Alcoholics Anonymous
2016 General Service Conference
“Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts”

April 17 - 23, 2016
Kelly D. Area 35 Panel 66 Delegate
WELL WISHES

Along with a warm send off from the Spring Assembly from you I received phone calls, messages and emails from many of you.

THANK YOU!
From My Sponsor JoAnne N. Past Delegate
NEW YORK TRANSPORTATION
Don’t Look Kelly!
NEW YORK ATTRACTIONS
Big City Highlights
Being Patriotic
After All the Primary Elections Were Going On
THE CONFERENCE
General Service Conference
Meeting Room
West Central Regional Members
Open Session

• Roll Call was taken – 134 voting members of the 2016 General Service Conference.

• A motion was made by Trent G. Delegate Panel 66 Area 41 “to restore the 2015 advisory action of the Workshop back to the 2016 Conference.” The motion was seconded by Lisa Dawn G., Delegate Panel 65 Area 36. The question was called and failed. A vote was taken and the motion failed. I voted yes.

• Workshop presentations “Connecting With the Newcomer All Inclusive – Never Exclusive, Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer – Are we Going to Any Length? and Home Group - Where it Begins” were moved to Monday due to the previous motion.

• Finance presentation from David M., Class A Trustee Treasurer of the Board. (91 slides)
FINANCES
2015 Financial Totals

Self-support contributions - $7,154,146
GSO general fund total expenses - $9,629,499
GSO general fund loss - $2,475,310
AAWS net sales - $12,489,433
AAWS net income - $2,680,935
Grapevine net sales - $2,955,353
Grapevine net income - $240,811
General Fund support of La Vina - $146,378
Reserve Fund - $14,583,935
Operating Expenses - $17,075,074
Literature Sales - $12,489,433
Literature Profits - $8,170,808
Total Revenue - $15,324,964

Total Operating Expenses - $205, 625
## 2016 Financial Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Sales</td>
<td>$13,472,484</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Profits</td>
<td>$9,107,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$7,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$16,107,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$16,134,475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year Total**  
-$26,691.00
AGENDA ITEMS
IN THE ORDER
THEY WERE PRESENTED
A. Review draft of video created to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”

The committee recommended that the video to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” with the title “A New Freedom” be approved.

Note: The email address corrections@aa.org will be added to the information for contacting A.A. at the end of the video “A New Freedom.”

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes.
Agenda Items on A.A. Grapevine

A. Other Subjects:
The committee recommended that a Delegate Chair for the Grapevine Conference Committee be allowed full participation at the January Board Meeting as all other Delegate Chairs.

A voted was taken and it passed. I voted yes.

Additional Committee Considerations:
The Committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2017 or later:

1. Stories by Atheist and Agnostic A.A. members (working title)

A collection of stories by A.A. members who are atheist or agnostic, previously published in the Grapevine magazine and/or AAAGrapevine.org
2. Steps Four and Five (working title)

Members tell helpful hopeful stories about how they did Step Four and/or Step Five and how it changed their lives—from previously published stories in Grapevine magazine and/or AA Grapevine.org
Agenda Items On Policy/Admissions

A. Approve request for two observers from A.A. in the Ukraine to attend the 2016 General Service Conference.

The Committee recommended that Mykhailo A. past World Service Meeting Delegate and Yury T. from Ukraine be admitted to the 66th General Service Conference as observers.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes.

B. Review progress report on plans for French and Spanish translation of all Conference background.

The Committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the Trustees Committee of the General Service Conference on plans for French and Spanish translation of all Conference background and took no action. The Committee recommended that background material continue to be provided in English because it is not feasible at this time to move forward with translation of Conference background into French and Spanish. No vote.
The Committee recommended the implementation of Phase 1 of the Conference Translation Project to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French, as described in the 2015 Advisory Action, continue with an estimated cost of $50,000.00 - $100,000.00. No vote.

