

## **53<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference - Final Topics**

Here are the final 53<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference agenda items. This is divided into two parts: 1) **Presentation/discussion Topics**, and 2) **Conference Agenda Items**. AA members and, especially General Service Representatives, who carry the group's conscience, may use both parts to foster discussion and obtain an informed group conscience.

The **Presentation/Discussion** topics are presentations to be made at the Conference. The Workshop will be held during the Conference week for Conference members. Both are excellent topics in line with our Conference theme and may be used for dissuasions in group, district, or area events.

The **Conference Agenda Items** are the items that will be discussed by each of the 13 Conference Delegate Committees. It is important to note that these items may or may not be sent to the Conference itself as possible recommendations. However, because we will not know which items will be sent to the Conference, it is important that each group discuss as many of the items as possible and have their General Service Representative bring the group's informed conscience to the Pre-Conference Workshop on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Because there are so many items and many are procedural for particular committees, I would recommend that you focus on the items below. Over the next few days I will be adding background information to each of these items so that your group will have the best possible information.

### **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)**

1. Discuss ways of reaching a wider variety of professionals.

### **Finance**

1. Discuss self-support

### **Grapevine**

1. Consider suggestion to add the phrase "and encouraging subscriptions" to the description of the Grapevine representative of the pamphlet "The AA Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print"

### **Literature ((Delegate's Note: These may be a good way to introduce AA literature to the group)).**

4. Consider deleting the phrase, "not even your parents," from the second sentence in the sixth panel of the story "Vinnie" in the pamphlet "*Too Young*."
5. "The AA Group" pamphlet
  - a) Consider the following suggested changes:
    - i) On page 23, in the section "What trusted servants (officers) do we need?", replace the word "jobs" in the first sentence of the first paragraph with the word "service) and the word "job" in the first sentence of the third paragraph with "service positions."
    - ii) The sentence "See the chart of *suggested* group officers," which introduces the Group Service Structure Chart on page 24, be replaced by the sentence "The chart below offers possibilities for service at the group level."

- iii) The sentence “some groups have positions such as greeter, archivist, special needs representative, and liaison to meeting facility that do not appears on this char” be added immediately after the chart on page 24.
  - iv) The reference to the “Archives Representative” be deleted in the Group Service Structure Chart on page 24.
  - b) Discuss request from trustees’ Literature Committee for input and direction regarding the possibility of a future comprehensive review of the “The AA Group” pamphlet.
- 6 Consider revisions to the comic book pamphlet “What Happened to Joe ...”
  - 7 Consider suggestion that the pamphlet “It happened to Alice!” be replaced by a new women’s comic book pamphlet which would have current language, updated illustrations and a new/contemporary storyline. Would be a companion piece to the updated “What happened to Joe ...” Concept would be based on a single working mother who is involved in a DUI incident followed by introduction to AA.
  - 8 Consider requests for a new edition of the Spanish-language Big Book.
  - 9 Consider the AA World Services Board’s request to place the fourth Edition of the Big Book on the GSO web site.
  - 10 Consider request to edit five Fourth Edition stories to restore their Third Edition Big Book punctuation and story sentence content.

### **Policy/Admissions**

1. Discuss request to form a Conference Committee on Special Needs

### **Public Information (PI)**

1. Discuss Web sites as a Public Information tool

### **Report and Charter**

- 2 Discuss AA Directories
  - a) Discuss the purpose and usefulness of the Eastern and Western United States, and Canada AA Directories.

### **International Conventions/Regional Forums**

3. Discuss data collecting of personal information of AA members who attend Conventions.
4. Discuss ways to improve and encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums.

Periodically check this page for updates. I will be adding background information to the above items on a regular basis.

Love in service,

Pete B.  
Panel 52 Delegate  
Area09 Mid-Southern California

## **53<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference**

### **Theme: “Living AA’s Principles Through Sponsorship”**

#### **Presentation/Discussion topics**

- 1) Sponsorship:
  - a. Responsibilities of Sponsorship.
  - b. Is Sponsorship Fading Away?
  - c. Working with Medical Practitioners, Other Professionals and Friends.
  
- 2) Principles:
  - a. What are the Principles?
  - b. Living the Principles, Accepting Our Differences.

#### **2003 Workshop: Sponsorship—Remembering to Practice Our Principles**

Participants are invited to focus on how the lessons embodied in “Living AA’s Principles Through Sponsorship” (selected by the 2002 Conference) are practiced in their area, district or group. The following discussion topics are intended to facilitate a full and fruitful sharing session.

“Practical experience shows that noting will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our *twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can...”

“Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends—this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.” (Alcoholics Anonymous, page 89)

1. What are the basic responsibilities in a sponsorship relationship?
2. What is Service Sponsorship? How is it different?
3. How do AAs in your area sponsor professionals?

