

## *Delegate Report Back*

*2013 General Service Conference Crowne Plaza, New York*

**Aloha All,**

*Mahalo for your hard work and service at the “Inform the Delegate” assembly .*

*Your hard work in researching and presenting the selected conference agenda items so that we could be informed and prepared for the 2013 General Service Conference will always be greatly appreciated.*

*Mahalo!*

**Agenda:**

It was recommended that:

*The theme for the 2014 General Service Conference be: “Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World.” (passed unanimously)*

*The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2014 General Service Conference: (passed unanimously)*

*Living in the Heart of A.A.*

- a) Recovery, Unity and Service – Our Responsibility*
- b) Passing It on Through Sponsorship*
- c) Participating in Our Common Welfare through Contributions*
- d) Inventory – A Guiding Tool to Our Future*

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee reviewed the Conference Evaluation Form, along with the comments and suggestions from the trustees' Conference Committee and agreed that the form was adequate and that no changes be made at this time.

**Floor Action that did not result in Advisory Actions:**

- *The General Service Board develop a process in which the Conference can be participants in the development of” its own agenda” to include agenda items and present the process to the 64th General Service Conference. (Not approved)*

## Archives (Puna District #12)

It was recommended that:

3. *The Archives video Markings on the Journey be revised and updated with the proposed changes (estimated cost \$5,000) and brought back to the 2014 Conference Archives Committee. (passed almost unanimously)*

4. *A commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition of the first edition, first printing of Alcoholics Anonymous be published in April 2014. (passed 96 for and 28 against)*

*Floor Action that did not result in Advisory Actions:*

- *The commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition of the First Edition, first printing of Alcoholics Anonymous be published in April 2014 in English, Spanish and French. (Not approved)*

5. *The posting of freely accessible, anonymity-protected archival audio clips on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site be done at the discretion of the trustees' Committee on Archives and G.S.O.'s Archivist. (passed almost unanimously )*

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and expressed satisfaction with the content.

## Cooperation With the Professional Community (West Hawaii District #8)

It was recommended that:

6. *The statement in the section Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads:*

*"Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court together with a self-addressed court envelope. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance."*

*Be revised as follows:*

*"Each group is autonomous. Some groups, at the request of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign, initial or stamp a slip that has been furnished by the court. The referred person provides the slip to the court as proof of attendance." There were a few friendly amendments before we agreed on the above wording but in the end it was nearly unanimous in favor of.*

7. *The statement in the section How to Make Referrals to A.A. in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." which currently reads: (passed unanimously)*

*“Or, you can contact the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. Write:*

*P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Or phone: (212) 870-3400”*

*Be revised as follows:*

*“You can also contact the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information at:*

*P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
(212) 870-3400  
www.aa.org ”*

*8. The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities revise the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” taking into consideration suggested changes of the Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community and bring back a report or draft pamphlet to the 2014 Conference Committee. (passed unanimously)*

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee discussed how local C.P.C. committees are utilizing new technologies to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to professionals, and suggested adding information to the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook on:
  - o Using PowerPoint and Webinars.
  - o Providing electronic subscriptions to A.A. newsletters.
- The committee discussed ways of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service work and suggested:
  - o Using mock C.P.C. presentations at service workshops.
  - o Encouraging groups to elect C.P.C. chairs.
  - o Bringing A.A. members along on C.P.C. presentations.
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Cooperation With the Professional Community Kit and Workbook and suggested:
  - o Adding an index of past issues of About A.A. to the publications tab.

- o *Including a copy of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in each Kit.*

### Corrections (Tri-island District #13)

#### *It was recommended that:*

9. *The revised pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be approved. (passed almost unanimously)*