C. Review dates for 2019 General Service Conference.

The Committee recommended that the 69th General Service Conference be held April 28-May 4, 2019 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes.
Agenda Items On Policy/Admissions Continued

Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee reviewed the report from the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference regarding Conference observers from other fellowships and took no action. The Committee agreed that there are other ways to share A.A.’s Conference experience and since A.A.’s early history, Alcoholics Anonymous has shared it’s experience with other fellowships upon their request. The committee noted that the General Service Conference is a closed business meeting.

The Committee considered a request that all Conference members be sent the same background material with the exception of digital media and works in progress and took no action. The Committee agreed that the current practices are sufficient and in keeping with the Conference Charter.
Agenda Items On Public Information

A. That a proposal be developed for the implementation of both a Google-For-Non-Profits account and a Twitter account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public.

The Committee **recommended** that a proposal for implementing a Google-For-Non-Profits account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Committee on Public Information for review.

A vote for a friendly amendment passed to read: The Committee recommended that the Trustee Committee on Public Information begin implementation of a Google-For-Non-Profit accounts for carrying the message of A.A. to the public with a progress report and update to be brought back to the 2017 General Service Conference Committee on Public Information.

A vote was taken and it failed. I voted no.
Agenda Items On Public Information Continued

A. The Committee **recommended** that a proposal for the implementation of a Twitter account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Committee on Public Information for review.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes.

B. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the English and French language versions of the video P.S.A. “Tengo Esperanza” at a cost not to exceed $40,000.00 in addition to the distribution work of local Public Information Committees.

The Committee **recommended** that the English and French language versions of the video public service announcement “Tengo Esperanza” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed $40,000.00, in addition to distribution by local Committees and that the information gathered from the process be
be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for review.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted no in support of the Area.

C. Consider discontinuing the video P.S.A. “I Thought.”

The Committee recommended that the video public service announcement “I Thought” be discontinued.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted no in support of the Area.

Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee discussed a request to consider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates.” The Committee took no action noting that the current policy on the use of full-faced videos is adequate.
A. Review progress report on the development of a plan for the systematic review of A.A. recovery literature.

The committee recommended that the Trustees Literature Committee develop a plan that includes a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items, taking into consideration the following: content, relevance, and usefulness; and prioritize by time span since last review. The Committee requests that the plan also include an annual report, to be forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee, reflecting the results of their review and any other items for proposed updates or revisions.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes.
Agenda Items On Literature Continued

B. Consider request for revision to the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.”

The Committee recommended that the Trustees Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.” to include information about young people’s conferences.

A friendly amendment was made to add: That the proposed text be brought back to the 2017 General Service Conference Literature Committee for review.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted no in support of the Area.

The Committee recommended that the Trustees Literature Committee update the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.” to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today. The Committee requests that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted no in support of the Area.
Agenda Items On Literature Continued

C. Consider request to update the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

The Committee recommended that the Trustees Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. The Committee requests that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted no in support of the Area.

Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee considered a request to develop a plain language version of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action. While sympathetic to the spirit of the request, the Committee agreed developing a plain-language Big Book was not appropriate at this time.
Agenda Items On Literature Continued

The Committee reviewed a progress report from the Trustees Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Women” and made some suggestions for the Trustees Literature Committee to consider. The Committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.

The Committee reviewed a progress from the Trustees Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.” The Committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.

The Committee reviewed a progress report from the Trustees Literature Committee on the development of literature for A.A.’s with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. The Committee looks forward to reviewing a draft copy or progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.
A. Consider removing the “Special Needs” from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs –Accessibilities and throughout the Committees Composition, Scope and Procedure.

The Committee recommended that the term “Special Needs” be removed from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and throughout the Committees Composition, Scope and Procedure. The new name of the Committee will be the Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes in support of the Area.
Agenda Items On Finance

A. Review the Conference approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member of $3,000.00.

The Committee recommended that the maximum annual limit for individual contributions to the General Service Office Board from A.A. members be increased from $3,000.00 to $5,000.00.

A vote was taken and it did not pass. I voted no.

Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee reviewed the Suggested Delegate Area Contribution to the General Service Conference of $1,600.00 and after considerable discussion took no action as the Committee did not feel an increase was appropriate at this time.
Agenda Items On Finance Continued

The Committee reviewed the maximum one time limit of $5,000.00 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and after considerable discussion took no action.