February 5, 2003

## **2003 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items**

### **Agenda**

1. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2004 General Service Conference.
2. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2004 General Service Conference.
3. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2004 General Service Conference.
4. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

### **Cooperation With the Professional Community**

1. Review report from trustees' Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities Committee regarding new C.P.C. displays.
2. Consider proposed changes to "singleness of purpose" statement in six C.P.C. pamphlets.
3. C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
  - a. Consider request that the Workbook (service material) be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee; that changes to the workbook be approved by the trustees' committee; that any changes to the workbook be reported annually to the Conference Committee, and distributed as background material.
  - b. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
4. Discuss ways of reaching a wider variety of professionals.

### **Correctional Facilities**

1. Correctional Facilities Kit and Workbook.
  - a. Review progress report of the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities on request to combine the Correctional Facilities Kit and Workbook in a single three-ring binder.
  - b. Consider request that changes in the Workbook be reported annually to the Conference Committee, and be distributed as background material. The Workbook will continue to be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee.
  - c. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
2. Review draft statement of purpose developed by the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities for inclusion in the Correctional Facilities Workbook/Kit.

3. Review draft statement on A.A.'s singleness of purpose for inclusion in the Correctional Facilities Workbook/Kit, as forwarded by the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities.
4. Review request to revise the booklet *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* to add/replace stories to better reflect current experience.
5. Consider request that a pamphlet about "bridging the gap between prisons and A.A." be published to encourage A.A. contact for newly-released members.

### Finance

1. Discuss Self-support.
2. Review reporting of International Convention activities.
3. Review draft of new service material: a "Simplified Description of the Reserve Fund."

### Grapevine

1. Consider the suggestion to add the phrase "and encouraging subscriptions" to the description of the Grapevine representative on page 9 of the pamphlet "The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print" so that it reads as follows:

"The GvR's basic job is to work at the group level, providing members with information about the Grapevine and the various services it offers, making sure copies of the magazine are available and displayed at meetings, announcing features of interest in each issue, and encouraging subscriptions."

2. Discuss suggestions for new A.A. Grapevine items for production in the year 2004 or later.

### Literature

1. Discuss report from trustees' Literature Committee on adding a statement to the Foreword of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* explaining the historical context of Bill W.'s writings.
2. Review the updated draft manuscript of the "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.
3. Consider updated text revision suggested for "The A.A. Grapevine" section of "Your A.A. General Service Office" pamphlet.
4. Consider deleting the phrase, "not even your parents," from the second sentence in the sixth panel of the story "Vinnie" in the pamphlet "Too Young."
5. "The A.A. Group" pamphlet
  - a. Consider the following suggested changes:
    1. On page 23, in the section "*What trusted servants (officers) do we need?*", replace the word "jobs" in the first sentence of the first paragraph with the word "service" and the word "jobs" in the first sentence of the third paragraph with "service positions."
    2. The sentence "See the chart of *suggested* group officers," which introduces the Group Service Structure Chart on page 24, be replaced by the sentence "The chart below offers possibilities for service at the group level."

3. The sentence "Some groups have positions that do not appear on this chart such as greeter, archivist, special needs representative and liaison to meeting facility" be added immediately after the chart on page 24.
4. The reference to the "Archives Representative" be deleted in the Group Service Structure Chart on page 24.
  - b. Discuss the trustees' Literature Committee's request for input and direction from the 2003 Conference Literature Committee and the Fellowship regarding the possibility of a future comprehensive review of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet by the trustees' Literature Committee.
  - c. Discuss the Grapevine's request to add La Viña information to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.
6. Consider revisions suggested by the trustees' Literature Committee to the comic book pamphlet "What Happened to Joe..." which include updated text and illustrations to reflect contemporary language, clothing, hair styles and add ethnic and age diversity.
7. Consider the trustees' Literature Committee's suggestion that the pamphlet "It Happened to Alice!" be replaced by a new women's comic book pamphlet which would have current language, updated illustrations and a new/contemporary storyline. This pamphlet would be designed as a companion piece to the updated "What Happened to Joe..." The concept for this pamphlet would be based on a single working mother who is involved in a D.U.I. (Driving Under the Influence) incident followed by introduction to A.A.
8. Consider requests for a new edition of the Spanish-language Big Book.
9. Consider the A.A. World Services Board's request "that its intent to place the Fourth Edition of the Big Book on the G.S.O. Web site be placed on the Agenda of the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference for discussion by the Conference and/or action as appropriate."
10. Consider the request to edit the following Fourth Edition stories to restore their Third Edition Big Book punctuation and story sentence content: "The Housewife Who Drank At Home," "Me An Alcoholic?," "Another Chance," "Freedom From Bondage" and "Dr. Bob's Nightmare."

