for You?”-Substitute the following words: “disease” for “sick,” and “alcohol” for “booze.” Question #4 should be changed to read “Have you had to have an eye-opener on awakening?”
- b. “This Is A.A.”-Page 5; paragraph 1 should be changed to read: “There are a number of self-proclaimed atheists and agnostics among us.”
- c. “It Happened to Alice”-Should be brought up to date visually. On page 19, the word “fun” should be put in quotes.

- d. "What Happened to Joe?"-Should be brought up to date visually.
- e. "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship"- Consider changing the wording on page 15, paragraph 3; and page 13, paragraph 2. The wording should be clear in answering the question on page 13, paragraph 2: "Is a special approach needed for present-day newcomers?"
- f. The revised manuscript of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet not be approved at this time and be returned for further revision.

The word "suggested" in the title of the Twelve Steps not be reinstated.

The 1983 draft of the pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be approved for circulation to Conference members, so that the 1984 Conference may make an informed policy decision as to whether or not the Fellowship will publish and distribute a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic.

The suggestion that a filmstrip be produced on the functions of central and intergroup offices not be approved; and that the 1982 Conference Advisory Action regarding the suggestion for this filmstrip be reaffirmed.

1984 It was recommended that:

The Bill Wilson biography be approved with the title "Pass It On."

"A.A.The First Fifty Years" not be approved.

The words "queers" (p. 140) in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* not be changed to "homosexuals and lesbians," recognizing Fellowship feeling that Bill Wilson's textbook writings be retained as originally published.

"The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs" be approved with some revision, to replace "The A.A. Member and Drug Abuse."

The General Service Conference not develop a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic, as the need is currently addressed in "Do You Think You're Different?"

The draft of a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be dropped.

"The A.A. Group" pamphlet not be illustrated, as artwork is not necessary.

Adding an index to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet is not necessary*

"The A.A. Group" pamphlet continue to be distributed with its current content generally intact, as a major revision is not necessary.

The trustees' Literature Committee review "The A.A. Group" pamphlet with an eye toward underscoring the importance of an informed group conscience.

The text of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" referring to "What's the difference between a meeting' and a group?" (pp. 32-33) be retained, as the text reflects the spirit of local autonomy.

A "Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet suggested by the trustees' Literature Committee be developed for consideration by the 1985 General Service Conference.

A pamphlet or manual for A.A. central offices/ intergroups not be developed.

The updated illustrations for "What Happened to Joe" and "It Happened to Alice" be approved.

The updated version of "P.O. Box 459" filmstrip be approved.

1985 It was recommended that:

Preparation of a brochure or pamphlet of a condensed version of the Twelve Concepts be tabled until the 1986 General Service Conference, pending development of the "Twelve Concepts Illustrated."

As a condensed version of the Twelve Concepts would be especially valuable to service workers, the manuscript be reproduced and distributed by the General Service Office as service material.

A.A.W.S., Inc. produce cassette tapes of A.A. *Comes of Age*.

A.A.W.S., Inc. explore the financial feasibility of reproducing the photographs from A.A. *Comes of Age* in a brochure to accompany the cassette album of the same title.

There is no need to add reference to the Big Book as our basic recovery source in all pamphlets and other literature.

There is no need to develop a pamphlet offering guidelines for A.A. meeting discussions.

The previous Conference actions regarding the Fourth and Fifth Step study guides be reaffirmed-i.e., there is no need for Fourth and Fifth Step study guides as existing literature adequately covers these matters.

Suggested editorial revisions in "Your A.A. G.S.O." pamphlet be approved:

- a. ARCHIVES-replace the question "When did our group start?" with "When did A.A. start in our area?" (The question "When did our A.A. group start?" is now handled in our Records Department.)
- b. WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR G.S.O.?- Under "share your experience"-line three- rewrite "A.A.s help more alcoholics" to read "A.A.s carry our message."

1986 It was recommended that:

The manuscript and illustrations for the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" be approved.

A definitive book on A.A. history from 1955-1985 be prepared and brought to the 1987 Conference for consideration.

In an effort to strengthen our network of "literature representatives" to ensure that A.A. Literature is available at meetings, as well as catalog order forms for books and cassettes that individuals are likely to want, it is suggested that groups appoint literature coordinators.

The trustees' Committee on Literature complete the updating of the pamphlet "Too Young?" for presentation at the 1987 Conference for approval.

The following pamphlets be updated, if possible, in time for presentation at the 1987 Conference for approval:

- a. "Young People and A.A."
- b. "A.A. and the Armed Forces"

As the preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary.

The italicized footnotes regarding Al-Anon at the end of the chapter "To Wives" in the Big Book be retained, as it provides information rather than implying affiliation, but that it be printed in small type as appropriate to a footnote and placed at the bottom of the page.

A story of a gay alcoholic not be included in the Big Book.

There was no need to publish a separate and complete volume of all stories taken from the three editions of the Big Book.

The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, with the exception of Bill W.'s writings, as the items are reprinted, e.g., "staffing the booth" rather than "manning the booth," etc.

In order to determine the need to put more literature in large print, Conference members seek the experience of A.A. members and agencies for the visually impaired and report the findings to the G.S.O. literature coordinator within the year.

A service item for use at A.A. meetings regarding A.A.'s primary purpose be developed by the appropriate trustees' committee and proposed to the appropriate Conference committee at the 1987 Conference.

In "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, in the section "What Do Treasurers Do," the text relating to the 60-30-10 Plan be reworded to reflect that this suggested plan for groups to divide contributions to A.A. service entities is only applicable in some areas, and reference be made to the finance pamphlet "Supporting the A.A. Support System."

The updated draft for "A.A. for the Woman" be accepted with the exception of the story "I Hated Monday Mornings . . .," and that production proceed under the direction of the trustees' Literature Committee.

In order to determine the need for a daily reflections book, the Conference members ask A.A. members in their areas and report the findings to the G.S.O. literature coordinator by January 1, 1987, for consideration by the 1987 Conference.

The spirit of the 1977 Conference action regarding group literature displays be reaffirmed, and recommended the suggestion that A.A. groups be encouraged to display or sell only literature published and distributed by the General Service Office, the A.A. Grapevine and other A.A. entities.

Because the story section is still up to date, there is no need to develop a fourth edition of the Big Book at this time.

To establish the need for additional formats of the Big Book, an explicit questionnaire (describing the preferred Lexitone--softcover-samples of (1) the pocket size and (2) first eleven chapters, plus Dr. Bob's story) be developed for use by the delegates in surveying A.A. groups in their areas. It is further recommended that area delegates be responsible for distributing the questionnaire and returning them to G.S.O. by July 15, 1986, and that the results be reported to all Conference members by August 1, 1986. Should the survey results indicate, in the judgment of the General Service Board, substantial requests for additional format(s), A.A.W.S. may act as necessary*

1987 It was recommended that:

The following statement regarding A.A.'s primary purpose be available as an A.A. service piece.

THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. In support of A.A.'s singleness of purpose, attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting. We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems, as they relate to alcoholism.

The following statement regarding A.A.'s primary purpose be available as an A.A. service piece.

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here--especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

The updated manuscript for "Too Young?" be approved.

Because of insufficient expressed need, no large-print literature for the visually impaired be prepared at this time.

Although there is some desire to publish the first 181 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in soft-cover, there is not sufficient need at this time.

The trustees' Literature Committee undertake development of a daily reflections book based on individual A.A.'s (including Bill W.'s) sharing based on the Traditions and Steps, and that a progress report be submitted to the 1988 Conference Literature Committee.

A pamphlet for the Native North American be prepared by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 1988 General Service Conference.

The Grapevine Corporate Board consider publishing a special issue written by Native North Americans and devoted to their recovery stories.

The following editorial changes be made in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet:

Since a number of groups send their inventories to G.S.O. that are mainly helpful only to themselves, the parenthetical sentence on page 34, "(If your group tries an inventory, please let G.S.O. know the results.)" be changed to read: (Please share with G.S.O. those benefits of your group's inventory which might be of help to other groups.)"

To reaffirm A.A.'s purpose as stated by our co-founder, Bill W.'s writings on "Single Purpose" as they appear on page 304 in "As Bill Sees It" be added to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.

The phrase on page 25 that reads: "... the stigma attached by ignorant people to our illness ..." be changed to read "the stigma attached by people ignorant of our illness ..."

The phrase on page 30 that reads: "Most of us do not want to cater to the cruel stigma unjustly attached by ignorant people ..." be changed to "Most of us do not want to cater to the cruel stigma unjustly attached by people ignorant of our illness ..."

The phrase on page 33 that reads: "On the other hand, specialized groups-men's, women's, gays' ..." be changed to read "On the other hand, specialized gatherings-men's, women's, gays' ... because, although the intent was to use the word "group" in a generic sense, its use confuses the issue about the difference between a meeting and a group.

In the pamphlet "44 Questions," page 19, the language be changed to read "Most members arrange to attend meetings as frequently as possible," rather than "Most members arrange to attend at least one meeting a week."

The trustees' Literature Committee further explore the need for simplified material for those with limited vocabularies and report its findings to the 1988 Conference.

A report on the progress of The History of A.A.: 1955-1985 book be made to the 1988 General Service Conference.

It was recommended, by a floor action, that:

A report on the progress of The History of A.A.: 1955-1985 book be made to the 1988 General Service Conference.

1988 It was recommended that:

Work continue on the A.A. history book, and that this be subject to further editing through the coordinating efforts of each regional trustee with each delegate for further updating, corrections, and additional information.

The revision of the manuscript of "A.A. in the Armed Services" be accepted with the following changes:

The Marine story from the current pamphlet "A.A. in the Armed Services" be included in the revised pamphlet.

The manuscript be returned for editing of Charles' story, to include consideration of references to "drug addictions."

The copy on the A.A. Group Structure be approved with the following additions:

- a. That "Cooperation With the Professional Community/Public Information Representatives" be added to the diagram entitled "Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group."
- b. That the term "institutions representative" be changed to "treatment facilities/correctional facilities representative."
- c. That the six-point definition of an A.A. group found on page 32 of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be added to the copy of the second paragraph.

The copy on the structure of an A.A. group be added as a chapter to *The A.A. Service Manual*, pending approval by the Conference Report and Charter Committee.

The copy on the structure of an A.A. group be:

- a. Produced as a flyer suitable for insertion in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, and also as a continuing piece of literature.
- b. Included in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet at the next revision.

The copy "The Home Group" be accepted for inclusion in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet with the following stipulations:

- a. That the third paragraph, page two be underlined, "*Obviously, as with all group conscience matters, each A.A. member has one vote, and this, ideally, would be through their Home Group.*"
- b. That on page three, paragraph three, line two, "... and greeting newcomers at the door" be added.
- c. That where repetition of information occurs in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, it be deleted.

"Specialized *gatherings*" found on page 33 of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be changed to "specialized *meetings*."

The article in the April/May issue of *Box 4-5-9* entitled "Service Sponsorship: A Vital Stepping-Stone to Service and Sobriety" be prepared as a service piece with "Kiwanis Club types" on page four, paragraph two, line three, changed to "Club types."

The manuscript for the Native North American not be approved as presented, but that this manuscript be returned for editing to include consideration of the references to drug addiction, chemical dependency, "junkie" and "clean" and then upon completion of editing be approved for publication.

A more simplified draft of an easy-to-read, illustrated pamphlet of "Is A.A. for You?" be prepared for consideration by the 1989 Conference.

"This is A.A." and "44 Questions" as illustrated flyers not be published at this time.

A simplified, easy-to-read, illustrated "Twelve Steps" pamphlet be prepared for consideration by the 1989 Conference.

Work continue on the Daily Reflections Book and that a request be made for additional manuscripts to be submitted from the Fellowship on any Step, Tradition, or writings by Bill W. coordinated through each delegate with a progress report to be presented at the 1989 Conference.

The Primary Purpose Card continue as a service piece.

The 1980 Task Force recommendation and Conference Action be reaffirmed.

"Any factual or statistical information may be updated whenever practical without having to go through the process of Conference Action, i.e., whenever inventory runs low, a new survey is completed, etc. In addition, minor copy cuts to make room for new material added to publications may be made when necessary."

And further recommended:

"That any other changes made in the substance of the Conference-approved literature shall be through the Conference process."

The revised pamphlet "Young People in A.A." be approved for publication with one following revision, that all personal reference be removed from page 51, line 3.

The Self-support flyer "Your DCM" be Conference approved.

A draft of a pamphlet for the gay/lesbian alcoholic be prepared and reviewed by the 1989 Conference.

It was recommended, by a floor action, that:

A proposal from the Northern Minnesota area regarding the use of surveys to determine the need for Conference-approved literature be referred to the appropriate committee for consid-

eration at the 1989 General Service Conference.

1989 It was recommended that:

Work continue on a definitive book on A.A. History from 1955, as recommended by the 1986 General Service Conference, along the lines of a proposal recently submitted to the trustees' Literature Committee, which focuses on major events and developments since the co-founder turned A.A. over to the Fellowship, rather than focusing on the beginning of A.A. and the history of the 91 areas of the U.S. and Canada

A complete manuscript of Daily Reflections be prepared for review by the 1990 Conference Literature Committee because of the good response to the appeals for additional material from the Fellowship.

Work continue on an easy-to-read, illustrated Twelve Steps pamphlet suitable for people with very limited reading skills.

An illustrated, easy-to-read manuscript entitled "Is A.A. for Me?" be approved to help carry the message to people with limited reading skills.

The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be thoroughly revised to address the many issues and concerns related to A.A. groups which come before the committee year after year such as:

- a. The difference between a group and a meeting;
- b. Meeting formats;
- c. How to obtain a group conscience;
- d. The duties of trusted servants and their alternates;

and, others, as described in an outline of contents submitted by the trustees' Literature Committee.

The manuscript for a pamphlet for gay and lesbian alcoholics be approved with specific editorial changes which will be reviewed by the Conference Literature Committee before publication, and that the title be "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic."

The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be made available in large print because of an indicated need over the years.

The 16mm film entitled "A.A.--An Inside View" be made available for sale in lieu of long-term lease with the understanding that the film's copyright is sufficient protection against misuse by outside entities. This recommendation is consistent with our distribution policy for our more recent films which are available to the general public.

It was recommended, by a floor action, that:

The trustees' Literature Committee and the Conference Literature Committee consider the paragraph containing the 6-point definition in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, and bring a report and recommendation regarding this back to the 1991 General Service Conference.

1990 It was recommended that:

The revised manuscript for “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be approved with the following change:

The first sentence in the section on Group Inventory, manuscript page 47, be changed to read: “Many groups periodically hold a ‘group inventory’ meeting to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose: to help alcoholics recover through A.A.’s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery.”

The A.A. History book project continue to completion, and that the time frame covered be expanded to include 1955 to the present.

