

## ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

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

### Conference Agenda Committee:

- The committee suggested the wording on page 4 of the Conference Evaluation Form, which reads "no signature needed," be changed to "signature optional" with an additional check-off box for individuals wishing to be contacted.

### Conference Archives Committee:<sup>1</sup>

- The committee discussed the suggested changes received from an area and took no action. The committee requested the trustees' Archives Committee to consider those suggestions in future reprints of the Workbook. All areas are encouraged to continue reviewing the Archives Workbook and submit suggestions for future revisions.
- The committee reviewed "The A.A. Archives" service piece that was newly developed by the trustees' Archives Committee. The service piece will be available for wider distribution immediately after the General Service Conference.

### Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community:

- The committee was in agreement with the trustees' Committee report to keep the "singleness of purpose" statement in existing C.P.C. pamphlets as is. The committee suggested the following:
  - Continue to publish articles in *About A.A.* and *Box 4-5-9* on A.A.'s singleness of purpose, emphasizing Tradition Three, "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking";
  - Encourage C.P.C. committees to communicate the importance of A.A.'s singleness of purpose to professionals;
  - Continue to review the C.P.C. Workbook and Kit to be sure there is sufficient information in each on our singleness of purpose.
- The committee considered the idea of a service piece on "Singleness of Purpose is A.A.'s Strength," similar to the Summer 2001 issue of *About A.A.*, and did not feel there was a need at this time for a service piece.

(Note: The "Singleness of Purpose" statement reads: "Alcoholism and drug addiction are often referred to as 'substance abuse' or 'chemical dependency.' Alcoholics and 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 or become A.A. members. People with problems other than alcoholism are eligible for A.A. membership only if they have a drinking problem.")

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the trustees' Committee report regarding addressing in C.P.C. literature that A.A. is not allied with any religion and suggested that the Fellowship:
  - Consider different modes of communicating what is meant by "spirituality" in A.A. during workshops, sharing sessions, Regional and Special Forums; and, in communications with professionals, utilize C.P.C. pamphlets as well as *About A.A.*;
  - Continue looking for ways to improve cooperation with staff in treatment centers, who may have misgivings about A.A. as a resource for their clients.
- The committee considered a request that the soft-cover C.P.C. Workbook be changed from service material to A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature and agreed with the 1997 Conference Advisory Action that the C.P.C. Workbook continue to be designated as service material.
- A request for the development of a Conference-approved pamphlet similar to the flyer "So the Court Sent You to A.A. and You Hate the Idea" was discussed at length by the Conference C.P.C. Committee. The committee expressed appreciation for the idea and forwarded the request to the trustees Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities Committee for further review.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
  - On page 7, add "at" to the sentence to read "Let's take a look at some of our A.A. Traditions and their relationship to cooperation with the professional community.
  - On page 18, put a comma after nursing and delete the word "and" to read, "Most of the information that follows concerns working with medical students, but the same ideas may be used with students in such other areas as social work, law, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, education, law enforcement and theology.
  - On page 5 of the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" change "Should P" to "Should I?"
  - In the Service Piece, "Working With Students Attending Professional Schools," change the section "Working with Medical Students" to "Working With Medical and Other Professional Schools Students."

**Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities:**

- The committee unanimously requested that the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities consider publishing the Correctional Facilities Kit and Workbook in a three-ring binder format and that a progress report be sent as background to the 2003 Conference Correctional Facilities committee for consideration.
- The committee requested that a statement of purpose be developed by the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities for use as an introduction to the Correctional Facilities Workbook/Kit, and sent as background to the 2003 Conference Correctional Facilities committee for consideration.

- The committee requested that the trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee develop a statement on A.A.'s Singleness of Purpose to be added to the Correctional Facilities Workbook after review by the 2003 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities.

(Note: A "Singleness of Purpose" statement currently in several pamphlets, reads: "Alcoholism and drug addiction are often referred to as 'substance abuse' or 'chemical dependency.' Alcoholics and 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 or become A.A. members. People with problems other than alcoholism are eligible for A.A. membership only if they have a drinking problem." The committee suggested that references to "a drinking problem" be changed to "a desire to stop drinking," as reflected in our Third Tradition.)

- The committee suggested that the video "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls" be included with welcome letters and other material sent to incoming Area Correctional Facilities, Hospitals & Institutions and Bridging The Gap committee chairpersons.
- The committee suggested that the Publications Department consider reformatting the cover of "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" at the next printing so that the title is fully visible when the pamphlet is folded and placed in literature racks.
- The committee suggested that the Corrections Correspondence Service pamphlet (F-26) be listed in catalogs of our A.A. Conference-approved Literature and Other Service Material. The committee remarked on the importance of sharing about this service in assemblies, Forums and other A.A. events. It was noted that sharing of personal experience with this service would encourage more members to participate.
- The committee unanimously requested that the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities consider distributing the newsletter *Sharing From Behind The Walls* to A.A. groups in Correctional Facilities. Additionally, the committee suggested that the Publications Department consider reformatting the newsletter *Sharing From Behind The Walls* in an easy-to-read type, and forward the results as background to the 2003 Conference Correctional Facilities committee for consideration.
- The committee discussed various ways that A.A. information is presented to staff in Correctional Facilities.

