

South Florida Area 15
2015 Panel 65
Delegate Conference Report
South Florida, Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands,
British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten, & Cayman Islands

Contents:

Results of Committee Recommendations: “Advisory Actions”

Pages 1 through 11

1. Agenda (page 1)
2. Cooperation With the Professional Community (page 1)
3. Corrections (page 1)
4. Finance (page 2)
5. Grapevine (page 3)
6. Literature (page 3,4)
7. Policy/Admissions (page 5)
8. Public Information (page 5,6)
9. Report and Charter (page 7,8,9,10)
10. Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities (page 10)
11. Archives (page 10)
12. Trustees (page 11)

Floor Actions:

Page 12

Committee Considerations: “Not Advisory Actions”

*All Committee Considerations are in **italics**.*

*These are committee discussions that **“did not”** become recommendations for Conference to consider. They are presented to the corresponding Trustee’s committee for further review and may or may not become agenda items in the future.*

Pages 13 through 21

- 1. Agenda (page 13)*
- 2. Archives (page 13)*
- 2. Cooperation With the Professional Community (page 13, 14)*
- 3. Corrections (page 14)*
- 4. Finance (page 14, 15)*
- 5. Grapevine (page 15)*
- 6. International Conventions/Regional Forums (page 16,)*
- 7. Literature (page 16, 17)*
- 8. Policy/Admissions (page 17)*
- 9. Public Information (page 17, 18, 19)*
- 10. Report and Charter (page 19, 20)*
- 11. Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities (page 20, 21)*
- 12. Trustees (page 21)*

Finances / Contributions:

Pages 22 through 24

**65th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
Area 15 Delegates Report**

Agenda

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2016 General Service Conference be: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts."
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2016 General Service Conference:
 - a. Connecting With the Newcomer:
 1. All Inclusive – Never Exclusive
 2. Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer – Are We Going to Any Length?
 3. Home Group – Where It Begins
 - b. Connecting With Each Other:
 1. Singleness of Purpose – Staying Pertinent in a Changing World
 2. Informed Group Conscience – The Key to Unity
 3. Be Involved, Be Inspired, Be of Service
 - c. Connecting With A.A. as a Whole:
 1. Participating in All of A.A.
 2. Understanding Self-Support
 3. Reaching Out to the Next Generation of A.A.s
3. The following be the workshop topic for the 2016 General Service Conference: "Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation."

Agenda Committee Results		For # <i>Unanimous</i>	Against #	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	This committee continued to meet throughout the week after their Monday and Tuesday scheduled meetings and did not present report until Friday morning. There was not any discussion from the floor prior to vote. See Committee Considerations for more information on Committee discussion.				

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Committee Considerations: *These are committee discussions that **“did not”** become recommendations for Conference to consider. They are presented to the corresponding Trustee’s committee for further review and may or may not become agenda items in the future. .) See pages 13, 14*

Corrections

No recommendations.

Committee Considerations: *These are committee discussions that **“did not”** become recommendations for Conference to consider. They are presented to the corresponding Trustee’s committee for further review and may or may not become agenda items in the future. See page 14*

Finance

- A. Discuss a request to increase the maximum annual contribution that the General Service Board can receive from an A.A. member from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Finance Committee Results	For # 67	Against # 59	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Discussion lasted 25 minutes and then a motion to call the question was considered and passed. There was not substantial Unanimity and motion failed, there was no minority opinion provided.			

- B. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
(Remained in Committee No recommendation)

It was recommended that:

4. Phase 1 of the G.S.O. proposed plan (February 5, 2015) to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French be implemented beginning with the 2016, 66th General Service Conference.

At minimum the following items will be included:

- Welcome correspondence to new panel delegates
 - Letter
 - Memo to a Delegate from a Delegate, The Role of the Delegate
- Communications Kit (71 pages total)
- Committee Material:
 - Agenda 1-3 pages per committee
 - Composition, Scope and Procedures for 13 committees (17 pages total)
 - History and Actions of 13 committees (484 pages total)
- Pre-Conference documents
 - Board reports (G.S.B., A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine)
 - Trustee committee reports
- Conference Kit

This initial phase of translations would be coordinated by G.S.O. departments, including staff and Publishing department personnel. Costs currently estimated by G.S.O. for the initial phase would be included in the G.S.O./A.A.W.S. budget at approximately \$80-120,000 for the year. Actual cost may be higher or lower upon receiving competitive bids.

Finance Committee Results	For # 107	Against # 22	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	This recommendation was amended with friendly amendments, amendments, voted on and failed (wording failed not concept) reconsidered and amended again and passed with substantial unanimity after 2 hours of discussion.			

5. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describes the process and costs, including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

Finance Committee Results	For # 104	Against # 25	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Again this recommendation was amended with different compilation dates to have background information translated by. Which committee should Trustees' committee report their finding too, discussion and amendments lasted for 2 hours This issue was considered again as a floor motion see PAGE 12 for complete floor motion wording. Discussion on floor action was another hour.			

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

6. The revised pamphlet "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" be approved.

Grapevine Committee Results	For # 104	Against # 26	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Discussion on this recommendation lasted 18 minutes.			

Committee Considerations: *Committee Considerations:* *These are committee discussions that "did not" become recommendations for Conference to consider. They are presented to the corresponding Trustee's committee for further review and may or may not become agenda items in the future. .) See pages see page 15*

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

Committee Considerations: *These are committee discussions that "did not" become recommendations for Conference to consider. They are presented to the corresponding Trustee's committee for further review and may or may not become agenda items in the future. See page 16*

Literature

It was recommended that:

7. The revised draft pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Service Agencies," with the revised title "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services," be approved with minor corrections.

Literature Committee Results	For # 132	Against # 2	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Approved with minor corrections: minor corrections were considered in committee, we could view corrections by signing out each pamphlet for review but signed out pamphlet had to be returned before leaving conference.			

8. A comprehensive revision to the retitled pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services," be undertaken by the trustees' Literature Committee, to better reflect the full range of A.A. services, and that a fully revised draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2016 General Service Conference.

Literature Committee Results	For # <i>Unanimous</i>		Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	There was brief discussion.			

9. The revised pamphlet "Your A.A. General Service Office" be approved with minor corrections.

Literature Committee Results	For # <i>Unanimous</i>		Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Approved with minor corrections: minor corrections were considered in committee, we could view corrections by signing out each pamphlet for review but signed out pamphlet had to be returned before leaving conference.			

Literature (continued)

10. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. The committee requested that the title of the pamphlet be revised to reflect this broader scope and that a draft revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Literature Committee Results	For # 130	Against # 1	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Concerns were voiced regarding addressing transgender identification: committee reported that there should be a request for stories providing transgender experience and this may expose a need for another pamphlet.			

11. The trustees' Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues. The committee requested that a wide range of A.A. recovery experience be gathered from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members for inclusion in literature on this topic. The committee requested that a progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Literature Committee Results	For # 99	Against # 11	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Discussion was 45 minutes before a motion to call the question was passed. Committee defined the scope of the pamphlet and has requested a progress report be provided to next year's conference. This has not been approved for print yet.			

12. The pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A., and suggested inclusion of stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds. The committee requested that a draft revised pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Literature Committee Results	For # 130	Against 4#	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Discussion lasted 30 minutes on this recommendation: All comments were in favor.			

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

13. The 68th General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2018, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability. **Passed Unanimous**
14. The policy regarding General Service Conference audio recordings, which reads:

Tapes of Conference presentations not be made available, affirming the 1979 General Service Board recommendation which prohibits making tapes of any Conference session for distribution outside of the A.A. Archives, except for the opening and the closing brunch.

Be revised as follows:

Audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations published in the General Service Conference *Final Report* and audio recordings of the trustees' farewell talks given at the closing brunch be made available in accordance with Archives' Policies. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited. **Passed Unanimous**

Public Information

It was recommended that:

15. The video public service announcement, "Doors," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with the following change:
- Rerecord the dialog voice-overs using professional voice actors in English, Spanish and French, removing any sense that the voices are recorded phone calls, at a cost not to exceed \$24,000.

Public Information Committee Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	The original recommendation requested that the opening title cards displayed on video be changed from "Real People... Real Stories" to "Real A.A. Stories. This request failed after a lengthy discussion. Next discussion was considering the audio quality of the PSA ? Leave existing voices or rerecord with professional voice actors. The total time of discussion for this recommendation was 3 hours.			

16. The video public service announcement, "Doors" 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 2016 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

Public Information Committee Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Brief discussion			

Public Information (continued)

17. The video public service announcements “A Force of Nature” and “Testimonials” be discontinued.

Public Information Committee Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes				

18. The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2014 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor edits.