The manuscript of the daily reflections book be approved with the following specific changes:

- a. All references to “we” be changed to “I.”
- b. The page for June 17 delete the words “(Psalm 130)” from line 1 of the reflection.
- c. There be an addition of a page for February 29; that page to be the “alternate” for March entitled “True Tolerance.”
- d. That these words be imprinted on the cover of the book: “This is a book of reflections by A.A. members for A.A. members .”

The text and illustrations for the proposed Twelve Steps Illustrated pamphlet be referred to the trustees’ Literature Committee for rewriting of the easy-to-read text, with the recommendation that this language be further simplified and shortened into simple statements that would direct attention to the illustrations, without attempting to rewrite the Steps; and bring the text back to the 1991 General Service Conference for approval.

The proposal for a pamphlet on the spiritual aspects of A.A. not be approved, because there is not sufficient need at this time.

The trustees’ Literature Committee study the feasibility of updating the “Circles of Love and Service” filmstrip and video, because of the need to include current information and conditions, and report their findings to the 1991 Conference Literature Committee.

The trustees’ Literature Committee and the Conference Literature Committee consider the paragraph containing the six-point definition in “The A.A. Group” pamphlet, and bring a report and recommendation regarding this back to the **1991 General Service Conference**.

1991 It was recommended that:

The A.A. History Book project continue to completion, and that a manuscript be forwarded to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee for consideration and approval.

The eleven minor changes suggested by the trustees’ Literature

Committee and revised by this committee be included at the next printing of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet, with the exception of insert #2 containing the six-point definition of an A.A. group, which will be deleted.

The “Circles of Love and Service” filmstrip, slides and video not be updated, and that these visual formats be discontinued once the present inventory is depleted. Thereafter, should there be requests for a copy of the video format, it will be provided at cost.

The proposed Twelve Steps Illustrated pamphlet be published, in response to an expressed need for simplified literature. Estimated cost: \$7,000.

A story of a young person who entered A.A. while in prison be added to the “Young People and A.A.” pamphlet.

- a. The trustees’ Correctional Facilities Committee obtain appropriate stories of several young people who entered A.A. while in juvenile correctional facilities, and forward these to the trustees’ Literature Committee for consideration.
- b. The trustees’ Literature Committee forward one such story to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee for consideration and addition to the “Young People and A.A.” pamphlet.

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be added to *Daily Reflections* at the time of the next printing.

- a. The text of the proposed reflection titled “One A.A. Miracle” be substituted for the present February 29th entry in *Daily Reflections* at the next printing, because of the duplication of entries in the current printing.

The trustees’ Literature Committee study the best possible ways to carry our message to minorities through illustrations and text in A.A. literature, including existing publications and audio and visual formats, and report their findings to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee.

At the next printing of “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” pamphlet, the line ‘It is significant that the ‘Twelve Concepts for World Service’ is the only piece of Conference-approved literature that carries a personal by-line: ‘by Bill W.,’ ” be deleted, as that statement is no longer accurate.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be published in large print, in response to an expressed need. Estimated cost of proofreading: \$500.

The questionnaires in seven Conference-approved pamphlets not be standardized, as the questions in each are targeted to specific populations.

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be included in all recovery literature, wherever possible.

1992 It was recommended that:

The story of “John” (a young person who entered A.A. while

in prison) be added to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." as per the 1991 Conference Action.

The 1986 Advisory Actions (listed below) pertaining to sexist language in the Big Book and other Bill W. writings adequately address the issue:

"As the preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary." (Advisory Action #3 1)

"The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, with the exception of Bill W.'s writings, as the items are reprinted, e.g., 'staffing the booth' rather than 'manning the booth,' etc." (Advisory Action #35)

In lieu of a moratorium on new literature, the ongoing Literature Advisory Subcommittee composed of trustees, delegates and G.S.O. staff continue to review in depth all current and proposed Conference-approved material and service pieces to assure that:

- a. we discourage unnecessary duplication;
- b. we encourage that our singleness of purpose is foremost;
- c. we encourage simplification wherever possible;

and report back to the 1993 General Service Conference.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service (short form) be included in all service pamphlets, wherever feasible.

The six-point definition of an A.A. group be removed from all literature and replaced by the long form of Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six, Concept XII (listed below):

Tradition Three:

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

Warranty Six:

"... much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the A.A. Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group: no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles; no fees or dues to be levied-voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from A.A.--membership always to be the choice of the individual; each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes-it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation."

The trustees' Literature Committee review the terminology of "minorities" and consider that our singleness of purpose is carrying the message to *alcoholics*.

The new A.A. History Book manuscript be returned to the 1992 Conference Literature Committee for further review, and then forwarded to the 1993 Conference Literature Committee.

It was recommended, by a floor action, that:

The trustees' Committee on Literature develop material on Service Sponsorship to be forwarded to the 43rd General Service Conference Committee on Report and Charter for possible inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

1993 It was recommended that:

A.A.W.S. produce an anonymity display card with the following verbiage:

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. Please respect this and treat in confidence who you see and what you hear."

Because of strong sentiment against any changes in the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the request to rewrite the first three chapters of the Big Book not be implemented.

The 1977 Advisory Action pertaining to the production of a facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book be reaffirmed:

"The publication of a facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book should not be undertaken as it would destroy the sentimental value of the actual first edition."

The committee further felt no need exists for such a book.

A.A.W.S. produce a pocket-sized version of the Big Book with all front matter (Preface and various forewords, Doctor's Opinion), basic text, Dr. Bob's Story and Appendices.

The A.A. History Book project be deferred for two years so that a new team of A.A. servants can look at the History Book with fresh ideas.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE*

1955 It was recommended that:

The trustees' Public Information Committee provide specific suggestions regarding all acceptable methods of preserving anonymity during TV appearances.

The committee adopted a resolution affirming the importance

* Formerly the Committee on Relations with Other Agencies

of anonymity and approved its wide distribution to press, broadcasting, and other media. (Reaffirmed in 1958, 1961, and 1968.)

1960

A report in question and answer form was prepared and approved by the General Service Conference. It was then referred to the Literature Committee with the suggestion that this Fact File containing a sharing of experience on A.A.'s relations with outside organizations be published as a pamphlet. (This material was incorporated in a revision of the pamphlet "Cooperation But Not Affiliation" in 1962.)

1961 It was recommended that:

Ever mindful of A.A.'s traditional policy of "cooperation, yes-affiliation, no," the Public Information Committee, when requested to do so, continue to meet with organizations outside A.A. concerned with the problem of alcoholism for the purpose of improving communications and understanding and discussing mutual problems.

1962 It was recommended that:

Delegates be encouraged to establish and maintain communications with directors of state-supported alcoholism agencies within their respective areas.

Approval be given to the new policy recommended by the Public Information Committee that A.A. exhibits be available for display at meetings of appropriate national professional groups without restriction as to the geographic areas they represent.

1963

The committee approved a Questions and Answers section to be included in the pamphlet "Cooperation But Not Affiliation," clarifying A.A.'s lack of formal relationship to retreats.

The committee reaffirmed continuing cooperation on the part of the board and the Public Information Committee with the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, and that delegates be encouraged to maintain communications with alcoholism agencies in their areas.

1964 It was recommended that:

G.S.O. put into effect, in cases involving possible misunderstanding of A.A.'s relationship to retreats, a procedure similar to that followed in cases of anonymity breaks. (Persons believed to be responsible for creating an erroneous impression that A.A. as a society sponsors retreats should be advised that this is not the case, and their attention should be directed to the section Questions and Answers on Retreats in the pamphlet "Cooperation But Not Affiliation.")

The statement prepared by the Public Information Committee defining "A.A.'s Position in the Field of Alcoholism" be accepted by the Conference.

1965 It was recommended that:

The Conference reaffirm the comment on question 16 in the pamphlet "Cooperation But Not Affiliation," and request publication of the following in the A.A. Grapevine:

Experience shows that A.A. groups and intergroups or central committees should not operate or manage these ventures. Individual A.A.s frequently set up such related facilities, being careful not to use the A.A. name in solicitation, advertising, and publicity. These ventures are usually set up on a non-profit basis, incorporated under the charitable and educational laws of the state, and excluding "Alcoholics Anonymous" from their names.

Hospitals and rest homes and other community rehabilitation aids bear the same relationship to A.A. groups, intergroups, or central committees as do any other outside agencies. With full cooperation of the groups in the community they are used for referral, provided A.A.'s tradition of nonendorsement and nonaffiliation is made clear.

Since these ventures are separate from the Fellowship, it is advisable that they operate under names which do not link them to A.A.-under names other than "Twelfth Step House," "Alanon House," etc.

1966 It was recommended that:

The name of the Conference Committee on Other Agencies be changed to Conference Committee on Public Information.

Delegates screen requests for the *World Directory* from outside A.A.

It be reaffirmed that the color-sound film "Bill's Own Story" is for use by A.A. groups only, not for agencies outside A.A.

1967

The committee requested the General Service Board Public Information Committee to provide specific suggestions as to all acceptable techniques for preserving anonymity of A.A. members during appearances on TV programs.

The committee approved the position paper on rehabilitation centers to the effect that such rehabs, rest homes, and hospitals *are not* part of A.A. and, therefore, are not responsible for adhering to the Traditions of A.A.

The committee discussed ways that A.A.s can best participate in the Annual Alcoholism Information Week, such as holding public meetings and appearing on programs when invited, provided anonymity is preserved, and suggested the trustees' Public Information Committee provide information concerning A.A. policy on this matter one month in advance of the event.

1968 It was recommended that:

The showing of the full face of an A.A. member at the level of press, TV, and films is a violation of our tradition of anonymity, even though the name is withheld.

The committee confirmed the Tradition of self-support by

agreeing that telephone meetings in which the telephone company makes its facilities available without charge are not within this Tradition.

The committee reviewed and approved the pamphlet "The Fellowship for Alcoholics Anonymous," with minor changes, and it will now carry the seal.

1969 It was recommended that:

The General Service Conference approve the following resolution of the trustees' Policy Committee and the General Service Board of Trustees:

We will endeavor to avoid participation on radio and TV programs, unless

- a. We are given adequate time for preparation
- b. Our presence will serve an A.A. objective
- c. The primary discussion is appropriate for A.A. not concerned with crime, sex, controversy or any other sensationalism
- d. We are satisfied our anonymity is guaranteed.

Material be prepared and included in P.I. Kits which emphasizes the importance of local public information committees taking care that their announcements, public meetings, and releases to news media concern the A.A. program of recovery and not the professional field of alcoholism.

1970 It was recommended that:

A brief statement be prepared—no longer than the A.A. Preamble—explaining why A.A. retains the tradition of anonymity at the media and film level.

The idea of combining all present material pertaining to radio-TV appearances by A.A. members with a new memo covering discussion topics for such shows be approved.

A small folder (similar to the Management folder) be considered for use in schools.

1971

The committee approved the Anonymity Statement presented by the trustees' Public Information Committee with the following reservation: That it be made clear that disclosing one's A.A. membership to those outside A.A. be a matter of personal choice and not a matter of obligation. With this in mind, the committee suggests the revision of certain paragraphs and wishes to see the revised draft before it is put into circulation.

It was recommended that:

The wallet card Anonymity Statement (suggested by the 1970 Conference) be accepted, and further suggested that the term "self-aggrandizement" be eliminated in favor of a simpler and more easily pronounced word.

"A Student's Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" (suggested by the 1970 Conference) be accepted for publication with minor revisions.

The survey proposed by the trustees' Public Information Committee be undertaken.

Delegates obtain the thinking of their areas on possible uses of the Bill W. Memorial Fund and communicate their findings to the trustees for guidance.

The committee noted that the use of full names and addresses, *where indicated*, could improve communications within A.A.

Following some discussion of a local problem involving the alleged use of the A.A. name in a fund-raising appeal, delegates reaffirmed the right of any A.A. member or General Service Board member to serve and have his name placed on the letterhead of another organization when not identified as an A.A. member or a member of A.A.'s General Service Board.

The Conference reaffirmed that the A.A. name never be linked with other organizations for fundraising purposes.

1972 It was recommended that:

Special discount packages for use in schools be made available to local public information committees and other interested A.A. members.

Where there is no public information committee, it is the delegate's responsibility to form one in his area with the help of qualified and dedicated individuals.

The pamphlet "A Brief Guide to A.A." (formerly "A Student's Guide to A.A.") be approved.

1973 It was recommended that:

The P.I. Kit be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Public Information to keep it effective and up to date.

All delegates cooperate with public information committee chairmen (in areas where there is a P.I. committee) in an effort to share public information experiences, both good and bad, with G.S.O. so that others might benefit via the P.I. *Bulletin*.

1974

The 1974 General Service Conference approved the proposal for the 1974 A.A. survey and the delegates agreed to cooperate in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires.

It was recommended that:

In accordance with the General Service Board's recommendation, the film "Bill's Own Story" be released to Al-Anon groups under the same conditions as to A.A. groups.

The wording of the Eleventh Tradition remain as is and that the delegates explain at the local level that "TV" is implicit in the last phrase of the Tradition, which reads: "... at the level of

press, radio, and film.” It was noted that in the P.I. Manual, the word “TV” is included as part of the Eleventh Tradition. The committee requests that this be deleted in the next printing of the Manual.

The following Conference action of 1968 be reaffirmed:

The showing of the full face of an A.A. member, identified as an A.A. member, at the level of press, TV, and film, is a violation of our Tradition of Anonymity even though the name is withheld.

G.S.O. make available to delegates the annual anonymity letter to the press so that it can be distributed by them to smaller newspapers in their areas

1975 It was recommended that:

The annual anonymity letter continue to be sent to delegates.

The present Public Information Guidelines be revised so that they will provide specific suggestions for P. I. speakers, and also information to assist delegates in setting up public information committees at the area level where there is a need and a desire for this assistance.

1976 It was recommended that:

A.A. members speaking at non-A.A. meetings refrain from getting involved in a discussion regarding mood-changing drugs.

The new pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” be included in the P.I. Kit.

The P.I. Kit be sent to all members of the Conference Committee on Public Information.

For communication purposes, consideration be given to a joint meeting of the Conference and trustees’ Committees on Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, and Institutions.

1977 It was recommended that:

The A.A. membership survey be conducted in June 1977 with the cooperation of the area delegate.

Thirty- rather than 60-second TV and radio spots are desirable. New TV spots are not needed at this time. It was suggested there be wider distribution of our current spots. It was further recommended that our TV spots be shown to all delegates at future Conferences.

G.S.O. prepare a one-sheet flyer about A.A. In addition to distributing the flyer to local P.I. committees, students, and civic groups, it would be helpful to distribute it to general service representatives and group secretaries.

The trustees’ Public Information Committee prepare public service announcements in print form and that these announcements be sent to local P.I. committees and placed in Background Editorial Material in the Public Information Kit.

