

69TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

QUICK REFERENCE

Area 61 Rhode Island

May 2019

AGENDA

- **69th GSC Theme** will be *“2020: A Clear Vision for You”*
- **Presentation Topics:**
 - Recovery – Who is Missing in Our Rooms?
 - Unity – Practicing Our Principles
 - Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant
- **Workshop Topic:** Attraction through Action

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

- Recommend changes to “Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community”: **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Review of trustees’ report regarding progress on LinkedIn resulted in suggestions for page content.

CORRECTIONS

- Recommendation to modify Composition, Scope and Procedure. **FAILED**
- Consider review of Corrections-related literature to be more modern and inclusive. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Consider Request to establish and maintain a database of Correctional Facilities. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Additional Consideration: That Publishing prioritize Corrections pamphlets for publication without staples.

FINANCE

- Reviewed the current area contributions for delegate expenses. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Recommended increase of maximum annual contribution from AA member bequests from \$5,000 to \$10,000. **PASSED**
- Consider increase in maximum annual contribution from individual member. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Additional Consideration: Changes to the Green Card

GRAPEVINE

- Consider request to remove Alcoholism at Large section from the AA Grapevine. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Additional Consideration: Alcoholism at Large disclaimer be displayed more prominently and visibly.
- Considered and forwarded for approval 1 books for future publication: The Early Days of AA; Getting Involved in General Service; Surrender and Hope (La Vina book)

LITERATURE

- Recommend a draft Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous be developed. **FAILED**
- Recommend “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” (P. 13) and (P. 15) be revised to include references to anonymity. **PASSED**
- Recommend updates to “The Twelve Steps Illustrated”. **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Begin work on a Literature Committee Workbook

- Recommend text be added to the Forward to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. **FAILED**
- Recommend “Non-alcoholics” may attend open meetings as observers” be added to the “Open Meeting” side of the Primary Purposed (blue) card. **FAILED**
- Consider request to add information regarding safety to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group”. **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Discussed “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” and supported the proposed policy. (Later Floor Action re-committed this back to the Committee for review next year).
- Additional Consideration: the Trustees’ Literature Committee consider an update to the pamphlet “Is A.A. for Me?”

POLICY / ADMISSIONS

- Recommend “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings” be modified to include time for discussion of the motion. **PASSED**
- The 71st GSC be held April 18-24, 2021.
- The 72nd GSC will be held April 24-30, 2022.
- The 71st and 72nd GSC will be held in Brooklyn, NY
- Considered a process for Conference committee to review proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference Committee and requested additional information regarding background material process be provided to the next Conference.
- Requested trustees’ Committee on the GSC develop a process for approval of other guests to be presented 1 week prior to GSC for approval.
- Considered the 1986 Advisory Action and asked that it be re-implemented.
- Noting that a presentation on Equitable Workload Distribution was scheduled, the Committee requested a plan or progress report be brought to the 70th GSC.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Recommend the trustees’ Committee on PI develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. Pamphlets. **PASSED**
- Recommend the video PSA “My World” be discontinued. **PASSED**
- Recommend, in keeping with the 2011 Advisory Action, that full-face actors (not A.A. members) be shown as long as the character is not portrayed as a “potential A.A. member” or “A.A. member”. **PASSED**
- Recommend two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an “actor portrayal” disclaimer on screen. **PASSED**
- Recommend adding text addressing anonymity and safety be included in the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity”. **PASSED**

- Recommend update to language in the flyer “A.A. at a Glance.” **PASSED**
- Recommend a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel be brought back to the 2020 GSC. **PASSED**
- Recommend current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes. **PASSED**
- Recommend A.A. World Services, Inc. and Grapevine Inc. apply for “LegitScript” certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants. **PASSED**
- Recommend that A.A. World Services, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc. apply for Google AdWords Grants. **PASSED**
- Recommend that A.A. World Services, Inc. implement AdWords for providing information to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 GSC. **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Update A.A. pamphlet covers to prominently display the G.S.O and Grapevine website addresses.

REPORT AND CHARTER

- Reviewed the report from Publishing regarding suggestions to update *The A.A. Service Manual, 2020-2022 Edition* and forwarded comments to the Publishing Department
- Considered the AA. Directories in light of the new ERP system implementation and requested the General Service Office explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the information.
- Agreed to new privacy policy that personal addresses not be included in the final Conference Report for Area Delegates, Trustees and Non-trustee Directors.

TREATMENT/SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITIES

- Recommend inclusion of deaf member’s story in the pamphlet “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.” **PASSED**
- Recommend the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late” be updated. **PASSED**
- Recommend the development of anonymity-protected audio interviews of military professionals as an online resource. **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Considered revising the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap Between Treatment and A.A. and requested a review of all treatment and correction literature with consideration of what might be combined.
- Additional Consideration: Review of draft Remote Communities Kit and suggested a guideline or workbook be developed for inclusion.

TRUSTEES

- Recommend the approval of the slate of trustees and officers for GSB, Grapevine Board, A.A.W.S., Inc. Board and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Board. **PASSED**
- Reviewed draft procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the GSB, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board. Suggestions were provided and a request was made to bring a revised plan to the 2020 GSB.

ARCHIVES

- Recommend adding of 1940’s home movie of co-founders and their wives to the video “Markings on the Journey” at an estimated cost of \$5,000. **PASSED**
- Additional Consideration: Approved service material “Archives Checklist: A quick guide for local A.A. Archivist” and suggested the use of gender specific language be avoided in future printings of the Archives Workbook.

INT’L CONVENTIONS / REGIONAL FORUMS

- Recommend taking an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony at the 2020 International Convention. **PASSED**
- Recommend an anonymity-protected internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony. **PASSED**
- Recommend that anonymity protected video footage of highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for archival use.
- Additional Consideration: Discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums and provided a list of ideas.

AAWS / GSO Reports

- **2018 Contributions of \$8.4 Million almost equal to 2018 Cost of Services—\$11.4 Million, up 11.8%, shortfall: \$3.0 Million. Literature sales up 1.8%, covering shortfall. Reserve Fund** is at 9.7 months.
- **Cost of services/member: \$8.06 (\$2.15 shortfall compared to expenses), Cost of service/group: \$166.87/ (44.42 shortfall compared to expenses).**
- **Grapevine subscriptions** in all formats continue to decline by 4%, but **GV** ended the year negative, primarily due to severance and legal fees, at (\$149,000) with cost of **La Viña** \$148,467, vs \$126,000 in 2017.
- **In 2018 at GSO: 1,641 new groups US / Canada, 91 employees** daily respond to emails and answer phone calls. **Archives** receives over 1,600 requests and added 365 items to collection. **In addition to books, pamphlets & audio materials shipped daily, over 82,229 contributions processed, 902,000 Big Books sold, 55,330 eBooks sold. Website:** received over 15 million visits, **up 14% from 2017.**

FLOOR ACTIONS

- 7 Floor Actions resulted in the following:
 - #1 – A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book be developed. **RECOMMIT**
 - #2 – Spanish Audio Language of the Heart be prioritized with a timeline. **FAILED**
 - #5 – “Simple majority suggestion” be prominently included in the Conference Report. **FAILED**
 - #7 – “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee. **PASSED**