Public Information Committee Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes				

19. In light of the potential for continuing to improve the relevance and usefulness of the aa.org website on a timely basis, the A.A.W.S. Board be authorized to produce and post audio/video service material on the aa.org website provided the following conditions are met:

- Audio/video service material produced via this process provides information already available on aa.org;
- Proposed audio/video service material is for posting on aa.org only (audio/video items produced for distribution beyond the aa.org website will continue to require Conference review and approval);
- Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed for content by an appropriate trustees' committee prior to posting - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to forwarding to the A.A.W.S. Board;
- Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed and approved for posting by the A.A.W.S. Board - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to posting.

Public Information Committee Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes				

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

20. The following paragraph be edited for stylistic consistency and incorporated into Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

“The Trustees’ Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending to the General Service Board candidates for General Service Trustee, Class A Trustee, and nontrustee director. The candidates approved by the General Service Board are subject to the approval of the General Service Conference. The Trustees Nominating Committee receives advice from and consults with the A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine boards with respect to potential General Service Trustees, nontrustee directors, and Regional Trustees to serve on the respective boards. The Trustees Nominating Committee also recommends a slate of trustees to serve as officers of the General Service Board.”

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 101	Against # 28	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

21. Under NOMINATION PROCEDURE in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the first paragraph that currently reads:

“General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards, and it has been the privilege of those boards to propose the name of a candidate to represent them on the General Service Board.”

Be revised to read (deleting the final phrase):

“General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards.”

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 120	Against # 7	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

22. Under NOMINATING in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following sentence be inserted to begin the description of the trustees’ Nominating Committee:
“Reviews procedures for selection of candidates.”

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 124	Against # 4	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

Report and Charter (continued)

23. Under **Choosing Nontrustee Directors** in Chapter 10 (The Board's Operating Corporations) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the second paragraph that currently begins:

"The nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received."

Be revised to read (text addition in **bold**):

"Working in concert with the trustees' Nominating Committee, the nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received."

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 122	Against # 3	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

24. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the end of the second paragraph:

"The group information provided on these two forms is stored in G.S.O.'s database, which is accessible to the area registrar."

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 103	Against # 19	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

25. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the beginning of the third paragraph:

"G.S.O. also uses this database to generate mailing lists for A.A. newsletters. Group information included in G.S.O.'s database may be used by areas and districts for various purposes: the delegate may use it to communicate with groups; some areas use it for their meeting locators or to generate mailing lists."

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 118	Against # 10	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

26. The following text be added at the end of the section **District Information** in Chapter 3 (The District and the D.C.M.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

"The information provided on this form is stored in G.S.O.'s database, which is accessible to the area registrar. G.S.O.'s database also provides the capability for the area registrar to identify district officers and service chairs with local or specific information that then can be used to facilitate communication."

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 123	Against # 6	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

Report and Charter (continued)

27. In Chapter 5 (The Area Committee) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, a new section be added after **Financial Support** with the following text:

“Area Information

The outgoing delegate provides G.S.O. with contact information for all incoming area officers and committee chairs. This information is stored in G.S.O.’s database, which is also accessible to the area registrar, and is used to communicate with these officers and committee chairs throughout their rotation.”

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 94	Against # 36	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	There was discussion concerning the location of this paragraph: should it also be added to “Delegate Chapter” under Duties.			

28. A new subsection of the section **STIMULATING INTEREST IN GENERAL SERVICE** be added to Chapter 1 (Introduction to General Service) in *The A.A. Service Manual* with the following text:

Reactivating districts: Frequently, there is a need within an Area to attempt to reactivate districts or groups that have become inactive or are unrepresented. Areas encourage participation in general service in many ways, especially by direct contact with groups by district/area officers to provide information about service events and opportunities to carry the message beyond the group level. Sometimes there is district-to-district sponsorship in which an active district shares its experience and suggestions to “jump start” activity among groups within the inactive neighboring district.

Report and Charter Committee Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

29. A new section on “Regional Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* before the “World Service Meeting” section with the following text:

“Regional Forums

Regional Forums, which originated in 1975, are weekend-long sharing and informational sessions which provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. They are also designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, and A.A. Grapevine; and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers throughout the A.A. service structure. G.S.O.’s staff member on the Regional Forums assignment coordinates details for the Forum and works closely with the volunteer host chair who recruits volunteers to assist staff with hospitality, set-up and registration during the Forum. Forums are held on a rotating basis, at the request of each region. There is no registration fee for Regional Forums. The General Service Board covers the expenses of meeting rooms. As all Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing is captured in Forum Final Reports, which are distributed to all attendees, and are available on G.S.O.’s website. Regional Forums carry A.A.’s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship.”

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 116	Against # 14	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

Report and Charter (continued)

30. A new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* and requested that draft language be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 108	Against # 18	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	No Minority Opinion			

31. The *Twelve Concepts for World Service* and the Twelve Concepts section of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* include the following pages in the same order as published in the 1990-1991 Edition:

- a. Title page;
- b. Copyright page;
- c. Preface;
- d. The Twelve Concepts (Short Form);
- e. The Twelve Concepts (Long Form);
- f. Contents page with short descriptions of the Twelve Concepts and page numbers;
- g. Introduction.

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 99	Against # 33	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	This recommendation was discussed and a motion to call the question passed. The first vote failed and a minority opinion heard, a vote to reconsider passed and discussion continued. Another vote was taken and it passed. I voted against the recommendation once I heard the author of “Short Descriptions” for each concept was unknown.			

32. A limited run of the A.A. Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be printed annually for purchase upon request.

Report and Charter Committee Results	For # 121	Against # 12	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Notes	Brief discussion with no minority opinion			

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

No recommendations.

*Committee Considerations: These are committee discussions that “**did not**” become recommendations for Conference to consider. They are presented to the corresponding Trustee’s committee for further review and may or may not become agenda items in the future. See page 21*

Archives¹

No recommendations.

*Committee Considerations: These are committee discussions that “**did not**” become recommendations for Conference to consider. They are presented to the corresponding Trustee’s committee for further review and may or may not become agenda items in the future. See page 13*

Trustees

It was recommended that:

This page has been removed from original report intentionally

**FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT
RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS**

- During reprints of Conference-approved literature and service materials, consider adding “aa.org” wherever the General Service Office contact information, such as and and/or phone number are listed. **(Withdrawn by submitter)**
- That Section 12 of the Bylaws of the General Service Board be amended to state “The number of member trustees constituting the entire membership shall be twenty-one, except as otherwise provided herein.” **(Withdrawn by submitter)**
- That the following text be added in Chapter Six of the Service Manual as the final bullet point under duties:

“The outgoing delegate provides G.S.O. with contact information for all incoming area officers and committee chairs.” **(Not approved)**
- Produce a book combining the Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service. **(Not approved)**
- Beginning with the 2016 General Service Conference, all general session voting will be done electronically. **(Withdrawn by submitter)**
- **Rescind the previous advisory action that reads:**

The trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describes the process and costs including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

And replace with:

With a target date of 2018, the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committees on Policy and Admissions and Finance that describes the process and costs including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines. **(Not approved)**

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS
“Not Advisory Actions”

Agenda

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee reviewed the Conference Evaluation Form and made no changes.*
- *The committee discussed providing the General Service Conference Evaluation Form in an anonymous digital format, in addition to the current paper format, and requested that the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference explore this option and provide a report to the 2016 Conference Agenda Committee.*
- *The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees’ Committee on the Conference with appreciation. After a thorough and lengthy discussion, the committee noted that while there were several areas of progress, the report did not fully explore the potential role that the Conference Agenda Committee might play in the selection process of Agenda items in the future. Therefore the committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on the Conference fully explore the potential role that the Conference Agenda Committee might play in the selection process of Agenda items in the future and provide a report to the 2016 Conference Agenda Committee.*
- *The committee supported the concept under consideration by the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference to make trustees’ Committee background available to the delegate chairperson of their corresponding Conference committee at the quarterly board weekend prior to the Conference. The committee noted that this would increase the effectiveness of the delegate chairpersons’ participation in the trustees’ committee meeting.*
- *The committee discussed adding a review of the Conference week schedule (Conference Agenda) to the standing items on the committee agenda and took no action, noting that this is not necessary as this is included in the Conference Agenda Committee’s Scope.*

Archives

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee reviewed the contents of the Archives Workbook noting minor editorial changes and a new section, “Sharing on Digital Archives,” which will provide sharing and suggestions for Archives committees.*
- *The committee discussed the “Shared Experiences” section in the Archives Workbook, which is refreshed every five years. The committee suggested including experience shared by local archivists and archives committees on where archives are housed, associated costs, access procedures, and description of contents.*

Cooperation With the Professional Community

Committee Considerations:

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

Cooperation With the Professional Community (Continued)

- *That changes suggested by the 2015 Cooperation With the Professional Community Conference Committee to the Cooperation With the Professional Community Workbook be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities for review and implementation.*
- *That the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities review the pamphlet, "Three Talks To Medical Societies by Bill W., Co-Founder of A.A.," noting the 2015 Conference Committee's concerns related to its language, outdated information and relevance to modern day medical professionals.*

The committee noted that future development of material may be needed to reflect current information about A.A. to be provided to medical professionals, perhaps utilizing past and current Class A trustees.