A joint meeting of the Conference and trustees’ Committees on P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions would not be practical. However, the committee recommends there be a joint meeting of the Conference P.I. and C.P.C. Committees at the 1978 Conference. The committee accepts the fact of an existing overlapping of responsibilities between the two committees. It is felt a joint meeting will be helpful in this regard.

The 1976 recommendation of sending the P.I. Kit annually to members of the P.I. Committee prior to the Conference be reaffirmed, and that the following be added to the P.I. Kit:

- a. Information paper on Alcoholics Anonymous, recently prepared by the trustees’ C.P.C. Committee
- b. In the Background Radio/TV Material, a brief description of existing TV and radio spots

All material in the P.I. Kit reflect current membership figures.

1978 It was recommended that:

Existing G.S.O. TV spot announcements and the TV spots made available by the Northern Florida Public Information Committee remain in use at this time. It was further suggested that new TV spot announcements be considered by the 1979 Conference Public Information Committee, and that when they are made, they deal more with the alcoholic than with his family.

The existing radio spot announcements continue to be used and that the radio spots reported on by the committee member from Tennessee be reviewed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee for possible distribution in the United States and Canada.

The following items be added to the P.I. Kit: “A.A. at a Glance,” “Is A.A. for You?,” “This Is A.A.,” and a one-sheet piece describing the one-way display and how to order it.

A sentence describing the one-way display and how to order it should be added under “Displays” in the P.I. Guidelines.

The P.I. Manual be reviewed, updated, and made consistent with other materials in the P.I. Kit; that the statistics be updated; and that a notation be made in the new manual stating that it supersedes the manual printed in February 1973.

Background Editorial and Background Radio and TV Material be reviewed and updated by the trustees’ Public Information Committee.

In order to encourage attendance at public information meetings by non-A.A.s, the current Guidelines be amended to include personal contact as a follow-up to invitations extended to the public.

One of the Canadian P.I. committees be invited to do an article on public information meetings and/ or industrial luncheons for the P.I./C.P. C. Bulletin since they seem to have greater success in getting the non-A.A. public to attend such functions.

A.A. members be encouraged to invite their doctors, lawyers, etc., to their group anniversary meetings.

There is no further necessity for a special meeting of the Conference Committees on Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community. However, it was suggested that a table be set aside at lunch for members of the P.I. and C.P.C. Committees on one day of the Conference for the purpose of sharing.

1979 It was recommended that:

The report of the trustees' Public Information Committee be approved as read, with the exception of the phrase "to reflect current A.A. practice" as used in the following paragraphs:

"The committee recommended that the board respond that changes made by the P.I. Committee in P.I. literature are made to *reflect what is believed to be current A.A. practice and experience*. Changes in the 'Understanding Anonymity' and Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings' pamphlets are also responsive to the 1978 Conference comment.

"The committee further recommended that the board's reply should state that the intention when making changes in P.I. literature has never been to reinterpret A.A. Traditions, but again to *reflect current A.A. practice*. "

-because the phrase "to reflect current A.A. practice" is not specific enough in either definition or application to deal with the very important matter of changes in our A.A. Literature.

The trustees' P.I. Committee and the General Service Office staff begin production on new television and radio spots at the earliest possible date.

The trustees' P.I. Committee and the General Service Office staff begin production on Spanish-speaking television and radio spots.

All the TV spots be "signed" for the deaf or have subtitles.

After reviewing and approving the model for the new P.I. Kit:

- a. A statement of the purpose and scope of a public information committee be included in the introductory element of the Public Information Kit.
- b. The anonymity letter to the media be included in the kit with the suggestion that local P.I. committees take it to their local newspapers.
- c. Grapevine subscription forms be included in the kit with the suggestion that they be used to give subscriptions to local libraries, doctors, members of the clergy, etc.
- d. Definitions and special information be indicated by being printed in bold type.
- e. When available, the new P.I. Manual be mailed to all persons on the P.I. chairpersons list at G.S.O.

The mail-poll approval given for the changes made in the pam-

phlets "Understanding Anonymity" and "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" to reflect the 1978 Conference indication that most A.A. members use first names only when speaking at non-A.A. meetings be reaffirmed.

The pamphlet "Too Young?" be included in the P.I. Discount Package.

1980 It was recommended that:

The film "A.A.-An Inside View" be released for general distribution.

When there is a television showing of "A.A.--An Inside View," the delegate be notified, if possible.

The 1980 A.A. membership survey be done.

TV spots nos. 1,3,4, and 5 be accepted, and that spot no. 2 be sent back for revision, taking out some of the "lonely" words and stressing more "drinking" words. The committee felt TV and radio spots should be made in both French and Spanish.

The trustees' P.I. Committee's explanation of why all spots should not be signed for the hearing-impaired be accepted (the reason being that some deal with telephone use); one TV spot has subtitles, and this is sufficient.

When updating the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A.* Meetings, " pages 9 and 10 give short answers to questions instead of references to another pamphlet.

"A.A. in Your Community" be discontinued since this pamphlet is so much like "A Brief Guide" and "A.A. at a Glance"; it was found to be unnecessary to have two pamphlets so much alike.

The trustees' P.I. Committee take excerpts from the current pamphlet "Too Young?" and make it into a flyer for teenagers. The committee particularly liked the 12 questions illustrated at the end. (The current proposed draft for such a flyer was rejected.)

There be a substantial reduction in the price of the pamphlet "Too Young?" to encourage a wider distribution of the current pamphlet.

1981 It was recommended that:

The 1980 membership survey be accepted as reported and that the trustees' P.I. Committee and A.A.W.S. develop a pamphlet, tabletop display, and wall poster of survey results, if feasible.

The rewrite of the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" now go into production.

The comments from the February 1, 1981, General Sharing Session on "Attraction, Promotion, Information?" be added to the P.I. Workbook, in the section "How to Do P.I.," and to the P.I. Guidelines.

All areas be notified before announcements on the availability

of television or radio spots are sent to radio and television stations, so that local autonomy can be exercised.

1982 It was recommended that:

The additional TV public service announcements be distributed as follows:

- a. G.S.O. will announce availability to delegates and P.I. committees.
- b. The announcement will include a listing of local TV stations that requested spots in 1980-81, so that P.I. committees may initiate contact with the stations.
- c. Committees ordering public service announcements may indicate if they wish spots sent to them or directly to stations.
- d. Four-color storyboard brochures, developed by the trustees' P.I. Committee, will accompany the mailing.
- e. G.S.O. will contact and fill requests made by television network headquarters.

The sampling method for conducting the future membership survey be reevaluated by:

- a. The trustees' Public Information Committee, which is requested to explore the value of designing a program to reselect A.A. groups listed at G.S.O., on a random basis by area.
- b. Area delegates, who are asked to consider the feasibility of distributing survey material to preselected A.A. groups in their areas.

The possibility of conducting a future membership survey on a random basis by area be an agenda subject for the 1983 Conference.

A.A.W.S. explore the feasibility of producing a small, low-cost cardboard literature display rack for P.I. purposes.

1983 It was recommended that:

A membership survey be undertaken in 1983.

The 1983 membership survey be conducted on a random basis, by area.

A reference to photographs be added to the Anonymity Card--The third paragraph to read as follows:

Thus, we respectfully ask that no A.A. speaker-or, indeed, any A.A. member-be identified by full name or photograph in published or broadcast reports of our meetings.

The trustees' Public Information Committee develop a feature story regarding A.A.'s primary purpose, highlighting the cross section of alcoholics now sober in A.A. and including, if practical, the A.A. Preamble.

A.A.W.S. explore the feasibility of translating the sound tracks of existing TV public service announcements into Spanish.

1984 It was recommended that:

The flyer, one-way display, and poster on "The A.A. Member" be updated to include information from the 1983 membership survey.

The Spanish translations of "Picking Up the Phone" (30 seconds), "Calling A.A." (60 seconds), "First Meeting" (30 seconds), and "B.G.'s Advice" (30 seconds) be made available to the Fellowship.

Public information news be regularly included in *Box 4-5-9*, eliminating the **P. I./C. P. C. Bulletin**.

All P.I. committees be contacted on the availability of "A.A.--An Inside View" in conjunction with the 50th anniversary P.I. efforts. They, in turn, would contact local independent TV stations. The committee further recommended that there be an article published in **Box 4-5-9** about this P.I. effort.

A 60-second video draft of footage taken from "A.A.-An Inside View," describing what A.A. is and is not and to possibly include the Preamble, be completed for use in conjunction with P.I. efforts for the International Convention, pending approval as a P.I. expenditure by A.A.W.S., Inc.

The Spanish version of the 30-second public service announcement "B.G.'s Advice" be prepared with subtitles in Spanish for the hearing-impaired for approval at the 1985 General Service Conference.

A new radio tape about young people in A.A. be prepared for approval at the 1985 Conference.

1985 It was recommended that:

The phrase used in the membership surveys, No. 14, "Were you addicted to any drugs other than alcohol" be reworded to, "Were you addicted to drugs," in support of our singleness of purpose.

The new TV 30-20-10-second public service announcements be developed for approval at the 1986 General Service Conference as suggested by the trustees' Public Information Committee, and requested by the major networks.

The phrase "or check your local newspapers" be added to the present ending statement on the radio public service announcements.

The request to drop the phrase "A.A.--It Works" from all video public service announcements not be approved.

The wording in the fourth line, second page of the flyer "A.A. at a Glance"--"past illness" be changed to "alcoholism."

The new radio public service announcements for young people, as presented by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with the exception of the Danny S. story.

The words "and drugging" in the Kevin P. story in the radio public service announcement be deleted.

The delivery plan for the new young people's public service announcements to preselected radio stations be approved as presented by the trustees' Public Information Committee, which would include notification to the delegates, central offices and public information committees well in advance of airing.

An anonymity reaffirmation be read at the big meeting during the International Convention in Montreal.

An anonymity letter be sent to *Publishers' Weekly* the book publishers magazine, and *Folio*, the magazine publishing magazine, reaffirming A.A.'s position on the Anonymity Traditions.

We affirm our Anonymity Traditions through letters to all general service representatives, articles in the *Grapevine*, and *Box 4-s-9*.

The idea for a film, filmstrip, videotape or some other such instrument targeting young people be referred to the trustees' Public Information Committee for consideration, and that a report be returned to the Conference Public Information Committee in 1986.

1986 It was recommended that:

The focus in public service announcements be on alcoholism identification, although mention of addictions as part of a "story" is acceptable.

The 1986 Membership Survey be taken in the same manner as the 1983 survey.

Question 14 of the Membership Survey questionnaire read as follows: "In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?"

Three new television public service announcements of 30, 20, 10 seconds respectively be approved. In addition, the committee recommended that the 30-second spot and the 20-second spot be made available with different voice-over endings--either "Look us up in the phone book or check your local newspaper" or "Look us up in the phone book."

The 28-minute film targeting young people be made, with the provision that in any "Reprise" sections in the final film, the focus be on alcoholism only. The committee further recommended that the film be brought to the 1987 General Service Conference for approval.

1987 It was recommended that:

The flyer, one-way display, and poster "The A.A. Member" be updated to reflect the findings from the 1986 Membership Survey.

The film targeting young people be approved. for completion and distribution; and videocassette version of the film be

closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information explore the feasibility of adapting the new film targeting young people into Spanish and French.

The graphics in the flyer "A Message to Teenagers" be updated with the new graphics from "Too Young?"

1988 It was recommended that:

The word "fight" be changed to the words "deal with" in item 6 under "What A.A. Does Not Do" in the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous," so that the sentence will read "But A.A. does cooperate with organizations that deal with alcoholism."

A discussion outline for the film "Young People and A.A." is not needed at this time.

New radio spots be developed to reach specific audiences currently being targeted by radio stations and brought back to the 1989 Conference Public Information Committee for approval.

The 197 1 General Service Conference Action be reaffirmed:

"A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his death, but in each situation the final decision must rest with the family."

Further, the A.A. Archives continue to protect the anonymity of deceased A.A. members as well as other members.

The A.A. Fact File be updated to correct inaccuracies, that the corrected material be sent to the 1988 Conference Public Information Committee members for their approval prior to publication.

1989 It was recommended that:

Ten new English radio public service announcements (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) with tag line changed to "Alcoholics Anonymous-phone or check your newspaper" be approved for distribution by G.S.O.

One additional English radio P.S.A. with the tag line changed to "Alcoholics Anonymous-phone or check your newspaper" titled "Liberated Woman" be approved for distribution by G.S.O.

Two Spanish radio P.S.A.s titled "I Would Not Kiss My Children" and "Completely Bankrupt" be approved for distribution by G.S.O.

The 1989 Membership Survey be conducted on a random basis, by area; and that we use the same questionnaire used in the 1986 survey.

The following items be added to the Public Information Workbook for use by convention P.I. chairperson:

a. "Memo to News Directors, Writers, and Commentators."

b. "Guide for a Convention Press Release" with one paragraph changed to delete the first name and last initial of the speakers and all other information that identifies convention speakers.

c. "Press Kit" to be used at Convention Press Conferences.

Change the Public Information chairperson paragraph of the A.A. Guidelines on Conference and Conventions to include references to the material now available to convention P.I. chairpeople.

A service piece providing guidelines for taping A.A. talks be prepared and brought to the 1990 General Service Conference for review and added to the A.A. Guidelines on Conferences and Conventions.

The following 1980 Conference Action be reaffirmed:

"In keeping with our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions, A.A. members who are requested to videotape talks and meetings preserve anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, and videotapes, realizing that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. The committee further recommended that talks by A.A. members be given in person rather than videotaped, in view of the temptation for videotaping to place personalities before principles."

A.A.W.S., Inc., give television stations and A.A. service entities the opportunity to use shortened versions of any of our films now available to the public but strongly urge they be used in their entirety when possible in order to maintain the integrity of the A.A. message.

No action be taken on the request to drop "It Works" from existing video P.S.A.s.

1990 It was recommended that:

"The A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet, the one-way display and the poster be updated to reflect the findings from the 1989 Membership Survey.

"The A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet, the one-way display and poster reflect all the findings of the 1989 Membership Survey. The answer to Question #14 in the A.A. survey pertaining to drugs should be presented as follows:

"In addition to their alcoholism X% of members indicated they were addicted to drugs," and include the disclaimer "A.A.'s primary purpose is recovery from alcoholism."

The trustees' Committee on Public Information review the background of the entire survey and each question on the survey questionnaire, to determine which questions should be included or deleted from the 1992 Membership Survey. This information should be given to the 1991 Conference Public Information Committee as promptly as possible.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information consider the feasibility of developing video and television public service announcements with the focus on younger A.A. members and all minorities, within the framework of A.A.'s desire to carry

its message to all alcoholics, and bring a recommendation back to the 1991 General Service Conference.

The trustees' Committee on General Service Conference consider a Conference theme, workshop or presentation on the question of affiliation, to be presented as soon as possible.

