

Mid-Southern California Area Delegate's Report

53rd General Service Conference
April 27 – May 2, 2003

“Living AA’s Principles Through Sponsorship”

Delegate's Report
53rd General Service Conference
Crowne Plaza Manhattan, New York NY
April 27 – May 3, 2003

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Pete B. I have the privilege serving Alcoholics Anonymous and Area 09, Mid-Southern California, as the Panel 52 Delegate to the General Service Conference. The 53rd General Service Conference took place from April 27 through May 3, 2003 at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan Hotel.

Last year I shared with you how difficult it was to put into words the sights, sounds, and smells of New York City and the emotional and spiritual aspects of the Conference. Although I have the experiences of a Conference "under my belt," I still have difficulty putting into words my experiences of the 53rd General Service Conference. This Conference will be permanently etched in my memory because of the lessons learned and the people I meet.

Like last year, my wife, Patti, and I left Orange County early on Tuesday, April 22 and arrived in New York around 5 p.m. As usual after checking into the hotel, we decided to get a hotdog from a street vendor and a cup of coffee from Starbucks. Much to our surprise we also found a Hershey store right next to the hotel. For the rest of my time in New York some of my basic needs - coffee, hot dogs, and chocolate, particularly Reese's Peanut Butter Cups - were met. Last year I noticed that the Times Square area had been cleaned up, that people were a little more friendlier, and that the Big Apple attitude had softened a little. In fact one AA member said that Times Square had been cleaned up so much that it had lost its charm. Well this year I noticed a little more trash lined up on the streets, the people seemed to be more in a hurry and less friendly, and that the Big Apple attitude was returning. In other words, it seemed that New York might be in need of a meeting. During the three days before the Conference Patti and I saw the Empire State Building, took a Hansom Cab ride through Central Park, and saw Broadway and off-Broadway plays. We also attended the Friday morning AA meeting at GSO, as well as the Language of the Heart Meeting at the Grapevine offices. During one day we saw a myriad of street vendors, homeless people, fights in the street, cabbies yelling at another, and billboards that would dazzle the eyes - in other words we saw a typical day in New York.

On Saturday, Patti and I, along with other Pacific Regional Delegates and their spouses, boarded a Circle Line boat for a 3-hour tour around Manhattan Island. Except for the wind, cold, and rain it was a great trip. We saw from the water such sites as the Statue of Liberty; Ellis Island; the Brooklyn, Mid-Town, and Washington Bridges; Ground Zero, Gracie Mansion; and Grant's Tomb and GSO. And yes, we got back the same day we left.

Saturday night was the first of two Delegate's only meetings. During this meeting, Panel 52 Delegates were able to share with the Panel 53s what the Conference experience was for them. One Panel 52 suggested that each of us get two clean handkerchiefs, one for our neighbor and one for ourselves, because we would need them sometime during the week. And he was right.

Sunday morning started out with the annual Remote Communities meeting, which is not part of the Conference. This meeting is where Delegates from different areas share how to carry the message to isolated communities. After the Remote Communities meeting we registered and received our workbooks. At this time we broke into regions and had our first regional lunch during which our Pacific Regional Trustee, Phyllis H. oriented new Delegates on how the Conference works and what to expect. The Panel 52 Delegates were able to share their experience, strength, and hope with the Panel 53s. After what turned out to be one of many fine meals, the Conference opened with a reading written by Dr. John Norris. The afternoon session consisted of welcoming remarks by Elaine McDowell, Chair of the General Service Board, granting permission to Jim K, general secretary, GSO Great Britain, and Ann N., general secretary elect, GSO Great Britain, seating of Thor T., Alternate Delegate, Area 74 because his Delegate could not attend the Conference due to illness, and roll call by Greg M., General Manager, GSO. Like last year when my name was called chills ran up and down my spine. After Linda Chezem, Class A trustee, delivered the Keynote Address, Greg M. conducted the first business of the day – ensuring all cell phones were turned off, no photographs during Conference sessions, and determining if PC would be OK on the Conference floor during sessions. The afternoon session ended with joint Trustee and Conference Committee meetings. Sunday ended with a dinner reception, opening dinner, and AA meeting, after which we all retired knowing that our week had just begun.