#### **Conference Committee on Finance:**

- The committee reviewed input from the Fellowship on local Convention reporting matters.

After a broad discussion, the committee felt that reporting matters are not a policy level issue but a matter of Professional accounting.

The committee felt that by reporting International Convention activities in a separate column on the financial statements the Fellowship would be better informed about ongoing Convention activities, and urges that such reporting be implemented as soon as practicable.

- The committee discussed information received as a result of the 2001 Conference Finance Committee's request for additional sharing on the philosophy of using literature price reductions as the primary mechanism in adjusting the relationship of the Reserve Fund balance to its upper limit, and felt no further action was necessary at this time. The committee

realized that the Floating Cap Plan allows for orderly management of the Reserve Fund, which does not preclude literature price reductions.

- The committee encourages preparation and periodic distribution of a simplified description of the purposes and necessity of G.S.O.'s Reserve Fund (for example in *Box 4-5-9*).

The committee also encourages frequent explanation and communication of services G.S.O. provides to and on behalf of the Fellowship.

#### **Conference Committee on Grapevine:**

- The committee considered several suggestions for related items for production and forwarded to the Grapevine Corporate Board the following items for development: 1) Declaration of Responsibility signs in English and (when feasible) in Spanish and in French, with a facsimile of the art that appears in the Grapevine; 2) *Best of Grapevine* CDs; and 3) a Spanish-language CD.

#### **Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums<sup>1</sup>:**

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums and suggested that host committee contacts and delegates of host areas increase their efforts to provide information about Forums; utilize G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site for on-line registration, generate enthusiasm by visiting groups and emphasize the need for volunteers to participate in host committees.

The committee expressed interest in the possibility of having more frequent and accessible Regional/Special Forums.

- The committee discussed and reviewed the 2015 International Convention Site-selection Procedures.

#### **Conference Literature Committee:**

- The committee noted the following information that was reported at the April 21, 2002 joint meeting with the trustees' Literature Committee:
  - Addition of one story "The Fearful One" to Anthology for a total of 56 stories.
  - Title suggestions from the trustees' Literature Committee and the G.S.O. editor for the anthology project.
  - A report from the G.S.O. editor on the editing deletion of the ninth paragraph of the story "Freedom from Bondage" which was included in the Third Edition of the Big Book and which was deleted from the Fourth Edition to create a page count in the Fourth Edition similar to the page count of the Third Edition.

Taking into consideration previous Conference Advisory Actions addressing the historical context of Bill Wilson's writings, the committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee consider adding a statement to the Foreword of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* explaining the historical context of Bill's writings and report back to the 2003 Conference Literature Committee.

<sup>1</sup>Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

- The committee reviewed the complimentary service material “Concepts Checklist” (F-91) which was revised January 2002 and thanked the subcommittee of the trustees’ Literature Committee for their service in completing this revision.
- The committee considered at length the request for a new edition of the Spanish Big Book and took no action as a widely expressed need was not exhibited at this time.
- The committee considered the request to add a quote from Concept Nine to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and took no action. The committee agreed that this addition was not necessary.
- After careful consideration of the request to restore “The Doctor’s Opinion” to page 1 as published in the First Edition of the Big Book from 1939 to 1955 in future printings of the Big Book, the committee agreed to take no action.
- The committee reviewed the January 15, 2002 summary of responses received by the General Service Office to the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and was grateful for all sharing received in response to the publication of the Fourth Edition.

**Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:**

- The committee strongly suggested that when an area submits an “Application for Additional Delegate Area,” a special meeting at the Conference of the Policy/Admissions Committee be held so that any delegate submitting an application can respond to questions of the committee for clarification.
- The committee reviewed and discussed the report given by the General Service Board’s Ad Hoc Committee on the General Service Structure and agreed to distribute the Ad Hoc Committee’s Progress Report and the summary of responses to the 2001 Ad Hoc Committee’s Questionnaire to all Conference members.
- The committee suggested that Final Agenda Items and background material be distributed to Conference members requesting them in time to be received by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Conference Committee on Public Information:**

- The committee suggested that television public service announcement inventory items #TV-14 (“Male” and “Information”) and #TV-28 (“BG’s Advice” and “High/Low Bottom”) be removed from inventory. Inventory items #TV-14 and #TV-28 have the lowest circulation of all current P.S.A.s.
- The committee reviewed the need for producing a radio or print public service announcement specific to the holiday season, and agreed that it is not necessary to produce a Conference-approved radio or print public service announcement specific to the holiday season.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook. They considered a request that the soft-cover Public Information Workbook be changed from service material to A.A. General Service Conference-approved Literature and agreed that the Workbook serves its purpose as service material, noting that the Public Information Kit and Workbook are reviewed by the Conference P.I. Committee each year.