1991 It was recommended that:

The following ten changes on the 1992 Membership Survey Questionnaire in a report from the trustees' Membership Survey subcommittee be approved:

1. Add the meeting name to the top of the form (on the same line as Town/City, State, Date).

2. The statement of purpose at the top of the questionnaire conform to the one used in the final brochure. The current brochure copy (1989) is as follows: The purpose of the survey has been to keep A.A. members informed on current trends in membership characteristics, and to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the professional community and to the general public as part of the effort to reach those who still suffer from alcoholism.

3. Combine categories 1 and 2 in question #5 into one question which would read: 1. Newspaper, magazine, radio or TV.

4. Add a category to question #5 (just above the last one, 15. Other) which would read: 14. Court order.

5. It was suggested that the categories listed in question #8, ("What is the general nature of your employment now?") be changed to accepted and established standard categories.

6. That question #9, "What is the specific nature of your employment now?", be eliminated from the questionnaire.

7. To eliminate the question #10b on questionnaire. ("Is it at the group at which you are filling out this questionnaire?")

8. Regarding the counseling questions: eliminate numbers #12b and #13b, which read:

What was the most helpful (Check one):
Medical Psychological Spiritual Other

9. Omit question #16 which reads: "Does your doctor present A.A. as a program of recovery to his patients?"

10. Omit question #17, which reads: "Has your doctor been to an A.A. meeting?"

The trustee's Public Information Committee, in preparing the 1992 Membership Survey Questionnaire, reconsider Question #14 of the 1989 Membership Survey Questionnaire ("In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?"), and that the trustees' P.I. Committee forward their findings with and explanation of their decision to the Conference Public Information Committee at least one month prior to the start of the 1992 General Service Conference.

The pilot footage for a video targeting younger people and

minorities be approved, and that the 15-minute video production be authorized at a total cost of \$82,000 and be presented to the 1992 Conference for final approval.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information be authorized to spend \$4,000 for storyboards or others visual aids that outline a proposed film or video on the Traditions with focus on anonymity, and bring their proposals for production to the 1992 Conference.

1992 It was recommended that:

The 1992 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:

- a. Add item "f" to Question #3: "this is my first A.A. meeting."
- b. Revise item "1" of Question #5 to read: "Newspaper magazine, radio or TV."
- c. Change Question #9 to read: "Do you belong to an A.A. Home Group?"
- d. Revise item "a" of Question #10 to read: "Do you have a sponsor?"
- e. Change item "b" of Question #10 to read: "Did you get a sponsor within 90 days of coming to A.A.?"

That Question #14, "In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?" be removed from the 1992 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire because the question:

- a. emphasizes problems other than alcohol;
- b. has a tendency to lead to disunity;
- c. could be construed as conflicting with our primary purpose.

The 1992 Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis, as was done in the 1989 Membership Survey.

The video directed to young alcoholics be approved for distribution with one editing change: delete the segment at approximately 3 minutes, 23 seconds of the tape run that appears to show a drug transaction during a street scene; and add the anonymity disclaimer that appears at the beginning of the video to the closing credits.

The outline for an ongoing Traditions Communications Program not be developed. This project does not fall within the Scope of the Conference Public Information Committee, does not appear to be covered by the Scope of the trustees' Public Information Committee, and does not respond to an expressed need.

All materials already developed for the Traditions Communications Program be available to future Conference committees that may wish to consider utilizing some or all of this information.

The six-segment Public Service Announcement directed to teens and seniors, produced by three California Area Assemblies, be approved with the tag line changed to read:

"Alcoholics Anonymous-look us up in the phone book, or check you newspaper."

Future audio-visual proposals be reviewed by the appropriate Conference committee prior to expenditure commitments to insure maximum economy and communication within the Fellowship.

1993 It was recommended that:

The results contained in the final draft of the 1992 Membership Survey be applied to update the survey pamphlet, poster and one-way display.

The trustees' Public Information Committee undertake a thorough study, followed by a complete report that particularly addresses the need for, and the effectiveness of, A.A. Membership Surveys within the context of our ***singleness of purpose***.

The each area delegate encourage discussions within all A.A. groups on the spiritual principles of Anonymity, including photographs, publications and posthumous Anonymity, as related to our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions.

The radio public service announcement R-06 be discontinued as an inventory or catalog item, because these spots contain mixed messages about what A.A. is, and the A.A. message is better communicated in other radio spots.

The trustees' Subcommittee on Radio and Television Public Service Announcements carefully review the radio spots contained in R-09, with particular attention to spot #5, "We are All in This Together," and report back to the 1994 Conference Public Information Committee.

TREATMENT FACILITIES

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon reports of the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TREATMENT FACILITIES*

1978 It was recommended that:

The outline for revision of the pamphlet "A.A. Treatment Facilities" be approved with suggestions to be incorporated in the pamphlet.

1979 It was recommended that:

The Conference approve the pamphlet "How and Why A.A. Members Carry the A.A. Message into Treatment Centers" (formerly "A.A. in Hospitals") with revisions.

With regard to hospital discount packages, the July 1977 decision of the General Service Board of Trustees to allow local areas to decide what is needed for their particular area be

*For pre-1978 actions related to treatment facilities, see Institutions.

adopted.

1980 It was recommended that:

A modification in the scope of the Treatment Facilities Committee be made so that it will now read as follows:

The purpose of the committee is to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities.

The committee will review all aspects of A.A. services to treatment facilities and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements in these A.A. services.

It is not appropriate to send a specific ("bridging-the-gap") letter to treatment facilities' administrators at this time. However, G.S.O. is encouraged to forward copies of the newly published "A.A. in Treatment Centers" pamphlet to all facility administrators.

Although the directory of A.A. Groups in *Treatment Facilities* may be of value to a limited number of treatment facility administrators and A.A. members, its value to the A.A. community is questionable. Therefore, it was recommended that the Report and Charter Committee and G.S.O., at their earliest convenience, review this matter for possible continued value.

1981 It was recommended that:

The additions and changes in the "A.A. in Treatment Centers" pamphlet by the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities be accepted.

These changes basically involve the clarification of the two types of meetings held in treatment facilities: regular group meetings and treatment facilities meetings. It was specifically recommended that the six-point definition of an A.A. group be included in a "boxed-in" form in the pamphlet. These changes will result in new terminology; what has previously been known as a "treatment center group" will now be known as a "treatment center meeting."

1982 It was recommended that:

In light of the recent statistics showing the greater influx of members coming from treatment facilities, a bulletin directed primarily to treatment facilities committees be instituted, and that this recommendation be referred to the appropriate trustees' committees for implementation.

1983 It was recommended that:

A copy of the *Treatment Facilities Bulletin* with a cover letter be sent to alcoholism treatment facilities. The cover letter is to suggest that the facilities get in touch with Alcoholics Anonymous.

Delegates ask their treatment facilities committees or other appropriate committees to compile a mailing list of alcoholism treatment facilities in their areas for the purpose of establishing a G.S.O. mailing list for the *Treatment Facilities Bulletin*.

1984 It was recommended that:

We affirm the 1978 Conference action which is as follows:

"A.A. members who meet with the administration of a treatment facility concerning the formation of an A.A. group on its premises should explain group autonomy as well as what A.A. can and cannot do (Traditions), and also should have a good understanding of the facility's rules and regulations. After mutual agreements are reached, it is important that this information be shared with the A.A.s who will be attending the group's meetings. It was suggested that groups meeting in treatment facilities try to abide by the self-support Tradition. If money for rent is not accepted by a facility, groups should contribute in some other way. It was also felt that A.A.s employed by the facility should not run the groups at the facility."

A draft of a treatment facilities workbook be prepared by the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities in time for the 1985 General Service Conference.

The Guidelines on Correctional and Treatment Facilities Committees be separated.

1985 It was recommended that:

The draft of the Treatment Facilities Workbook be approved, with minor changes, for production and distribution.

In the Scope of the Conference Treatment Facilities Committee, the sentence "The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot, of their own free will, seek A.A. help" be changed to "The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities."

1986 It was recommended that:

To more explicitly state the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities, under Scope, the paragraph:

"The purpose of the committee is to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities"

be changed to the following paragraph from the Treatment Facilities Guidelines which reads:

"The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up means of 'bridging the gap' from the facility to the larger A.A. community."

That the letter in the Treatment Facilities Workbook which addresses the issue of nonalcoholics' attendance at closed A.A. meetings be revised to provide a more sensitive introduction to the subject as follows: the sentence "It has been brought to our attention that *nonalcoholic drug addicts are* attending A.A.

meetings in your facility” be changed to “It has been brought to our attention that *nonalcoholic drug addicts* may be attending A.A. meetings in your facility.”

Item 5 of the “Suggested Do’s” for the treatment facilities chairperson (page 79 of the Treatment Facilities Workbook) be changed from “Play some Grapevine cassette tapes-always good listening and learning” to read: “Play some Grapevine cassette tapes-always good listening and learning, and leave some copies of the A.A. Grapevine.”

Each area treatment facilities committee conduct workshops, as frequently as needed, to effectively utilize the Treatment Facilities Workbook.

Treatment facilities committees send liaisons to other service entities’ meetings in their area and, in turn, invite them to send liaisons to the treatment facilities committee meetings.

The trustees’ Committee on Treatment Facilities study ways to develop contact sponsorship committees for prospective newcomers just leaving treatment facilities and report back to the 1987 Conference.

The pamphlet, “A.A. In Treatment Centers,” be revised as follows:

The A.A. Grapevine be added to the list of literature suggestions in paragraph 5 on page 13. The paragraph will read as follows:

Leaving a few pieces of A.A. Literature and a copy of the A.A. Grapevine is a good idea, too. Maybe “If You Are a Professional . . .,” “A.A. In Your Community,” “A.A. At A Glance,” and “Where Do I Go From Here?” Maybe even this pamphlet.

The words “regular” A.A. group in paragraph 1 on page 12 and “treatment center meeting” in paragraph 5 on page 12 be highlighted by using italics.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 on page 7 of the pamphlet “A.A. In Treatment Centers” be revised to accommodate information on the Treatment Facilities Workbook. The revised paragraph will read as follows:

The Treatment Facilities Workbook (available from G.S.O.) contains Guidelines, sample letters, workshop presentations and other information useful to local treatment facilities committees who are carrying the A.A. message into treatment centers. The pamphlet, “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Other Community Efforts to Help Alcoholics,” answers specific queries on working within A.A. Traditions, and the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” gives suggestions for helping the newcomer who may have had exposure to A.A. in a treatment center.

The title of the pamphlet “A.A. In Treatment Centers” be changed to “A.A. In Treatment Facilities,” as “facilities” is currently a more generally used term. It was also recommended that the word “facilities” replace the word “centers” throughout the body of the pamphlet.

1987 It was recommended that:

The following phrase in the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Centers,” “Since A.A.’s co-founders first got sober by carrying the A.A. message into treatment centers. .” be changed to read: “Since one of the ways A.A.’s co-founders helped maintain their sobriety was by carrying the A.A. message into hospitals. . .”

The report, developed in response to the 1986 General Service Conference recommendation that the trustees’ committee on Treatment Facilities study ways to develop contact sponsorship programs, be returned to the trustees’ committee to develop a service piece to be added to the Treatment Facilities Workbook. Also that the trustees’ committee prepare this service piece using only shared experience that reflects strict adherence to the Traditions. (Some of the sharing in the initial report reflected violations of the Traditions.) Also that the service piece include sharing from both successful and unsuccessful contact sponsorship programs and that the format include sharing that reflects contact sponsorship programs in various stages of development.

The word “larger” be deleted from the “Scope” section of the Composition, Scope and Procedure. The revised “Scope” will read as follows: The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up means of “bridging the gap” from the facility to the A.A. community. The 1986 Conference Action that “each area treatment facilities committee conduct workshops, as frequently as needed, to effectively utilize the Treatment Facilities Workbook” be reaffirmed. Also, that the workshops include groups and district committees.

The 1986 Conference Action that “treatment facilities committees send liaisons to other service entities’ meeting in their area and, in turn, invite them to send liaisons to the treatment facilities committee meetings” be reaffirmed.

1988 It was recommended that:

An audiovisual presentation for Treatment Facilities including three minutes of sample footage be made and brought to the 1989 General Service Conference for further review.

The following topics be included in the film:

- a. What A.A. is and is not
- b. Anonymity
- c. Traditions
- d. Steps
- e. Meeting types
- f. Sponsorship
- g. Home Groups

The film be appropriate for use by all other related committees, A.A. groups, and as an additional tool for our Twelve Step work.

The cost of the sample footage be in the neighborhood of

\$17,000.

The newsletter drafted by the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities for annual distribution to Treatment Facilities chairpersons be a quarterly newsletter whenever possible and reflect shared experience from other areas on how they are solving problems related to treatment facilities.

The word "educate" in the introductory statements of the proposed newsletter to Treatment Facilities chairpersons be deleted in favor of the word "inform," in keeping with A.A.'s tradition of sharing rather than educating.

1989 It was recommended that:

A 15-minute film be produced for A.A. members carrying the message into treatment facilities and be presented to the 1990 General Service Conference.

NOTE: Although the following item did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote to become a Conference recommendation, it did receive a substantial majority and is therefore a strong suggestion for the board's consideration.

"Suggested that in the proposed film for treatment facilities that the Louis B. segment of the script be deleted because of implied endorsement of Narcotics Anonymous."

1990 It was recommended that:

The film "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" be accepted as presented to meet an expressed need from the A.A. members carrying the message into treatment facilities; and that the film be translated into French and Spanish, and be captioned for deaf and hearing-impaired alcoholics, consistent with recommendations for our other recent videos.

The following 1988 Conference Action be reaffirmed:

"The newsletter drafted by the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities for annual distribution to treatment facilities chairpersons be a quarterly newsletter whenever possible, and reflect shared experiences from other areas on how they are solving problems related to treatment facilities."

The "Treatment Facilities Newsletter" mailing list be expanded to include district committee members, as well as delegates, alternate delegates and trustees; and that the 1991 Conference reevaluate the need for this newsletter.

It was recommended by a floor action, that:

There be a pamphlet on "Bridging the Gap" developed through the trustees' Treatment Facilities Committee in conjunction with the Conference Treatment Facilities Committee; and that it be brought back to the 1991 General Service Conference for consideration.

1991 It was recommended that:

The manuscript prepared by the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities for a pamphlet on bridging the gap be approved, because of the need to encourage A.A. members to

serve as temporary contacts to help the alcoholic in treatment make the transition into A.A.

The "Treatment Facilities Newsletter" be distributed semi-annually for the purpose of sharing information among committees carrying the A.A. message into treatment facilities, and that it continue to be mailed to district committee members, delegates, alternate delegates and trustees in addition to members of treatment facilities committees. Estimated cost: \$5,500.

Once supplies are depleted, the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Facilities" be revised to include information about "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" and other Conference-approved videos/films relevant to treatment, by inserting the following text just preceding "A few plain suggestions. . . .":

The video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" explains the principles of A.A. and is a wonderful tool for A.A.s making presentations to administrators and staff as well as carrying the message of recovery.

