

**California Northern Coastal Area
Pre-Conference Assembly**

April 18-19, 2009
San Rafael, California

Final

59th General Service Conference
April 26 – May 2, 2009
New York, New York

***“Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s
Message – Enthusiasm and
Gratitude in Action”***

Post-Conference Assembly
May 9, 2009
Vacaville, California

59th General Service Conference

Theme: “Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action”

Presentation/Discussion Topics

- a) Humility and Sacrifice:
 - 1) Setting an Example
 - 2) Changing our Perceptions
 - 3) Anonymity – Sacrificing Our Egos

- b) Enthusiasm and Gratitude:
 - 1) Hope and Purpose from Defeat and Despair
 - 2) Happy, Joyous and Free
 - 3) Enthusiasm – A Gift of Inventory

- c) Spiritual Program in Action:
 - 1) Maximum Service – Our Spiritual Benefit
 - 2) Persistence – The Key to Progress
 - 3) Living the Traditions

Workshop Topic

“Language of the Heart – Keeping It Simple”

February 2009

2009 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items

I. Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2010 General Service Conference.
- B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2010 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2010 General Service Conference.
- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

- A. Consider the draft Video Segments Directed to Professionals in the Employment/Human Relations Field.
- B. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
- C. Discuss specific possible uses of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in C.P.C. endeavors.

III. Corrections

- A. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
- B. Consider alternatives to biennial mailing to corrections professionals, focusing on those that may be more effective and fiscally prudent.
- C. Consider updating the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."
- D. Discuss issues that may be involved in A.A. members' complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing "sponsorship agreements" or legally binding documents.

IV. Finance

- A. Review material submitted from the Fellowship concerning the 2008 Conference Advisory Action "the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups."
- B. Discuss request to produce a Seventh Tradition poster.
- C. Discuss other aspects of self-support.

V. A.A. Grapevine

- A. Review contents of A.A. Grapevine and La Viña Workbook.
- B. Consider request that “the 2007 Conference Advisory Action recommending that ‘the Grapevine and La Viña include a section on the medical, legal, and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer’ be rescinded.”
- C. Consider request that the following 2004 Conference Advisory Action be rescinded:

“To allow the widest distribution of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliations with any outside enterprise, a) subscriptions to the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines be issued only by A.A. Grapevine, Inc., or by A.A. trusted servants directly; and b) the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers. Note: This recommendation is to clarify the 1993 Advisory Action stating that the Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets.”

VI. Literature

- A. Review the revised draft pamphlet “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs.”
- B. Review the revised draft pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”
- C. Consider request that the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be reviewed toward eliminating or revising outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.
- D. Consider request to develop a new Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members.
- E. Consider request to add a sentence to the pamphlet “A Newcomer Asks” that encourages newcomers to obtain and study the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- F. Consider request to change the title of the pamphlet “44 Questions” to “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
- G. Discuss whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A.
- H. Consider request to publish a book of stories from members living in remote communities.
- I. Consider request to develop a second volume of *Daily Reflections*.
- J. Consider request to develop a video on the General Service Representative (G.S.R.).

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Approve invitations for one observer from the General Service Board of Brazil, S.A. and two observers (1) from the General Service Board and (1) from the General Service Office of Colombia, S.A.
- B. Review dates for the 2012 General Service Conference.
- C. Review "General Service Board Summary of Responses to Inventory Questions Pertaining to Regional Composition and Structure."
- D. Consider request to formulate a procedure for filing a minority appeal directly with the General Service Conference, as described in Bill W.'s commentary on Concept V.
- E. Discuss proposal requesting a General Service Conference inventory.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Consider 2008 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- B. Consider request to add the text "Provide initial motivation" to the section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A.A. at a Glance."
- C. Review updated text and graphics of the pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers...", which utilizes selected text and graphics from the current "Too Young?" pamphlet.
- D. Consider draft wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- E. Consider request "to develop a generic A.A. poster or posters for places such as hospitals, places of employment, doctors' offices, etc."
- F. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
 - 1. Review current television P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.
 - 2. Assess the need for a new television P.S.A.
 - 3. Review report on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2008 television P.S.A., "I Thought."
 - 4. Review revised draft script of "Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD," and consider recording revised script at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.
- G. Consider draft of the "A.A. Videos for Young People Project."
- H. Consider draft 2010 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire.
- I. Consider the need to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowship dies.

- J. Discuss suggestion that Public Information committees “explore the use of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in their endeavors.”
- K. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

IX. Report and Charter

A. *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2008 - 2009 Edition:

1. Consider adding the term of non-trustee directors to the section describing how non-trustee directors are selected on page S75.
 2. Consider suggestion to add a locally developed G.S.R. Preamble to *The A.A. Service Manual*.
 3. Consider proposal that every change to *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be approved by the General Service Conference.
 4. Consider suggestion to change the title “Conference Language” on page S19 to “Glossary of Conference Terms.”
 5. Consider suggestion to add text regarding the desirability of business or professional background for regional and at-large trustees to the section of *The A.A. Service Manual* on “Qualifications of an Effective Trustee” on page S63.
 6. Review suggested revisions to Chapters 10 and 12 regarding the A.A. Grapevine.
 7. Consider suggested revision regarding the term of service of Appointed Committee Members on page S70.
 8. Consider request to clarify language on page S65 regarding nominating a regional trustee candidate in the same year when nominating a trustee-at-large candidate.
 9. Review letter requesting an “inventory” of various items related to the General Service Conference Charter.
 10. Consider suggestion to insert the page reference “(see page S63)” in the section on Regional Trustees found on page S65.
 11. Consider suggestion to add cross-references to area numbers and area names.
 12. Review list of suggested additional changes.
- B. A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.): review list of suggested changes.
- C. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

X Treatment Facilities

- A. Review revised video, *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- B. Discuss a proposal that Treatment Facilities literature include information that would assist Treatment Facilities committees with their effort to inform treatment professionals about A.A. and to carry the A.A. message to patients in out-patient treatment programs.
- C. Discuss request that the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities expand its scope to include service to Special Needs Committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the "Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs."
- D. Discuss specific possible uses of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in Treatment endeavors.
- E. Review contents of T.F. Kit and Workbook.

XI. Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. East Central Regional Trustee
 - 2. Southeast Regional Trustee
 - 3. Trustee-at-Large/US
- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- E. Discuss report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating pertaining to the 2008 Additional Committee Consideration regarding Class B regional trustee and trustee-at-large successor terms in the event of an unexpected vacancy.
- F. Discuss suggested revision to procedure for distribution of trustee election resumes at the General Service Conference.

XII. Archives

- A. Review contents of Archives Workbook.
- B. Discuss ideas to make A.A.'s archives and history more readily available to the Fellowship.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2010 International Convention.
- B. Consider a broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.
- C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums.