

Results of the:

# **62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference**

Submitted by: Tom H.

Panel 62 Delegate

Area 16 Georgia

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## 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

**Advisory Actions** (recommendations that passed on the conference floor), **Additional Considerations** (generally ideas requiring more information), and **Floor Actions** (motions from the conference floor)

*Submitted by: Tom H., Panel 62 Delegate, Area 16 Georgia*

This document is the result of over 70 hours of business meetings. I've included committee recommendations that were approved by the conference, additional considerations, and floor actions. I have also included items that were not approved. My comments will come from notes and/or memory and will be noted in ***bold italics***. A **recommendation** is basically a motion that comes from a conference committee as a 'recommendation' to the conference floor for consideration, discussion (if warranted), and vote. If a recommendation receives a passing vote from the conference floor it becomes an advisory action and the corresponding trustees committee is charged to implement said recommendation. **Additional considerations** are generally thoughts and ideas that the conference committee wants more information on. Additional considerations are not debatable or subject to a vote. Only questions concerning additional considerations are allowed from the conference floor. And **floor actions** are motions made on the conference floor that are addressed after all conference committee recommendations and additional considerations have been heard. Once all conference business has been heard the author of a floor action is given two minutes for the rationale behind the motion after which the Chair will ask if there is a motion to decline the floor action. A motion to decline to consider requires a second, is not debatable, and requires a two-thirds majority. If the motion to decline to consider passes then the floor action is not debated or voted on.

It was recommended that:

The General Service Conference support the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

*This item was presented to the conference by Ward Ewing, Class A Trustee and Chairman of the Board. It was decided at the General Service Board (GSB) inventory that the trustees would present a motion to develop a plan for possible restructuring of AAWS and AAGV to the conference for approval. The original motion was changed on the conference floor and received a 2<sup>nd</sup> but did not pass. Discussion resumed on the original motion. A conference member called the question which ends all discussion but requires a 2/3 vote of approval. The calling of the question failed and discussion resumed. After more discussion another amendment to the wording of the original motion was brought forward, received a 2<sup>nd</sup>, and passed. Again the question was called and this time it passed which effectively ended discussion and forced the conference members to vote on the matter. This time the amended motion (which is the one you see above) passed. This discussion began before lunch and the passing vote was completed at 3:30pm. The original motion presented to the conference read as follows:*

*"The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structure, while retaining the Grapevine's independent editorial voice. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation."*

*I would like to add that the GSB is simply putting a plan together that will address the feasibility of this. We are already using shared resources as seen in the AAWS and AAGV combined literature catalog. This 'plan' will not affect the editorial board or independence of GV articles.*

## **Conference Agenda Committee**

It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2013 General Service Conference be: "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action."

*This passed unanimously.*

It was recommended that:

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference:

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a) The Triangle – More Than a Shape
- b) The General Service Conference Inventory – Why is it Necessary?
- c) Self-Support – What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?
- d) Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message

*This passed by an overwhelming majority.*

It was recommended that:

The following inventory questions listed in the "INVENTORY PLAN," which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C., be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences:

### **2013**

#### **A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall**

1. Reflecting on Concept One, how does the Conference ensure that it is the conscience of A.A. as a whole?
2. How well is the use of floor actions serving us?
3. Reflecting on Concept Ten, how well is the authority of the Conference defined?
4. How well does the Conference fulfill the General Warranties of Concept Twelve?

#### **B. Composition of Conference**

1. Should delegate areas be more consistently based on actual membership numbers?

#### **C. Committee System**

1. Could the committee process be improved to more effectively introduce change in the Fellowship, and if so, how?

**D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness**

1. What improvements could be considered to make sure the agenda selection process is more effective?
2. How well do all Conference members communicate to the Fellowship about why we have a Conference and how the committee system works? How could we improve in this communication?

**E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)**

1. How well do the delegates balance their preparation for the Conference, especially in keeping with Concept Three and Article Three of the Conference Charter? How could we improve in the practice of our rights and responsibilities under Concept Three and Article Three of the Conference Charter?

**F. Conference Week Schedule**

1. How can we improve the way time is allotted during the Conference for reports, presentation/discussion/workshop topics, and thorough discussion of agenda items?
2. How are leadership and participation affected by late night work sessions?

**G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)**

1. Is the current makeup of the board (numbers and proportions) still the most effective? If not, what changes should we consider?
2. How could we improve the methods used to solicit trustees and directors to get the most appropriate people interested in the positions?
3. What more could be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship?

**H. Leadership**

1. Reflecting on Concept Nine, are the qualities of leadership, as identified in the leadership essay in the Service Manual, still the qualities that we should try to encourage in Conference members? If so, how successful are we in encouraging those qualities? If not, what changes should we consider?

**2014**

**A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall**

1. Reflecting on Concept Four, how effective are we in treating all Conference members as equals (no one regarded as second class)?
2. Reflecting on Concept Five, how well does the Conference facilitate the hearing and resolution of minority appeals/report? How could it be improved?
3. Does the structure encourage each individual in the Fellowship to feel and act as a member of a “society of alcoholics in action?” If not, how could we improve?
4. Does the yearlong Conference process effectively encourage all Conference members to lead (or serve) in the spirit of our upside-down service structure? If not, how can we encourage all Conference members to do so?

**B. Composition of Conference**

1. Should regional divisions be based on membership numbers, the number of areas contained in each region or some other criteria? Please explain.

**C. Committee System**

1. What is the right balance of participation among committee members (delegates, staff) and how can we best achieve that balance?

**D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness**

1. How well is the message of the Conference theme being carried out throughout the year?
2. What other suggestions do we have for how to improve the effectiveness of the yearlong process?

**E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)**

1. How can we improve the manner in which Conference background material; is developed and distributed?

**F. Conference Week Schedule**

1. At the Conference, what is the difference between being a leader or being a reporter? Can a person be both at the same time?

**G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)**

1. Reflecting on Concept Eleven, does the General Service Board exercise serious care in having the best possible assistance in carrying out their duties? How can this process be improved?
2. Does the current role of the board most effectively address the needs of the Fellowship? If not, how should their role be changed?
3. Is the selection/election process for trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would you change it?

**H. Leadership**

1. How can we improve the methods of selecting effective leaders and nurturing leadership qualities in our trusted servants?
2. What more could be done to ensure broad diversity of representation in our A.A. leaders?

**2015**

**A. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall**

1. Reflecting on Concept Two, how can we better serve as the actual voice and be an effective conscience for our whole society?
2. Reflecting on Concept Three, how can we effectively balance the freedoms and responsibilities that come with the right of decision?
3. How might any one of the Concepts be revised in essence or wording to more effectively and relevantly guide our leaders?

**B. Composition of Conference**

1. Is the size and structure (proportions of delegate/trustee/staff) of the Conference the most effective for conducting the work of the Fellowship? If not, how could it be made more effective?

**C. Committee System**

1. Committee system (Structure, Composition, Effectiveness, etc.): Does the Conference committee system function in accordance with our principles? If not, what changes should we consider regarding: a) structure b) composition c) effectiveness?

**D. Yearlong Process Effectiveness**

1. How can we better communicate that the Conference process is more than one spring week in New York?

2. How do the delegates and regional trustees support the yearlong process effectiveness?

**E. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery, etc.)**

1. What more could be done to prepare delegates for the Conference?

**F. Conference Week Schedule**

1. What Conference activities give participants the most opportunities to be leaders?

2. Does the time allotted and the manner in which information is communicated from the trustees and board members allow delegates to adequately understand and/or question their reports? How could this be improved?

**G. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & A.A. Grapevine)**

1. Reflecting on Concept Six, how can the Conference ensure that the authority we delegate to the General Service Board is commensurate with the responsibility we have entrusted to them?

2. Reflecting on Concept Eight: (a) How well is the General Service Board exercising custodial oversight and how effectively are they serving as the principle planners and administrators of policy and finance? (b) What are the boundaries between oversight vs. delegation? When is each practiced?

3. Should the Fellowship have more direct influence in the selection of Class A trustees, corporate directors, and General Service trustees? If yes, how might that be accomplished?

**H. Leadership**

1. How well is the Third Legacy Procedure serving us? How could it be improved?

*Passed by an overwhelming majority*

Additional Considerations from the Conference Agenda Committee were:

- The committee considered the request from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference and agreed to reduce the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling for the 2013 Conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C.

- The committee also noted that for the General Service Conferences in 2013, 2014 and 2015, there will be no solicitation for Workshop topics since the Conference Plan specifies that the time allotted for Conference Workshops during Conference week will be replaced with Inventory Group meetings to discuss Inventory questions.
- The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and suggested that the Pre-Conference section of the Evaluation be separated from the Sunday section of the form

### **Conference Committee on Archives**

(Delegates receive a primary conference committee assignment and members serve on the Archive Committee as a secondary assignment. Not all delegates receive a secondary assignment.)

***This committee accepted the report from the trustees committee and made no recommendations and therefore no motions were presented to the conference floor.***

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Archives were:

- The committee reviewed the request for changes to the Composition, Scope, and Procedure of the Conference Archives Committee and took no action. It was the sense of the committee that the requested changes were not necessary.
- The committee reviewed the changes to the Archives Workbook and suggested one minor editorial change in the “Shared Experiences” section.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Archives Committee develop a new section in the Archives Workbook on digitizing archival collections intended to provide guidance to local archivists and archives committees responsible for maintaining Area or District archival collections.

### **Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community**

It was recommended that:

The current statement regarding “Singleness of Purpose” in C.P.C. literature which reads:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics 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”

be revised to read as follows:

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

***This passed by an overwhelming majority. I voted in favor.***



It was recommended that:

The text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section in the C.P.C. pamphlets “A.A. in Your Community”, “If You Are A Professional” and “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” be replaced with the text in the section “What A.A. Does Not Do” in the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer and the entire section read as follows:

#### What A.A. Does Not Do

A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover...solicit members...engage in or sponsor research...keep attendance records or case histories...join “councils” or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them)...follow up or try to control its members...make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses...provide detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment...offer religious services or host/sponsor retreats...engage in education about alcohol...provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services...provide domestic or vocational counseling...accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources...provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

***This passed almost unanimously. There was no discussion on this item which I voted in favor of.***

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community were:

- The committee discussed the report on replacing the current “A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community” DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material and reviewed the draft product of the replacement DVD.

The Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community accepted the trustees’ report with appreciation and felt that a new compilation DVD was not needed for some of the following reasons:

- a. The list of suggested existing materials seemed limited and was already available on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site.
- b. When communicating with professionals, it is often most helpful to have material that is specific to a particular profession.
- c. In the contemporary, ever-changing digital age, the DVD format might not be appropriate for the distribution of information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

- The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. Board has oversight of G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site Redesign Committee and requested that A.A.W.S. consider dedicating a portion of the Web Site to making A.A. resources easily accessible to targeted professional populations and C.P.C. Committees.

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With The Professional Community Committee Kit and Workbook and made several suggestions:

- a. The sentence on page 15, which reads: “Open: Guests are welcome; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting” be changed to read “Open: Guests are welcome as observers; if practical, mention that individual members are available to take a professional friend to a meeting.”
- b. The revised text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section in the C.P.C. pamphlets “A.A. in Your Community”, “If You Are A Professional” and “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” replace the current text in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section on page 29 of the C.P.C. Workbook.

## Conference Committee on Corrections

It was recommended that:

The revised draft pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be approved.

*This passed unanimously.*

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" be revised with the following changes:

a) Replace the first paragraph under the section "Release and paroles" with the following paragraph:

One point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are incarcerated. The answer is that the A.A. program is far more than staying away from alcohol. A.A. has been called a way of life, and its success for groups that meet while in custody shows that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life, both while in custody and after release.

b) Change the title of the section currently called "Release and paroles" to "Re-entry and Parole."

c) The current statement regarding "Singleness of Purpose" in the last paragraph, which reads:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics 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.

Be revised with wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" on page 13, to read as follows:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings.

*This passed by 2/3 but it took a long while to get here. After a lengthy discussion a conference member called the question. The calling of the question passed and we voted on the motion but the motion did not pass. The vote was 60 for and 67 against. In this case those voting in favor of the motion were the minority. The minority shared. Only those voting on the prevailing side, in this case, those who voted against the motion may ask for a motion to reconsider. The motion to reconsider passed and discussion resumed. However, something very interesting happened during the calling of the question. There were many people in line at the microphones to share when the question was called. But the person calling the question gave up their place in line so the person behind them could share before they called the question. In essence, letting their opinion be heard before calling the question which ends discussion if passed. This was pointed out to Madam Chair and effectively allowed discussion to continue through the motion to reconsider. Throughout the discussion there were friendly and unfriendly amendments/motions to take each of three items one at a time but the conference committee would not accept the friendly amendments and the motions for this did not get the approval of the conference body. After other friendly amendments being accepted and then going back to the original wording the question was called again, passed, and we voted. This time the motion passed. I voted in favor of this motion and I shared at the microphone on this item during discussion. In essence I shared that there were at least two items on the conference agenda to re-word the singleness of purpose statement and I was curious why Tradition Three in its long form was not enough anymore. I pointed out that the word(s) Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A., and/or alcoholism and alcoholic are mentioned on this two page pamphlet nearly 60 times before we get the paragraph on singleness of purpose and I was certain any professional reading the pamphlet would understand that they were reading a pamphlet produced by Alcoholics Anonymous. However, I also stated that when speaking with*

*professionals it is best to be clear about whom we are and what we do and for that reason I would vote in favor of the proposed changes.*

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Corrections Committee develop a draft replacement for the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" to be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections.

*This passed and I voted in favor of this.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Corrections were:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the work of the trustees Committee on Corrections with regards to the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and forwarded a list of suggested changes in the Workbook to the Publications Department.

The Conference Committee on Corrections made the following recommendation which did not pass and as such will not become an Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that the video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," be remade in order to accurately reflect current-day life in correctional facilities, while retaining the original message and intent consistent with A.A. Traditions, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.00.

*This recommendation failed and I voted against it. We watched the video - it is out of date and not widely used anymore however, the new pamphlet is great and the re-make of this video would not be cost effective.*

### **Conference Committee on Finance**

It was recommended that:

The annual delegate's contribution be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600.

*This passed almost unanimously. There was a friendly amendment to change the word 'fee' to 'contribution.' About 62% of the Areas make contributions above the requested \$1,600.00.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Finance were:

- The committee suggested that a review of the delegate's fee be a standing item on the Conference Finance Committee agenda.
- The committee reviewed a proposed Self-Support Kit and agreed that the F-19 Self-Support Packet is sufficient service material and suggested adding "Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S." (SMF-176) to the Self-Support Packet.
- The committee reviewed and acknowledged the 21 Self-Support Talking Points presented in the background for use by the Fellowship and offers one additional point to be included: "What is the value of your sobriety?" The committee also suggested that they be added to the Finance Section of the Website.

- The committee suggested the following statements be added to the back of the F-42 Self-Support green card:

What is the value of your sobriety?

- Less Than 44% of groups contribute to the General Service Board.
- Costs of Services provided by G.S.O. are \$6.32 per member per year.
- Sales of A.A. literature counts for 56% of our income.
- You can easily contribute regularly online at AA.org.
- Give till it feels good.

- The committee reviewed the information presented concerning financial projections for 2013 and 2014 and trusts that the Corporate Boards and the trustees' Finance Committee will deal with the financial issues in an appropriate manner.

The committee also expressed that increasing the awareness of the need for Fellowship contributions is the more spiritual way to address the funding issue.

The Conference Committee on Finance made the following recommendations which did not pass and as such will not become an Advisory Action:

The committee reviewed the current \$3,000.00 dollar limit on individual contributions and recommended that the annual limit on contributions be increased from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

*This recommendation failed – 49 for and 68 against. Our Area was in favor of increasing individual contributions to a reasonable amount. This proposed increase is a 60% increase over current practice. I voted against the recommendation and mostly because only 7 people contributed the maximum individual last year and no more than 12 individuals have contributed the maximum in the last several years. It seems either most people are unable to contribute this maximum annual contribution or most people are not aware of the limit. I was wondering if it were a more obtainable goal would we get more people contributing the maximum.*

The committee reviewed the current \$3,000.00 dollar limit on one time bequests and recommended that the limit on one-time bequests from an AA member to the GSB be increased from \$3,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

*This recommendation failed by majority. Our Area was in favor of increasing one time bequests to a reasonable amount. I voted against the recommendation because it was too large of an increase. Some of the discussion revolved around this sending the wrong the message to fix contribution shortfalls, that increased contributions will follow unity, and that we need to address basket contributions. The minority opinion shared that going to an attorney to change a will costs several thousand dollars and they would not do that unless the increase to one time bequests was significant.*

A floor action resulted from this discussion. A conference member made a floor action which read;

I move that the limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

*Floor actions are made without comment and presented after all committee reports have been made. When this floor action was presented to the conference the author was given two minutes to make a case for the motion. The Chair then asked for a motion to decline to consider and received a second. The vote on declining to consider was 47 in favor and 71 opposed. The motion to decline to consider did not pass and immediately someone called the question which did pass and we voted on the motion. The motion passed by exactly 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s, 84 in favor and 42 opposed. I voted*

*against declining to consider so we could discuss and vote on the motion and I voted in favor of the motion. There was a minority opinion given but there was not a motion to reconsider. One time bequests were increased to \$5,000.00 resulting from this floor action.*

Another committee recommendation which did not pass was:

The Conference Committee on Finance reviewed the background presented and past Conference actions and recommended that La Vina become self-supporting within three years beginning January 1, 2013. If La Vina has not become self-supporting by December 31, 2015, General Service Board funding will cease.

*This recommendation failed by majority and I voted against this. La Vina would have to go from 9000 subscriptions to about 25,000 subscriptions by 2015 to accomplish the recommendation. Printed subscriptions are down in the periodical industry and we do not advertise in A.A.*

A floor action resulted from this discussion. A conference member made a floor action which read;

General Service Conference recommends that the General Service Board form a subcommittee comprised of all stakeholders to develop a plan to address publication, distribution, and finances of La Vina with the objective of self-support by 12/31/15.

*After the author made a case for the motion the Chair asked for a motion to decline to consider as is procedure, which was seconded and the vote was 78 in favor of declining to consider and 45 opposed. The motion to decline to consider did not receive the required 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s so discussion ensued followed by a calling of the question which passed so we voted on the floor action. This floor action did not pass.*

### **Conference Committee on A.A. Grapevine**

It was recommended that:

AA Grapevine, Inc. move forward with an audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on 3rd party recording technology.

- The stories will be subject to the same editorial process as print stories.
- The Audio endeavor will, at a minimum, break even financially.
- The committee requests that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time.
- The committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background.

*This passed by a vote of 84 in favor and 24 against. I voted in favor of this recommendation. Editorial process will remain the same for audio stories as it is to written stories. There was a lengthy discussion with one calling of the question failing and finally a second calling of the question passing which led to a passing vote for the recommendation. The minority opinion felt that this technology was old in nature by explaining that someone wishing to leave a 7 to 10 minute story would need to call on a telephone to have a .wav file recorded. The minority opinion continued by further explaining that people can do this on their own smart phone and send it in. However, when calling in to do leave stories there are menu items that cover copyright issues, etc. After hearing the minority opinion the prevailing side asked for a motion to reconsider which did not pass. Our Area wanted to know if this proposal was for other languages but it is only available for English at this time.*

It was recommended that:

A.A. Grapevine, Inc., carry out the “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items. The “Sunset” proposal is a plan to phase out older or slow-moving Grapevine items and archive them digitally or make them available in another format.

***This passed unanimously without and discussion.***

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on A. A. Grapevine were:

- The committee agreed with the proposal to update, proofread, and digitize the Grapevine Workbook. The revised workbook will be available on the Grapevine website for downloading. The workbook will no longer be printed. Note: The cost of this project is estimated to be \$5,000.

- The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2013 or later:

1. Attitude of Gratitude (working title)

A collection of stories on the topic of gratitude previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

2. Voices of Long Term Sobriety II (working title)

A collection of stories by members with 30+ years of sobriety previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

3. Women’s Stories in AA (working title)

Stories from women members on every topic including a special section from AA’s women pioneers previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

4. GLBT in AA — We are all the same or Sober & Out (working title)

A collection of stories from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender AA community previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

5. Relationships in Sobriety (working title)

A collection of stories on the topic of relationships previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

6. Having Fun in Sobriety (working title)

Now that you’re sober you’ve discover that you haven’t the foggiest notion on how to have fun. What now? Stories from members having fun in sobriety from stories previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

7. Daily Grapevine

365 inspirational passages as originally published in GV’s thought of the day in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

8. Mid Sobriety Crisis (working title)

Not a beginner anymore and not an old-timer? This collection of stories comes from members in the middle years (10-29) who are working the program and trudging the road to happy destiny previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

9. The Best of La Viña II

Collection of Spanish language original stories (not translations) previously published in La Viña magazine.

10. AA Inside the Walls (working title)

A collection of stories from those behind bars and/or from those carrying the message to these institutions previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

*One of the questions asked about the additional consideration of 10 new books was if the committee considered the cost of this project and the answer was “yes” adding that this is a four year project.*

- The committee considered incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position “Grapevine Representative” in the service responsibilities and duties of the “General Service Representative” and took no action.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board incorporate into all appropriate literature the 1962 Advisory Action that: “retiring delegates become Grapevine Representatives (GvRs) in their areas, with the objective of a GvR in each group.”
- The committee requested that groups that do not have a GvR or RLV consider incorporating these duties into the duties of the GSR.
- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board look into the feasibility of producing one book in ASL format.

*The questions and answers involving ASL were of cost and intend of self-support and this is what the conference committee is asking of AAGV Corporate Board. The book ‘Living Sober’ is undergoing this process. In fact, there are many ASL projects underway but they fall in the category of unfunded projects. Unfunded projects are approved though there is not funding to complete them.*

- The committee requested that the AA Grapevine Board provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background, on the cost of reformatting Grapevine magazine from its current design to black/white interior, non-glossy, minimal photos and increase the font size.

### **Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums**

(Delegates receive a primary conference committee assignment and members serve on the International Conventions/Regional Forums committee as a secondary assignment. Not all delegates receive a secondary assignment.)

No recommendations.

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums were:

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2025 International Convention Site- Selection Procedures.

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and shared some experiences that have helped increase member participation in recent Regional Forums in their regions. These included:
  - Delegate and Area officers' participation helped increase interest in Regional Forums.
  - Online Regional Forum registration/information on www.aa.org is convenient and easily accessible.
  - One Area started workshops on Regional Forums at local service events to provide information and create enthusiasm.
  - One host committee extended committee membership to other Areas in the region and to members from different cities throughout their own Areas.
  - One committee member suggested including an article in the Grapevine with the Regional Forum schedule or from a member about their Regional Forum experience.
  - It helps to let members know you don't have to be in General Service to attend and enjoy a Regional Forum.
  - One Area took ownership of their Regional Forum hospitality committee to create enthusiasm and generate greater participation.
  - Talk and continue to talk about Regional Forums and explain what Regional Forums are all about.
  - When there are travel challenges look for creative/alternative ways to travel.
  - Suggest combining a trip to a Regional Forum with your vacation plans.

*Even though this committee is not a secondary assignment for me, as the seated Delegate from the Area which will host the next International Convention I was invited to sit in on a dinner with this Conference Committee and trustees' Committee. Also in attendance was the CEO of the company hired for the logistics of the convention. This was not a working dinner and as such there was no formal business however questions were asked about the venue and many compliments were given to our hospitality and facilities.*

### **Conference Committee on Literature**

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" be approved.

*This passed and I voted in favor. Five stories were retained and 13 new stories gathered from submissions or GV vault of stories. There were also minor changes to the Q&A section in the back of the pamphlet. The subtitle 'None Left Behind' was not approved. However, a floor action was made which read;*

That the pamphlet "A.A. and The Armed Services" include the subtitle "none left behind."

*Floor actions are considered after all committee reports. The author spoke for the motion for two minutes and the Chair asked for a motion to consider to decline, which was seconded, but did not get the 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s needed (73 for declining to consider the motion and 45 against) so discussion ensued on the motion. There were many emotional appeals about the significance of 'none left behind' to the military. However, it means little or nothing to military personnel in Canada and this is a North America pamphlet which includes Canada. There was also discussion about the other places the statement 'none left behind' is used which included children, the hungry, etc. Apparently the term 'none left behind' is a widely used phrase. There was a comment about military personnel not reading the pamphlet and that the subtitle might help the pamphlet become more popular and in response was one of the great thoughts of the week in my opinion. A conference member shared a story about a lesbian friend who had never read the gay and*



*lesbian pamphlet but just seeing it in the literature rack she knew she was welcome in A.A. To me this said it all about the importance of our literature and the emotional appeal for this subtitle was not enough for me. In the end this motion did not pass. I voted for declining to consider the motion and I voted against this pamphlet having the subtitle 'none left behind.' I voted against for the reasons mentioned during discussion and for several other reasons not mentioned during discussion and one of them being the thought of every pamphlet now wanting a subtitle. Our Area was in favor of adding the subtitle to this pamphlet but I could not vote in favor of it after hearing all the discussion.*

It was recommended that:

The short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be added to the book As Bill Sees It.

*This recommendation passed and I voted in favor of the motion.*

It was recommended that:

The final revision of the Living Sober booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved with minor editorial changes.

*This recommendation passed and I voted in favor of the motion. Most of the discussion on the conference floor was about not knowing of all the changes to the book and therefore not being able to make a well informed decision. When there are pamphlet and book edits all conference members are able to look at the new pamphlet/book prior to the vote. However, only those delegates on the literature conference committee assignment are allowed to view the changes prior to conference. So it gives the rest of the delegates little time to read the latest draft and the changes are not tracked in the draft. In essence you would have to read both the old and the new draft side by side to see what has been changed. In reviewing a pamphlet this is not such a difficult task but when reviewing a book it can be daunting. These were the main complaints from the conference floor. Editing a book on the conference floor might parallel discussing a budget line by line on our Assembly floor. We select a Budget & Finance committee to do this and then present it to the DCM's for approval. Discussion on budget line items on our Assembly floor would take hours and would not be productive. So, imagine editing a book in this fashion! It is the job of the conference committee and trustee committees to make changes and present them to the conference and then we vote on the entire book, not discuss and edit each page. The discussion about tracking changes, friendly amendments, and the like went back and forth. There was a motion to table at 10:20pm which was defeated. Then the question was called which passed and we voted on approving the book as presented. The recommendation passed. Minority opinion stated not knowing the changes that were just approved. The prevailing side asked for a motion to reconsider and this passed. Then there was a motion to table which also passed. This discussion was finally tabled at 10:43pm and I happily went to bed. The next day we were given a copy of the new book with the changes tracked. This took a monumental effort by GSO staff for us to review. We went through the major editing points one by one and there were a few friendly amendments along the way that the committee accepted but the conference floor voted against. In the end the new book was approved and the one notable item removed was the reference to the A.M.A. which is found on the inside face page. I wrote down a few of the changes as we went along but it was too much to keep up with. The changes I remember were changing food references, adding the internet, retaining a singular author perspective, and just generally updating phrases used.*

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be revised, and requested that the trustees' Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

*This passed without discussion and I voted in favor of this motion.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Literature were:

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees' Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and

agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee discussed a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the 'Big Book,' Alcoholics Anonymous, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and took no action.
- The committee considered a request to add the "A.A. Preamble" to the front inside pages of the 'Big Book,' Alcoholics Anonymous, and took no action.

### **Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

Satander Bhalla and Daler Mathadu from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.

*This passed unanimously. They were great – I have a few humorous stories I could share that are not meant for print! Also, they would like some help understanding the role of the DCM and I offered our experience for their disposal.*

It was recommended that:

Roger Bédard alternate delegate, Area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, be seated as a Conference member at the 62nd General Service Conference because Estelle Falardeau, Panel 61 delegate for Area 89, is unable to attend.

*This passed unanimously.*

It was recommended that:

The 65th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2015 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.

*This passed unanimously.*

It was recommended that:

The use of electronic devices at the General Service Conference be approved in keeping with the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the Conference" as presented to the 2012 General Service Conference, superseding the 2004 Advisory Action regarding the use of personal computers at the Conference.

*This passed unanimously.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions were:

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and took no action. They agreed that the policy approved by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the "Right of Appeal" as described in Concept V — the procedure allows for a "well-heard minority" to be a "chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority," and it makes the "best possible use of minority feeling and opinion."
- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference review the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting international observers admission to the General Service Conference, taking into account the concerns expressed by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, and provide a report to the 2013 Conference Committee. The Conference committee agreed

that their recommendation for approval of observers seems redundant, and this approval could appear to be a “rubber stamp” of the trustees’ action, as cautioned against in Concept VII.

- The committee requested that trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference review the “Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference” on an ongoing basis and forward any updates to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their review.

### **Conference Committee on Public Information**

It was recommended that:

The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey with minor editorial changes.

*This passed and I voted in favor of this motion. On a personal note it would be nice to have some sort of chart showing the trends in our membership surveys from survey to survey.*

It was recommended that:

The video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits.

*This passed unanimously. The watching of this new PSA was probably the highlight of the conference for me. It portrays a woman finding help for her drinking problem in A.A. Tengo Esperanza translated means, ‘I have hope.’ Several of the Spanish speaking women at the conference praised this PSA for it reaches out to the Hispanic woman. There are three versions of the Tengo Esperanza PSA – a 20 second, 30 second, and 60 second. The English translation of the 60 second version is as follows;*

*“I never had problems with alcohol, but when Juan lost his job and we had less money coming in, we started to fight. I started drinking, just to deal with the stress. Without realizing it, alcohol took over my life. My sister suggested I look for help. I never thought that going to A.A. meetings would help at all. But I decided to try a meeting. Finding the courage to go to that meeting was the best thing I’ve done. I got help from people who know what I’ve been through. These meetings changed my life. And they’re still doing it. Now I know I can live without drinking and, more importantly, I have hope.”*

*Though this PSA has not yet been released you will be able to find it on A.A.’s website [aa.org](http://aa.org) when it becomes available. Once at the home web page for A.A. click on the tab ‘For the Media’ and then click on ‘Public Service Announcements’ to view all PSA’s.*

It was recommended that:

The video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza,” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2013 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

*This passed unanimously. In my opinion this is some of the best money A.A. has spent to get the message of recovery out to the public. By spending money to have our PSA’s tracked and distributed we have effectively moved our PSA’s to the “top of the stack” of PSA’s that TV and radio stations have to choose from.*

It was recommended that:

The revised “Anonymity Wallet Card” be approved.

*This passed unanimously.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Public Information were:

- The committee reviewed the report of the Comprehensive Media Plan Subcommittee from the trustees' Public Information Committee, and expressed their support for the continued development of the media plan.
- Following lengthy and thoughtful discussion related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven, the committee concluded that the spirit and principle of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately in the Long Form of Tradition Eleven. Recognizing that suggested changes to Tradition Eleven have come to the Conference several times, the committee requested the trustees' Public Information Committee gather Area sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee considered favorably the suggestion from the trustees' Public Information Committee that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. Before proceeding, however, the committee requested that the General Service Board explore all aspects of this social media page and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information an implementation plan that addresses the implications of such a page, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance.
- The committee reviewed the 2011 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and noted with appreciation the detailed information provided and the thoughtful consideration given to all items involving the Web site.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the "My World" public service announcement.
- The committee reviewed all of the current A.A. TV public service announcements and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that found them all to be relevant and useful.
- The committee assessed the need for a new A.A. TV public service announcement and agreed with the report of the trustees' Public Information Committee that none was needed at this time.
- The committee considered the proposed alternative packaging for the Public Information Kit and suggested that the Publications Department continue to explore options for alternative packaging that is durable, allows for organization and containment of the kit materials.

### **Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

It was recommended that:

All changes to The A.A. Service Manual be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time.

***This passed without discussion by an overwhelming majority. I voted in favor of this motion.***

It was recommended that:

The following term and definition be added to The A.A. Service Manual in Chapter One: Introduction to General Service in the section titled Glossary of General Service Terms:

"Rotation – the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership."

***This passed by an overwhelming majority with little discussion. I voted in favor of this motion.***

It was recommended that:

The current illustration on page S16 be modified in the following manner:

- Replacing the bottom section of the illustration that deals with the General Service Board and its two operating corporations with the corresponding section from a previous version, minus the table-and-chair graphic.
- Changing “District Committees” to “Districts.”

*This passed by an overwhelming majority. I voted in favor of this motion. Forgive me for not providing both graphic images here for I understand how difficult it is to visualize the above statement. In the old version of the upside down triangle in addition to the words in each section a graphic was used much like the 12 Concepts and 12 Traditions illustrated pamphlets. In this case there were cartoon type graphics of tables and chairs which the committee did not want included when suggesting the old version of the upside down triangle graphic in the service manual. The current version has three 'boxes' at the bottom of the triangle and the old version had one 'triangle' at the bottom. We were shown the illustration on large screen for purposes of this vote. The committee made a side humorous comment that they thought about adding a thin line leading to the bottom of the triangle to represent the General Service Boards but then it would look like a martini glass and then they couldn't decide on who would be the olive on top.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Report and Charter were:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publications Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of The A.A. Service Manual 2012-2013 Edition, and the 2012 General Service Conference Final Report.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A. Grapevine Board for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the A.A.W.S. Board for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions.
- In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed with appreciation the updates from the General Service Board for The A.A. Service Manual.

Note: The committee agreed to ask the General Service Board to reconsider two changes that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.

- The committee reviewed a list of proposed editorial updates for The A.A. Service Manual and forwarded them to the Publications Department.
- The committee considered a suggestion for revising text on “Conference Panels”, on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term “panels”, and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee considered a request to add a section on the “spirit of rotation” and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

- The committee reviewed suggested changes to the Conference Charter that were requested from the General Service Board and took no action. The committee asked that the General Service Board reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the Conference Charter, and develop text that explicitly addresses the principles of participation, petition and appeal for consideration by the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee briefly discussed the A.A. Directories and noted that there were no requests for changes to the A.A. Directories.
- The committee briefly discussed the General Service Conference Final Report and noted that there were no requests for changes to the Final Report.

### **Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

There were recommendations from the conference committee that were not approved by the conference and they were as follows:

The committee reviewed the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* and recommended that one line of dialog, “Uncle Sam is not gonna come in and bail us out” be removed the next time it is reprinted at a cost of approximately \$9,000.00.

*This recommendation failed by an overwhelming majority. I voted against this motion. The Area that first made recommendation shared that they now believe we should not do this because of cost.*

The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs” be expanded to include additional stories of alcoholics with mental illness collected from the Fellowship, and that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Need-Accessibilities bring a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.

*This recommendation failed by an overwhelming majority. I voted against this motion. Apparently stories of A.A. members with mental illnesses were requested and the response was poor. Many wanted to see a separate pamphlet for A.A. members with mental illness even though there are some mental illness stories in the Special Needs and Other Medications pamphlets.*

*There were two floor actions concerning this topic. The first was;*

I request to develop a pamphlet for the Alcoholic with Mental Illness.

*The floor action above was withdrawn in favor of the following floor action;*

That the trustees’ Committee on Literature develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness, with a progress report to be provided to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature with suggestions for content of the pamphlet, including breadth and scope of the pamphlet.

*The author was given two minutes to present their case and then the Chair asked for a motion to decline to consider as is procedure. The motion to decline to consider did not pass and discussion on the motion ensued. I did not vote in favor of declining to consider as I felt discussion on the motion was warranted. After much discussion the question was called and passed. We then voted on the motion which passed 81 for and 39 against. I voted in favor of the motion. The minority shared and someone voting on the prevailing side asked for a motion to reconsider which passed. I voted against the motion to reconsider. Discussion resumed and before long the question was called again which passed and I voted in favor of calling the question. We voted on the original motion again and it did not pass this time by a vote of 76 for and 48 against. I voted in favor of the motion. It is my belief that if the focus of the motion was for a report back on suggestions for content and the scope of a pamphlet for mental illness then this would have passed (as it nearly did anyway and did pass until we reconsidered) instead of instruction for developing a pamphlet. I would not be surprised to see this come up again in the future.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities were:

- The committee expressed concerns about the French and Spanish translations of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous regarding the exact translation of the direct quote read from the translated “Big Books” and for background distraction in the videos. The committee asked the Publications Department to review these items and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Workbook and Kit and suggested minor editorial changes to the service piece “A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request” and removed redundant information in the Kit. Following these minor changes the committee found the Workbook and Kit to be satisfactory for use by local committees.
- The committee reviewed the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook and Kit and suggested that the following changes be made at the next printing:
  - Add a suggestion to page 10 of the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook under the section “Activities suggested for Special Needs-Accessibilities” for “committees to gather local information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options.”
- The committee is hopeful that A.A.W.S. will format the pamphlet “A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs” for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges as soon as fiscally possible as requested in a 2011 Committee Consideration.

### **Conference Committee on Trustees**

It was recommended that:

The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2012:

#### Class A Trustees

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE  
Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.  
Corliss Burke, B.Ed.  
Ward B. Ewing, D.D.  
The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores  
John Fromson, M.D.  
Michele Grinberg, J.D.

#### Class B Trustees

Rod Betonney  
Donald Cusson  
Nancy Haynes  
Barbara Kelly  
Roberta Lindeman  
J. Gary Lutz  
George G. Martin  
Don Massey  
Don Miller  
Eleanor W. Nault  
Pamela Reising  
Clayton Vandivort  
Andrew Ware (from Area 49, elected at conference, new West Central Regional Trustee replacing Ken Brueggeman)  
Marty Watters (from Area 79, elected at conference, new Western Canada Regional Trustee replacing Vic Phillips)

*This slate passed and I voted in favor of it.*

It was recommended that:

The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson      Ward B. Ewing, D.D.  
First vice-chairperson      Pamela Reising  
Second vice-chairperson      Michele Grinberg, J.D.  
Treasurer      Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE  
Secretary      El Nault

***This passed unanimously.***

It was recommended that:

The January 2012 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012:

Assistant Treasurer      Donald W. Meurer  
Assistant Secretary      Rick Walker

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

***This passed by an overwhelming majority and I voted in favor of this.***

It was recommended that:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2012:

Andrea G. Barthwell	J. Gary Lutz
Rod Betonney	George Martin
Joe Downey	William Noonan
Phyllis A. Halliday	Rick Walker
Roberta Lindeman	

***This passed unanimously.***



It was recommended that:

The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2012:

Ami Brophy	Clayton Vandivort
Donald Cusson	Albin Zezula
Michele Grinberg, J.D.	[vacancy]
Nancy Haynes	[vacancy]
Don Miller	

NOTE: The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Bylaws state that its board shall be comprised of “no less than seven (7) and no more than ten (10) directors.”

*This passed with overwhelming majority and I voted in favor of this. There was a motion to remove the word ‘vacancy’ from the above slate which failed. This is the committee I served on. We added the note above and left the word vacancy intact because we felt it important to show the structure of the GV Board has not changed.*

The additional committee considerations for the Conference Committee on Trustees were:

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B Trustee candidates for the West Central and Western Canada Regions.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the report from the trustees’ Committee on Nominating on the Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate noting that, as requested, the report solely addressed the admission of slates; the committee recognizes that the General Service Conference has additional authority related to the General Service Board not commented upon in the report.
- The committee strongly suggested that the practice of including the operating corporation board slates (A.A.W.S. and Grapevine) on the General Service Conference agenda be continued.

*The committee elected yours truly as the Chairperson for the Conference Committee on Trustees.*

There were two Floor Actions that were not previously mentioned. The first is;

Is to change the question: (1) What more could be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship concerning financial condition? Based on 2011 Financial reports given we didn’t know where we stood, as far as projections.

*The motion to decline to consider passed by an overwhelming majority. I voted in favor of declining to consider this motion. The above question is one of the inventory questions that has been approved for the 2013 GSC and is found under Section G, question #3 of the Conference Committee on Agenda on page 5 of this document.*

The other Floor Action not previously mentioned is;

This body form an A.A.W.S. Committee to allow this motion to be heard by a committee before coming to the floor for approval.

*The motion to decline to consider passed so this motion was not discussed. I voted in favor of declining to consider. This floor action is about the possible restructuring of AAWS and AAGV mentioned at the beginning of this document. I believe the hope of the author in forming this motion was adding an AAWS committee because we added looking at AAWS to the restructuring plan which originally only mentioned looking at a possible restructure plan for AAGV. This concludes the business of the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference as seen and recalled through my eyes, notes, and memory.*