This is for the purpose of increasing the Fellowship's awareness of our audiovisual material.

1992 It was recommended that:

The six points defining an A.A. group in the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Facilities" be deleted, and that the definition of a group in the pamphlet be consistent with the definition of a group in the "A.A. Group" pamphlet.

The following paragraph be added to pamphlets directed to treatment facilities professionals to provide them with as much information as possible:

"Many local A.A. service committees will, upon request, provide informational presentations for your organization. Sessions can be tailored to meet your needs. A typical agenda might include one or several A.A. films and presentation by one or more A.A. members on What A.A. Is and What It Is Not."

"Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous."

The following sentence of the third paragraph on page 1 of the "Bridging the Gap" pamphlet be removed from all subsequent printings as the Membership Survey is not specifically related to the temporary contact program: "Responses to questions in the most recent Membership Survey indicate that approximately 50% of those coming to A.A. for the first time leave within three months."

The words "temporary sponsor" and "sponsorship" on pages 8 and 13 of the "A.A. in Treatment Facilities" pamphlet be replaced with the words "temporary contact(s)" when the current supply is depleted, to reflect current A.A. terminology.

A.A.W.S. retain a three-ring binder format for the Treatment Facilities Workbook.

1993 It was recommended that:

In an effort to guide members more fully in understanding Twelfth Step activity with prospective members, the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" be revised in two sections as follows:

In the section "Temporary Contact Guidelines"-

- a. "Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work.
- b. "Experience suggests that it is best to be accompanied by another A.A. member when meeting our newcomer. One of the two temporary contacts should have at least a year of sobriety.
- c. "Experience also suggests that men work with men and women work with women.
- d. "The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have experience with treatment facilities. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A.
- e. "It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on bridging the gap and attend meetings of your area's hospital and/or treatment facilities committees."

The above would replace the following:

- a. "It is suggested that the temporary contact be sober one year or more.
- b. "Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work. The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have any experience with treatment facilities. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A. It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on Bridging the Gap and be a member of your area's treatment facilities committee or hospital committee."

In the section "Points to Remember"--

"A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other welfare or social services.

"The professional treatment facility is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible to them. While we cannot compromise our A.A. Traditions, we should remember that we are there as guests of the facility, and must abide by their rules. We are there to carry the A.A. message to the newcomer, and to answer any questions regarding the A.A. program of recovery and the A.A. way of life. Statements that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnosis or advice on medication should be avoided. We are there only to share our experience of staying away from one drink, one day at a time, through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a facility. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message. If problems arise, inform the local service committee. They may wish to present an

A.A. informational meeting.

"No one speaks for A.A. as a whole. When we carry the A.A. message to those in treatment, we are just one drunk talking with another. How we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A., let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!"

The above would replace the following:

"A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other welfare or social services.

"The professional treatment facility is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible to them. If A.A. members do not conform in every way to the rules and regulations of the facility, it has a perfect right to keep A.A. members out. A.A. members go into treatment facilities as guests. Avoid statements or situations that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnosis or prognoses or advice on medications. Avoid challenging the teachings of the facility; guide the newcomer to A.A. membership and the A.A. way of life.

"Some of these suggestions may be strongly stated. In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a facility. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message.

"When we carry the A.A. message to those in treatment, we are not just one drunk talking with another. While no one speaks for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, how we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A. let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!"

Minor editorial changes in the "Bridging the Gap" pamphlet be accepted.

A.A.W.S. consider production of an A.A. poster similar to the one used by an area P.I. committee.

A.A.W.S. explore the production of an inexpensive pamphlet holder of durable material that could hold up to four different pamphlets in a format which may be free-standing or wall-mounted.

TRUSTEES

ADVISORY ACTIONS based upon report of the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

1951

It was reaffirmed that nonalcoholics should continue to serve on the board of trustees.

The committee approved the principle of a fixed term of office for A.A. trustees.

1953

It was agreed that the trustees have the discretion and authority to provide at least part-time compensation to the president of A.A. Publishing or any other situation, as needed.

1955

The committee approved a plan for selecting trustees from outlying areas on a basis of rotation of areas.

The committee rejected a proposal that ex-trustees attend and be made permanent members of the Conference.

The committee tabled a proposal for changing the ratio of alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees.

1956

The committee approved continuance of the existing structure of the board until 1958, with further study at the 1957 Conference.

1957

The committee tabled the question of changing the ratio of alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees, and recommended consideration at the 1958 Conference.

1958

The committee approved the principle of changing the ratio of trustees to nine alcoholics and nine nonalcoholics, subject to review in the areas prior to a formal vote at the 1959 Conference.

1959

The proposal to recommend a change in the current ratio of trustees to nine alcoholics and nine nonalcoholics failed passage. (History of Trustee Ratio, 1959 **Conference Report**, page 6)

1960

A request from the Southern California delegate for two permanent members of the board of trustees for areas west of the Rocky Mountains was reviewed. It was not looked upon favorably by the Conference. It was recommended that this matter be referred to the trustees' Committee on Policy and Nominating for report to the 1961 Conference.

1961

The request for two permanent western trustees was not approved by the General Service Board. It was referred to the board's Policy Committee for further study.

1962

The Conference approved, 87 to 20, the recommendation of the trustees to enlarge the board by two A.A. trustees and two non-alcoholic trustees in accordance with the Electoral Plan.

By a 72 to 36 vote, decisions of earlier Conferences were reaffirmed that the principle of having a majority of nonalcoholics as trustees of the General Service Board should be retained.

1963

The Committee on Trustees thanked the regions involved for their cooperation in following, for the first time, the procedure approved by the 1962 General Service Conference for the nomination of Class B regional trustees in the United States. The committee also recommended, in view of the success of the elections on Friday, April 26, that the procedure be followed for future elections of Class B regional trustees in the United States.

1964

The committee recommended that the electoral procedure followed in 1963 and 1964 be followed for future elections of Class B regional trustees in the United States.

It was suggested that the delegates search their areas and submit to the General Service Board possible candidates for the position of a Class A trustee. Summaries would be placed in the files for future reference. It was suggested that professional and industrial people be given special attention.

1965

Following careful review, the committee agreed that the procedures for electing Class B regional trustees continued to be satisfactory.

The committee agreed that, if two states in an eligible region nominate a candidate to be a regional trustee, a delegate from each state may make a three-minute presentation in support of the candidate.

The committee received, for study in the areas during the coming year, a unanimous proposal of the trustees (two abstaining) for restructuring the General Service Board, with the understanding that delegates to the 1966 Conference will vote on the proposal next April.

1966

The Restructuring Plan was approved, 92 to 24, that the General Service Board be increased to 21: 7 nonalcoholic and 14 alcoholic.

It was recommended that an A.A. member professionally employed in the field of alcoholism should not be excluded from service on the General Service Board solely for that reason, but it is desirable that the board and its Nominating Committee "maintain the guardianship of Alcoholics Anonymous on a nonprofessional basis."

The committee unanimously favored the suggestion of the Nominating Committee of the General Service Board that the 75-mile radius of New York City restriction affecting regional Class B trustees be eliminated.

The committee would like to go on record as being in favor of welcoming ex-trustees as advisors to boards and committees for periods to be determined by chairmen and members of these boards and committees. Also, that we do not look with favor on the election of ex-trustees to the Grapevine or A.A.W.S. Board of Directors.

1967 It was recommended that:

The General Service Board study the procedures for selecting regional trustees with special consideration given to withdrawals and drawing by lot.

The revised procedure for preselection of general service trustees (non-New York) be accepted as follows:

The board would set up "specifications" to cover the kind of business and professional qualifications needed to fill a vacancy. All states and provinces would be asked to submit qualified names by January 15. The Conference Committee on trustees would be invited to meet with the trustees' Nominating Committee in joint session on the Sunday preceding the first Conference session to discuss all candidates and to reduce the number to four for each vacancy. At the Conference Annual Meeting, the entire Conference would use Third Legacy procedures to select one name for each vacancy for election by the board.

The chart of adjustment of tenures for regional trustees be accepted so that:

Starting with 1975 elections, two regional trustees will be elected each year. From then on, all regions will have full four-year terms. Southeast and East Central Regions will take two consecutive three-year terms in 1971 and 1974. The Northeast Region will take two consecutive three-year terms in 1969 and 1972.

Only *one* nominating speech be made for a trustee candidate.

1968 It was recommended that:

The possibility of electing one trustee candidate from each Conference area, rather than one from each state or province, be studied and explored.

The revised electoral procedures for A.A. regional trustees be adopted by the General Service Conference and utilized in future elections.

Consideration be given to the possibility of using these revised electoral procedures in all A.A. elections.

In describing the qualifications of the A.A. trustee, emphasis be placed on the fact that the trustee represents the entire Fellowship of A.A. and not a geographical area.

1969 It was recommended that:

The "electoral procedure for the election of Class B regional trustee nominee" be used in all Third Legacy elections; and further that this suggestion be incorporated in the "Third Legacy Manual" ("The A.A. Service Manual") now under

revision.

The procedure for the election of a general service trustee-at-large be accepted.

Resumes of all regional trustee candidates be prepared by a person other than the candidate himself; and that his qualifications be itemized rather than in paragraph form, limited to one page, using the General Service Office resume sheet.

The committee disapproved the following:

The suggestion that a state or province having a regional trustee be eliminated from submitting a candidate to their next regional trustee election.

The proposal for a suggested change in electoral procedures for regional trustees which would increase the voting body to all delegates and eliminate the trustees from voting. The reasons for this are: It would increase or encourage politicking on the floor of the Conference and thus divert the delegates from their primary purpose; in all probability it would increase the length of time required by the Conference and therefore incur great unnecessary expense. Trustees should have some voice in voting for the person with whom they will be working.

A proposal to enable each Conference area, if it so desires, to select its own regional trustee candidate and recommended that it be held over for further study.

1970 It was recommended that:

A regional or general service trustee-at-large candidate may be elected from each Conference area, or that two or more of the Conference areas within a state or province may jointly propose a single candidate.

A regional trustee shall not be a candidate for a general service trustee-at-large.

The proposal regarding a 75-mile (from New York City) limitation on trustee-at-large candidates be rescinded on the basis that it is discriminatory; bylaws to be amended accordingly.

It was agreed that the proposal to change the regional trustee candidates' resumes to eliminate any educational background and outside A.A. activities was not in the best interest of A.A., and it was recommended that we continue to ask for educational background and outside A.A. activities in resumes.

The committee reviewed the recommendation that the proposal, i.e., any delegate shall not be eligible as trustee candidate for a full year after ending the term as area delegate, and found this recommendation not consistent with the best interest of A.A., as it would eliminate many qualified candidates; therefore, it was not accepted.

1971 It was recommended that:

The words "but not mandatory" be deleted from the description of the A.A. regional trustee and from the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the trustees' Nominating Committee after the words "ten years of continued sobriety is desirable."

The proposed change in election procedures of regional trustees, which suggested that the members of the Conference Committee on Trustees be omitted from the listing of voting members, is not in the best interest of A.A. at this time.

When electoral procedures require an alternate to sit in for an area delegate whose region is electing a trustee because he (the delegate) is also serving on the Conference Committee on Trustees, no voting instructions be given to the alternate.

The area delegate assume the responsibility for sending trustee-candidate resumes to G.S.O.

State of health be included in trustee nominee resumes.

Voting: Following a question from the floor regarding the method of determining a two-thirds majority during the election of trustees, delegates voted to continue using the present mathematical formula in determining the percentage of total vote in elections of trustees (rounding to nearest whole: .5 and over to larger figure; below .5 to lower -figure).

1972 It was recommended that:

A delegate to the General Service Conference shall not be eligible to be proposed for trustee candidate until after he has attended his last Conference.

On resume forms for Class B regional trustees, the heading "Activities Outside of A.A." include clubs, rehabs, and all alcoholism-related activities.

1973

The committee reviewed and approved the recommendation from the trustees' Nominating Committee for a procedure to be used when a Conference area requests a change of region.

The committee discussed the treatment of resumes received at the General Service Office after the January 15 deadline and recommended that:

- a. Any resumes received after the established January 15 deadline be returned by G.S.O. to the delegate in the submitting area.
- b. The January 15 deadline be so noted on the resume sheet. It was suggested that resumes be sent to the General Service Office by registered mail-return receipt requested.
- c. Resumes for trustee candidates received at the General Service Office be presented for approval to the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees exactly as received.
- d. In the event circumstances prevent an area's candidate for Class B trustee from serving as trustee, the area will have the right to submit another candidate after the January 15 deadline, subject to the approval of the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees.

1974 It was recommended that:

In accordance with the action of the 1973 Conference regarding the January 15 deadline for receiving trustee candidate resumes, resumes received after that date not be accepted.

A subcommittee be set up to find a more equitable procedure for reducing the number of candidates for general service trustee-U.S./Canada to be presented to the Conference for election. The subcommittee will consist of two members of the Conference Committee on Trustees and two members of the trustees' Nominating Committee. Norman A. and Horton S. will represent the Conference Committee on Trustees on this subcommittee. The subcommittee will submit a proposal(s) to the Conference Committee on Trustees at the 1975 Conference.

1975

The request from Alaska to be transferred to the West Canada Region from the Pacific Region was tabled for one year to permit time for all Alaskan groups to be polled on this matter.

It was recommended that:

The Eastern and Western Missouri Areas be granted permission to change from the West Central Region to the Southwest Region.

The following addition be made to Class B trustee resume forms in order that more specific information may be obtained in connection with employment in the field of alcoholism:

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIELD
OF ALCOHOLISM

Now Working in Field of Alcoholism? _____

How Long? ___ Salaried or Volunteer? _____

With Whom? ___ Title _____

The following procedure be adopted for reducing the number of candidates presented to the Conference in the election of general service trustees-U.S. and Canada:

- a. Each Conference area may select one candidate, or two or more areas may jointly propose a single candidate via Third Legacy procedure.
- b. Resumes of all candidates will be reviewed for eligibility by the trustees' Nominating Committee.
- c. Delegates from each region will caucus prior to the election to reduce the number of candidates, using Third Legacy procedure, to one each in the U.S. and two each in the Canadian regions. A maximum of six candidates for general service trustee-U.S., and a maximum of four candidates for general service trustee-Canada, will be presented to the voting members of the Conference for election.
- d. Voting members of the Conference will be all delegates from the electing country (U.S. or Canada) and all mem-

bers of the trustees' Nominating Committee.

Note: The physical arrangements for the caucus of delegates from each region, as required in paragraph c above, should be made during the Conference prior to the election, possibly in the form of regional luncheons.

The procedure to be used when a Conference area requests a change of region be reviewed by the 1976 Conference on Trustees in order to clarify the voting rights of an area moving into or out of an electing region.