#### **Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Corrections continue their thorough review of all Corrections materials.
- The committee discussed how to engage A.A. members in corrections service and shared about the opportunities to highlight the current available corrections literature through local area and district Web sites.
- *In discussing difficulties in engaging A.A. members in corrections service, the committee recognized that some A.A. members who have not been incarcerated may feel they have nothing to offer in corrections service. The committee requested the staff secretary work with the Publishing Department and the trustees’ Committee on Corrections to incorporate text in the Corrections Workbook section “Ideas to Stimulate Corrections Twelfth Step Work Within A.A.” to reassure all A.A. members that they can participate in corrections service by sharing A.A.’s basic message about getting and staying sober.*
- The committee discussed available resources in support of local corrections’ Twelfth Step work and suggested:
  - o that the committee secretary gather sharing on ways that areas fund A.A. literature for incarcerated alcoholics for an article in Box 4-5-9 and other service materials;
  - o that corrections committees be encouraged to use La Viña as a valuable resource for Spanish-speaking A.A. meetings and members inside correctional facilities.
- *The committee reviewed a sample Letter of Introduction to Correctional Facilities, a sample Correctional Facility Fact Sheet, and a sample A.A. Program Plan for Correctional Facilities, and requested that all three samples—with suggested changes—be added to the Corrections Workbook at the next printing.*
- The committee suggested that in cases when the Area Corrections Committee is inactive, communications from the G.S.O. Corrections assignment requesting prerelease contacts or outside support for correctional facility A.A. meetings be forwarded to the delegate.
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and suggested that the service piece “Suggestions for Using the A.A. Grapevine Magazine (or La Viña) as a Tool in Corrections Service” be updated and considered for inclusion in the Workbook.

### Finance

No recommendations.

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

- *The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and felt an increase was not necessary at this time.*
- The committee reviewed the Self-Support packet and suggested adding the following words to the packaging sleeve: “Information from Self-Support packet also available on the Web site aa.org” and “Please Share with Your Group.”
- The committee suggested adding the following phrase to the Self-Support Green Card (F-42): “Gratitude expressed through contributions reaches the still-suffering alcoholic.”
- The committee thoroughly reviewed the report on self-support from the trustees’ Finance Committee and urged that the work of the Self-Support subcommittee continue.
- *The committee suggested that the appropriate committee reconsider the policy concerning the General Service Conference site selection (“The responsibility for General Service Conference site selection be delegated to General Service Office management, subject to approval of the General Service Board”)\* and that Conference members consider the spiritual and financial aspects.*

*\*2008 Policy/Admissions Committee*

**Grapevine (Waikiki District #10)**

No recommendations.

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

- *The committee reviewed the 2013 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and made the following requests:*
  - o *That Grapevine communications regarding the Grapevine Audio Project specify that GV is not recording meeting speakers at A.A. events.*
  - o *That an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future, be provided to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.*
- *The committee reviewed the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page magazine and concluded:*
  - o *The committee recognized that funding La Viña as a service, through the General Fund, is an issue affecting the overall Fellowship.*
  - o *The committee acknowledged the increase in circulation by 8.6% from January 2011 to December 2012 may be tied to the changes in format and additional content.*

*o The committee acknowledged that the 2012 increase in La Viña deficit results in large part from allocation of pension funding expense.*

*o The committee expressed concern that funding La Viña through the General Fund of the General Service Board, while AA Grapevine Inc. has responsibility for the production of La Viña, may suggest an imbalance between responsibility and authority.*

*• The committee requested that the GV board submit a proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine that would significantly reduce the La Viña deficit.*

*• The committee considered discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e., 68 pages, perfect bound) and took no action. The committee needed more background regarding La Viña's financial history and information regarding what a new format would be.*

*• The committee agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2014 or later:*

*1. Making Amends (working title)*

*Members share their experience about making Ninth Step amends from stories previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.*

*2. How I Found My Higher Power (working title)*

*A collection of stories by AA members sharing their experience with their personal journeys with Step Two, previously published in Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org.*

*• The committee reviewed the revised workbook and approved the draft copy with the following suggestions:*

*o Expand Appendix V to include all past Advisory Actions about the Grapevine.*

*o Look into the feasibility of hyperlinks and a live table of contents to facilitate ease of navigation of the electronic workbook.*

*• The committee requested a report from the A.A. Grapevine Board on the feasibility of producing one book in American Sign Language (ASL) format*

*(Floor Action that did not result in Advisory Actions):*

*• To discontinue the current formatting requirements for the La Viña print magazine (i.e., 68 pages, perfect bound), in order to return the responsibility for formatting La Viña to the A.A. Grapevine Board and management. (Not approved) An interesting fact presented during discussion “that there are 54 million Latinos in the U.S.”*

### International Conventions/Regional Forums (Leeward District #3)

It was recommended that:

*10. The undernoted three cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2025:*

*Montreal, Quebec*

*St. Louis, Missouri*

*Vancouver, British Columbia*

*11. Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2015 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. (passed almost unanimously)*

**Additional Committee Considerations: (2016 Pacific Regional Forum)!!!**

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:
  - o Using locally created “save the date” flyers to encourage attendance and participation.
  - o Emphasizing that you do not have to be involved in General Service to attend a Regional Forum.
  - o Making Regional Forums more prominent on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
  - o Continuing to include information about Regional Forums in Box 4-5-9 on a regular basis.
  - o Encouraging local host committees to include food, treats and A.A. meetings as part of the hospitality.
  - o Providing additional service opportunities for local A.A. members at each Forum.

### Literature (Kihei District #11)

It was recommended that:

*12. The draft pamphlet “A.A.—Spiritual not Religious” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and brought back to the 2014 Conference Committee on Literature. The discussions on the “title” with Religious, then another comment*

*to have the title to Atheist and Agnostics (sounded familiar). Finally the vote to recommit this pamphlet to the trustees committee passed 87 to 36 .*

Recommendations that did not result in Advisory Actions:

- *The committee recommended that the second paragraph on the inside front flap of the dust jacket which currently states:*

At the time of the third edition, in March 1976, the worldwide membership of A.A. was estimated at 1,000,000 or more. Copies of Alcoholics Anonymous in circulation exceeded 1,450,000. In 1995, the General Service Conference approved the recommendation: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Doctor Bob's Nightmare' and the Appendices remain as is."

**be replaced with the following language:**

At the time of the third edition, in March 1976, the worldwide membership of A.A. was estimated at 1,000,000 or more. Copies of Alcoholics Anonymous in circulation exceeded 1,450,000. The basic text (pages 1 through 164) remains largely unchanged. This is the A.A. message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 edition of Alcoholics Anonymous, the book that gave the young fellowship its name.

***NOTE: This change will also be made to all formats of the dust jacket of Alcoholics Anonymous. ( failed 75 against and 45 for).***

- *The committee recommended that "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" be added to the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (Blue) Card (F-17) in all three languages when the inventory of the English version is depleted.*

*The statement will read as follows:*

***"THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING***

***OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS***

*This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here – especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers." A friendly amendment was accepted to remove the word 'may' from the bold text above and replace it with 'are welcome to.' There was a lot of talk about non-alcoholics not being able to participate in meetings such as Class A's (non-alcoholic) trustees, etc. (In the end this recommendation failed 61 for and 63 against.)*

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

- **The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of "Circles of Love and Service" and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing an updated draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2014 Conference Committee on Literature meeting.**



## Policy/Admissions (Honolulu District #2)

It was recommended that:

13. *The 66th General Service Conference be held April 17-23, 2016, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability. (passed unanimously)*

14. *The user responsibilities in the “Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference,” which currently read:*

*“Users are responsible for insuring adequate battery strength prior to the start of sessions. No technical assistance will be provided by the organizers of the General Service Conference or Conference technical assistants.”*

*be revised to read:*

*“Users are responsible for insuring adequate battery strength prior to the start of sessions. For safety reasons, extension cords will not be permitted between any seating rows or walking areas. Power outlets will be available in designated seating areas during General Sessions. No technical assistance will be provided by the organizers of the General Service Conference or Conference technical assistants.” (passed unanimously)*

15. *The deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda Items be changed from January 15 to December 15, beginning in December 2014 for the 65th General Service Conference. (This passed with substantial unanimity).*

16. *The timetable for the election of the delegate from Area 84, Northeastern Ontario, be revised to allow for two odd and two even panels in that province. The revised timetable for the election of the delegate from Area 84, Northeastern Ontario is to be accomplished by having the Panel 63 delegate elected for a one-year term with the understanding that this delegate would have the opportunity to stand for his/her own two-year term in the following Panel 64 election. (passed almost unanimously)*

*(Recommendations that did not result in Advisory Actions):*

- *The committee recommended that the alternate chair of a primary committee be eligible to serve as chair of a secondary committee only if there are no other available candidates. (failed 35 for and 84 opposed)*

### **Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee discussed the report of the trustees' Committee on Conference regarding the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting international observers admission

to the General Service Conference. The committee agreed that no change to the current practice is necessary.

