

A blue banner with white text that reads "59th ANNUAL General Service Conference". The text is centered and uses a serif font. The banner has a slightly wrinkled texture.

Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel
1605 Broadway at 49th Street, New York, NY
Sunday, April 26 – Saturday, May 2, 2009

Delegates Report - Elizabeth M. Hawaii Area 17 / Panel 59

Bill W.'s Commentary on Concept XII

“Therefore we expect that our Conference will always try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love – one member for another. In turn, this sign signifies that mutual trust should prevail; that no action ought to be taken in anger, haste, or recklessness; that care will be observed to respect and protect all minorities; that no action should ever be personally punitive; that whenever possible, important actions will be taken in substantial unanimity; and that our Conference will ever be prudently on guard against tyrannies, great or small, whether these be found in the majority or in the minority. The sum of these several attitudes and practices is, in our view, the very essence of democracy – in action and spirit.” **The A.A. Service Manual, page 75**

At the airport prior to boarding my plane an overwhelming feeling of awe and amazement washed over me. Considering the journey I was about to embark upon, it occurred to me that my Higher Power trusts me, my fellow AAs trust me and my family trusts me to serve AA as a whole. The absolute miracle of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is the only explanation there is, for a drunk like me to be blessed with this incredibly exciting responsibility to be your Panel 59 Delegate.

I am forever grateful for my traveling companion and good friend Kunane, who accompanied me to New York. He was such a support to me throughout the entire week. It made a very emotional and overwhelmingly exhausting trip a bit easier.

As the Conference week unfolded, I experienced many spiritual moments, light bulbs and ah-has. I know I will never be the same after that week.

Summary of hours

Total hours spent during the Conference week: 82

- 10 hours in Conference Committee (Corrections and International Conventions/Regional Forums)
- 27 hours hearing and discussing Conference Committee Reports
- 3 working lunches
- 1 working dinner

Non 59th GSC Meetings and Activities

Friday, April 24

We arrived in NYC Friday morning, and caught a shuttle into the city. My first sight of the Manhattan skyline after riding through the Lincoln Tunnel was breathtaking. My exhaustion melted away and transformed into excitement. Walking from the Port Authority to the Hotel, I was astounded at the amount of people walking on the sidewalks. It was like Waikiki on a Friday night times a thousand! We got to the hotel, dropped off our bags, and hit the town to eat and do a little shopping. After checking in and freshening up, we head out to see a Broadway play and have a late dinner. We also had quite the adventure with the Africans selling fake designer hand bags on the street.

Saturday, April 25

Early Saturday morning, we met up with the Pacific Region Delegates, their guests and our Pacific Region Trustee Madeleine to take a boat ride around Manhattan. As we set out on our “three hour tour”, it was a clear blue sky, and 80 degrees! I was so happy to reconnect with these people, whom I have come to know over the past few years from attending PRAASA. We have formed a lifetime bond and I love and trust them completely. Like Joe B. from Area 9 told me, they are like my oldest friends who I have just met a couple months ago.

Shortly after I arrived back in Hawaii, I received a group email from one of the Regional Delegates. I realized that I missed them! I nearly typed that in my email greeting, but was too embarrassed to voice that. The next time I checked my email, there was an email from my friend Monte: a big, football player looking, deep voiced guy from Utah, and in the email said “I miss you guys”. Wow.

Saturday night we had a: **Delegates’ Only Meeting (7:00PM – 9:30PM)**

This is not officially a part of the Conference, but it was very helpful. At one point, I was overcome with gratitude during the meeting. I sat there, looking around and thought to myself what a miracle it is - from a low bottom drunk to serving AA with some of the finest people I would ever want to meet.

Some of the things I heard were:

- We are the effective voice and conscience of the fellowship.
- It’s not important to know things, it’s important to know where to find the information.
- Don’t be afraid to be in the minority.
- Meet every member of the Conference.
- No Conference is binding on the next
- It is my responsibility to say what I think and feel.

Sunday, April 26

– Remote Communities Workshop (9:00AM – 11:00AM)

Remote Community is defined as “any community where it is difficult to carry the message because of language, culture or geography”. We may not see Remote Communities in our Areas, but however your Area sees it, it is important. Nebraska Area has agreed to put together a workbook for Remote Communities. They are collecting experiences from Areas, both positive and negative about: 1) identification, 2) approach and 3) 12-step work.

The Conference Begins!