The Conference Finance Committee requests that the General Service Board/A.A.W.S. consider measures that would assure that all future International Conventions are self-supporting through registration activities. The GSB/A.A.W.S. might consider the feasibility of a separate ongoing Convention Fund, transportation requirements, hotel accommodations, cut off dates, and other appropriate items.

The Committee suggests the General Service Board consider the spiritual message of self-support in our spending priorities when dealing with items such as World Service Meeting and related activities.

In addition to the above actions and suggestions, the Committee had a long discussion about better communication of information within the Fellowship concerning financial matters.
A. Consider adding text regarding A.A. and medications to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...”

The Committee recommended that a new section on A.A. and medications be added to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” with the following text:

A.A. Members and Medications – A.A. does not provide medical advice, all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified physician. The suggestions provided in the pamphlet “The A.A. Member-Medications & Other Drugs” may help A.A. members minimize the risk of relapse.

A friendly amendment was passed and the words “qualified physician” was changed to Health Care Professional.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes in support of the Area.
Agenda Items On Cooperation With the Professional Community Continue

B. Consider adding text to the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” regarding A.A. as a resource for small business.

The Committee recommended that the text be added to the last paragraph of the first page of the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” to read (additions in **bold**)

A.A. can help organizations, **corporations and businesses, regardless of size**, contact men and women who have achieved sobriety, and are willing to share their experiences freely with anyone who seeks help.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes in support of the Area.

C. Review draft text changes to the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals”

The Committee recommended that several minor revisions to the pamphlet ”How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals” be approved.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes in support of the Area.
Agenda Items On Cooperation With the Professional Community Continue

D. Review contents of C.P.C. Workbook.

The Committee recommended that an introductory paragraph for professionals be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” addressing the notion that while some language in 1958 pamphlet is dated, the issues are prevalent today, and asked that a draft introductory paragraph be brought back to the 2017 C.P.C. Conference Committee for review.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes.

Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee considered a request to discontinue the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” and took no action. The Committee noted that the information in the pamphlet was outdated and did not accurately or appropriately describe the A.A. program of recovery for C.P.C. use, but agreed that the pamphlet may have value to A.A. members as a marker of historic A.A. moments. In light of this, the Committee suggested the Trustees C.P.C./Treatment Accessibilities Committee continue to discuss the value of keeping this pamphlet available to the Fellowship.
Agenda Items On Report and Charter


1. Consider draft text for a section on “Local Forums” to be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) on page S72.

The Committee recommended that a new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of the *A.A. Service Manual*, after the “Regional Forums” section with the following text:

In October 2006, the concept of Local Forums was approved by the General Service Board. The purpose of the Local Forums is to bring Forum information to A.A. members in remote, sparsely populated areas, urban neighborhoods or underserved A.A. communities. Any A.A. community or service entity may request a one-and-a-half or two day Local Forum. Unlike Regional Forums, the responsibility for Forum expenses such as meeting room rental and miscellaneous expenses are assumed by the Local Forum Committee. The General Service Board will send two participants, one from the Board and one from the General Service Office or Grapevine office, and display literature at Board expense. Like Regional Forums, Board participation in Local Forums requires the approval of the Trustees Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums, The Regional Forums Coordinator works closely with the Local Forum organizing committee to create and agenda that is responsive to local needs.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes in support of the Area.
Agenda Items On Report and Charter Continued

2. Consider request to remove endnote 4 in *Concepts For World Service*.

The Committee recommended that the following text in the endnote 4 to be removed from Concept Twelve on page 73 of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

4 Bill here, apparently inadvertently, used the phrase “in action and spirit,” instead of “in thought and action,” that appear elsewhere in both the Conference Charter and the statement of Concept XII.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted no in support of the Area.

3. Consider request to revise text in the Concept Eleven essay regarding “male/female” distinctions in *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

The Committee recommended that the following text be removed from the Concept Eleven essay on page 58 of *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man’s world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women’s superiors, thus producing a reaction in the gals. Then, too some of us – of both sexes – have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-women relations. Our drinking had made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into “moms” and “pops” and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-women relatedness that we undertake.