Monday and Tuesday mornings were dedicated to Conference Committee meetings where each committee reviewed their respective Conference agenda items and made recommendations. The rest of Monday was devoted to Board reports, presentations, Panel 53 Delegate reports on Area Service Highlights, and ended with a “What’s On your Mind” sharing session. On Tuesday, after the second meeting of the Conference Committees and additional presentations and Area service highlights, we all took a trip on the subway to GSO, where we were able to put a face to the voice of those tireless workers with whom we deal. Tuesday night was the second Delegate’s only meeting and dinner. At this meeting, Mark G, Panel 53 Colorado, was selected to be the 53rd General Service Conference Delegate Chair and Jim P, Panel 53 Eastern Massachusetts was selected to be the Alternate Chair. This is the second year in a row that the Alternate Delegate Chair is also the Alternate Grapevine Conference Committee Chair.

On Wednesday, the Pacific Region Panel at their luncheon selected Central California, Area 93, to host PRAASA 2006. In the afternoon, elections were held for Class B Trustees. Mike P. was elected trustee for the Northeast Region, Gary K. for the Southwest Region, and Murray Mc. was elected Trustee-at-Large/Canada. Wednesday evening started the committee reports and discussion. During the next 2 ½ days there was much loving discussion as the Conference approved a number of recommendations to include the production of a new Spanish language Big Book, approval of the theme “Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of AA” as the theme for 54th General Service Conference, and a new television PSA. These loving discussions once again proved that the committee system works and for our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience.

The Conference concluded surprisingly Friday afternoon with sharing by the Panel 52 Delegates who gave their farewells, very emotional. Finally on Saturday morning there was a brunch, followed by farewell talks by rotating Class B trustees Alex P., Beth R., Tony T., and Greg T. Also saying farewell were Class A trustees Linda Chezem and Bob Miller.

It is at this point where it is difficult for me to put into words my experiences of the 53rd General Service Conference. How can I share with you the lessons learned from 17 hours Grapevine Conference Committee meetings? The emotions of listening to Bill A., GSO staff member on the International assignment, during his presentation “New Frontiers.” Or, the feelings of standing on the Conference floor for the last time and saying thanks for the experiences.

I would like to thank Area 09, the area known for its passionate hugs and wild applause, for placing your trust in me and electing me as your Panel 52 Delegate – an experience I will never forget. I would also like to thank my wife, Patti, for putting up with the late nights and absent weekends for so many years.

Respectively submitted,

Pete B.
Panel 52 Delegate
MSC, Area 09

Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole or recommendations discussed and voted on by all Conference members during general sessions. The Group conscience of the Fellowship in the United States and Canada was expressed in the following Advisory Actions, which the General Service Board accepted in its legally required annual meeting following the 2003 Conference.

The following recommendations were approved by the 53rd General Service Conference and the General Service Board.

Floor Action

1. That the **trial period for use of laptops at the General Service Conference be extended through the 54th General Service Conference.** At the 54th General Service Conference, with the information provided in the trustees' Conference Committee report on the original two years of the experiment, the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions can address the matter of ongoing usage of laptops at the General Service Conference.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

2. **The theme for the 2004 General Service Conference be: “Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of A.A.”**
3. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2004 General Service Conference:
 - a) Our Singleness of Purpose:
 - 1) Our Responsibility to the Newcomer
 - 2) Communicating Our Singleness of Purpose
 - b) The Cornerstone of A.A.:
 - 1) Safeguarding Our Unity
 - 2) The Role of the Home Group
 - 3) Traditions Three and Five: Our Members, Our Message
4. The following be the workshop topic for the 2004 General Service Conference:

“How is Singleness of Purpose Important to the Individual, Group, District, Area, G.S.O. and Grapevine Office?”

Archives

No recommendations.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

5. The **“Singleness of Purpose” statement** in six designated C.P.C. pamphlets (“Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community,” “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” “How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals,” “If You are a Professional . . .,” and “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous”) **be changed to read:**

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Non alcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend *open* A.A. meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings.”

6. **Three changes to the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals” (P-29):**

- The sentence on page 14, Number 2, item F, which reads “G.S.O. staff members also have assignments in those fields,” be changed to read: “G.S.O. staff members also have rotating assignments in those fields;”
- The sentence on page 15, Number 5, which reads: “If asked, individual members may recommend someone—but with the clear understanding that the reference is strictly personal, *not* made in behalf of A.A.,” be changed to read: “If asked, individual members may recommend someone—but with the clear understanding that the reference is strictly personal, *not* made on behalf of A.A.”
- The sentence on page 21, Number 19, first paragraph, which reads: “There is no formal relationship at all, any more than there is a structural or official relationship between A.A. and any church, temple, ethical or humanist or agnostic society, or medication centers that a member may attend,” be changed to read “There is no formal relationship at all, any more than there is a structural or official relationship between A.A. and any church, temple, ethical or humanist or agnostic society, or meditation centers that a member may attend.”

Correctional Facilities

It was recommended that:

7. The trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities **revise the booklet *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*** by adding/replacing stories to better reflect current experience, and that a draft manuscript or progress report be brought to the 2004 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities.

Note: The committee suggested that stories/sharing of young people and women be included in the revised booklet.

Finance

No recommendations.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

8. **The first paragraph of the description of the Grapevine representative on page 9 of the pamphlet "The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print" be revised to read as follows:**

Grapevine and La Viña representatives

"Grapevine representatives (GvRs) and La Viña representatives (RLVs) perform a service for A.A. members, bringing them two vital tools of recovery – the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous and La Viña. GvRs and RLVs are engaged in practical, hands-on work. Their basic job is to make the magazines available to the group, to encourage A.A.s to read them, subscribe to them, and use them in Twelfth Step work."

International Conventions/Regional Forums

It was recommended that:

9. **Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2005 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.**

Note: It is estimated that transportation, housing and meal reimbursement will be \$2,500 to \$3,000 for each speaker.

10. **The under noted three (3) cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2015: Atlanta, Indianapolis, Vancouver**

Literature

It was recommended that:

11. **A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.**

Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and would include the following information:

- Time and era of publication
- Language as a reflection of the time period
- Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action:

“It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.”

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and non alcoholics.

12. The updated draft manuscript of the “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet be approved.

Note: This draft manuscript was not distributed to all Conference members based on the 1993 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee:

“The committee reviewed Conference policy as it relates to restricted or confidential matters, and agreed that restrictions apply only to legal matters that are pending, and to literature/audiovisual projects that are works in progress.”

13. The following changes to “The A.A. Grapevine” section of “Your A.A. General Service Office” pamphlet be approved:
 - a. Replace the second sentence “Members of the editorial staff are A.A.s; the controller, circulation supervisor, and clerical workers are nonalcoholics” with the sentence “Some of the editorial staff are A.A. members.”
 - b. Add a third sentence “Since 1995 the Grapevine has also published La Viña for Spanish-speaking A.A.s.”
 - c. Replace the last sentence “All stories submitted are acknowledged with personal letters” with the sentence “All stories submitted are acknowledged by the Grapevine staff.”
14. **The phrase, “not even your parents,” be deleted from the second sentence in the sixth panel of the story “Vinnie” in the pamphlet “Too Young.”**
15. **The trustees’ Literature Committee initiate a comprehensive review of “The A.A. Group” pamphlet, and that the trustees’ Literature Committee bring a draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration. The committee requests that the secretary of the trustees’ Literature Committee send a letter to all General Service Conference members requesting suggestions for updates or revisions to this pamphlet.**
16. The following text changes to add La Viña information to “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be approved:
 - a. Change “Grapevine Representative” to “Grapevine/La Viña Representative” on the chart on page 24.
 - b. Change fourth paragraph title on page 27 from “Grapevine Representative (GvR)” to “Grapevine/La Viña Representative (GvR/RLV).”
 - c. Add new third paragraph as follows to the “Grapevine Representative (GvR)” section on page 27:

“La Viña representatives (RLVs) perform the same functions as the GvRs in Spanish-speaking groups and districts where La Viña, the Grapevine’s magazine in Spanish, is ‘our meeting in print.’ Some districts or groups may also combine GvR and RLV functions.”
 - d. Change address and Grapevine material information on pages 27 and 28 to read:

- “New GvRs and RLVs should send their name, address, group name and group service number to: the Grapevine, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1040, New York, NY 10115.
 - ...and for books, tape cassettes, CDs and other Grapevine items available.”
17. **The updated illustrations and text revisions suggested by the trustees’ Literature Committee to reflect contemporary language, clothing and hair styles and to add ethnic and age diversity to the pamphlet “What Happened to Joe...” be approved. All text and illustration changes in the revised pamphlet “What Happened to Joe” are to be reviewed by the trustees’ Literature Committee prior to publication.**
 18. **Based on a suggestion from the trustees’ Literature Committee, a draft manuscript of a new comic book format pamphlet which would have current language and updated illustrations to replace the pamphlet ‘It Happened to Alice!’ be developed and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for review. The concept for this pamphlet would be based on a single working mother who is involved in a drunk-driving incident followed by introduction to A.A.**
 19. **The development of a Third Edition of the Spanish-language Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, by the trustees’ Literature Committee be approved and that a report from the trustees’ Literature Committee be brought to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee specifying suggestions for contents, process and story solicitation for the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book.**

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

20. Jim K., general secretary, G.S.O. Great Britain, and Ann N., general secretary elect, G.S.O. Great Britain, be granted permission to attend the 53rd General Service Conference as observers.
21. Torvin (Torv) T., alternate delegate, Area 74, No. WI/Upper Peninsula Michigan be seated as a Conference member at the 53rd General Service Conference because Ted L., the Panel 52 delegate for Area 74, is unable to attend.
22. The 56th General Service Conference be held April 23-29, 2006 since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

23. **The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), “We Know What It’s Like,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee be approved.**
24. **The television public service announcement (P.S.A.), “We Know What It’s Like,” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated** at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2004 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.
25. **The 2004 Membership Survey Questionnaire be approved with the addition of “Skilled Trade” to Question 12: “What is the nature of your employment status now?”**
26. **The General Service Board explore ways that input from the Fellowship regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site may be addressed by a trustees’ committee with a relevant Conference committee, and report back to the 2004 Conference Public Information Committee.**

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

27. The first sentence of the third bullet under “Delegates Duties” in Chapter Six in *The A.A. Service Manual* be replaced with: “Be prepared to attend all area and regional service meetings and assemblies applicable to his/her respective area.”
28. The following two new bullet points be added as the first and second items under the section titled “Duties” in Chapter Two: The Group and Its G.S.R. in *The A.A. Service Manual*:
 - G.S.R.s attend district meetings
 - They also attend area assemblies
29. **In *The A.A. Service Manual* the words “to reprint the Steps, Traditions, and/or the Concepts, and” be added to the first sentence in paragraph three under the section “Area Newsletters or Bulletins” in Chapter Four: The Area Assembly and Activities, to read:**

“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.”

Treatment Facilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

30. The following slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2003:

Class A Trustees

Allen L. Ault, Ed.D.
Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.
Herbert I. Goodman
Vincent E. Keefe
Elaine McDowell, Ph.D.
George E. Vaillant, M.D.
(one vacancy)*

Class B Trustees

Charles B.
R.J.M. (Ric) D.
David E.
Richard F. (Dick) G.
Ronald G.
Phyllis H.
Gary K. (SW)
John C. K.
Murray M. (Canada)
Dorothy M.
Robert P.
Michael P. (NE)
Arnold R.
Ted S.

*The General Service Board will operate with six (rather than seven) Class A trustees between May 2003 and April 2004.

Officers of General Service Board

Chairperson	Elaine McDowell, Ph.D.
First Vice-chairperson	George E. Vaillant, M.D.
Second Vice-chairperson	Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.
Treasurer	Vincent E. Keefe
Secretary	Ted S.
Assistant Treasurer	Donald M.
Assistant Secretary	Doug R.**

**Doug R. to be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in July 2003.

31. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2003:

Paul C.

Ronald G.

John K.

Dorothy M.

Don M.

Greg M.

Robert P.

Doug R.**

Jane S.

**Doug R. to be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in July 2003

32. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2003:

Leonard Blumenthal, LL.D.

Susan C.

David E.

Richard (Dick) G.

Phyllis H.

Raymond M.

Arnold R.

John S.

Desmond T.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Advisory Action 40 of the 1990 General Service Conference states: "Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section of the Final Report." All items, listed by committee, are as follows:

Conference Agenda Committee:

- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and suggested that the question under the category "Pre-Conference" which reads, "Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. adequate and timely, () Yes () No" be replaced with the following two questions:
 - a) Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. adequate?
() Yes () No
 - b) Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. timely?
() Yes () No
- The committee also suggested that the parenthetical explanation "(e.g. schedule of Conference activities, meals, hotel accommodations, the trip to G.S.O., etc.)" be added to the sentence for item 7 which would then read:

"If you have suggestions for improving the Conference (e.g. schedule of Conference activities, meals, hotel accommodations, the trip to G.S.O., etc.), please list them here:"

Conference Archives Committee:

- The committee reviewed the updates suggested by the trustees' Archives Committee to be included in the next reprint of the Archives Workbook and suggested that the trustees' Archives Committee consider additional items in the "Mission Statement" and in the "Calendar of Holdings" of the Workbook.

Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community:

- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities Committee regarding new C.P.C. displays, and **thanked the trustees' committee and the Publications Department for developing new tabletop displays** for A.A. exhibits at national professional conferences.

The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities consider providing delegate areas

with equal opportunities to obtain the current C.P.C. displays, once the new displays are available.

- The committee considered the 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, and reaffirmed the sense of the 1999 C.P.C. committee that "...as service material the Kit and Workbook could be updated as often as shared experience indicates, with the understanding that the Kit and Workbook are reviewed annually by the Conference Committee."
- **The committee discussed ways of reaching a wider variety of professionals, and suggested that we: 1) continue to reach out to nursing and medical schools; 2) consider assigning an A.A. "sponsor" to professionals or students who come to A.A. meetings, sitting with them and helping them understand the meeting as it progresses; 3) make more frequent use of "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous;" 4) carry the message through calls or personal contacts to professionals, in addition to mailings; 5) cooperate with other service committees to reach professionals in all fields.**
- **The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities reconsider development of a Conference-approved pamphlet similar to the local flyers entitled "So the Court Sent You to A.A. and You Hate the Idea," and that the committee's secretary seek wider input from the delegate areas on the need for such a pamphlet.**
- The committee requested that the secretary convey their concerns regarding certain editorial corrections to the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" to the secretary to the trustees' and Conference Public Information Committees.

Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities:

- **The committee accepted with appreciation the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities' suggestion to combine the Correctional Facilities Kit and Workbook in a single three-ring binder format with the suggested title of "Correctional Facilities Kit;" and that the Workbook also be available as a separate item.**
- The committee unanimously suggested that the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated" (P-43) be added to the Correctional Facilities Kit.
- The committee reviewed the draft statement of purpose developed by the trustees' Committee for inclusion in the Correctional Facilities Workbook, and took no action.

- **The committee reviewed the draft statement on A.A.’s singleness of purpose for inclusion in the Correctional Facilities Workbook, and requested that this topic be considered by the 2004 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities because the statement on A.A.’s singleness of purpose is under review by another 2003 Conference committee.**
- **The committee also considered a request that a pamphlet about “bridging the gap between prisons and A.A.” be published to encourage A.A. contact for newly-released members, and took no action.**
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Correctional Facilities gather examples of local A.A. pre-release brochures and/or forms and develop generic samples to be considered by the 2004 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities for possible inclusion in the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

Conference Committee on Finance:

- The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Committee and amended item 1 under the Scope to read “Reviews the A.A. World Services/General Service Board budget and financial reports” (it had read only the A.A. World Services budget).
- The committee reviewed the reporting of International Convention accounting on the 2002 financial statements and looked favorably on the balance sheet treatment (a separate column for an International Convention Fund). However, it felt that the footnote listing all prior conventions with profits and losses was too detailed. The committee indicated an abbreviated footnote was more appropriate, for example:

Amounts shown as prepaid expenses in the Convention Fund on the Balance Sheet represent funds paid in advance for future conventions. These costs include such items as site selection costs, deposits on facilities, and professional management expenses. Following established Policy, funds not needed for current operations reside in the Reserve Fund.

- **The committee reviewed the draft of the “Simplified Reserve Fund” document forwarded by the trustees’ Finance Committee.**

The committee then reviewed the current A.A. Finance Guidelines as well as the current version of *The A.A. Service Manual*, and felt those descriptions better fulfilled the intent of last year’s committee for a simplified description of the Reserve Fund.

The committee also suggested that the document forwarded by the trustees’ Finance Committee be available if a request for more detailed information is requested by a member of the Fellowship.

- **After considerable discussion on the topic of self-support, the committee feels that sponsorship is the key.** The committee urges the delegates to discuss financial responsibility within their areas.

Conference Committee on Grapevine:

- **The committee considered several suggestions for Grapevine items to be produced in the year 2004 or later and unanimously agreed to forward to the Grapevine Corporate Board the following items to be developed: Victor E. posters in English, French, and Spanish, celebrating the A.A. Grapevine's 60th anniversary, and a Spanish-language edition of *The Best of Bill*.**
- **By a substantial majority, the committee agreed to forward to the Grapevine Corporate Board suggestions that the following items be developed: French, Spanish, and English-language editions of a pocket-sized soft-cover collection of Grapevine stories focusing on A.A.'s Responsibility Declaration, titled *I Am Responsible*; and a new Spanish-language audio CD of stories previously published in La Viña.**
- **The committee expressed deep concern about information from the Grapevine Board received during the committee meeting that the board had failed to observe the 1993 Conference Advisory Action stating: "The Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets."**

Following lengthy discussion, the committee strongly suggests that the Grapevine Corporate Board:

- 1. Establish a one-year moratorium on initiating the sale of Grapevine items, including the Grapevine magazine, to any enterprise not identified as an A.A. entity.**
- 2. Outline the sequence of events, meetings and decisions, as well as the rationale, that led to the Grapevine magazine being sold through an enterprise not identified as an A.A. entity.**
- 3. Provide a full report on the history of the 1993 Advisory Action, including the concerns that led to that Action, as well as the meaning and intent of that Action.**
- 4. Provide to the committee an interim report on the three points above no later than September 30, 2003, followed by a final report to be sent as background to the 2004 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.**

- **The committee also strongly suggests that the Grapevine Corporate Board carefully review Conference Advisory Actions prior to implementing a practice or policy.**

Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:

- **The committee discussed data collecting of personal information of A.A. members who attend conventions and strongly suggested that, in order to protect A.A.'s principle of anonymity, G.S.O. direct hotels contracted for Regional Forums and International Conventions not to use the list of A.A. hotel guests in conjunction with the words "Alcoholics Anonymous" or "A.A." for any mailing lists including outside marketing campaigns.**
- The committee discussed ways to improve and encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums and suggested:

Continue providing simultaneous translations into Spanish and/or French to increase participation of Spanish- and French-speaking A.A. members.

Have presentations at Forums in Spanish and French as well as English.

Seek better ways to encourage members, groups, districts and areas in organizing various means of transportation to Regional/Special Forums.

Encourage attendees to share their Forum experience more widely with other members, (e.g. articles in local newsletters, reports at group conscience or business meetings, etc.).

Conference Literature Committee:

- **The committee encourages full Conference discussion of the A.A. World Services Board's "intent to place the Fourth Edition of the Big Book on the G.S.O. Web site."**
- **After lengthy discussion, the committee considered the request to edit the following Fourth Edition Big Book stories to restore their Third Edition Big Book content: "The Housewife Who Drank At Home," "Me An Alcoholic?," "Another Chance" and "Freedom From Bondage," and agreed to accept the Fourth Edition Big Book editorial changes and agreed to take no action.**

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

- The committee discussed the 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, and agreed there was no widely expressed need for such a committee.

- The committee discussed the request to establish an ad hoc committee of trustees, delegates and staff to outline the means and criteria for examining material submitted for Conference approval and took no action.
- **The committee discussed the request to form a Conference Committee on Special Needs and agreed that Special Needs in the Fellowship are currently being met by the existing services provided by A.A. World Services and the General Service Office.**

Conference Committee on Public Information:

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook. They suggested that the pamphlets “Is A.A. for Me?” and “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” be added to the Kit.
- The committee also considered the 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 and took no action.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the “Reach Out” P.S.A.
- The committee requested that a copy of the updated version of the Compilation Video of PSAs (VS-28) be mailed to all area P.I. Committee chairs.
- The committee suggested that television public service announcement inventory item #TV-17 (“Female” and “Information”) be removed from inventory. Inventory item #TV-17 has the lowest circulation of all current P.S.A.s.

Conference Committee on Report and Charter:

- The committee considered 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,” and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the 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 (RLV) and La Viña.

- The committee considered 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 and took no action.
- The committee discussed the purpose and usefulness of the Eastern and Western, Canada A.A. Directories, and International A.A. Directory and agreed that the directories continue to be useful and serve the Fellowship.

Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities:

- The committee expressed appreciation for the work of the trustees' Committee and the Publications Department on combining the Treatment Facilities Workbook and Kit, and unanimously requested that:
The Treatment Facilities Workbook and Kit be available as a single unit in a 3-ring binder, with the suggested title "Treatment Facilities Kit";

The reformatted soft-cover Treatment Facilities Workbook, bound in 8 ½ X 11 format and 3-hole punched be included in the Kit; and, that the reformatted Workbook also be available as a separate item.

- The committee requested that the combined Treatment Facilities Kit continue to be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities, the trustees' Committee review changes in content, and the Conference Committee continue to be advised of any changes.
- The committee also reviewed the contents of the reformatted Treatment Facilities Kit, and suggested streamlining the divider tabs, as well as reducing the pamphlets and service material to be included.

Conference Committee on Trustees:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Northeast and Southwest regional trustees and for trustee-at-large/Canada.
- The committee discussed various ways to encourage qualified and willing nonalcoholic "friends of the Fellowship" to serve as Class A trustees, including posting vacancy announcements in area, district and intergroup newsletters, as well as on local A.A. Web sites. The committee also suggested that A.A. members work closely with potential candidates to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous and the role and responsibilities of Class A trustees.
- **The committee reviewed 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. Following a lengthy discussion on the roles and responsibilities of regional trustees, the committee unanimously agreed that no changes to the current procedures be made.**