1976 It was recommended that:

There be no change in the structure of the General Service Board (seven nonalcoholic and 1.4 alcoholic trustees).

The revised description of the general service trustee (New York), with procedure for election and reasons for it, replace paragraph 1 of "How A.A. Chooses Its General Service Trustees" in "The A.A. Service Manual" (1975 edition, page 100).

No person be eligible simultaneously as a candidate for both regional trustee and general service trustee--U.S./Canada.

Revisions in the procedure for areas requesting a change of region be made in "The A.A. Service Manual."

1977 It was recommended that:

The resumes for trustee candidates be sent to G.S.O. by the area delegates as soon as possible after the elections, but no later than **January 1**. Any resume received at G.S.O. after the January 1 deadline will be returned to the delegate in the submitting area.

A delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last Conference, commencing with the 1978 election.

The trustees' Nominating Committee consider and determine the role and purpose of the general service trustee-U.S./Canada; the responsibility of the general service trustee-U.S./Canada; and that some clearer terminology be used in "The A.A. Service Manual" authorizing the board to determine such additional qualifications or requirements in a candidate as the board may require.

The trustees' Nominating Committee review resume forms for Class B trustees, reconsider the question of employment in the alcoholism field, and refer recommendations to the Conference Committee on Trustees by mail.

The committee would like to go on record as favoring the continuance of having a Class A trustee serve as chairman of the board.

1978

After considerable discussion following the presentation on the role of the general service trustee--U.S./Canada, a motion was carried requesting the General Service Board of trustees to

make a study of the possibility of restructuring the A.A. Conference regions and reportback to the 1979 Conference.

It was further recommended that:

The title "general service trustee-U.S./Canada" be changed to "trustee-at-large."

Trustee candidate resumes continue to carry the question regarding employment in the alcoholism field.

The Conference unanimously reaffirmed the 1977 recommendation of the Conference Committee on Trustees that a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee continue to serve as chairperson of the board.

1979 It was recommended that:

The Statement of Restructuring Trustee Regions be accepted. (The statement recommended no restructuring at this time.)

The committee reaffirm that if a trustee candidate withdraws after the January 1 deadline, that area may not submit another candidate.

That the method of electing trustees-at-large/US. and Canada be referred to the trustees' Nominating Committee.

1980 It was recommended that:

The speeches nominating trustee candidates be reduced from three minutes to two minutes at the Conference election session, with delegates giving verbal information not included in the written resume.

Retired G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members should not be excluded from service on the General Service Board and/or the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Corporate Boards solely because of their past staff service.

Owners and operators of alcoholism facilities should not be excluded from service on the General Service Board solely because of their occupations, but it is desirable that the board and its Nominating Committee maintain the guardianship of A.A. on a nonprofessional basis.

1981 It was recommended that:

The report of the trustees' Nominating Committee be accepted as presented, with an additional recommendation that the method of reducing the number of trustee candidates to be presented to the Conference floor for election of trustee-at-large/Canada remain as it presently appears in "The A.A. Service Manual," and that this method be reviewed again at the 1982 General Service Conference.

The question "Are you a salaried employee in the field of alcoholism?" be removed from the regional trustee and trustee-at-large/US. and Canada resume sheets.

1982 It was recommended that:

The report of the trustees' Nominating Committee be accepted

as presented and agreed that the method of electing the trustee-at-large/Canada remain as recommended in "The A.A. Service Manual" since there is no clear consensus as to an alternate procedure, nor does there seem to be a clear consensus that there is need for a change at this time.

1983 It was recommended that:

The General Service Board of Trustees cause a study to be made concerning inconsistencies between legal directions and actual practice of rotation in our two corporate boards and committees.

The General Service Board of Trustees explore the possibility of establishing an internal checks-and-balances method that would possibly insure against the inadvertent violation of the spirit of rotation on the corporate boards and committees.

An effort be made to rectify contradictions and inconsistencies between "The A.A. Service Manual" and legal charters and corporate by-laws.

The committee, in the A.A. spirit of trust and love, leaves these suggestions and recommendations in the capable hands of the trustees, requesting they report their doings to the 1984 General Service Conference.

Date of birth replace age, and that date of sobriety replace length of sobriety on the Class B trustee resume forms. The committee also recommended striking marital status from Class B resume forms, in that marital status furnishes no valid bearing on the candidates' qualifications.

Resumes for trustee candidates received at the General Service Office be presented to the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees exactly as received, with the exception that spelling and grammatical errors may be corrected by the General Service Office staff preparing resumes for distribution, retaining the original resumes for reference.

1984 It was recommended that:

Information about bilingual ability not be included on the regional trustee resume forms

A change be made on the form in which the regional trustee resume sheet requests information on the procedure for election from:

(1) two-thirds majority, (2) out of hat, (3) other to:

(1) Third Legacy procedure, (2) other

Because the proposal from the trustees' Nominating Committee which favors the election of all Class B trustees for a four-year term regardless of when vacancies occur represents a substantive change in policy, the trustees' Nominating Committee conduct a survey of delegates and trustees during the coming year and provide the results to next year's Conference committee for final action. When this survey is sent to delegates and trustees, background material on all aspects should be sent, advising the delegates and trustees of the reasoning involved in arriving at the existing procedures

for filling trustee vacancies when a death or resignation occurs.

No change in the current schedule or procedure of electing a trustee-at-large be made at the present time.

1985 It was recommended that:

All Class B trustees be elected for a four-year term regardless of when vacancies occur.

There be reaffirmation of the 1977 Conference Advisory Action:

"Resumes for trustee candidates be sent to G.S.O. by the area delegate as soon as possible after the elections, but no later than January 1. Any resumes received at the G.S.O. after the January 1 deadline will be returned to the delegate in the submitting area"

with certain changes so that it will read:

"Resumes for trustee candidates be sent to the General Service Office by the area delegate only, as soon as possible after the elections, but no later January 1. Any resumes received at the General Service Office after the January 1 deadline will be returned to the delegate in the submitting area and will not be considered by the trustees' Nominating Committee in the current election."

The 1976 Advisory Action which reads:

"No person be eligible simultaneously as a candidate for both regional trustee and general service trustee-U.S./Canada (changed in 1978 to trustee-at-large, U. S ./Canada)"

be changed to read:

"No area shall submit an individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year."

A change in wording on the Class B trustee resume forms from: "Date of sobriety" to "Date of last drink" not be made at this time.

1986 It was recommended that:

With one exception all candidates for regional trustee of Eastern Canada and Pacific U.S. be eligible for election. The reason for the exception was that the resume was submitted by the candidate rather than following a Conference action that states the resume be submitted by the delegate only. (Because of extenuating circumstances, the Conference as a whole accepted his candidacy during the election process on Wednesday.)

The Regional Trustee-G.S.O. Resume Sheet be updated to include the following information from the Conference Advisory Action from 1985: "Resumes for trustee candidate be sent to G.S.O. by the area delegate **only**...."

Due to the unforeseen circumstances, the chairperson of the

board is authorized to appoint from the existing members of the General Service Board a director of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to fill the vacancy.

The practice of having a Class A trustee serve as chairperson of the board continue.

All resumes of potential Class A and General Service trustees and directors be sent to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees for their perusal before the General Service Conference.

1987 It was recommended that:

The Conference reaffirm the 1985 Conference Action using the word only in "Resumes for Trustee Candidates be sent to G.S.O. by Area Delegate only..."

We continue with the current practice of selecting directors for both A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Boards, but that the positions should not necessarily be restricted to residents of New York City and vicinity.

A director serving on the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Board not be a candidate for regional trustee or trustee-at-large.

1988 It was recommended that:

In regard to the suggestion for a Class A trustee with expertise in the area of finance, no additional specific limitations should be made regarding qualifications for candidates, in order that the board have the greatest latitude in selecting candidates for Class A trustee vacancies.

In regard to the suggestion of the selection of corporate board directors of A.A.W.S., Inc. and Grapevine, Inc., that they not be past delegates, no specific limitations should be made regarding qualifications for candidates, in order that the board have the greatest latitude in selecting candidates for these positions.

1989 It was recommended that:

An effort be made to rectify contradictions and inconsistencies between *The A.A. Service Manual* and legal charters and corporate by-laws.

NOTE: Although the following item did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote to become a Conference recommendation, it did receive a substantial majority and is therefore a strong suggestion for the board's consideration.

The following revised text be approved for substitution and inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

THERE ARE. . .
TWO TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE

The trustees-at-large (2) serve as members of the trustees' International Committee and other trustees committees or as directors of the corporate boards. They may fill in for regional trustees, as needed and/or requested.

The trustees-at-larges-one from the U.S. and one from Canada-serve as the World Service Meeting delegates representing the U.S. and Canada. World Service Meeting delegates participate in two World Service Meetings which are held once every two years, the meeting place alternating between New York City and a location outside the U.S. and Canada. World Service Meeting delegates should have the same qualifications as any trustee, and also have time both to attend the World Service Meetings and to present and carry out any decisions reached at these meetings.

The trustees-at-large are requested to attend all Regional Forums in their own country and be available on a rotational basis to participate on forum programs.

The trustees-at-large are also available for other A.A. service activities as requested by areas or regions and additional activities as may be requested by the board of trustees.

THERE ARE. . .
FOUR GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES

General service trustees are active on one or more of the service corporate boards and must be available, not only every quarter, but any week and, sometimes, any day, for the solution of problems on which G.S.O. or Grapevine staff members need help. Because of this requirement, all general service trustees originally came from New York City or its commuting area and were sometimes known as "in-town trustees." The current practice of selecting general service trustees for both the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine corporate boards will continue, but these positions are no longer restricted to residents of New York City or its vicinity.

While there are no "specialists" in A.A.--only recovered drunks-it has been possible to choose, for general service trusteeships, men and women with the kind of business or professional acumen that is particularly applicable to the problems at hand, whether their backgrounds are in publishing, public relations, or administration. This brings up the question of what qualifications count most in the selection of a trustee . . .

1990: It was recommended that:

The following revised text be approved for substitution and inclusion in *The A.A. Service Manual*:

THERE ARE. . .
TWO TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE

The trustees-at-large (2) serve as members of the trustees' International Committee and other trustees committees or as directors of the corporate boards. They may fill in for regional trustees, as needed and/or requested.

The trustees-at-large--one from the U.S. and one from Canada-serve as the World Service Meeting delegates representing the U.S. and Canada. World Service Meeting delegates participate in two World Service Meetings which are held once every two years, the meeting place alternating between New York City and a location outside the U.S. and

Canada. World Service Meeting delegates should have the same qualifications as any trustees, and also have time both to attend the World Service Meetings and to present and carry out any decisions reached at these meetings.

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The trustees-at-large are also available for other A.A. service activities as requested by areas or regions and additional activities as may be requested by the board of trustees.

THERE ARE . . . FOUR GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES

General service trustees are active on one or more of the service corporate boards and must be available, not only every quarter, but any week and, sometimes, any day, for the solution of problems on which G.S.O. or Grapevine staff members need help. Because of this requirement, all general service trustees originally came from New York City or its commuting area and were sometimes known as "in-town trustees." The current practice of selecting general service trustees for both the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine corporate boards will continue, but these positions are no longer restricted to residents of New York City or its vicinity.

While there are no "specialists" in A.A.--only recovered drunks--it has been possible to choose, for general service trusteeships, men and women with the kind of business or professional acumen that is particularly applicable to the problems at hand, whether their backgrounds are in publishing, public relations, or administration. This brings up the question of what qualifications count most in the selection of a trustee. . . ."

1991

No recommendations other than that slate of offices, trustees and directors be elected.

1992 It was recommended that:

Delegates who become chairpersons of Conference committees, and the delegate chairperson, continue to be invited to attend the quarterly board weekend/General Service Board meeting prior to the General Service Conference.

1993 It was recommended that:

Hereafter, Class A trustees be limited to two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Since the committee recognizes the necessity of a degree of flexibility in the terms of Class A trustees, the chairperson of the General Service Board--after approval by that board--is granted the opportunity to extend one (1) additional three-year term for Class A members of the General Board, where necessary.

The chairperson of the General Service Board serve for no more than four consecutive years.

GENERAL CATEGORIES

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

1963

The traditional A.A. policy of cooperation but not affiliation with Al-Anon Family Groups was reaffirmed.

1967

Guidelines for group separation of A.A. and Al-Anon were approved.

1969

The Conference approved the recommendation to incorporate into the existing A.A. Guidelines the questions on how A.A. and Al-Anon can cooperate with regards to central offices, and area and regional get-togethers and conventions. The Conference also approved a resolution of gratitude to the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups.

1976

It was affirmed that Al-Anon be allowed one vote on the Convention Site Committee for the 1980 International Convention.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning CLUBS

1960

The Conference confirmed, on the basis of numerous case histories, that it is possible for clubs limited to A.A. members to develop and operate successfully without recourse to solicitation of funds from non-A.A.s.

It was recommended that a basic study be made of the relation of clubhouses to the A.A. movement and approved formation of an eight-member staff special Conference Study Committee to work on this project with G.S.O.

1961

A detailed clubhouse survey was reported to the Conference.

1966

The Conference reaffirmed A.A.'s policy of cooperation but not affiliation with clubs and rehabilitation facilities, as spelled out in Tradition Six.

1967

The Conference approved a position paper concerning clubs organized and directed by A.A. members to the effect that such

clubs should operate within A.A. Traditions and abide by them to the fullest.

1972

The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members; and that a letter be sent to delegates explaining this decision so that they can inform clubs in the areas.

1981 It was recommended that:

Clubs not receive the literature discount available to A.A. groups.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

1957

Approval was given to outlining the scope of Conference committee work for the benefit of new delegates.

1961

Recognizing the growing importance of the field of outside agencies, a Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies as a standing Conference committee was established.

1964

The Conference approved the proposals that:

Conference committees select a co-chairman from first-year delegates to become chairman the second year.

All outgoing Conference committee members serve in an ex-officio capacity for a full year after their terms are concluded.

The Conference recommended that procedures for selecting Conference committees be submitted during the forthcoming year.

1965

The Conference recommended that:

Committee members continue to be selected geographically by lot, and that this drawing be conducted by the chairman of the Policy Committee of the General Service Board at the January Policy Committee meeting. Any delegates' names not received by that date will be added to committees as received. [Reaffirmed, 1968]

Delegates assigned to committees before the Conference then be advised of their committee assignments by the Conference secretary and given the opportunity to refuse the assignment. [See Policy Committee action, 1971.1]

The new chairman be elected at the final meeting of each

Conference committee by written ballot, to become chairman immediately following each Conference.

It was suggested that committee members can communicate with each other by requesting the secretary to duplicate letters from members and mail them to all committee members.

1966

A Conference Institutions Committee was approved.

1967

It was recommended that ex-officio committee members be continued, but only after being contacted following the January Policy Committee meeting and asked if they would like to continue serving ex-officio. Only if they answer in the affirmative will they be kept on the committee list as ex-officio for one year.