- The committee discussed the concept of combining the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy/Admissions Committees. The sense of the committee was that there was not enough information presented to express a need or benefit to combining the committees. In addition, the amount of time currently allotted for each committee's deliberation seems appropriate, and combining the committees might result in too heavy a workload for the combined committee. The committee was also dissuaded by the complications involved in merging the committees (revising the Composition, Scope and Procedures of committees; updating The A.A. Service Manual and other literature; additional responsibilities for staff, etc.).
- The committee noted a discrepancy between the description of the Conference Agenda Committee in The A.A. Service Manual and in the Conference Agenda Committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure, and suggested that the 2014 Conference Agenda Committee review the description in The A.A. Service Manual for consistency.

#### Public Information (East Hawaii District #7)

It was recommended that:

*17. The 63rd General Service Conference affirm that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: "...at the level of press, radio and films." This recommendation initially failed by a vote of 83 for and 48 against. (Original: "that the delegates explain at the local level that") There was a friendly amendment with the wording above (The '63rd General Service Conference affirm)... and this passed almost unanimously.*

*18. A.A. World Services be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of digital A.A. literature. The committee requested that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. (The committee requested that a status and financial report be submitted to the appropriate 2014 Conference Committee). (passed almost unanimously)*

#### **Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee reviewed the 2012 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and requested that as soon as possible, and independent

from the Web site redesign, A.A.W.S. insure that A.A. videos on aa.org be accessible on as wide a variety of electronic devices as possible.

- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on A.A. Video Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s).
- **The committee considered production of one or more video P.S.A.s to be produced in the calendar year 2013 using the current five "Young People's Videos" and took no action. The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee define more specifically the target audience, the cost, the method of distribution appropriate to the targeted audience, and any format issues, and bring back a report to the 2014 Conference Public Information Committee.**
- **The committee reviewed all current A.A. video public service announcements and found them all to be relevant and useful, noting that "Living in Chaos," which the trustees' committee had suggested for retirement, continues to effectively portray the consequences of alcoholic drinking.**
- The committee reviewed the interim report on the centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of "Tengo Esperanza," the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community. The committee noted the strong performance of this P.S.A. thus far, and looks forward to receiving the final report next year.
- **The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on establishing a Public Information Social Media Page and agrees with the trustees' conclusion that A.A. World Services, the General Service Office, and the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña cannot establish a presence on Facebook in a manner which would be consistent with A.A. Traditions.**
- **The committee suggested the General Service Board encourage the trustees' committees to review existing literature that discusses how A.A. members apply the Eleventh Tradition, e.g., "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" and "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," and suggest updates to the literature that reflect current experience with anonymity in a digital age, with an eye towards reaffirming the importance of the Eleventh Tradition to the Fellowship.**
- The committee reviewed the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook and suggested that:
  - o The address of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, [www.AA.org](http://www.AA.org), be added to the front of the new P.I. Kit packaging.
  - o The pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" be included in the P.I. Kit.

### **Report and Charter (Diamond Head District #1)**

It was recommended that:

19. *A typographical error in the article “Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need,” contained within the essay on Concept IX on page 37, fifth paragraph, third line: “...badly disturbed or uninformed...” be corrected to “...badly disturbed or uninformed...” in the next printing, noting that this typographical error has existed since the first printing of Twelve Concepts for World Service. Passed unanimously*

20. *The following text describing the duties of the chairperson of the General Service Board be added to Chapter Nine in The A.A. Service Manual in a location to be determined by the Publishing Department.*

*“Duties of the A.A. General Service Board Chairperson*

*“The chairperson of the General Service Board of A.A. presides over the trustees’ meetings, co-chairs the General Service Conference, and functions on behalf of the General Service Board between board meetings. The chairperson appoints members of the trustees’ committees, subject to G.S.B. approval, and is an ex-officio member of all trustees’ committees. In addition to board meetings and the Conference, the chairperson participates in all Regional Forums and may participate in a number of other events.” (passed unanimously)*

21. *The following text be added to page S23 of The A.A. Service Manual, after the section entitled “Stimulating Interest in General Service”:*

*“The Principle of Rotation*

*“Traditionally, rotation ensures that service positions, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many positions have alternates who can step into the service positions if needed.*

*“To step out of an A.A. office we love can be hard. If we have been doing a good job, if we honestly don’t see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if our friends agree, it’s especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.*

*“Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us ‘to place principles before personalities.’*

*“Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. ‘status’ at stake, we needn’t compete for titles or praise—we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.” (passed almost unanimously, motion to reconsider failed)*

22. *The following text be added to Article 4 in the Current Conference Charter, on page S102 at the end of the final paragraph:*

