**AA General Service Conference Inventory Review**

Compendium 2013 - 2015

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The report from GSO of the GSC Inventory describes the history, process and results. I found it to be thorough and thought provoking. I hope my brief review will familiarize you with where you can find things in the report and how you can get more detailed information.

**SECTION ONE**

Page 2 – Table of Contents

Page 3 Introduction

* Overview - The General Service Conference (GSC) inventory report begins, “Taking inventory, in the best sense of the word, is a fundamental aspect of AA’s program of recovery.” An inventory of the GSC uses the “Twelve Concepts for World Service” rather than the Twelve Steps we use for personal recovery or the Twelve Traditions we might use for group, district and area inventories. The keynote to the 2013 GSC included the following – “We are not here to take pride in doing the responsible thing by taking an inventory. We are here to help assure the unity and effectiveness of AA in its mission to carry the great message of hope to anyone, anywhere, who has a desire to do something about his or her drinking problem.”
* History - The General Service Board (GSB) began the process of taking its inventory including its two operating corporations, AA Grapevine and AA World Services (AAWS) in 2005. During that process, the idea of an inventory of the GSC itself emerged. Inventories of the actual conference had never been done. Many recommendations, proposals, planning committees, discussions and evaluations later, a recommendation was accepted by the full Conference and passed as an Advisory Action of the 2011 General Service Conference. The inventory would cover GSC 2013 – 2015.

**SECTION TWO**

Page 5 – Summary of Themes

* Communication and Transparency
  + Communication should focus more on ‘why’ of particular actions, suggestions or recommendations.
  + More intensive year-round communication with help of intensive communication from regional trustees
* Use of Technology
  + Can be put to better use.
* Conference Orientation and Preparation
* Information
  + One comment – There is “a lot of data, but not enough information.”
* Language Equality
  + Importance of timely translation to ensure full participation throughout fellowship and parity in terms of preparation and distribution of agenda items. Advisory Action from 2015 GSC.
* Diversity
* Conference Agenda
  + Questions of how agenda items are developed and more input from delegates in determining agenda items widely discussed.
* Conference Deadlines
  + Timing and distribution of Conference agenda items and background information limits input from Fellowship. Requests were made to reconsider scheduling of deadlines for submission.
* Conference Theme
* Minority Opinion
  + Well utilized at Conference and could be more fully utilized throughout Fellowship itself.
* Working Together and Increasing Trust
* Engaging the Fellowship
* Listening to the Group Conscience
* Looking Toward the Future

**SECTIONS THREE & FOUR**

Sections 3 and 4 cover the same 44 questions with Section 3 being a summary of Workshop Reports and Section 4 being bulleted suggestions that came out of the workshops. (pgs. 8 – 24)

* Process
  + 44 Inventory questions, 15 groups, met for 2.5 hours and reported back to full Conference.
* Inventory Questions
  + EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONFERENCE/CONFERENCE PROCESS OVERALL
    - Under guidance of conference, collective conscience of AA is achieved but there are concerns about how informed the Fellowship actually is due to inadequate background material, arbitrary deadlines and language barriers and lack of sufficient delegate participation in agenda item selection process.
    - Need to gain full participation throughout Fellowship.
  + COMPOSITION OF THE CONFERENCE
  + COMMITTEE SYSTEM
  + YEARLONG PROCESS EFFECTIVENESS
  + CONFERENCE PREPARATION
  + CONFERENCE WEEK SCHEDULE
  + GENERAL SERVICE BOARD/CORPORATE BOARDS (AAWS & AA GRAPEVINE)
  + LEADERSHIP

**REFERENCE SECTION**

* Page 25 - Keynote Address
* Page 27 - Conference

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the inventory report. DCMs will be given extra copies of the document to bring back to their districts.

Mahalo for an opportunity to be a part of continuing to carry the message.

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