1969

It was recommended that the name of the Conference Policy Committee be changed to Committee on Conference Policy.

1970

It was recommended that the procedure for selecting Conference committee members continue to be from the hat; that no area be represented on any standing committee for more than two consecutive years; that when any state or province has more than one area, no standing committee will have more than one member from each state or province.

1971

It is not necessary to write to new delegates asking them if they are willing to serve on the committee to which they have been chosen, but rather, in the interest of expediency, they will be informed of their committee assignment.

It was recommended that we accept the recommendation from the Conference Committee on Public Information for the formation of a Conference Committee on Professional Relations to correspond with the trustees' Committee on Professional Relations; that five delegates from Panel 22 be drawn by lot for the Conference Committee on Professional Relations; and that four members from Panel 23 will be added to the committee to bring it up to its full complement of nine. The Conference will then have ten Conference Committees comprised of nine members each at the present Conference size.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning DELEGATES

1959

The Conference reviewed a suggestion to increase the delegate's term of office to three years, and voted unanimously to retain the present two-year term of office. [Reaffirmed in 1965 and 1967.1]

1962

The Conference asked the General Service Board to investigate the savings that might be obtained by limiting air-travel allowances for delegates to the cost of jet tourist where obtainable.

1963

The Conference confirmed the need for exchange of information on intergroup experience and activity through G.S.O.

1965

The Conference recommended that all area assemblies at which delegates are elected be held prior to December **31**.

The Conference reaffirmed the basic A.A. principle of rotation in service positions, and disapproved a proposal that former delegates be permitted to attend Conference meetings as observers.

1968

The Conference recommended that delegates be informed of important issues so they can read prepared material and perhaps discuss before voting.

1973

The Conference suggested that past delegates not hold office as G.S.R.s or D.C.M.s but find other ways to become involved in area service.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning DELEGATES' MEETINGS

1954

The Conference approved the principle of having a second-year delegate as chairman, with a first-year delegate as vice-chairman, succeeding to the chairmanship the following year.

1957

The Conference approved giving each new delegate the opportunity to be recognized and to speak (suggested time limit, two minutes) at the opening of the meeting.

1961

The Conference approved the continuation of the plan adopted in 1960 of placing qualified G.S.R.s on appropriate G.S.O. mailing lists. It suggested that G.S.O. prepare a special form on which G.S.R.s could record data essential to maintaining up-to-date mailing lists.

1962

It was recommended that the Area-Delegates Meeting be earlier-Thursday evening.

1963

The decision was made to create an informal association of past and present delegates, to be called "The Delegates' Association," who will meet together at the International Convention in 1965.

1964

It was suggested that G.S.O. reinstitute the practice of having advance copies of talks available to delegates at the time presentations are made, as was done at the 1963 Conference.

It was agreed that present delegates should attend the 1965 International Convention in Toronto "as A.A. members only."

1965

The meeting approved the continuation of Area Highlights reports on the 1966 Conference agenda.

It was agreed:

That delegates have an obligation to query G.S.O. staff members, trustees, and directors on matters of movement-wide concern; and it was felt that the new interview time sessions, as well as increased discussion with the staff members, might be more useful in this connection than procedures used in the past.

To recommend to the Policy Committee of the Conference "that the structure of committees be changed to provide for more than the eight members now allowed."

Area delegates meet on Wednesday night.

The following delegates were elected to the World Service Meeting in October 1969:

Panel 18: Delegate-Warren S., So. Coastal

1969

It was suggested that the Sunday afternoon delegates' reception be continued as a hospitality fellowship reception of an informal nature, rather than as a more formal planned or pre-arranged meeting.

It was the expression of the meeting that inasmuch as G.S.O. is now giving consideration to relocation of the office in New York, consideration might also be given to the relocation of the site of this meeting, with a view to returning to single-room accommodations so that the advantages of private meditation, study, thought, and rest might be restored. It was further suggested that the rising costs of the annual meeting might be controlled, or at least reduced, by a study of possible alternative hotel accommodations.

1970

The following resolutions were acted upon at the Area-Delegates-Only Meeting:

That the Delegates-Only Meeting be held on Tuesday night

of the Conference instead of Wednesday night.

That the General Service Office have the right to choose the hotel for the 1971 General Service Conference without conferring further with the delegates to the Conference.

That a separate, one-page agenda be printed for the convenience of the delegates.

A resolution of thanks to Lois for standing by Bill all these years.

A reaffirmation of the action of the Committee on Conference Policy to appoint a task force to take the Conference's inventory.

1971

The following resolutions were acted upon:

That the General Service Office have the right to choose the hotel for the 1972 Conference, with a unanimously strong recommendation that they consider a site other than the Hotel New Yorker.

In recognition of the importance of keeping past delegates informed and involved, it was recommended that past delegates receive the G.S.O. *Quarterly Report*.

It was unanimously agreed that the Sunday get-acquainted meeting be continued. The delegates expressed a desire to use the bell system so that more members would have an opportunity to participate.

Two U.S./Canada Conference delegates and two alternates to the World Service Meeting of 1972 were elected:

Panel 21: Delegate-Shirley S., N.E. Ohio, Alternate--Lenore M., E. Pennsylvania.

Panel 22: Delegate--Ben P., Kansas, Alternate-Ralph Z., Western New York

It was recommended that the area delegate chairman should have greater Conference responsibility and be allowed to chair parts of the meetings, such as Personal Highlights.

It was strongly recommended that the election procedure for election of trustees should be thoroughly reviewed.

1972

A contribution was made by the delegates to the Memorial Fund to show gratitude to Hazel R., Betty R., and Walter H. Calif., Alternate-Hal V., North Dakota. Panel 19: Delegate-Charles D., Central Michigan, Alternate-Bill W., Chicago, Ill.

1973

It was the sense of the meeting that:

Delegates should be more responsive to G.S.O. requests and communications.

Present delegates should be more thorough in advice to successors as to Conference structure, activity, and procedures.

G.S.O. might improve lines of communication to delegates in such matters as attitudes on Conference theme and seek attitudes on finalized agenda subject matter.

It was also requested that delegates be advised of the results of the Conference Evaluation and Critique Study made in 1972.

It was recommended that:

The agenda of the 24th Conference include an in-depth discussion concerning involvement of A.A. members in outside agency programs on alcoholism. The suggestion was made with the view in mind that the new Professional Relations Committee would be deeply involved in this matter, particularly to determine whether or not such involvement results in implied endorsement in violation of our Traditions.

The delegate chairperson be more actively involved in the Conference--such as introducing delegate Highlight speakers, introducing Conference committee chairpersons making reports, and chairing meetings involving delegates.

1974

The chairperson stated that any actions taken would be advisory only. He stated further that there would be elections tonight (April 25) of chairman and alternate for Panel 25. The purpose of having a Delegates-Only Meeting is to ensure frank discussion.

A telegram received by the Conference from Grover S. of Delaware was referred back to the Ask-It-Basket as a Conference matter.

The chairman offered a resolution of commendation of Kleina Jones [G.S.O. personnel manager, now retired] for her dedication. Unanimously approved.

Ted K. was thanked by the assembled delegates for his "Memo to a Delegate from a Delegate." It was suggested that this continue to be a Conference mailing.

A motion was made from the floor to suggest to the appropriate committee that each day's meetings be opened with the Serenity Prayer and closed with the Lord's Prayer. It was passed unanimously.

The scheduling this year was adequate and flexible enough to meet the Conference needs.

The sense of the meeting was that all delegates felt they had free and completely involved participation in all Conference action.

1975

A unanimous vote of appreciation was given to **AM M.** (G.S.O. staff) for her many years of service.

The sense of the Delegates-Only Meeting was that the sched-

uling of the Conference was satisfactory.

The delegates felt that they had enough participation.

It was suggested that the delegates should have name tags in advance so those who arrive early for next year's Conference may identify each other as early arrivers.

One delegate asked that when outside agencies get permission from G.S.O. on use of A.A. phraseology, the delegate involved should be notified.

Since items for the agenda must be established by a certain date, it is suggested that any changes in agenda should be voiced at the beginning of the Conference and approval sought for any changes.

It was recommended that any matter brought before the Conference that required a vote, either by a sense of the meeting or other voting procedure, shall be given the right of discussion before the vote is taken.

1976 It was the sense of the meeting:

To bring G.S.O.'s attention to our needs and concerns on the widespread problem in mailings and records and to tell us exactly what we might do to cooperate with them and they to cooperate with us.

That this Delegates-Only Meeting go on record as strongly urging that the format of the Conference be changed so that the committee reports will be in our hands early in the week, Thursday morning or Thursday evening, in ample time to discuss them before voting on Friday morning.

That in the Delegates-Only Meeting there be no restrictions on any subject the delegates discuss.

That at the regional luncheons next year one person be picked out of each region and that person be the nominee for delegate chairman, Panel 27.

1977

At this Delegates Meeting, for the first time, there were three topics for presentation and discussion:

- a. How to Spread the Word-The Delegates' Report
- b. Delegates' Right of Decision and Group Conscience
- c. The Past Delegate-A Dropout?

Election of 1978 delegate chairperson: In keeping with the 26th Conference action, one nominee from each region was presented to the delegates. Results: Fran P. (Washington), delegate chairperson; and Dave A. (Northeast Texas), alternate chairperson.

There was considerable discussion about the composition of the trustees' committees. It was suggested that committees should no longer be limited to members from the New York area.

1978

Presentation and discussion topics were:

- a. The Delegate and A.A. World Service Structure
- b. The Delegate and the Responsibility of Communication
- c. The Delegate and the Professional Community

Suggestions for improvement at the area level included:

- a. Order in bulk through intergroups.
- b. Address mail to a particular person at G.S.O.
- c. Document all correspondence and keep copies; set up a system for documentation with groups.
- d. Establish a central point of quality assurance for all delegates; get a report from that point at the 1979 Conference.
- e. G.S.O. reports that 33% of the 30,000 G.S.R.s change every 90 days; stress two years service, not short term.
- f. Use group service number or delegate's panel and area number in *all* correspondence to expedite mailing.

It was also pointed out that areas should be aware of the time required for processing and delivery of orders, third-class mail taking up to three weeks.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning DIRECTORIES

1956

In regard to misuse of the *World Directory*, it was recommended that the attention of the groups again be directed to its purpose as listed on the inside directory cover. It was recommended that this statement be used as a guide and not a rule, as it is not intended to interfere with free communication between A.A.s in sharing experience and activities; that non-A.A. misuse be handled as in the past. [Reaffirmed in 1961 and 1966.]

1960

It was recommended that permanent mailing addresses for General Service Conference area committees be listed in the *World Directory* under state or province.

1962

The majority of delegates were in favor of listing delegates and chairpersons of area committees in the directory with their permission.

1963

The Conference agreed it would not be practical to list local

A.A. newsletters and bulletins in the *World Directory*.

1966

The present policy on listings in the *World Directory* was reaffirmed.

1968

Separation of the *World Directory* into two editions was approved, one edition being for the U.S. and Canada, and the second for all other countries.

1972

Regarding listing in the *World Directory*, it was the sense of the meeting that family groups should not be listed under the family group name in the directory.

Regarding *World Directory, Part I*, it was recommended that a set of specific guidelines on the use of the *World Directory* be prepared by G.S.O. as soon as possible. Delegates unanimously agreed that their names may be used for any referrals from G.S.O.

It was unanimously agreed that alcohol and pill groups not be listed in A.A. directories or meeting lists.

1973

Guidelines for use of the *World Directory* as presented to the Conference were unanimously accepted.

A one-year moratorium on the publication of the *World Directory* as presented to the Conference was granted.

1974

The Conference approved the following recommendations of the *World Directory* Study Committee:

- a. Part I (U.S. and Canada) of the *World Directory* be divided into three sections, each subdivided by region:

Eastern United States: Northeast Region; Southeast Region; East Central Region.

Western United States: Pacific Region; West Central Region; Southwest Region.

Canada

- b. Work be scheduled so that Part II of the *World Directory* may be distributed before summer.
- c. A staggered system of mailing, obtaining responses and processing changes on group information cards, be established to facilitate the spreading of work throughout the year.
- d. Only full names and phone numbers that may be used for Twelfth Step referral and meeting information from any source be published. This will be clearly indicated on the

group information card.

- e. Group meeting place information be included on back of group information cards. This is for reference at G.S.O. only and not for the directory.

- f. Delegates be asked to assume responsibility for all directory cards in their areas.

In special session, the Conference affirmed that all A.A. groups should be listed in the *World Directory*. This action is in accordance with the description of an A.A. group in the *World Directory*.

1977 It was recommended that:

States and provinces should be listed alphabetically rather than by region.

The recommendation of the 1974 General Service Conference be reaffirmed:

Only full names and phone numbers that may be used for Twelfth Step referral and meeting information from any source be published. This will be clearly indicated on the group information sheet.

Each group's service number (used for G.S.O records) should be listed with other information.

Group contributions continue to be listed.

1979 It was recommended that:

The names of alcohol and pill groups not be listed in A.A. directories.

1989 It was recommended that:

The 1989 General Service Conference appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of Panel 39 delegates and G.S.O. employees involved with the new computer system to study the problems of group registration and the A.A. directories and bring its recommendations back to the 1990 General Service Conference.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning FILMS AND FILMSTRIPS

1960 It was recommended that:

The board pursue the plan of making a documentary A.A. film for sale to A.A. groups and for use by other interested people at a cost to the board not to exceed \$7,500; that the plan include provisions for control of the script and for exclusive sale to the groups and others approved by the General Service Board.

1964

The Conference approved a new filmstrip describing world services made available through G.S.O.

1966

The Conference reaffirmed the action of the 1965 Conference that "Bill's Own Story" on film is for A.A. use only and should not be shown outside A.A. groups.

1968

The Conference recommended that prints of the film "Time for Decision" be made available to local public information committees at a rental price of \$20 a week.

1969

It was felt that the G.S.O. filmstrip was very effective in letting members know about G.S.O. and encouraging them to contribute. The committee suggested that all delegates show the G.S.O. filmstrip as often as possible, just prior to their discussion of the need for contributions and support .

1970

The Conference recommended better utilization of the G.S.O. filmstrip should be made and suggested that it be distributed in a slide form to make it more convenient to use.

1977

After discussion, it was decided that there was no substantial unanimity regarding the showing of the 1960 International Convention film at Regional Forums, and it was also decided that the subject should be discussed in the areas before a final decision is made. It was also suggested that an additional print be obtained and safeguarded.

1978

A motion was carried that the film of the 1960 International Convention in Long Beach, California, be kept for archival purposes only.

1980 It was recommended that:

The pictures of Bill W. and Dr. Bob remain in the film "A.A.--An Inside View."

1981 It was recommended that:

The filmstrip "Markings on the Journey" be shown within the Fellowship only.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

1952 It was recommended that:

The committee study the question of Congressional incorporation.