- The committee agreed to add a third “suggested newspaper announcement” with the language, “If you want to drink that’s your business. If you want to stop, we can help.” on page 40 of the Public Information Workbook at its next printing.
- The committee requested that any changes to be implemented to the Public Information Kit or Workbook be communicated in the activity updates from the P.I. staff member. (Note: Activity updates are sent to all Public Information committee chairs two to three times per year and are copied to all area delegates.)
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the report of the trustees’ Public Information Committee on religion and spirituality in P.I. literature. They agreed that, where appropriate, P.I literature adequately addresses A.A.’s not being a religious organization, noting the change made to the service piece, “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous,” and agreed that no further action was necessary.
- Committee members reviewed the 2001 report on G.S.O.’s Web site activity and discussed Web sites as a Public Information tool.

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

- The committee discussed the suggestion to reinstate the diagram “Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group” as it appeared in the 1998-1999 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* on page S49 in Chapter II “The General Service Representative and The Group” and took no action.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Literature Committee consider revising the chart “Service Structure Inside The A.A. Group” on page 24 in “The A.A. Group” pamphlet to better reflect the current structure of a typical A.A. Group.
- The committee suggested that the Publications Department complete the revision of the “Regional Map of U.S. & Canada” to replace the existing regional map on page S62 in *The A.A. Service Manual*.
- The committee agreed that the updated charts “General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous and A.A. World Services, Inc.,” and the “Grapevine Corporate Board” replace the existing charts on page S72 and S80 in *The A.A. Service Manual* to accurately reflect the current structure of G.S.O. and A.A.W.S., Inc., and the Grapevine Corporate Board.
- The committee agreed that the proofs of updates to Chapter Eleven “The General Service Office,” and to Chapter Twelve “The A.A. Grapevine” in *The A.A. Service Manual* will be mailed to the committee for review following the 52<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference.
- The committee discussed the *Final Conference Report* and appreciated the anecdotal inserts and sketches included in the *Final Conference Report*.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee consider adding the average cost of services per member to the annual “Contributions from Groups by Delegate Area” report in the *Final Conference Report*.

### **Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities:**

- The committee considered a request that the soft-cover Treatment Facilities Workbook be changed from service material to A.A. General Service Conference–approved literature, and unanimously agreed that the Treatment Facilities Workbook continue to be designated as service material.
- The committee unanimously agreed to the request that the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook be combined in a 3-ring binder format; and, requests that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities examine all options to accomplish that purpose, and provide a progress report as background to the 2003 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities for consideration.

### **Conference Committee on Trustees:**

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all candidates for Pacific and Eastern Canada regional trustees.
- It was the consensus of the committee that the A.A. Fellowship be asked to look for and encourage qualified and willing nonalcoholic “friends of A.A.” to serve as Class A trustees. It was also noted that the identification of potential applicants should be an ongoing process, rather than occurring only when there is a scheduled vacancy.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION**

### **Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities:**

- The Correctional Facilities Workbook be changed to A.A. General Service Conference–approved literature.

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

- An electronic voting system be given a two-year experimental trial at the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth General Service Conferences at a cost of approximately \$5,000 a year, keeping in mind the spiritual, practical and financial considerations outlined in the 2002 report by the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, and that an evaluation on the overall effectiveness of this system be submitted by the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to the 2004 Conference Policy Admissions Committee by February 15, 2004.
- All literature being considered as “General Service Conference–approved literature,” be made available for review by all General Service Conference members prior to debate on the Conference floor.

## **FLOOR ACTION WHICH DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION**

**Floor Action #1:** If and when a new Spanish-language Big Book is produced by A.A.W.S., an appeal be made to the Fellowship for stories originally written in Spanish by Spanish-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous for possible inclusion.

**Floor Action #2:** It is recommended that an ad-hoc committee be formed to evaluate options for the review of material proposed for General Service Conference approval by Conference members, and report its findings to the 2003 General Service Conference Policy/Admissions Committee. The ad hoc committee shall be comprised of the general manager, trustees, G.S.O. staff and delegates appointed by the General Service Board chair.

**Floor Action #3:** The Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous be produced in a window shade display format similar to the M-14 "Twelve Steps" window shade display and a parchment format similar to the M-3 Twelve Steps parchment, for sale and distribution to our Fellowship.

**Floor Action #4:** Reconsider the request to restore "The Doctor's Opinion" to Page 1 as published in the First Edition of the Big Book from 1939-1955 in future printings of the Big Book.

**Floor Action #5:** Request that A.A.W.S. consider printing an 8½" by 11" poster of the Twelve Concepts.

**Floor Action #6:** A statement be added to the letter sent convention bureau contacts, before they submit their bids, from the chairperson of the trustees' International Conventions Committee, expressing the thought: that in keeping with our Tradition of Self-Support, Alcoholics Anonymous does not accept cash subsidies.

###