It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that and sound working relation between adult men and women must be in character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replace our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate them so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because the *are* women.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted no in support of the Area.
Agenda Items On Report and Charter Continued

The Committee recommended that endnote 10, on page 59 in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the Concept Eleven essay be revised by the Publishing Department with language noting that two paragraphs have been removed from the Concept Eleven essay and are available upon request from the GSO Archives Department as a reference to A.A. history.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.

B. Consider A.A.W.S. recommendation regarding an alternative publishing schedule for the *A.A. Service Manual*.

The Committee recommended that the *A.A. Service Manual* be revised per existing schedule after the 2016 General Service Conference and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2017 at a savings of approximately $45,000.00 - $50,000.00 in alternative years when a new addition is not published. The next addition of the *A.A. Service Manual* is to be published in 2018 (after the Conference), the subsequent edition in 2020 (after the Conference), etc.

A vote was taken and it passed. I voted yes in support of the Area.
C. Consider request that the category title “Online Meetings: be changed to “Online Meetings/Online Groups” in A.A. Directories.

The Committee recommended that the category title “Online Meeting” to be “Online Meetings/Online Groups” on page vi in the A.A. directories.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted no in support of the Area. (only two of us)

Additional Committee Considerations:


The Committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for the A.A. Service Manual and accepted the updates.
Agenda Items On Report and Charter Continued

In keeping with the 2009 Advisory action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. and 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 the updates from the General Service Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions. Note: The Committee agreed to ask the General Service Board to reconsider a change that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.

The Committee considered a request to add a definition of “Service Manual” to the Glossary of Service Terms in The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service. The Committee requested that the Publishing Department add a definition in The A.A. Service Manual to the Glossary of Service Terms.

The Committee considered a request to add existing text from the “Third Legacy Procedure” section to the “Third Legacy Procedure” chart on page S22 in The A.A. Service Manual and agreed that the text would be added for consistency.
The Committee discussed the General Conference *Final Report* and suggested that the Publishing Department consider using a larger font to make the *Final Report* more accessible.

The Committee reviewed the General Service Conference Final report and suggested that several items of interest be highlighted on the front cover including “Advisory Actions,” “Area Highlights,” and “Presentation Topics.”
Agenda Items On Agenda

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2017 General Service Conference.

The Committee recommended that the theme for the 2017 General Service Conference be “Supporting Our Future.”

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.

B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2017 General Service Conference.

The Committee recommended that the following be presentation/discussion topics for the General Service Conference.

1) Growth
   a. Diversity: Outreach and Attraction
   b. Safety Our Responsibility
   c. Communication – Today and Tomorrow
2. Participation:
   a. Fellowship vs. Membership
   b. Leadership: “I am Responsible....”
   c. Is Your Voice Heard?

3. Contributions:
   a. Spirituality and Money
   b. Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations
   c. Apathy and Power of the Purse

Vote did not pass. I voted no. Vote taken to reconsider. Friendly amendment made to remove under Growth: item b. Safety – Our Responsibility to Safety – An Important Consideration. Another vote taken and passed. I voted yes.
C. Review the General Service Conference Form.

The Committee **recommended** that the Conference Agenda Committee review the summary of the previous year’s Conference evaluations and, where appropriate, make suggestions for improvement to the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.

D. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference.

The Committee **recommended** that the General Service Office post to the Conference dashboard, and regularly update, information concerning the status of all proposed Conference Agenda Items.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.
Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee discussed the importance of the A.A. General Service Conference Inventory and the value of the Additional Recommendations/Suggestions which begin on page 17 in the report, and encourages all Conference members to review the Additional Recommendations/Suggestions for possible actions locally, regionally and at future Conferences.

The Committee thoroughly discussed the Trustees report regarding the Conference Agenda Committee and the agenda selection process and felt that their Committees name should remain the same, and that the matters such as Conference theme and workshop topics do rise to the level of policy and are not just a matter of routine programming.
Committee Considerations:

The Committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:

- Provide more information about what happens at a Regional Forum such as meeting trusted servants and special workers, workshops, opportunities for questions and answers, and fellowship;
- Including event details of Regional Forums on local Area websites with links back to G.S.O.’s website, aa.org
- Encouraging members to attract other members through “bring a buddy” and “get on the bus” approaches;
- Informing members from outside of your Region about upcoming Forums.
Agenda Items On International Conventions/Regional Forums Continued

The Committee accepted the reporting on the 2015 International Convention and noted that the financial results of the Convention showed a loss of $210,431.00.

The Committee noted ongoing efforts by the General Service Office Board and the General Service Office to review all aspects of the 2015 International Convention in order to plan effectively for the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

The Committee expressed their gratitude to everyone who worked on making the 2015 International Convention a wonderful experience. The Committee also noted new and well-received features such as an Anonymity Booth and the Carry the Message Pavilion, which provides opportunities for members to share about A.A. principals and service.

Special notice was made that over 700 A.A. members who are deaf participated in the 2015 International Convention.
Agenda Items On Archives

No recommendations.

Committee Considerations:

The Committee discussed ways of encouraging A.A. groups to write or update their group histories to ensure that historical information is retained by the local areas and districts. The Committee offered the following suggestions:

• Encourage discussion at area assemblies and area committee meetings.
• Communicate this endeavor at local A.A. Archives Workshops.
• Include a notice in *Box 4-5-9* and Archives e-newsletter, *Markings*.
• Add the G.S.O. Archives service piece “Researching Group Histories” to General Service Representative (GSR) and District Committee Member (DCM) mailings.
Agenda Items On Archives Continued

The Committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and suggested the following be added at the next printing:

- A list of Archive resources including G.S.O. Archives guidelines and other Archives service pieces to the section “Reference Information and Resources.”
- Update G.S.O. Archives Deed of Gift form.
- Information about removing items that are not relevant to an archival collection.
Agenda Items On Archives Continued

The Committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook and suggested the following be added at the next printing:

- A list of Archive resources including G.S.O. Archives guidelines and other Archives service pieces to the section “Reference Information and Resources.”
- Update G.S.O. Archives Deed of Gift form.
- Information about removing items that are not relevant to an archival collection.
A. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Inc.

The Committee reviewed and recommended that the following slate of trustees for election at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016:

**Class A Trustees**

- Leslie S. B., B.A.
- Terrance M. B., FACHE
- Hon, Christine C.
- Hon. Ivan L.R. L.
- Peter L., Ph.D., LCSW-C
- Nancy J. M.
- David M., C.P.A.

**Class B Trustees**

- Thomas A.
- Richard B.
- Carole B.
- Joel C.
- Joe D.
- Bill F.
- Yolanda F.
- Scott H.
Congratulations to Our New 2016 West Central Regional Trustee Tom A.
A. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Inc.

The Committee reviewed and recommended that the following slate of trustees for election at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016:

**Class B Trustees**

- William N.
- Chet P.
- Richard P.
- Bob W.
- Cate W.
- Albin Z.

Vote taken and passed. I voted yes.

*Note: First time in history we have a Trustee from Area 35 and two Trustees serving from the West Central Region, Tom A. and Carole B.*
The Committee **recommended** that the February 2016 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 2016:

Assistant Treasurer                  Donald W. M.
Assistant Secretary                 Eva S.

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

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.

**B. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Service, Inc.**

The Committee reviewed and recommended the following slate of directors for election at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Service Corporate Board in April 2016:

Richard B.       William N.      Beau B.       Richard P.
Joe D.            Eva S.          Homer M.       Greg T.
David N.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.
C. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

The Committee reviewed and recommended the following slate of directors for election at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2016:

Lynda B. Yolanda F.
Carole B. Ivan L.
Amu B. Paz P.
Joel C. Albin Z.
Josh E.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.
Agenda Items on Trustees continued

D. Consider option presented by Trustees Committee on Nominating regarding the unexpected vacancy of Regional Trustees.

The Committee recommended that if a vacancy for a Regional Trustee occurs prior to September 1 in the first year, then an election for a three-year term would occur at the following General Service Conference (GSC) for the affected region. If a vacancy for a Regional Trustee occurs between September 1 in the first year and August 31 of the third year then the Delegates from the affected region would be given an option to hold election for a six-year or a five year term or leave the position vacant, depending on when the vacancy occurs. Regardless of whether the term was for three, five or six years, the Regional Trustee would be expected to serve two years on one of the two operating corporation boards.

A vote was taken and passed. I voted yes.
Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B Trustees candidates for the West Central and Western Canada regions.

The Committee reviewed the report from the Trustees Committee on Nominating on expanding the pool of candidates to serve the General Service Board and the Corporate Boards with appreciation. The Committee discussed the suggestions provided by the Trustees Committee on Nominating for distribution of postings and notifications of vacancies on the Boards and encouraged using as many outlets as possible to develop a broader list of candidates. The committee agreed that a larger pool would provide a wider range of abilities, skills, background and life experiences. The Committee also noted that expanding the number of candidates increases the possibility that the candidates will reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.
Additional Committee Considerations:

The Committee also encouraged consultation between the Trustees Committee on Nominating and the General Service Board to identify the skills and background most needed for each opening on the G.S.B.

The Committee discussed the possibility of adding direct questions to the candidates resume form that would identify diverse characteristics of candidates and agreed that this was not necessary. Nevertheless, the Committee suggested that The Trustees Committee on Nominating explore the option of adding a space to the current resume form that would allow a candidate the opportunity to provide additional information that may identify diverse characteristics, such as abilities, skills, background, and life experiences that may benefit the General Service Board.
FLOOR ACTIONS
11 Floor Actions

Floor Action #1
That the video “A New Freedom” be returned to the Trustees Corrections Committee for editing and/or removal of any content that implies a relationship between alcoholism, domestic violence and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. The edited video or a progress report be brought back to the 2017 Conference Committee for consideration. A vote was taken and the floor action failed. I voted no.

Submitted by: Tom H. Panel 65 Area 52

Floor Action #2
That in the future the General Service Board not approve a deficit budget for either corporate boards. A vote was taken and the floor action failed. I voted no.

Submitted by: Kenny B. Panel 66 Area 26
Floor Actions Continued

Floor Action #3
That the General Service Conference Delegates be provided a detailed copy of the annual consolidated financial statement for transparency purposes with the pre-Conference material for all future Conferences. Friendly Amendment made to read: That the General Service Conference Delegates be provided a copy of the annual General Service Office and AA Grapevine budgets. Amendment passes and floor action passes. I voted yes.

Submitted by: Tony S., Panel 66 Area 64

Floor Action #4
That the Trustees Committee on Public Information begin work on a Google-for-Nonprofit account to be used for carrying AA message to the public. This request is limited to “You Tube for Nonprofit” to share video content and “Google Ad Words” which will help in the search result placement. The Trustees Committee is asked to provide a progress report to the 2017 Conference Committee on Public Information. Question was called and passed, motion was made to reconsider and passed. Floor action did not pass. I voted no.

Submitted by: Chris W., Panel 65 Area 71
Floor Actions Continued

Floor Action #5
That the suggested Delegate area contribution to the General Service Conference be raised from $1,600.00 to $2,000.00. There was a motion to decline to consider and the floor action did not pass. I voted no.

Submitted by: Barry S., Panel 66 Area 18

Floor Action #6
That the standing Agenda Items on the Conference Finance Committee which reads as follows:
1. To review the contributions for Delegate expense for the General Service Conference.
2. To approve individual bequests to the General Service Board from AA members.
3. To review maximum annual contributions to General Service Board from an individual AA member of $3,000.00 be removed as standing items on the Conference Finance Committee Agenda. There was a motion to decline to consider and the floor action did not pass. I voted no.

Submitted by: Linda J., Panel 66 Area 29
Floor Actions Continued

Floor Action #7

That a subscription app for La Vina be created with the same technical components as the AA Grapevine app. The floor action was withdrawn.

Submitted by: Gilberto V., Panel 66 Area 77

Floor Action #8

That the General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference Agenda Review and Selection Process, providing the Area Delegate members of the Conference a role in vetting and selection of proposed Agenda Items through the Conference process to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference. A motion was made to decline and it failed. The question was called and a vote was taken. The floor action passed. I voted yes.

Submitted by: Melissa R., Panel 65 Area 67
Floor Actions Continued

Floor Action #9
That the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate Conference background material considering all possible methods, with a progress report to be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describe the processes and costs. A motion was made to decline and did not pass. A motion was made to call the question and it passed. A motion was then made to reconsider and it passed. A motion was then made to call the question and it passed. A vote was taken and the floor action passed. I voted yes.

Submitted by: Jay E., Panel 66 Area 44

Floor Action #10
That 2-3 hours be provided in the 67th Conference Agenda to permit consult on matters brought forward by the Trustees of the General Service Board. The floor action failed and a motion to reconsider failed. I voted yes.

Submitted by: Michele G., Class A Trustee
Floor Actions Continued

Floor Action #11

That the minutes of the General Service Board meetings be posted to the General Service Conference dashboard as soon as they are approved so that all Area Delegates have equal access to them. **The floor action was withdrawn.**

Submitted by: Amy C., Panel 65 Area 13
1. **Brainstorming ideas on improving internal and external communication**
   Assuming that we undertake an effort to identify and develop a more effective internal and external communications for:
   Still suffering alcoholics looking for help
   A.A. members
   Friends of A.A.
   The general public, how can that be accomplished? What should those efforts specifically include?

2. **Brainstorming ideas for increasing revenues**
   Reflecting on the Seventh Tradition of self-support as it currently exists today, what specific changes or enhancements could be made to both increase the dollars contributed and the participation involvement by groups and individuals?

   Reflecting on the AAWS literature being sold today, both in terms of variety of items being sold and their price, are there specific changes that could be made, such as the creation of additional types of literature that could be sold?

   Reflecting on the magazines and other publications currently being sold by Grapevine and LaVina, what changes could be made to further enhance their desirability so that the Fellowship would we enticed to increase their subscriptions and purchases of such materials?
3. Brainstorming ideas for reducing expenses
Reflecting on the specific service activities provided to the Fellowship by the GSO, what specific services or items could be either changed or eliminated to reduce expenses?

Reflecting on the current organizational operating structures of AAWS and Grapevine, what back office functions could be combined to reduce operating expenses?

4. Brainstorming ideas on structure
Reflecting on the current organizational operating structures of GSB, AAWS and GV and without regard to either costs or efficiency, are there better structures that could be developed that would allow A.A. to better deliver its spiritual message of hope and recovery?

Reflecting on the current organizational operating structures of the GSB, AAWS and GV but this time considering costs and efficiency, are there better structures that could be developed that would allow A.A. to better deliver its spiritual message of hope and recovery?

See handout on Feasibility Reports
GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
AND
STEPPING STONES
Visit To The General Service Office
General Service Office Area and Shipping Office
Some GSO Offices Overlook the Hudson River
Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones
Home of Bill & Lois Wilson
“Bill W” was cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous - 1935
“Lois W” cofounder of Al-Anon Family Groups - 1951

State Education Department
Bill and Lois’s Home
Living Room
Bill and Lois’s Kitchen
Susie and I in the Kitchen Where Many Heard the A.A. Message of Hope
Bill’s Piano, Cello and Violin
Lois’s Library and Office
Garage Now Called the Welcome Center
Alcoholics Anonymous is Born and Bill’s Last Message in the Welcome Center
Map Of Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings
Wits End
Bill’s Desk
How A.A.’s Found Bill and Lois’s Home From the Train
NEW YORK TRANSPORTATION AGAIN
Susie “Helping Me Get in the Cab”
To Go To The Airport For Our Flight Home
Picture Taken Compliments of
Bob, Delegate From South Dakota
Alcoholics Anonymous
2017 General Service Conference
“Supporting Our Future”
Rye, New York
April 23-29, 2017
THANK YOU

Area 35

for the honor and

privilege to serve as

your Panel 66 Delegate!