1953 It was recommended that:

A.A. not be incorporated by Congressional action.

1954

A motion to change the name of the Alcoholic Foundation, Inc., to General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. was unanimously adopted.

1961

The General Service Board of Trustees was asked to consider specific action in respect to royalty payments on textbook literature to ensure that Bill and Lois may not suffer a possible loss of income in the future.

1964

An agreement between Bill W., co-founder, and A.A. World Services, Inc., covering royalties derived from Bill's writings was reviewed and approved. (The intent of the agreement is to protect Bill, his wife, Lois, and their designated heirs, while defining A.A.W.S.'s position as the society's publishing agency.)

1972

Regarding the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund: Agreed to defer the decision on the use of the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund so that the delegates may discuss with their groups the suggestion of a film about A.A., historical or for public information purposes, and come back next year prepared to make a decision on this or some other suggestion. [In 1973 the Conference unanimously recommended that the money in the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund be transferred to the General Fund as expeditiously as possible.]

A change in the bylaws was approved to remove the words "at-large" from the title of the general service trustee from the U.S. and the general service trustee from Canada.

The proposal to change the State of Wisconsin from the West Central Region to the East Central Region was unanimously approved.

1973

Utah's request for a change of region from the Southwest Region to the Pacific Region was unanimously approved.

The procedure for election of regional trustees was reviewed and the Conference recommended that the questionnaire regarding electoral procedures for the regional trustees be filled out and sent to G.S.O. by the trustees' Nominating Committee at their July 1973 meeting. The trustees' Nominating Committee will make a proposal(s) to the 1974 Conference for consideration.

The Conference unanimously recommended that the money in the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund be transferred to the General Fund as expeditiously as possible.

1974

The Conference, by more than a two-thirds majority, voted to make the following changes in the electoral procedures for

regional trustees:

- a. That the trustees' Nominating Committee continue to review resumes for each candidate's eligibility for nomination. Voters to consist of delegates from the region involved plus an equal number of voters-one-half to come from the Conference Committee on Trustees, and one-half to come from the trustees' Nominating committee.
- b. That a five-year moratorium on discussion of electoral procedures of Class B regional trustees at the Conference level be observed.

1975 It was recommended that:

No further discussion is necessary regarding John O.'s letter concerning St. Luke's Hospital in Phoenix, and a vote of confidence was unanimously given to Milton Maxwell, Class A trustee.

Delegates be given background information on Class A and general service (in-town) trustee nominees when they are presented to the Conference prior to election by the General Service Board.

The concept presented by Dr. Norris on conferences in which staff and trustees would visit in the regions and work with local service people should be further explored and developed.

1976 It was recommended that:

We go forward with mini-conferences and provide them as often as possible, and that these be held at the request of the region. The sense of the meeting was that for the time being the regional meetings be known as A.A. Regional Forums.

1992 It was recommended that:

A feasibility study be undertaken by the General Service Board of all possible methods by which sobriety chips/medalions may be made available to the A.A. Fellowship; and that:

- a. the study culminate in a report to an ad hoc committee of 1993 Conference delegates;
- b. the report presented to the ad hoc committee also be mailed to all Conference members by March 15, 1993;
- c. the ad hoc committee be charged with bringing forward a recommendation to the 1993 Conference reporting their conclusions.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

1958 It was recommended that:
The suggestion of a name change from General Service Headquarters to General Service Office be adopted.

1966 It was recommended that:

More planned specific help should be provided by area committees and the General Service Office for both starting and assisting A.A. in small communities.

A staff member coordinate central office services.

Monthly information sheets be mailed from G.S.O.

1972

Regarding local misunderstandings, the Conference approved the following resolution:

This, the 22nd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, feels that G.S.O. should not be asked to intervene or otherwise involve itself in local disputes or misunderstandings.

1976 It was recommended that:

G.S.O. discontinue distribution of the book "Bill W.," dispose of the present supply in the most feasible manner, and notify the Fellowship through Box 4-5-9 when the book "Bill W." is no longer available through G.S.O. The sense of the meeting was taken that the deletion of the listing in the catalog should be handled by overprinting or other method as the General Service Office sees fit.

Up to \$5,000 be authorized for a professional study of the feasibility of relocating G.S.O., the result of this study to be reported at the 1977 Conference.

1977

It was agreed that, as recommended by the General Service Board, it would not be in the best interest of the Fellowship to relocate the General Service Office at this time.

1978

Following the presentation on the possible relocation of the General Service Office, the Conference reaffirmed the recommendation of the 1977 General Service Conference that it would not be in the best interest of the Fellowship to relocate the General Service Office at this time.

1980 It was recommended that:

When G.S.O. and Grapevine offices are expanded, the offices be modernized and the appearance of the reception area and office as a whole be vastly improved.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

1956 It was recommended that:

An announcement be made in a future G.S.O. Exchange Bulletin reminding G.S.R.s that it is their duty to pass bulletins on to the secretary and suggesting that, wherever practical, the G.S.R. use a group post office box as a mailing address.

1963

The 1963 Conference endorsed the plan of conducting area committee sharing sessions in which G.S.R.s are encouraged to share their experience and knowledge in helping the Fellowship to carry out specific responsibilities of service to alcoholics.

1964

The Conference approved the proposal that areas which volunteered on an experimental basis will have their G.S.R.s receive G.S.O. mailings exclusively.

1965 It was recommended that:

All G.S.R.s receive the group mailings from the General Service Office.

1970 It was recommended that:

The area committees consider a symposium on services that would include an educational program for G.S.R.s in the workings of their groups to G.S.O. The need to employ more articulate people, especially in the role of G.S.R., was stressed.

1992 It was recommended that:

The general manager of the General Service Office and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Board devise an equitable system of pay for the staff that embraces the spiritual principles of Concept XI and complies with all applicable laws.

1993 It was recommended that:

The General Service Office review the current practice of mailing label distribution and devise a new policy that will encompass the principle of anonymity.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning GROUPS

1972

Regarding naming an A.A. group after an individual: The suggestion was approved that an A.A. group should not be named after an A.A. member or a nonalcoholic, living or deceased.

A.A. group policy was reaffirmed that "Only those with a desire to stop drinking may be members of A.A. groups; only A.A. members are eligible to be officers of A.A. groups; non-alcoholics are welcome at open meetings of A.A." And it is suggested that the word "family" not be used in the name of an A.A. group: if A.A.s and their nonalcoholic mates wish to meet together on a regular basis, they consider these gatherings "meetings" and not A.A. groups. [See also Directories section regarding listing in the directory.]

Tape-making: It was agreed that tape-making at all types of A.A. meetings is helpful to some A.A.s and that the decision of

making tapes be left to group autonomy.

Narcotics, drugs, and A.A.: A show of hands indicated that more than one-half of the delegates are concerned with this problem in their areas, and it was agreed that we should publicize *what we are and what we are not*. See also Directories section regarding the listing of alcohol and pill groups in the directory*]

1973 It was recommended that:

Newcomers should learn about and become involved in the A.A. service structure as soon as possible.

Discussion of special purpose groups was recommended as an agenda item for 1974.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

1962

The Conference rejected a proposal that the 1965 General Service Conference be held in Toronto in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary Convention to be held in July 1965.

1964

Operating plans and procedures for the 30th Anniversary International Convention in Toronto, July 2, 3, and 4, 1975, were approved.

1965

Reports were approved on the preparation of a book entitled "A.A./30" being prepared for sale at the Convention.

The Conference disapproved a suggestion that Convention funds be used to defray expenses incidental to attendance at the Convention by certain early A.A. members, but suggested that area committees might be interested in such projects.

1966

It was agreed to hold a 35th International Convention; that Miami be recommended as first choice and Chicago as second choice, with the provision that if Miami should prove impractical, then Seattle be considered as well as Chicago, and that the "Procedures Affecting A.A.'s International Convention" be accepted for the 1970 Convention with the following change in Item D, under II:

After the Site Committee has carefully screened the information submitted on each site, the committee will indicate its order of preference as first and second.

The sole change involved is the elimination of the word "third" after second.

1971

The delegates selected the following cities in order of prefer-

ence as their choice for the 1975 A.A. Convention: Denver, Seattle, and Detroit. Following the Conference, Bob, Kleina, and Dennis visited Denver to inspect hotel and convention facilities. Their report will be forthcoming shortly.

1974

The committee reviewed and confirmed the action taken at the 1971 Conference:

The number of non-A.A. speakers be limited, and that they be people who are interested in A.A. and alcoholism.

- a. There be at least one A.A. meeting held at the same time non-A.A.s are speaking so that members will always have a choice.
- b. The speakers at the Sunday morning spiritual panel be A.A. members.

It was recommended that:

Al-Anon be requested not to hold the Sunrise Meeting at Red Rocks because it might interfere with the buses needed for the A.A. Sunday morning spiritual meeting.

The Host Committee have the responsibility for planning and handling the luncheon for delegates, past delegates, trustees, and past trustees.

1975

The Convention Committee reported that there are 12,000 registrations as of April 24; May 15 is the deadline for receiving registrations at G.S.O.

The committee also reported that there will be: two Big Meetings-Friday night and Sunday morning; the Big Show on Saturday night; 34 Alkathon A.A. meetings; 12 Panel Meetings; 12 Workshops; luncheon for past/present delegates and trustees (\$6.50 per person, Saturday, July 5; these luncheons will take place at the Holiday Inn downtown).

Don B., delegate from Colorado, gave an enthusiastic report on the activities of the Denver Host committee.

A Convention evaluation questionnaire will be distributed to all registrants with their badges.

The members of the Conference Convention Committee will be among the hosts at the G.S.O. informal reception for the A.A. and Al-Anon Convention Host Committee, Sunday, July 16, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Convention meetings will open with the Serenity Prayer and close with the Lord's Prayer.

1976

The Convention Site Committee reported its selection for the 1980 International Convention as follows: (1) New Orleans, (2) Houston, (3) Seattle.

1979 It was recommended that:

Simultaneous translation services (depending on foreign registration) be provided free of charge at the 1980 International Convention.

The number of non-A.A. speakers to be invited to participate in the 1980 International Convention remain the same (21) as at previous International Conventions.

Three commercial taping organizations be invited to establish guidelines and submit bids for providing the equipment to tape the 1980 International Convention. It was further recommended that the services of A.A. volunteers be utilized to do the actual taping with the guidelines established by the firm providing the equipment. It was felt that this procedure would cut the retail cost of the tapes to about 50% of the cost of tapes from the 1975 International Convention.

Box 4-5-9 publish information on:

- a. Convention services for deaf A.A. members
- b. Convention policy regarding travel agencies and their handling of registration and reservation forms
- c. When registration and reservation forms will be available

The 1980 International Convention include showing(s) of the films, "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions" and "Alcoholics Anonymous-An Inside View."

The general manager of G.S.O. personally inform area delegates of invitations to A.A. members in their respective areas to chair major functions of the International Convention prior to issuance of the invitations.

1980 It was recommended that:

Simultaneous translations in French, Spanish, and German be provided at no charge for the Big Meeting on Friday night and the Spiritual Meeting on Sunday morning.

1981 It was recommended that:

The report of the 1985 International Convention Site Selection committee be accepted; first, second, and third choices as follows: (1) Montreal, (2) San Diego, (3) Minneapolis.

Complete financial reports of the International Conventions be published in the *Final Conference Reports*, including the 1980 International Convention.

1984 It was recommended that:

The principal speakers at the major A.A. meetings all be A.A. members, as it has been at our A.A. International Conventions in the past.

Due to the 1985 International Convention, state, local and provincial convention committees be alerted to the possible effect on attendance at local conventions held May 10 and August 23.

1985 It was recommended that:

For public information purposes, we permit a TV camera to film the flag ceremony from afar at the Olympic Park Stadium.

Because the Convention questionnaire is not helpful from one Convention to the next, we discontinue its use.

1986 It was recommended that:

Three cities be specified for the 1990 International Convention: Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington; Vancouver, British Columbia.

1987 It was recommended that:

The 1988 General Service Conference select three cities for the 1995 International Convention; and that the Convention Site Selection Committee not determine its preference for first, second or third choice and that the top three cities be given equal consideration by the 1988 General Service Conference. The final selection of the site will be made by the General Service Board in July 1988, following an inspection trip by the Convention Site Selection Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVISORY ACTIONS

It was agreed that qualified "observers" from overseas areas be admitted to the 1957 Conference.

1959

The Conference accepted the board's recommendation that invitations be extended to the Service Committee of Great Britain and Ireland, Finland, Norway, and Holland to send, this year or next, a member as a correspondent who would be a member of the Conference without vote and, as such, would receive all Conference materials.

1966

The Conference approved the International Committee's recommendation: "When a country wishes to have a foreign observer, the foreign observer should be a legal resident of the country and a member of A. A. "

1972

Regarding the Stepping Stones property, it was voted unanimously not to accept this property, the home of Bill and Lois.

1983

We send an invitation to a friend of A.A. to share with us spiritually one morning, at the 1985 International Convention; and we would like that person to be a member of Al-Anon.

1985

The general manager designate a staff person to coordinate and pull together (at the General Service Office) all available information about spreading the A.A. message to the native North

American population, including but not limited to (1) translations of their languages and dialects, (2) experiences of various A.A. groups in their contact with these populations, and to explore with a view toward consolidating and expanding A.A.'s experience in these areas; to report back to the 1986 Conference through whatever committee the General Manager feels is appropriate.

The Treatment Facilities, Correctional Facilities and Cooperation With the Professional Community Workbooks be translated into Spanish.

1986

The 1987 Conference Policy/Admission Committee consider the formation of a Conference Archives Committee.

ADVISORY ACTIONS Concerning WORLD SERVICE MEETING

1968

The proposal that the first World Service Meeting be held in New York City in the fall of 1969 was approved.

1970

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the 20th General Service Conference accept the following advisory actions of the First World Service Meeting:

- a. That the First World Service Meeting was worthwhile, and delegates approved the idea of holding future meetings.
- b. That the next meeting be held in three years; although some were in favor of two or four years.
- c. That the expenses of the next meeting should be shared on a more equitable basis if possible.
- d. That New York be the unanimous choice for the site of the next World Service Meeting, although it was agreed that future meetings should be held in other areas of the world when it becomes feasible.
- e. That the principle of rotation regarding the election of delegates to future meetings be accepted. However, it was noted that each country will determine the method of election or appointment of its own delegates. It was suggested that new delegates might be elected on a staggered-rotation basis.
- f. That delegates agree to the formation of four committees to conduct the business of World Service Meeting until the next gathering: Policy, Finance/Admissions, and Literature/Publishing. Delegates agreed that members of these committees would be chosen by lot.

1973

The Conference accepted the proposal for electing delegates to the World Service Meeting, representing the U.S. and Canada, in accordance with the procedures followed by other countries.

1977 It was recommended that the Fourth World Service Meeting report be accepted.