- *That the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities continue to read and review the selection of pamphlets included in the C.P.C. Kit, taking into consideration whether the current selection best supports the needs of C.P.C. Committees and professionals in terms of language and content, particularly in the following pamphlets:*
 - *Speaking At Non-A.A. Meetings*
 - *A Brief Guide To Alcoholics Anonymous*
 - *Is There an Alcoholic In the Workplace?*
 - *How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals*
 - *The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs*

Corrections

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee discussed the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) and requested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections consider reviewing the effectiveness of the criteria used for linking alcoholics behind the walls with outside volunteers. One specific concern is the distance requirement for correspondents participating in the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.).*
- *The committee discussed ways to engage members in Corrections service and noted the helpfulness of the new service piece, "Engaging A.A. Members in Corrections Work" is in this effort.*
- *The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and suggested that the prison issue of the A. A. Grapevine publication, La Viña, be included in the English-language Corrections Kit.*

Finance

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and after a lengthy discussion, agreed an increase was not appropriate at this time.*

Finance (Continued)

- *The committee received and discussed information from the A.A.W.S. Self-Support Committee, looked favorably on work to date and urged continuing efforts.*
- *The committee ran out of time and did not review the Self-Support packet, however, it noted it was reviewed in detail last year.*

Grapevine

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee reviewed the 2015 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and requested that the Grapevine office provide an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future to the 2016 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.*
- *The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board's 2015 Office Report on La Viña and agreed that La Viña is published as cost effectively as possible given existing parameters and conditions. The committee agreed with the A.A. Grapevine Board's suggestion to develop and implement a communication plan that utilizes (but is not limited to) A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s newsletters, Forum presentations, and Box 4-5-9 to clarify to the Fellowship La Viña's unique status as a hybrid entity that is at once a service to the Fellowship and is also required to strive to become self-supporting.*
- *The committee encouraged the support and purchase of Subscription Gift Certificates by local service committees, groups and members as a way to carry the A.A. message. These subscriptions would be used to provide magazines to people in correctional facilities, treatment centers, nursing homes, and other facilities or locations. This work would be accomplished at the local area level.*
- *The committee discussed ways to increase organization-wide support for Grapevine and La Viña and suggested that:*
 1. *Areas champion and embrace Grapevine/La Viña as the International Journals of A.A. through consistent narrative support in all relevant presentations, reports, announcements, newsletters and letters.*
 2. *All A.A. entities be offered the opportunity to include a GV/LV link (with or without images) on local/area websites.*
 3. *All areas participate in AAGV Inc.'s 2015 Subscription Challenge.*
 - *The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2016 or later:*
 1. *Armed Forces Members' AA Stories (working title)*
Members who have served in the military share their experiences with getting sober or staying sober in AA, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.
 2. *Voices from Early AA (working title)*
A collection of stories from the earliest days of Alcoholics Anonymous and Grapevine, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee heard reports on the upcoming 2015 International Convention:*
 - *Over 40,000 people have registered for the Convention so far. About half of those have prepurchased the special 2015 Convention souvenir book, Alcoholics Anonymous: 80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free. The Grapevine’s commemorative edition of the book, Happy, Joyous and Free, has also been preordered and subscriptions to the Grapevine and La Viña have been sold through the preregistration process.*
 - *This is the third International Convention where online registration was available. Communications have been made to insure that all attendees are prepared for the Convention experience, and understand the challenges of weather and getting around the large convention facility.*
 - *Preparations are in place for the anonymity-protected broadcast of the Friday night Flag Ceremony.*
 - *The Advance Program guide has been sent to all registrants and is available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website.*
 - *Notices have been included in Convention material to emphasize A.A.’s Anonymity Traditions to attendees and the Box 4-5-9 spring issue featured the article “Anonymity and the 2015 International Convention.” The Convention program also includes a new panel meeting titled “Anonymity and the Convention – I get It!”*
 - *The Convention APP will be launched in early May for download on mobile devices.*
 - *New to the International Convention will be an Anonymity Booth and a “Carry the Message” pavilion featuring booths providing information on A.A.’s Cooperation With the Professional Community, Corrections, Grapevine/La Viña, Public Information, Special Needs-Accessibilities and Treatment committee service.*

- *The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees, and suggested:*
 - *That delegates and area trusted servants communicate the value of Forum participation early and often;*
 - *Share with the Fellowship the easy availability of one-on-one conversations with trustees, directors and staff members that can be found at the Forums;*
 - *Consider utilizing A.A. Conventions and other A.A. events as opportunities to share the new Regional Forum Flyers with the Fellowship;*

Literature

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee reviewed a suggestion to produce a book combining “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” with the “Twelve Concepts for World Service” and took no action. The committee noted that the Twelve Concepts for World Service are suitably placed with The A.A. Service Manual and in a stand-alone volume.*

- *The committee suggested consideration of developing a service piece on A.A. as a resource for the mental health professional.*

Literature (Continued)

- *The committee reviewed the complete text of “The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature” and suggested that “The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature” always be included as background for the Conference Committee on Literature.*
- *The committee suggested that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop a plan for the systematic review of recovery literature and bring it to the 2016 Conference Literature Committee for its review.*
- *The committee suggested that a white imprint area for local use be included on the back of each pamphlet as it comes up for reprint.*

Policy/Admissions

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee reviewed a request for a representative from the General Service Board of A.A. in the Czech Republic to attend the 65th General Service Conference as an observer. In light of a recent communication from the General Service Board of the Czech Republic that their group conscience had come to a decision not to send an observer to the 65th General Service Conference, no action was necessary.*
- *The committee requested that, to assist the committee in its deliberations, when background for any agenda item of the committee references specific policy, that the policy referenced be included as part of the background.*
- *The committee considered a request that a recording of the A.A. meeting at the opening dinner of the General Service Conference be provided to each member of the General Service Conference and took no action. The committee agreed that the A.A. talks at the Opening Dinner of the Conference are enjoyable and reflect the A.A. stories of the speakers, but are not specifically focused on A.A. service.*

Public Information

Committee Considerations:

- *While discussing the proposed video public service announcement, “Doors,” the committee expressed their appreciation for the thinking behind attempting to use already-recorded A.A. members’ stories, as both a cost-saving measure and for the purpose of authenticity.*
- *The committee reviewed the 2014 Annual Report from the trustees’ Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. website. The committee appreciated the inclusion of selected website analytics and looks forward to emerging clarity of how this information might be useful to A.A.’s work of carrying the message.*
- *The committee discussed a brief video on anonymity produced to accompany the annual Anonymity Letter to the Media, and agreed that the video is an engaging tool for communicating with the press. The committee suggested that the Intra-Office Website Committee (I.O.W.C.) explore additional pages on the aa.org website where this video might be useful, in addition to the Press/Media page, and pass along their suggestions to the A.A.W.S. Board for consideration.*
- *The committee reviewed the 2015 Public Information Comprehensive Media plan and expressed their appreciation for the report’s responsiveness to suggestions offered by the*

Public Information (Continued)

- 2014 Conference Public Information Committee. The committee offered the following suggestions:

Refining existing tools.

Considering the immediate need for guidance on the use of social media by A.A. members, the committee asked the staff secretary to share information with all P.I. committee chairs and area delegates about existing literature that offers suggestions regarding A.A. principles and the Internet. The distribution of this information should correspond with the launch of the new Anonymity Resource Page planned for the aa.org website, which promises to be a useful tool for sharing information on this vital topic with A.A. members, the media, and the general public.

The committee also suggested that the Publishing Department develop a new section in the Public Information Workbook on the Internet and Social Media based on existing literature on the subject, with the understanding that such content may need updating as new information is gathered about online platforms.

The committee agreed with the suggestion in the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s that the Spanish video P.S.A. "Tengo Esperanza" be translated into English and French, and that the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee consider centrally distributing and tracking the new spots.

Exploring new forms/channels of presenting/distributing content.

The committee considered favorably the suggestion that the 2015 trustees' Public Information Committee gather information about the potential for using platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Google+ for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. The committee strongly suggested that the exploration take into consideration the still-relevant concerns regarding potential implications to our Traditions reflected in the 2012 Report of the Public Information Social Media Page Subcommittee. The committee suggested that the General Service Board explore these resources and report back to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee with consideration of the following:

- *Specific benefits of using each resource for reaching the still-suffering alcoholic;*
- *How each platform will help the public information task of providing accurate information about what A.A. is and what it is not;*
- *How each platform might be utilized while still maintaining member anonymity;*
- *How each platform might be utilized while avoiding the appearance of promotion and still allowing our friends to recommend us;*
- *How user interaction with A.A. content on such platforms might avoid controversy, or the appearance of endorsement or affiliation;*
- *Clear distinctions between (a) public information work, and (b) general communication such as fellowship among members, and interaction between members and nonmembers;*
- *Information about terms of service and privacy policies;*
- *Information about the use of these platforms by other Twelve Step fellowships;*
- *Information about the local use of these platforms gathered from various parts of the A.A. Fellowship (e.g. delegate areas, intergroup/central offices, YPAAs, the National A.A. Technology Workshop and G.S.O.s outside the U.S. and Canada).*

Public Information (Continued)

- *The committee discussed a suggestion that the trustees' Public Information Committee explore a project for anonymity videos produced by A.A. members for A.A. members and agreed that emerging technologies for how member-submitted content might be gathered should be explored prior to developing a proposal for such a project. The committee asked the staff secretary to forward a list of questions and concerns to the trustees' P.I. Committee, and asked that a report or draft proposal be brought back to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee for review.*
- *The committee discussed how to increase A.A. member participation in local public information work, and asked the staff secretary to share a list of suggestions with the trustees' Public Information Committee and with local P.I. chairs.*
- *The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook, and made the following suggestions:*
 - *Information about the new video on anonymity be included with information already in the Kit about annual communication with the media.*
 - *The committee suggested that the text on page 14 of the current P.I. Workbook be revised to reflect the current content on the F-20 Anonymity Card.*
 - *The committee suggested that the information on page 47 of the current P.I. Workbook regarding the G.S.O.'s A.A. website be updated to reflect the redesigned website.*
 - *The committee suggested that the online PDF version of the P.I. Workbook, when referencing other A.A. publications on the aa.org website, be linked digitally to those items online. The committee suggested that other service workbooks might need review for similar updates.*
 - *While discussing potential changes to the P.I. Kit and Workbook, the committee agreed that it would be helpful to have a way to easily identify new or updated information on the aa.org website and in printed material. The committee asked the staff secretary to share this suggestion with the A.A.W.S. Board.*

Report and Charter

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of The A.A. Service Manual 2015-2016 Edition, and the 2015 General Service Conference Final Report. The committee noted that the "Report of the 2015 General Service Conference Inventory" in the Final Report may take longer to prepare than the other front matter and asked to review the page proofs of the inventory report as soon as possible prior to publication.*
- *The committee requested the opportunity to review the page proofs of the Final Report of the General Service Conference Inventory prior to publication.*
- *The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions.*

Report and Charter (Continued)

- *In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board 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, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions.*
- *The committee considered a request to include a chart in The A.A. Service Manual in the section “Working with Local Intergroups and Central Offices” on pages S41-S42 and took no action. The committee noted that since local intergroups and central offices are not part of the general service structure, a chart could be misleading; and that the description of this vital service provided by these local intergroup/central offices was adequately expressed in the text.*
- *The committee considered the complexities involved in annual production of The A.A. Service Manual and requested that the General Service Office consider publishing The A.A. Service Manual every other year and requested that a report on alternative publishing schedules, including cost considerations, be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.*
- *The committee considered the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S. and International) and suggested that the section currently called “Online Meetings” be reviewed and possibly renamed “Online Meetings/Groups” to reflect the Twelfth Step work that some online groups carry out beyond the meetings.*
- *The committee considered the General Service Conference Final Report and suggested that the Publishing Department consider using a larger font to make the Final Report more accessible; and requested that a report from the Publishing Department on the feasibility of producing a large-print format of the General Service Conference Final Report including cost estimates be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.*
- *The committee considered 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 “Presentations.”*

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee supported the trustees’ committee’s request for the A.A.W.S. Board to consider posting contents of A.A. literature items produced in audio formats on G.S.O.’s website, aa.org.*
- *The committee expressed appreciation for the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department’s consideration to publish a service piece of the Twelve Concepts for World Service for ASL signing purposes.*
- *The committee supported the efforts of the A.A.W.S. Board to explore ways to provide electronic versions of the Workbooks and other material in the Kits to committee chairs as an alternative to automatically mailing hard copies and noted the following:*
 - *The committee strongly encouraged that postal mailing of printed Workbooks and other material in the Kits be the primary means of delivery.*

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities (Continued)

- *The committee noted that the “opt-in” measure in the welcome letter to new chairs did not reflect the intent of the 2014 Conference Committee’s Consideration and resulted in incomplete data. They suggested that a survey be taken of new chairs from the “exploratory period” who did not respond to their welcome letter to attempt to better understand the effectiveness of the electronic service material and the exploratory approach in general.*
- *The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded suggestions for updates to the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.*
- *The committee reviewed the Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded suggestions for updates to the trustees’ committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.*
- *The committee requested the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider how to better realize the commitment to make A.A. more readily available to all and suggested:*
 - *Focusing on the concept of overcoming barriers in accessing, receiving, and carrying the A.A. message, rather than the limiting concept of identifying “special needs” and to consider how this change might be reflected in the trustees’ committee scope.*
 - *Changing all references to “Special Needs-Accessibilities” to “Accessibilities,” including the trustees’ and Conference Committee names.*
 - *Revising the Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook with a particular focus on emphasizing solutions to overcoming barriers.*
 - *Reorganizing the Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook to include the following sections: 1) Accessing the A.A. Message 2) Receiving the A.A. Message 3) Carrying the A.A. Message. Each section might include shared experience for overcoming barriers.*

Trustees

Committee Considerations:

- *The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the Northeast and Southwest regional trustees and the trustee-at-large/Canada.*
- *Reflecting on the importance of Concept XI, the committee encouraged the General Service Board and A.A. Fellowship to identify, attract and recruit in a timely manner, a diverse, competent and qualified pool of candidates to serve as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, Class B (alcoholic) trustees, nontrustee directors and appointed committee members on trustees’ committees.*

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 12-31-14

	G.S.O. GENERAL FUND	THE A.A.W.S. PUBLISHING	THE A.A. GRAPEVINE	LA VIÑA	2014 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL
REVENUE						
Net Sales		\$16,872,280	\$3,012,463	\$134,809	\$20,019,552	\$15,751,328
Contributions	\$6,898,068				6,898,068	6,906,371
Interest	35	391	7,100		7,526	11,004
TOTAL REVENUE	6,898,103	16,872,671	3,019,563	134,809	26,925,146	22,668,703
EXPENSES						
Printing		4,889,864	383,569	31,672	5,305,105	3,397,968
Royalties		38,627			38,627	27,840
Shipping & Warehouse		2,049,813	590,530	33,359	2,673,702	2,159,128
Program Expenses	6,316,635	3,316,218	1,105,520	201,804	10,940,177	10,256,194
Supporting Services	3,408,575	2,374,386	614,117		6,397,078	6,623,358
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,725,210	12,668,908	2,693,736	266,835	25,354,689	22,464,488
NET INCOME (LOSS) OPERATIONS	(2,827,107)	4,203,763	325,827	(132,026)	1,570,457	204,215
RESERVE FUND						
Reserve Fund Balance at December 31 available to cover operating expenses					<u>14,094,966</u>	<u>15,301,653</u>
Operating Expenses					<u>17,337,255</u>	<u>16,879,552</u>
Number of months Operating Expenses-approximate					<u>9.8</u>	<u>10.9</u>

*Excludes non-operating Funds: Reserve, Capital Projects, Pension, Post-Retirement Medical Benefits

MEMBER SERVICES & STATISTICS

	2014 Actual	2013 Actual	2012 Actual
Number of Members	1,373,497	1,389,602	1,388,727
Cost of Service per Member	\$7.08	\$6.84	\$6.66
Self Support Contributions per Member	\$5.02	\$4.97	\$4.72
Cost of Service <u>NOT</u> covered by Contributions	\$2.06	\$1.87	\$1.94
Number of Groups	65,222	64,694	64,414
Cost of Service per Group	\$149.11	\$146.96	\$143.67
Self Support contributions per Group	\$105.76	\$106.75	\$101.80
Cost of Service <u>NOT</u> covered by Contributions	\$43.35	\$40.21	\$41.87
Percentage of Groups Contributing	41.6%	42.5%	42.4%
Number of Groups that Contributed	27,103	27,841	27,332
Self Support contributions of Groups that contributed	\$254.51	\$248.06	\$239.92

PERCENTAGE OF GROUPS CONTRIBUTING