Sunday

April 26, 11:00AM – 6:00PM

- Roll Call & Opening

Roll Call was conducted by our new General Manager, Phyllis H. What a terrifying and yet thrilling experience, hearing my name called and answering “present”. My heart was pounding, and again I felt tears in my eyes. I am so thankful for the handkerchief that Miranda sent me before I left for NY. It sure came in handy! Someone said it’s impossible to cure loneliness with isolation, and boy how I could relate to that. I spent years trying to do so! I learned that Committee recommendations are motions with seconds, and it was suggested we find people that we think know something that we don’t and talk to them.

- Pacific Regional Lunch and Orientation
- Joint Trustee & Conference Committee Meeting
 - Corrections Facilities
- Opening Dinner and A.A. Meeting

Monday

April 27, 9:00am – 10:00PM

- **First Conference Committee Meetings — Corrections**

It was in my Conference Committee where I hit my stride and truly began to participate to the fullest. I was active, engaged and animated. We began by agreeing that any recommendations we come out with would be by substantial unanimity. During the Corrections Workbook review, I made a motion to include the booklet “AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate” in the future. This was seconded, and a lively discussion was held. Cost was a concern, but ultimately we decided to put this forth as an additional consideration. We also discussed agenda item B, regarding the mailing and my opinion was given that we should discontinue the bi-annual mailing. I also shared with the Committee the discussion that Hawaii Area had regarding utilizing local Corrections Committees to make contact, that face to face interaction would be more personal and effective. We talked about Bridging the Gap – which is being done in both Corrections and Treatment, and while it may be called different things, it is being done.

- Area Service Highlights
- Board Reports

General Service Board Report

Highlights:

- The primary reason for the GSB is to implement Advisory Actions from the Conference.
- There was a comment from the floor with a concern of the secrecy of the Board, as there are sub-committees that report only to the GSB.
- In 2010, all board meetings and the Conference will be held in Rye, NY. This will realize a savings of approximately \$200,000.
- 2010 General Service Conference will be held April 18-24, 2010.

- AA guidelines are a collection of shared experiences. Nobody sits at GSO and makes up rules for AA members.
- How does the GSB support the principles of the concepts?

A.A.W.S. Board Report

Grapevine Board Report

- Presentations
 - Finances

Our Reserve Fund is flexing between 9.3 – 12 months. It would take \$7.04 per member per year to be self-supporting.

- Humility and Sacrifice

Setting an Example, Changing our Perceptions, Anonymity– Sacrificing our Egos

- Sharing Session – What’s on your Mind?

Tuesday

April 28, 9:00AM – 10:00PM

- Second Conference Committee Meetings – Corrections Facilities

Chris Cavanaugh (non-alcoholic), AA Publications joined us at our request. He reported that the French and Spanish translations of “*AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*” will be ready in November 2009, and the DVD by the end of 2009. One of the Delegates on the Conference Committee for Corrections only spoke French. He had a translator with him during all our sessions. We will meet during the dinner break to conclude our Committee work. We elected Rick C., Panel 59 Delegate from Iowa, as Corrections Committee Chairperson.

- Area Service Highlights
- Presentations

Enthusiasm and Gratitude

- Hope & Purpose from Defeat and Despair
- Happy, Joyous and Free
- Enthusiasm – A Gift of inventory

“The antonym for enthusiasm is indifference, there’s no indifference in here!”

Sharing Session – What’s on your Mind?

The Big Book will be available on Amazon’s Kindle by the end of May. It will go for \$6.00, and \$8.00 after July 1 when the literature price increase goes into effect.

Later during an open mic, there was a question from the floor as to why the Conference was not consulted in the decision to make the Big Book available on Kindle. The response was that it was a publishing decision, much like making a book available in large print, or in soft cover. These decisions don’t go to the Conference.

Online contributions will be an option on www.aa.org beginning in May 2009.

The Delegate from Puerto Rico, Antonio, thanked the General Service Board for the support and continuance of LaVina.

- **Trip to G.S.O./Grapevine Offices**

This was the absolute bright point of the week, well to be honest, one of many! It was all good! We all rode the Metro uptown to visit the General Service & Grapevine Offices. I traveled with Paul C., General Service Trustee, and we talked story on the ride uptown. What a fabulous experience visiting the office! I took lots of pictures, sat in the GM's chair, sat on Bill W.s couch, bought a Grapevine from the month and year I got sober, took a picture with Victor, the old cartoon guy from the Grapevine, and scored a pin that says Sober-licious, which I wear to every meeting I got to now! One thing that amazed me was the huge metal filing cabinets lined up against the wall, full of files of Groups info and other AA business. The GSO & GV staffs were all so nice, helpful and genuinely glad to have us there. If you are ever in Manhattan, please drop in to visit your General Service Office.

- **Delegates' Only Dinner & Meeting**

Beautiful sharing, open mic for Delegates. Had many moments of relating, and I knew that I was exactly where my HP wanted me to be, doing exactly what He/She/It would have me do. Sylvain shared about being the 1st French only speaking delegate from Quebec. Members in his Area were concerned that he would have a hard time fulfilling his service responsibilities. At the Conference last year, he ran down to Times Square and bought a camcorder. He filmed 68 people at the Conference saying "Bonjour Quebec". When he showed this at his Report Back, more than 1/2 of the Assembly was in tears. As we all circled up to say the 3rd Step Prayer, I looked around and got chicken skin. How the heck did a drunk like me get to this place? It's beyond human power, that's for sure.

Wednesday

April 29, 9:00AM – 11:00PM

- **Workshop: "Language of the Heart – Keeping It Simple"**

There were 10 separate Workshops; each person assigned to one on the same topic "Language of the Heart – Keeping it Simple" There was a moderator, who read the 3 questions. This was a mixed group of GSO Staff, Delegates, Trustees and non-Trustee Directors.

Setting an example; giving people rides (talking on the way); simple example of service; "this is what I did" rather than "you must do this"; the welcome to AA; I have never been fingered in the chest.

Rogelio Flores, Class A Trustee, Drug Court Judge is Santa Barbara, CA, shared about sentencing a man to treatment for a DUI, and then the man came back one year later and gave Rogelio his one-year coin.

We talked about reaching out to the member who has time in the program, but is new to the area. I realized that I personally can do better to reach out to new faces at my home group.

- **Sharing Session – What's on your Mind?**

An opinion was voiced from the floor that the manner in which we select our leaders has been compromised, that our principles have been undermined and our concepts violated. There was a spreadsheet made by this individual, showing her perception of an imbalance in "power". I knew something like this was coming, as the individual who brought this up was my delegate big buddy, and had tried to get me to see things her way prior to the conference. It left me feeling uneasy and upset.

- **Pacific Regional Lunch**

- Nomination of Pacific Regional candidate for Trustee-at-large/U.S.
 - Nominee: Rod B. Utah Area
- Pacific Region Forum 2012 Site Selection
 - Fairbanks, Alaska
- PRAASA 2013 Site Selection
 - Idaho
- Elections
 - Southeast Regional Trustee: Area 63 / SC – Eleanor (El) N.
 - East Central Regional Trustee: Area 33 / SE.MI – Pamela (Pam) R.
 - Trustee-at-large/U.S.: Southeast Region – Don M.
- Presentations
 - The AA Grapevine

Joint Dinner Meeting of the Trustees’ and Conference Committees on International Conventions / Regional Forums

We talked about the agenda items, and we requested that the Trustees discuss at their July Board meeting making the Flag Ceremony Broadcast more widely available. The soft cover edition of “AA Comes of Age” will be released at the 2010 International Convention.

I was pulled from the hat to Chair this Committee. So in addition to working on the Committee year round, I get the opportunity to attend the January 2010 Board Meeting in New York.

Committee Reports and Discussion

Agenda

When Waikiki presented on these agenda items at our Inform the Delegate Assembly, they expressed specific concerns about the entire agenda process. I did vote in favor of all the Agenda Committee’s recommendations, as it seemed to address the concerns to some extent.

The committee recommended that the theme for the 2010 General Service Conference be “Practicing A.A.’s Principles – the Pathway to Unity” [PASSED]

It was recommended that the following be presentation, discussion topics for the 2010 General Service Conference. [PASSED]

- 1) Practicing These Principles in all Our “Service” Affairs
 - a) What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?
 - b) Love and Tolerance is Our Code
 - c) Setting an Example – Attraction to Service
- 2) Unity Through Inventory

- a) Our Common Welfare Should Come First
 - b) This We Owe to A.A.'s Future
 - c) What Happens After Inventory?
- 3) General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:
- a) How it Works
 - b) Collective Participation
 - c) Communication – The Key to an Informed Decision

It was recommended that the following be the workshop topic for the 2010 General Service Conference: “Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process,” [PASSED]

Thursday

April 30, 9:00AM – 11:00PM

Committee Reports and Discussion

During the Committee Reports, there were several times when I changed my vote after hearing the minority opinion. I shared this with a Panel 58 Delegate, and he said that was good, it meant that I had an open heart and open mind.

Literature

The committee recommended that the revised draft pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs” be approved. [FAILED]

The committee recommended that the revised draft pamphlet of “A.A. for the Native North American” be approved. [PASSED]

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Literature Committee undertake a thorough review of the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and eliminate or revise outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or a revised draft pamphlet at the 2010 Conference. [PASSED]

The committee recommended that a Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or a draft pamphlet at the 2010 Conference. [Note: The approximate cost is \$6,850] [PASSED]

The committee recommended that a sentence encouraging newcomers to obtain and study the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be added to the pamphlet “A Newcomer Asks.” [PASSED]

The committee recommended that the title of the pamphlet “44 Questions” be changed to “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” [PASSED]

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Committee on Literature develop a questionnaire to gather input from the Fellowship on whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A. and that a report which includes a summary of the results from the responses to the questionnaire be presented to the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature. [FAILED]

Additional Committee Considerations

- The committee considered a request to publish a book of stories from members living in remote communities and took no action. The committee noted that there was no widely expressed need.
- The committee considered a request to develop a second volume of Daily Reflections and took no action.

During the Literature Committee Report, Agenda item H: discuss whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics/atheists in A.A. was a very hot topic. A group in our Area had requested this in 2008; it was approved at our January 2008 Assembly, and went forward as a proposed Agenda item by our Delegate. As the deadline had already passed to request an agenda item for 2008, it landed on the 2009 agenda for the Conference. There was tons of loving discussion on this item. I waited in line at the mic for 15 minutes, and the question was called before I got to say anything. When the Committee recommendation failed on the floor, I had the opportunity to speak in the minority on it. I gave an impassioned plea for this literature. The sense I got of the reason why it failed was that the body didn't feel that sending out a questionnaire on this item was enough action. There was a subsequent floor motion "Recommend development of Conference Approved Literature that focuses on spirituality and includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous." This floor motion was recommitted to committee, so it will be back next year!

Corrections

A. Consider updating the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

The committee recommended that the trustees' Committee on Corrections undertake a revision of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" which will take into consideration

- More stories of recovery from alcoholism through the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, drawn from Sharing From Behind the Walls, Box 4-5-9, or other available sources.
- Less use of 'directive' language (such as that used in the section on H.A.L.T.)
- Including photographs that reflect current times.

and that a draft pamphlet or a report of progress be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections. [PASSED]

The committee recommended that the photo on page 18 of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." which shows an inmate smoking a hand-rolled cigarette, be replaced with a photo of the current edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous in future reprints, as well as in any revision. [PASSED]

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
 1. That the list of contents be corrected to indicate that both the Corrections Correspondence Service flyer for the outside A.A. member (F-26) and the Corrections Correspondence request form for inmates (CCS-2) are included in the Kit.

2. That the Spanish-language and the French-language Corrections Kit contents be updated to match as closely as possible the English-language Kit. The committee heard a report from the Publications Director that A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate will be completed in Spanish by fall of 2009, and the DVD A.A. in Correctional Facilities will be available in a compilation of all three languages by the end of 2009.
 3. That a copy of the booklet A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate (in the appropriate language) be included in the Kits.
 4. The list of Corrections Kit Contents be placed on G.S.O.'s AA Web site in the Corrections 'bucket' with the appropriate links to each service piece, pamphlet or book where available.
- The committee considered alternatives to a biennial mailing to corrections professionals, and made the following suggestions:
 1. That the automatic biennial mailing begun by an additional committee consideration of the Conference Committee on Corrections in 1999 be suspended indefinitely.
 2. That the American Correctional Association Directory of Adult and Juvenile Correctional Departments, Institutions, Agencies, and Probation and Parole continue to be purchased on a biennial basis and the contact information therein be sent to the relevant area corrections committee chair.
 - The committee discussed issues that may be involved in A.A. members' complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing 'sponsorship agreements' or legally binding documents, and requested sharing from the A.A. Fellowship regarding this topic to be gathered by the staff member and the trustees' Committee on Corrections and that the sharing be sent to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections.

When the Corrections Committee gave our report, there was a question about how the picture of the "hand rolled cigarette" got into "*It Sure beats Sitting in A Cell*" in the first place. Chris Cavanaugh (non-alcoholic), AA Publications replied that the picture used to be of the 3rd Edition Big Book, and when the 4th Edition came out, they needed to replace the picture. Apparently, Publications was not able to review the next reprint of this pamphlet due to the draft being sent over in a different format. The bottom line is the picture was added in error.

Policy & Admissions

The committee recommended that the General Service Conference develop a procedure for the submission of minority appeals to the General Service Conference and bring a draft to the 2010 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for their review. [PASSED]

The committee discussed the proposal requesting a General Service Conference Inventory and recommended that the General Service Board develop a plan for the General Service Conference to conduct an inventory of itself that includes a planning committee consisting of representatives of Delegates, Trustees, Directors, non-trustee Directors, and Staff, and that a progress report be presented to the 2010 Policy/Admissions Committee. [PASSED]

- Presentations
 - Spiritual Program in Action
 - 2010 International Convention

Friday

Friday May 1, 8:00AM – Saturday May 2, 2:15AM

- Presentation 20th A.A. World Service Meeting

Committee Reports and Discussion

At one point in the discussion, the idea was expressed that Committees just slide difficult or challenging agenda items to the following years Conference. This was very disheartening to me, and has not been my experience at all.

Public Information

The committee recommended that the four selected A.A. Videos for Young People be approved with minor changes. [PASSED]

The committee recommended that the videos “A.A.: Rap With Us” and “Young People and A.A.” be discontinued. [PASSED]

We got to view all 4 accepted video submissions, and they were awesome! Three were in English, and one in French. Apparently, there had been no acceptable Spanish language videos submitted. They are, however, continuing to accept submissions.

Additional considerations included:

- The committee requested that the A.A. Videos for Young People Project continue, and that video submissions be encouraged from young people in the Fellowship, especially from Spanish-speaking members.

Treatment

It was recommended that the committee’s scope be expanded to include service to Special Needs/Accessibilities committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities. [PASSED]

During the Treatment Committee Report, there was a concern expressed about having full face shots of actors in videos for A.A. This is an area where there will be continued discussion on, and in fact there is currently a request for fellowship wide sharing. I emailed out a request for sharing, and I would like to thank the one person who responded to me email in time for me to forward the sharing to the Trustees Committee!

At 3:30 pm, the General Manager made a decision to cut the time for discussion at the mic per person to 1 minute from 2. This was in the hopes that we wouldn’t be there all night.

Trustees

The committee unanimously recommended that the following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2009: [PASSED: 105/18]

During the discussion of this Committee Report, there was a moment when it looked and felt as though the body was not going to vote to accept the slate of incoming Trustees and Directors of the Boards. One member asked that we vote individually, person by person, rather than for the entire slate. I had a very

emotional moment when for just a split second I wondered what would happen to Alcoholics Anonymous if these slates for Trustees vote voted down? I felt scared for AA. I began to cry quietly in my chair, and someone came up to me and handed me a tissue. At that moment, our Pacific Region Trustee Madeleine came up to the floor mic and made the announcement that Bill M., one of our Region's past Delegates, had been killed in an accident. She was crying as she delivered the very sad news and she joked that no wonder all her Delegates were such crybabies, as look at her. Tears were streaming down her face. Later that evening, during a smoke break, I related what I had felt to my friend Elaine, from Washington DC. She told me "Girl, that's when I just knew that AA is going to be just fine. I know that our Higher Power was present." I love that! How we can just share with another, and their perception helps our perception!

International Conventions/ Regional Forums

The committee recommended that an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2010 International Convention. [PASSED]

The committee recommended that an encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved. [PASSED]

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums consider ways that the broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony could be made more widely available than was the 2005 broadcast.
- The committee discussed the site selection process for the 2020 International Convention, and requested that the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums conduct a review and inventory of the site selection process for International Conventions and prepare a report for the 2010 Conference Committee on Conventions/Regional Forums.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums, including:
 - Be enthusiastic in announcing the Forum in advance, and reporting on it afterwards
 - Write an article about the Forum for a local newsletter or Web site
 - Participation is key – get people involved in the planning of the Forum, as greeters, hospitality, registration, etc.
 - Encourage all segments of the Fellowship to attend, including those who speak other languages
 - Seek ways to prevent conflicts with other local events, such as sharing weekend A.A. event schedules through a central office or intergroup
 - Let members know that Local Forums can be requested by any A.A. entity; the request does not need to come through the general service structure
 - Overcome challenges of the cost of attending Forums by encouraging members to ride together and share rooms; some areas have rented buses for members to travel together.

Floor Actions — Saturday, May 2, 12:22am – 2:08am

- Floor Action #1: Recommend a thorough inventory of the Conference Charter be made a standing agenda item for the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
[DECLINED TO CONSIDER]
- Floor Action #2: Recommend that the revised pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs” be returned to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature.
[PASSED]
- Floor Action #3: Recommend a needs assessment for Special Needs literature that includes scope, content and cost of such literature by trustees’ Committee on Literature.
[DECLINED TO CONSIDER]
- Floor Action #4: Recommend development of Conference Approved Literature that focuses on spirituality and includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.
[RECOMMIT TO COMMITTEE]
- Floor Action #5: Recommend that the price increases proposed by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services in a letter dated March 20, 2009 be withdrawn and the current pricing structure be maintained.
[FAILED]
- Floor Action #6: Recommend we develop a uniform Conference approved policy regarding full-face photography of actors or subjects appearing in our General Service Conference approved videos, public service announcements or graphics arts projects, before any new projects are placed into production.
[FAILED]
- Floor Action #7: Recommend the Kindle project contract with Amazon.com be suspended immediately and a detailed review be conducted by the trustees’ Literature Committee on the scope, substance, format, and pricing arrangements and forward a report to the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature.
[FAILED]
- Floor Action #8: Recommend a voiceover in the video “Hope – Alcoholics Anonymous” to change the discussion of the Traditions as “By-laws” to “guidelines” or other more appropriate term.
[FAILED]
- **Adjourn – 59th General Service Conference 2:08 am**
 - Closing – Serenity Prayer English French Spanish
- Saturday May 2, 8:00AM – 10:00AM
- **Farewells by Rotating Trustees**

Paul C., General Service trustee said “Throughout our Conference structure there will always be paranoid conspiracy theorists, bomb-throwing anarchists, and naysayers. But we know the sky isn’t falling. In A.A. the sky is clear and bright and blue, and it invites us to walk in the sunlight of the spirit with newcomers the world over. My greatest wish for each of you is that soon after returning from the Conference a drunk will puke on your shoes.”

Dorothy W., Trustee at Large/US told us if any of you are wondering why you are here, God didn't put you here to question. He put you here to be useful members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Howard L., Southeast Regional trustee, gave his appeal that we are divided. He bad mouthed the board and accused them of making business decisions before caring about our fellowship. It did not seem helpful or solution based. He sounded like he was being a minority martyr and promoted and us and them mentality.

Ray M., General Service trustee said regarding this year's conference we did what we needed to do to get what we got. We didn't want to settle for second best, we wanted the best. That's why we were in session until 2:15.

Bob M., East Central regional trustee, shared that God puts you where you serve and then He qualifies you. He was much more diplomatic when he too presented there was division on the board. One of his points was there was a denial of a written minority appeal. I am not sure exactly what he was referring to (I suspect it was the ongoing controversy about the method of hiring the GM), but there is a recommendation in motion (Policy and Admissions) to develop a procedure for this. He said I am here, right now, for a reason. He stated he was witness to some very uncomfortable expressions of disunity on the board.

Finally Leonard Blumenthal and Herb Goodman, (Class A Trustees) said their farewells.
Adjourn

I would like to read you an email the Pacific Region Delegates received shortly after the Conference.

Note from Alaska delegate, Torvald H., Area 02

Pacific Region Delegates,

*My thoughts and Prayers are with all Delegates, as the 59th General Service Conference reports are carried throughout their respective Areas. I can honestly say my report will be one of hope for AAs future. I do believe the Advisory Actions of the 59th GSC support that hope, however I also must add that the process in which we got there was quite the experience. In thinking back I don't recall anyone saying it would always be easy, but as promised the benefits have been immense. In borrowing a phrase from a past Trustee, General Service has allowed me to meet some of the finest folks in Alcoholics Anonymous. I count all of you among those; I thank you for your service to AA and my life.
Love/Service Torvald*

In conclusion, on a personal level the Conference was amazing, life transforming and spiritual in nature for me. On a service level, I would like to assure you that the traditions and concepts are alive and well in all levels of General Service. In particular, Tradition Two keep resonating within in my soul "For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern". Thank you this opportunity to serve the program that saved my life.

Elizabeth M.
Delegate
Hawaii Area 17 / Panel 59