*“The Conference recognizes the principles contained within the Twelve Concepts, particularly the Right of Participation, and the Rights of Petition and Appeal reflected in Concepts IV and V.*

*In keeping with these principles, the Conference may agree to hear Concept V Appeals brought by members of the Conference structure below the Conference level on the inverted triangle.”*

*There were some word changes to the original recommendation which passed but then a motion to reconsider also passed. ( In the end the final wording as stated above passed 79 for and 32 against.)*

**23. The 2010 Advisory Action regarding Area Highlights be rescinded, so the entire Final Report may be professionally edited and published, while still reflecting the full substance of the General Service Conference. (passed).**

#### **Additional 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 2013-2014 Edition, and the 2013 General Service Conference Final Report.
- The committee reviewed the list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions. The committee noted that one of the editorial updates regarded the description of a Conference Committee, and asked that a review of the descriptions of all Conference Committees for consistency with current Composition, Scope and Procedures be made, and any suggested editorial updates be included in the annual list to be forwarded to the 2014 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The committee also requested that a similar review of the list in Chapter Eleven of services provided by G.S.O. be made, and any suggested editorial updates be included in that list as well.
- **In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the A.A.W.S. 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 A.A.W.S. Board for The A.A. Service Manual and suggested some revisions.**
- **The committee considered a request to add “Advisory Action” and “Additional Committee Consideration” to the Glossary of General Service Terms in The A.A. Service Manual, and forwarded suggestions to the Publishing Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2014 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.**
- The committee considered a request that “the definition and Composition of an Area Assembly be modified for consistency and clarity in Chapter Four” and took no action. The committee believes the existing descriptions of Area assemblies accurately reflect the variety of autonomous practices determined by each Area’s group conscience.
- **The committee considered a request to revise the description of “Director (nontrustee)” in the Glossary of General Service Terms in The A.A. Service Manual, and agreed to forward this suggestion to the General Service Board for consideration as part of the annual review of The A.A. Service Manual.**

- The committee considered a request to update information in The A.A. Service Manual regarding suggested qualifications for area registrars, and forwarded suggestions to the Publishing Department with the request that draft text be brought back for consideration by the 2014 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The committee also suggested that G.S.O. develop a new piece of service material outlining the specific abilities and resources area registrars have found helpful in assisting with the maintenance of vital information in the Fellowship New Vision database.

- In light of the recent decision not to publish regional directories this year, the committee asked the staff secretary to communicate their concerns to the A.A.W.S. Board about the still existing, albeit decreasing, need for print resources by A.A. members in rural and remote areas, and those members who may travel frequently.

### Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities (Central North Shore District #9)

No recommendations.

#### *Additional Committee Considerations:*

- *The committee reviewed the report on Spanish and French translations of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous and expressed the need for translated versions of audio visual materials to have improved sound production in the future.*

- *The committee reviewed the report on the DVD version of the pamphlet "A.A. For the Alcoholic with Special Needs" formatted for alcoholics who are blind, deaf or learning challenged and availability of the item. There was a concern expressed whether a DVD in American Sign Language (ASL) and with subtitles in English serves the needs of French and Spanish language-based members.*

- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook contents and its current content.

- The committee reviewed the contents of Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook and Kit and requested the following:

- o That the staff secretary produce a memo with the following wording suggested by the 2012 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities: "Committees gather local

information and identify outside local resources regarding accessibility requirements and options.” This memo is to be a temporary insert in the section, “Activities Suggested for Special Needs-Accessibilities Committees,” of the current Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook until the next printing of the workbook. The memo will be sent to area, district, and intergroup/central office Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities chairs.

- o Add the service piece, “Online Meetings/Reunions a L’Internet/Reunions del Internet” (SM F-124), to the Special Needs-Accessibilities Kit.

- The committee had a wide-ranging discussion on how Special Needs-Accessibilities committees can communicate the various ways to make meeting places accessible to all alcoholics. Topics included:

- o Start Special Needs-Accessibilities committees and hold workshops on various topics to inform members about this service area.

- o Communicate in web-based and print meeting directories which meetings are handicapped equipped, wheelchair accessible, and ASL interpreted.

- o Consider ensuring that the entire meeting experience for those with special needs is accessible-friendly, e.g. assuring that the height of literature displays or coffee dispensers are accessible to those in wheelchairs.

- o Prepare meeting greeters to identify attendees with special needs and to help provide accommodation as best as possible.

- o Provide local special needs contact information in meeting formats and event flyers.

- The committee also discussed ways that Special Needs-Accessibilities committees might help groups prepare in advance for the arrival of deaf/hard of hearing alcoholics. Topics included:

- o Provide optimal seating arrangements.

- o Use a microphone, discourage cross-talk, and ask those speaking to stand and avoid covering their faces with hand gestures.

- o When economically possible, provide ASL interpreters or seek out capable A.A. members who can sign; some areas fund ASL interpreters.

- o Communicate with the hard of hearing in attendance that seating and other accommodations can be made.

- o Encourage cooperation with local professionals serving the deaf/hard of hearing community.

### **Trustees (Waianae District #17)**

**It was recommended that:**

*24. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2013:*

**NAMES REMOVED FOR WEB – PLEASE CONTACT KEN K. PANEL 63 AREA 17  
DELEGATE FOR FULL SLATE**

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee reviewed their Composition, Scope and Procedure and updated the references to the trustees' committees on "Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities" and "Correctional Facilities" found in their Scope to trustees' committees on "Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/SpecialNeed-Accessibilities" and "Corrections."
- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved, as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the East Central and Southeast regional trustees and trustee-at-large/U.S.
- **The committee reviewed the General Service Board's proposed plan regarding the slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and took no action. The committee did not support the proposed interlocking directorate.**

The committee noted that the General Service Board has sufficient authority to implement changes in Practices as outlined in the initiatives in the sections under the heading "Communications and Unity" and "Efficient Operations and Financial Stability" and expressed their support for those ongoing changes. It was the sense of the committee that the changes in Practices could address the concerns of the General Service Board.

The committee requested that, before implementation, any changes proposed in the section "Governance," regarding "Non-trustee Director Service," "Eligibility of General Service Trustees" and "Eligibility of Appointed Committee Members" be brought to the Conference Committee on Trustees for review.

(Floor Actions that did not result in Advisory Actions:)

- That any vote on reorganizing our General Service Board and two service corporations be decided by 3/4 rather than 2/3 substantial unity vote as this is a matter of vital importance. (Not approved) 2012-2013 Service Manual-Current Conference Charter/Article 3/ page 102)
- The General Service Board's proposed plan of an interlocking directorate serving the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine, shall be continued in scope and procedure as proposed to the General Service Conference. (Conference voted not to consider)

The final floor action that did not result in an Advisory Action would have been given to AAWS to implement and not to a conference committee and is as follows:

- Propose that the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous develop, implement, and maintain a nationwide online, searchable meeting list and locator. (Conference voted not to consider)



**The "LIGHT" of the conference were of these Spiritual Experiences:**

**To watch our Pacific Regional Trustee, (Rod B.), glow with his gratitude by the approval of the translation of the Big Book into Navajo and learned that Navajo is not a written language.**

**To be part of the "Trustees" committee as "We".**

**In the Delegates only meeting where a 63 Delegate asked "When does the Spiritual Experience begin?" Then we had the 2014 GSC Delegate Chair selection process, "From the Hat". Her question was answered when her name was pulled from the hat to be the 2014 GSC Chair!**

**During the Committee reports and discussions, a Delegate chose to use his two minutes at the mic as a "moment of silence"**

**In passing, the delegate from Western Massachusetts mention how grateful to have our David and Tanya E. be part of their area today. Replied "Your Welcome"**

**To watch the actions of the chair place the order of sequence for the floor actions to be presented to the conference floor.**

**During the conference we had bonded with the Delegate from Oklahoma. Sharing of our recovery, unity, service and life. He and his wife are of the AA and AFG marriage, they are both delegates. A week after the conference, word reached the delegates that their house had been destroyed by fire. Having a phone conversation with him, as he had said "the experience of the conference gave me the spiritual strength" that helps me through this "charging elephant". As we had closed our conversation I had asked if there is anything we can do? His reply "You have already done so with by this phone call" In exchange we closed with an exchange of "Love and Prayer".**

**Mahalo to All,**

**"With great appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to experience the 2013 General Service Conference, the honor and privilege to serve as the Panel 63 Hawaii Area 17 Delegate, and to have shared "Paradise" at the General Service Conference."**

**Mahalo and Aloha,**

**Ken Koga**

**Hawaii Area17/ Delegate Panel 63**