### **Policy/Admissions**

1. Discussion Topics:
  - a. Review dates for the 2006 General Service Conference.
  - b. Discuss request to form a secondary General Service Conference Committee to review all aspects of G.S.O. Internet usage and make recommendations for additions, changes and/or improvements.
  - c. Discuss request to establish an ad hoc committee of trustees, delegates and staff to outline the means and criteria for examining materials submitted for Conference approval.
2. Discuss request to form a Conference Committee on Special Needs.

### **Public Information**

1. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s).
  - a. Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee.
  - b. Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of current P.S.A., "Reach Out."
  - c. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed P.S.A., at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local P.I. committees.
2. Consider request that the responsibility for G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site be shifted from the A.A.W.S., Inc. Board of Directors to the trustees' and Conference Public Information Committees.
3. Consider and approve 2004 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire.
4. Public Information Kit and Workbook.
  - a. Consider request that the Workbook (service material) be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee; that changes to the Workbook be approved by the trustees' committee; that any changes to the Workbook be reported annually to the Conference Committee, and distributed as background material.
  - b. Review contents of Public Information Kit and Workbook.
5. Discuss Web sites as a Public Information tool.

### **Report and Charter**

1. Review *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2002-2003 Edition.
  - a. Consider suggestion to change the first sentence of the third bullet under "Delegates Duties" on page S44 to read: "Be prepared to attend all area service meetings and assemblies plus all regional service meetings and assemblies respective to his/her area."
  - b. Consider suggestion to add the following two new bullet points under the section titled "Duties" in Chapter Two: The Group and Its G.S.R. on page S24:
    - G.S.R.s attend district meetings
    - They also attend area assemblies
  - c. Consider suggestion to add the words "and a sponsor" to the sentence of the second bullet under the section titled "Qualifications" in Chapter Two: The Group and Its G.S.R. on page S24 to read: "Usually, prospective G.S.R.s have at least two years of continuous sobriety and a sponsor."

- d. Consider that Chapter Two: The Group and Its G.S.R. on page S23 be returned to the text on pages S45-49 in the 1991-1992 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* that includes the sections “How Elected,” “What is an A.A. Group?” “How the A.A. Group Fits into the Structure of the Fellowship,” “The A.A. Group – the Final Voice of the Fellowship,” “Why Do We Need Service Entities Other Than the A.A. Group?” “How Much Organization Should an A.A. Group Have?” and “The Home Group.”
- e. Consider the suggestion to add the words “to reprint the Steps, Traditions, and/or the Concepts, and” to the first sentence in paragraph three under the section “Area Newsletters or Bulletins” on Page S37 so that the sentence reads:

“Local A.A. publications are permitted to reprint the Steps, Traditions, and/or the Concepts, and to quote a phrase, sentence or brief paragraph excerpted from A.A. literature such as the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *The A.A. Service Manual* and Conference-approved pamphlets without a prior, written request to do so.”

- f. Review updated chart of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to replace the chart on page S80 and other editorial updates to include language on the Grapevine Representative (GvR), La Viña Representative (LvR) and La Viña.
  - g. Consider the request that the trustees conduct an audit of all reported Conference Advisory Actions to ensure that they have been and will be reported accurately.
2. Discuss A.A. Directories.
    - a. Discuss the purpose and usefulness of the Eastern and Western United States, and Canada A.A. Directories.
    - b. Review the International A.A. Directory.
  3. Discuss General Service *Conference Final Report*.

### **Treatment Facilities**

1. Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook
  - a. Review progress report to Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities on combining Kit and Workbook in a single binder.
  - b. If the Treatment Facilities Workbook (soft-cover) and Kit are combined, consider continuing to publish the workbook as a separate item.
  - c. Consider request that the Workbook (service material) be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee; that changes to the workbook be approved by the trustees’ committee; that any changes to the workbook be reported annually to the Conference Committee, and distributed as background material.
2. Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook.



### **Trustees**

1. Review resumes of candidates for regional trustees and trustee-at-large:
  - a) Northeast Regional Trustee
  - b) Southwest Regional Trustee
  - c) Trustee-at-Large/Canada
2. Review slates of trustees and officers of General Service Board.
3. Review slates of directors of A.A. World Services and Grapevine Corporate Boards.
4. Review a request that the Conference examine the role and responsibilities of regional trustees, and develop a means for their selection to provide substantially more input from the areas within a given region.

### **Archives**

1. Review contents of Archives Workbook.

### **International Conventions/Regional Forums**

1. Discuss inviting non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2005 International Convention at A.A.'s expense with the number not to exceed twenty-one (21) speakers.
2. Discuss selection of three (3) cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2015.
3. Discuss data collecting of personal information of A.A. members who attend Conventions.
4. Discuss ways to improve and encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums.