

*67th
General Service Conference
2017*

Agenda Topic Summaries

*Pre Conference Assembly
April 7-9, 2017*



Abbreviations used to save space:

- "GSB" → General Service Board
- "GSC" → General Service Conference
- "PI" → Conference Committee on PI
- "AAWS" → AA World Services
- "GV" → Grapevine

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2018 GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<i>Theme and presentation topics revolve around basic principles of A.A. and can spark thought-provoking discussion at Area and district meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate discussion of these topics into workshops, meetings, pre-Conference assemblies, etc. This gives all A.A. members the opportunity to participate and become more informed about A.A.</i> This item is discussed at every conference. It is a housekeeping item for the committee to pick the theme from the list of submitted ideas There are 31 suggested themes to review. Suggestions deadline for 2018 has passed.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will decide & forward recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item B-1**

Agenda Topic	Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2018 GSC*
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item is discussed at every conference. It is a housekeeping item for the Conference Agenda Committee to pick from the list and forward to the conference. There are 58 suggested ideas to review. Suggestions deadline for 2018 has passed.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, Committee will decide & recommend but... Submit suggestion for future themes.

Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item B -2**

Agenda Topic	Consider request that for 2018, presentation/discussion topics not be placed on the Conference Week schedule
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<i>Conference coordinator (previous) requested that presentation topics be selected to be utilized throughout the year by the Fellowship in Areas, Districts and A.A. Groups, but not placed on the actual Conference Week schedule, so that that 2¼ hours of time might be utilized for committee work and Conference-wide sharing sessions."</i>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing. Time constraints always an issue. Committee will decide.

Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item B -3**

Agenda Topic	Consider request that the total number of presentation/discussions at the Conference be limited to no more than six.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	From Area 76, Wyoming: There have been up to 12 different presentations on some years. While enriching to the fellowship; they also use time and money that at times we don't have. This involves an expense to our areas for presenters, and time in our Regional Conferences. One less day from the GSC used for presenters would save expenses for A.A.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing. Time constraints always an issue. Committee will decide.

Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2018 GSC
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item is discussed at every conference. It is a housekeeping item for the committee to pick topic ideas from the list submitted. There are 53 suggested ideas to review. suggestions deadline for 2018 has passed.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, committee will decide & recommend but...Submit suggestion for future topics.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item D-1**

Agenda Topic	Review the summary of the 2016 GSC Evaluations.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Evaluation form helps the committee in planning for future conferences. It is only distributed and completed by members attending the GS conference, and is used to gather input about their experience.

What the Delegate needs to know?	This document is distributed to the GSC participants only. We will not hear group consciences on this topic.
----------------------------------	---

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item D-2**

Agenda Topic	Review the GSC Evaluation Form.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Evaluation form helps the committee in planning for future conferences. It is only distributed and completed by members attending the GS conference, and is used to gather input about their experience.
What the Delegate needs to know?	This document is distributed to the GSC participants only. We will not hear group consciences on this topic.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><i>The subcommittee of the trustees' Committee on the GSC on the Agenda Item Selection Process met 10/16. They discussed the 2016 Conference Advisory Action that "The GSB develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the GSC agenda review and selection process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process, to be brought to the 2017 GSC."</i></p> <p><i>The committee agreed that there was a need to increase communication and feedback between the committees of GSB and the committees of the GSC. As they discussed ways to move forward, the committee agreed on the following points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board heard the will of the Conference in the Advisory Action about providing the area delegate members an enhanced role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items. The Board agrees that additional consultation with those members will improve communication, trust and cooperation in the process of selection Conference committee agenda items. • In keeping with the Concept III, the final responsibility for selection of Conference Agenda Items appropriately lies with the trustees' of the General Service Board; "the Trustees of the GSB (operation of course within the provisions of their own Chart and Bylaws) should be able at all times to decide when they will act fully on their own responsibility and when they will ask the Conference for its guidance, its approval of a recommendation, or for its actual decision and direction." (The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, p. 13) • Following review by the GSB, trustees' committees or service corporation boards (A.A. W.S. and AA GV) may forward Agenda Items to Conference committees for their consideration. • No single Conference committee has authority to select agenda items for all Conference committees.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the area delegate members have an enhanced role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda item?

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the process of posting the grid of proposed Conference agenda items on the Dashboard.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 2016 GSC recommended that "The GSO post to the Conference dashboard (A password protected, Delegates' only access), and regularly update information concerning the status of all proposed Conference agenda items." A grid of proposed Conference agenda items was posted on the dashboard starting in the summer of 2016.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider retiring the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Subcommittee Findings:</p> <p>The subcommittee discussed how language throughout the A.A. pamphlet was concerning, especially in regards to being seen as a current C.P.C. tool.</p> <p>Upon further discussion the they came to these findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pamphlet in its entirety is not an effective current tool in communicating to professionals. • The pamphlet should not be made available to professionals. • Though the history tied with the pamphlet has sentimental value, text could not be found or selected to be repurposed. • Present day communication about A.A. and its cooperation with professionals and information to outside entities can be found in current A.A. publications such as Box 459, the <i>About AA</i> Newsletter, as well as publications/videos on the Professionals' page on the G.S.O. Website. • G.S.O. Archives serves as a repository of A.A. history. (2 copies always kept) <p><i>Note: After a wide ranging discussion the subcommittee suggests that the trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment-Accessibilities send a memo to the G.S.O. Publishing Department requesting assistance in the creation of service material to the mental health care professional utilizing current and possibly past Class A trustees in a letter format for possible future content on aa.org.</i></p> <p><i>Noting various formats in which professionals communicate and receive information, the subcommittee also discussed the possibility of the creation of an "in house" video of current and past Class A trustees in the mental health profession to mental health care professionals to appear on the "For Professionals" page on the G.S.O. website.</i></p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with retiring this pamphlet? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B

Agenda Topic	Consider adding a footnote to the pamphlet "Problems Other Than Alcohol"
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Editorial Note: As this pamphlet is used by a broad range of people, both inside and outside the Fellowship – and is <i>not</i> just a pamphlet aimed at professionals, the requested information has been set up as a more general footnote rather than an introductory paragraph designated for professionals, which would seem to limit its scope and narrow its usage to the pamphlet's many readers who are not themselves professionals.</p> <p>Footnote to appear at bottom of Page 1:</p> <p>This pamphlet is derived from an article written by A.A. co-founder Bill W. in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with adding this footnote? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item C

Agenda Topic	Consider development of a LinkedIn page for C.P.C. committees
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><i>LinkedIn: This is a social media site focused on work and careers. As such it could be a very useful platform to provide information to professionals who opt in to follow news and updates from an official C.P.C. page from A.A.. As an example this space would allow the various articles written for About A.A. to be utilized as posts on LinkedIn. An official A.A. presence would raise our profile and increase the visibility of our message to professionals who come into contact with potential alcoholics.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is LinkedIn? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A media platform which connects the world's professionals ▪ Currently LinkedIn reports 450 Million users as of 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serves over 9 million non-profit professionals ▪ Serves over 212,000 non-profit organizations ▪ 23,000,000 users, following non-profits <p>Purpose of an A.A. presence on LinkedIn page:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide information about A.A. to professionals and organizations ▪ To provide relevant information geared towards professionals about A.A. ▪ To familiarize professionals with AA.org and its resources (ex.videos, publications) ▪ Increased visibility of <i>About AA</i> newsletter to professionals ▪ To improve communication and relations with professionals ▪ An opportunity for Class A Trustee communication to the professional community ▪ To stay relevant and increase visibility of A.A. message in today’s technological society ▪ A new platform to communicate what A.A. is and what it is not ▪ Clarify A.A. myths and misconceptions to the professional world ▪ Connect professionals with their local A.A offices and service committees ▪ Provide information about A.A. exhibits and Class A trustee speakers at National conferences ▪ Information about local C.P.C. Committees ▪ Identify new places and audiences to carry A.A.’s message of hope to professionals who come in contact with the alcoholic <p>Company page - A.A.W.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The main page of an account would be the company, so this would need to be an AAWS discussion as well. ▪ This page is the masthead where public posts would go about CPC efforts. Public posts can be commented on. ▪ The engagement on this platform reflects that it is a professional community as opposed to examples like Facebook whose primary purpose is social. ▪ The public offering would offer great opportunity to post updates from all our service desks. ▪ The potential to have our message be out in the world beyond our website is great. ▪ This page would also house the Professional Group Page which is non-public. ▪ Groups pages provide opportunities to engage more with interested professionals. ▪ We could technically set up a Group Page without a company page, but it would need to be associate with SOME account.
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>Do you agree with the suggestion to develop a LinkedIn Page for C.P.C. committees? Why or Why not?</p>

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item D

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Consider request that the title of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" be changed to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?"</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>Area 03 (Arizona) requested. The trustees’ committee noted that employers may be wary of distributing a pamphlet which uses language that attempts to diagnose or label an employee.</p> <p>The term "problem drinker(s)" is included in many AA literature. Provided in the background is an overview of AA literature where the term "problem drinkers" appears in AA Conference-approved books and pamphlets; other sources such as committee Workbooks, Guidelines and Service Pieces. Also issues of AA's newsletter for professionals, <i>About A.A.</i>, the newsletter, <i>Box 4-5-9</i>, a web banner on A.A's website, www.aa.org , and an announcement card on anonymity.</p>
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>Do you agree with the suggestion to change this title? Why or Why not?</p>

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item E

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Discuss ways of improving communication about A.A. with professionals who come in contact with Armed Services veterans and men and women in the Armed Services.</p>
---------------------	---

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? The trustees took this letter and sent to both CPC & Treatment Committees looking for experiences in communications with veterans!	District 20 in Area 57 (Oklahoma) request. We feel that this (topic) could generate more discussion and awareness. We would also like to see an exploration be conducted to determine how A.A. might better gather and share experience for alcoholics with military experience past or present. Perhaps more service work could be spurred at both local levels and throughout the United States and Canada in regard to how efforts can be improved. We are not asking for new literature (unless the GSC deems that appropriate), or for a desk to be created at GSO. What we are asking is that we take a harder Look at things that have been done in the past or new things (especially in the line of communication) that could reach the still suffering alcoholics in this particular venue. We don't wish to dictate where it could possibly be on the agenda, but Special Needs might be appropriate. We have been unable to find any service piece on this issue.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will decide & forward recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee's procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item G

Agenda Topic	Review contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This topic is on the agenda every year. The Committee reviews the contents of the CPC Information Kit and Workbook annually. They can recommend changes to the Kit and Workbook.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. Committees are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) in the U.S. and Canada.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) is a vitally important resource for our inside members, especially if they are incarcerated in facilities that don't offer A.A. meetings or have a long waiting list for meetings. Outside members who participate in C.C.S. often tell us it's an essential part of their recovery. It is ideal for those who want to do corrections work but don't live near a facility or might have problems getting clearance to go inside. And while some inmates don't take full advantage of the opportunity, others will write to their correspondent for years.</p> <p>After last year's Conference, we revised the C.C.S form (F-26) to include a place to designate other languages besides English for correspondence. At last year's Conference we also discussed the future of using email for corrections correspondence. A couple of members have tried it and reported back on it.</p> <p>For several years there has been a desire to expand C.C.S. into Canada. While many Canadian members have volunteered to be outside correspondents, we haven't had many requests from inmates in Canada. However, this is starting to change thanks to a new level of cooperation with the Canadian governmental agency Corrections Canada.</p> <p><i>October 2016 meeting of the trustees' Committee on Corrections:</i> Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) in Canada: Appointed Committee Member Robert MacDonald reported on the significant progress made in the last two months with the Canadian government agency Corrections Canada. This culminated in a governmental memo supporting A.A.'s Corrections Correspondence Service throughout the Canadian federal corrections system.</p> <p><i>January 2017 meeting of the trustees' Committee on Corrections:</i> The committee discussed the enormous potential of using email for corrections correspondence in facilities that make email available to inmates. This is especially important for younger inmates who are not used to handwriting letters. JPay</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, use as education for members. Consider having the pamphlet available.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><i>There is a sampling of sharing from members with experience in doing corrections work with incarcerated Native Americans. Noting, TRUST, UNITY, BEING PRESENT IN THE COMMUNITY. The basics are: Respect, Kindness, Love, Consistency. The barriers are: when we separate by color, who and what we are.</i></p> <p>Also excerpt: by Rod B. Class B Regional Trustee: I work at a treatment program and when natives graduate, I tell them, "You now have an obligation and a responsibility to go back to your people, live sober and help others to be sober. It is a heavy obligation and duty, not to be taken lightly. Indian people are suffering and dying from alcoholism, and it is time to give back this gift to the people."...</p> <p>In closing, I want to say this is an honor and a privilege to stand before you and to be part of this gathering. I believe that all healing is sacred and requires honor and respect, no matter what path that is. In the forward of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American," one Sioux/Blackfoot woman with many years of sobriety says, "Most of us believe in a Great Spirit... Well, I didn't have to give up any part of my beliefs when I joined A.A. It was a great relief to find out that I could believe in a Higher Power of my choice. I could live in the white man's world, but also retain all of my people's Native traditions, customs, and ceremonies. In fact, A.A. made beliefs stronger. My joining didn't restrict me, it gave me more freedom."</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, discussion only.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee's procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Trustees committee reviews these service pieces - Kit & Workbook contents annually. Ideas & suggestions are sent in throughout the year. Ideas or changes can be implemented or become Additional Considerations at the next conference.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Committees are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.

Conference Committee: Finance — Item A, B, & C

Agenda Topic	Consider request to change the committee's current annual review the following items every other year.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A. Consider request to change the committee's current annual review of the suggested Area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference to <u>every other year</u>.</p> <p>B. Consider request to change the committee's current annual review of the Conference approved level of \$5,000 for bequests to the GSB from A.A. members to <u>every other year</u>.</p> <p>C. Consider request to change the committee's current annual review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$3,000 to the GSB from an individual A.A. member to <u>every other year</u>.</p> <p>Discussing these in committee every year is very time consuming. (No Cost savings involved)</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with reviewing these items every other year?

Conference Committee: Finance— Item D

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” indicating there is no dollar limit to the amount a group may contribute.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>It is a recommendation from Area 08 (San Diego Imperial) that the following text be added to the Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix pamphlet (F-3):</p> <p>“Q. Is there a limit to how much money an A.A. group can contribute?</p> <p>A. No limits – each group is autonomous. Although contributions may vary, there is no limit on the amount that a group can contribute for the betterment of A.A. as a whole. Each group conscience may determine how much is to be spent for the betterment of the individual group.”</p>
Perhaps district, intergroup & area should be added for clarity.	
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do you feel that the suggested text should be added to the pamphlet (F-3), “Where Money and Spirituality Mix”? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Finance— Item E

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: Finance— Item F

Agenda Topic	Review Self-Support Packet.	
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Self-Support Packet Contents</p> <p>F-42 Self-Support Card</p> <p>F-3 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix</p> <p>F-96 The A.A. Group Treasurer</p>	<p>MG-15 A.A. Guidelines on Finance</p> <p>SMF-176 Services Provided by GSO-AAWS</p> <p>Historical Background of Self-Support Flyer</p> <p>F-203 Your Seventh Tradition Contributions</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your treasurer or group know about this tool? Do they have suggestions to add to the pamphlets or the packets contents? We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Committees are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.	

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item A

Agenda Topic	Discuss the spiritual value of Grapevine and La Viña in carrying the message of A.A..
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The A.A. Grapevine is the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous; its primary purpose is to carry the A.A. message to everyone interested in alcoholism through its magazines, website, and related items (like books). Started in 1944 by six volunteers as a newsletter for A.A. members in the New York City area, it rapidly became a tool Bill W. used to reach out to A.A. members around the world. He wrote numerous articles in the magazine between 1944 and 1971, notably publishing two sets of essays introducing the Twelve Traditions. The A.A. Preamble was first printed in the Grapevine, as were numerous stories in the back of the book. La Viña, a Spanish-language magazine modeled on the Grapevine, began publishing in 1996 as a request from the Fellowship to the General Service Conference.</p> <p>This Agenda Topic is asking groups to share about the spiritual value of the Grapevine and La Viña magazines in carrying the message.</p> <p>Does your group subscribe to the Grapevine or La Viña, use the website, or purchase its literature? How does your group use the Grapevine or La Viña to reflect their experience, strength and hope, and does your group think the magazine reflects the experience of A.A. members and the principles of the program? Does your group have any suggestions on how the Fellowship might raise awareness of the Grapevine and La Viña? Does your group have any suggestions on how the Fellowship might raise awareness of different ways to access Grapevine (online, the app, daily quote)?</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. If your group or member has any ideas or experiences on the this issue please bring them personally to the Delegate.

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item B

Agenda Topic	Reconsider the 2010 Advisory Action regarding La Viña.
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p> <p>Remember, the conference directed the Grapevine to publish La Vina!</p>	<p>Area 7, & Area 14, North Florida requested that the Conference reconsider the 2010 advisory action and allow the GV and La Villa right of decision in how each magazine is published.</p> <p>The 2010 Advisory Action states: After thoughtful and lengthy discussion, the Committee recommended that La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year beginning in 2011 followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine. ▪ Content and substance be of primary importance. ▪ An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting. <p>Whether or not the La Viña is produced in black and white or fewer pages does not in any way diminish its spiritual parity with the Grapevine. Both are meetings in print and both carry a spiritual message. We would no more say all A.A. meetings should be one and half hours long to ensure all A.A. meeting maintain spiritual parity with each other.</p> <p>Requester(s) believe the 2010 advisory action is flawed in that it is contradictory when it connects material equality to spiritual equality.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel La Viña should continue to be published with spiritual parity or continue as a service piece to the fellowship? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item C

Agenda Topic	Reconsider the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on outside sales.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><i>From 1983 Advisory Action: Making the Grapevine available to outside agencies be left for area service structure to handle, in the spirit of autonomy.</i></p> <p>Report from subcommittee on outside sales. Currently, due to Conference Advisory Action, Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions are restricted to sales by A.A. Grapevine Inc and by trusted A.A. servants directly.</p> <p>2004 Grapevine Conference Committee The committee recommended that to allow the widest distribution of the AA Grapevine and La Viña to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliation with any outside enterprise, a) subscriptions to the AA Grapevine and La Viña magazines be issued only by the A.A. Grapevine Inc., or by AA trusted servants directly.; and b) the AA Grapevine Inc adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers. NOTE: This recommendation is to clarify the 1993 Advisory Action "That the Grapevine Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials in commercial (non-AA) outlets.</p> <p>Report from subcommittee on outside sales: ...This advisory action, as written, limits how we can think about solutions to the goals posed to us in the Strategic Plan. It limits creative thinking and leaves possible opportunities for introducing A.A. to larger and more diverse populations outside the scope of the Grapevine Board. If we can only distribute to and through the fellowship then only local outreach is available and the possibilities of larger national outreach are cut off.</p> <p>We believe that in order to effectively meet goals presented in the Strategic Plan such as identifying new places and audiences to bring the A.A. message of hope (Goal 6) or sustaining the financial viability of the operating corporations (Goal 13) we need the freedom of decision to expand where the Grapevine is made available for distribution. At the very least we need comparable freedom of operation that A.A.W.S. currently maintains.</p> <p>Reconsideration...in order to give the AAGV board the freedom to explore outside sales.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel Grapevine should explore feasibility of outside sales? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item D

Agenda Topic	Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an Instagram account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>What is Instagram?</p> <p>Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing site that allows its users to share pictures and videos either publicly or privately on the app, as well as through a variety of other social networking platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Flickr. (Wikipedia)</p> <p>Instagram is a visual social network. It is graphic in nature and offers quick attractive options to draw attention to the message. It offers a visual means to publish short announcements with visual images, animated GIFs and news updates that are currently delivered via email.</p> <p>As a platform Instagram continues to grow in popularity and offers high engagement rates with the posted messages. It's simplicity offers an avenue to carry the message to potential alcoholics or those seeking information in a very engaging and attractive way.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel GV should explore feasibility of using Instagram? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s. continued exploration of a Facebook page.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><u>Potential application for Facebook:</u></p> <p>Facebook could offer AA Grapevine, Inc. a variety of opportunities from an official public page for outreach purposes or a private Facebook page for Grapevine and/or La Viña to create online fellowship opportunities mirroring the secret groups that have been growing regionally.</p> <p>The Trustees' PI committee recently sent out a call for sharing from the Fellowship about how they are using social media and other online tools in their regions. The principal format reported in active use was the secret FaceBook page. Groups are using those pages as points of fellowship and sharing. They exchange information about service or recovery. Some hold hearing impaired meetings.</p> <p><u>A public page</u> could act as a place to share content, announcements and updates. It's a place to share PI about AAGrapevine, Inc. and A.A.. A public Facebook page would offer Grapevine, Inc. a platform for carrying our message and connecting with potential alcoholics and friends of our fellowship who could benefit from our magazines, books and content.</p> <p><u>A secret page</u> offers an opportunity for alcoholics to engage with each other without concern about breaking one other's anonymity.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel GV should continue exploration of using Facebook? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s. continued exploration of a Google for Non-Profits account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><u>Potential applications for Google for Nonprofits</u></p> <p>YouTube Nonprofit Program Create YouTube channels for Grapevine and La Viria. Broadcast the GV/LV stories, offer "how to videos" and announcements through videos on YouTube.</p> <p>Google Ad Grants With this program Grapevine and La Viria may receive AdWords at no charge to assist visitors in locating the aagrapevine.org website on google.com through keyword targeting.</p> <p><u>G Suite for Nonprofits</u></p> <p>G Suite is a collection of cloud computing, productivity and collaboration tools, software and products developed by Google.</p> <p>Nonprofit organizations such as AAGrapevine, Inc. may be able to qualify for one of Google's special editions of G Suite at no charge.</p> <p>Google Analytics This solution is used by AAGrapevine, Inc. now. It offers free and enterprise analytics tools to measure website, app, digital and offline activity data for a deeper understanding of the customer experience.</p> <p>Google Analytics features could help AAGrapevine, Inc. further improve its engagement across aagrapevine.org and apps.</p> <p>Data management with Google Analytics provides a single, comprehensive view of the visitor activity that can be customized to specific needs and shared across the whole organization.</p> <p>Google Earth Outreach</p>

	Grapevine and La Viña may bring the stories to life with custom maps and global location data such as within Regional pages online.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel GV should continue exploration of using Google for Non-Profits? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Viña when they don't have a GVR or RLV.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Always looking for ways to improve communication to groups about the publications.
What the Delegate needs to know?	The committee will discuss and may forward suggestions to the Conference.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2018 or later.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><u>Suggestions for production in the year 2018 or later</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stories of Recovery from Hispanic Women in AA (working title) Previously published in LV magazine, a selection of stories written by the Hispanic women in AA. 2. Writing Together: Stories from LV Workshops (working title) Hispanic AA members share their experience, strength and hope in this stories from LV magazine. 3. Carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers (working title) A collection of LV stories about carrying the message to institutions. <p>Approx. 120-180 pgs. Cost - \$2.50 per book Price: \$11.50. eBook: \$10.50</p> <p>All are in Spanish. La Viña doesn't have many books in the pipeline & Grapevine does.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	What does your Group think about the proposed publications? Do they have any additional ideas for a Grapevine book?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Review Audio Strategy status update.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><i>From 2016 Additional Consideration:</i> The committee reviewed the 2016 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 2017 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.</p> <p>2017 Office Report - Audio Project - Status and Financial Report Grapevine began collecting audio story submissions from the Fellowship in January 2013. As of January 20, 2017 Grapevine has collected 269 audio stories through the "Simple Voice Center" dial-in telephone service. In addition, approximately 370 plus Grapevine and La Vifia audio stories have been collected at various events.</p> <p>Stories have been submitted by individuals who have recorded on their own as well as from individuals who recorded their story at "Record Your Story" workshops. For ex., at ICYPAA events there have been audio get-togethers for members to gather and record.</p> <p>There have been minimal expenses to date in launching and maintaining the Audio Project. The dial-in phone service costs \$11 .99 per month and the subscription to audio editing software is \$20 per month. This software permits editing to be performed in house by GV and LV editorial staff. As with written story submissions, each audio submission is listened to by 3 AA members. Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board members have participated in</p>

	<p>the listening segment of the manuscript process. Occasionally, freelancers help to categorize and archive the audio stories. If they are members, they may also participate in the listening process. Present submission volumes have not necessitated outside editorial support to edit audio stories.</p> <p>The Audio Project landing page on www.aagrapevine.org was created and is updated by our web coordinator.</p> <p>Two free stories have been published on the website in 2016 and are available as examples for others who wish to record. The Grapevine board is discussing various approaches including plans to offer audio stories through the GV app, or on the site as free content or for sale through third party vendors by topic at price points similar to other on-line audio offerings. Currently, that is about \$1.30 - \$1 .75 for single tracks and \$9.99 for compilations. Grapevine is in the process of collecting, expanding, evaluating and cataloging the collection of audio stories in the growing audio archive including those from the audio magazine published since June 2006 and all stories from the CDs in order to eventually produce compilations for sale.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. If you have input, please share it directly with the delegate.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Review Grapevine Workbook
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This topic is on the agenda every year. Between Conferences, ideas for changes may be received. The Conference Committee reviews the contents of the Grapevine Workbook annually. They can recommend changes to the Kit and Workbook
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. Committees are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider request for revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Two of the bullet points under the header "What procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"A file of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the Information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one." Pg. 24</i> • <i>"Review of newcomers list by steering committee (or Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee)- with follow up activity where it seems needed." Pg.24</i> <p>These statements are contradictory to what is stated in numerous other pamphlets that state that A.A. does not keep membership files or lists.</p> <p>The bullet points communicates that group members are being tracked or monitored by the group as a whole. .. Members should feel welcomed and encouraged to participate if they desire without the concern that they are tracked.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with removing this text from the pamphlet Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Literature— Item B

Agenda Topic	Consider request to retire the pamphlet “Too Young.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2016, the Trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature a request to retire the pamphlet “Too Young.” The original request came from Area 08 (San Diego/Imperial), and requested the pamphlet be discontinued because there have been some questions recently as to the effectiveness of this pamphlet in carrying the message of A.A. to young alcoholics. The pamphlet is in comic book form and was originally printed in 1977 (and then updated later, but retaining the comic book format to appeal to young people).</p> <p>However, at a presentation at Area 08’s Post-Conference Assembly in 2016, one member’s talk about the pamphlet led to the area voting unanimously to retire the pamphlet. In his talk, which is included in the background materials, the member writes about how the pamphlet “is kind of insulting” and that the “characters are very stereotypical.” Very few of the young people contacted by this member had anything positive to say about it, and, in most cases, they thought it needed to be updated or retired. Another already-produced pamphlet, “Young People in A.A.,” is more widely used (approximately 30,000 more printed copies were distributed last year and 85,000 more copies were downloaded).</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with retiring this pamphlet? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item C

Agenda Topic	Discuss proposed plan for the annual review of recovery literature.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Discussing the specifics of the plan, the subcommittee agreed to forward to the trustees’ Literature Committee the drafted matrix along with the following suggestions for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On an annual basis, the Publishing Department update the recovery literature matrix and present same to the trustees’ Literature Committee for review; 2. The trustees’ Literature Committee will utilize the updated matrix as the basis of its annual report to the Conference Literature Committee. The report will specifically identify items that fall within a 15-20 year time-frame1 of “last review,” which should be considered for review by the Conference Committee, along with any other items for proposed updates or revisions.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will decide & may forward recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item D-2

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” 1. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet. 2. Review draft language about young people’s conferences, for inclusion in the pamphlet.</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>1. 92 submissions were compiled and forwarded to the subcommittee. The subcommittee agreed to continue its review and evaluation of the current pamphlet, along with reviewing and evaluating the submitted stories;</p> <p>2. In response to the Advisory Action of the 66th General Service Conference requesting that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop language referencing young people’s conferences to be added to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.,” please find proposed draft text below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Young people’s conferences are held in the United States and Canada and around the world. For information, consult your local A.A. area or intergroup office.”</p>
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>Do you believe the proposed text highlighting young people’s conferences should be included in the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”? Why or why not?</p>

Conference Committee: Literature — Item E Through I

<p>Agenda Topic</p> <p>Mention the committee will be reviewing the draft pamphlets and what they are, but only Conference Literature Committee receives them.</p>	<p>E. Review revised draft pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman.”</p> <p>F. Review revised draft pamphlet “Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic” (formerly titled “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”).</p> <p>G. Review progress report on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them.</p> <p>H. Review draft sample illustrations and corresponding revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”</p> <p>I. Review progress report on the revision to “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services.”</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p> <p>Educational purposes only!</p>	<p>As a Conference Committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by committee members only. The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft pamphlets primarily to determine whether or not the item that has been presented to them meets the intended goals of the pamphlet revision. Once the Committee reviews the draft revision of the pamphlet several things may happen.</p> <p>Among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Committee might approve the pamphlet and recommend the pamphlet be approved by the Conference as a whole. ▪ If approved by the Conference Committee, experience suggests that copies of the pamphlet are made available to all Conference members with enough time to read it prior to voting on the item. ▪ The Committee might also send the pamphlet back to the trustees’ Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed pamphlet. <p>Until a pamphlet is “Conference-approved,” it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees’ Committee on Literature or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.</p>
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only. Final draft of these pamphlets are is sent to members of the Conference Literature Committee only. They deliberate during the Conference committee and make recommendations to the full Conference.</p>

Conference Committee: Literature — Item J

Agenda Topic	Consider requests for literature and/or language regarding safety.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? HANDOUTS AVAILABLE Also available at aa.org-what's new tab	1. Requests from seven (7) groups and District 29 (Area 72), 2. Request from Area 58, 3. Request from Area 05* 4. Request from Area 03* Subcommittee Report: As part of the review, we noted that such potential agenda items can be looked at either as 1) requests for new literature regarding safety or 2) suggestions for revisions of existing literature to include information about safety. Therefore, we have organized the background material into these two categories for your review. Also, we have reviewed with appreciation the service material...(SMF 209) created by AAWS and our GSO. As you know, service material consists of our experience, strength and hope gathered from A.A. groups—over a period of years, in many cases. As such, it truly represents the voice of all of us. We feel that this may be the strongest approach to answering the need that has been identified by so many areas and groups.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does the new Service Piece " Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare" satisfy this agenda item? Why or Why Not.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item K

Agenda Topic	Discuss request for a revision to the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Area 79 requests adding a Section to our Existing pamphlet "The A.A. Group" Under the topic: Why A.A. groups & members should respect the rental requirements of their landlords: ...that a section addressing why A.A. groups and members should respect the rental requirements of their landlords be added to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet. Currently, G.S.O. provides no materials on this topic. Background materials suggest that this section being proposed could address the importance of respecting landlord requirements (such as not allowing animals other than service animals and requesting that cigarette butts, coffee cups and other garbage be discarded).
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel that this is a necessary and needed change? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item L

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee's procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review final report on electronic voting at Conference
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Note: the subcommittee reviewed annual cost figures provided by staff for the necessary equipment and labor of less than \$2,500 plus hotel and meals for two technicians, and determined that the relative costs were not prohibitive.</p> <p>Conclusion: Ultimately, the subcommittee felt that across the course of the two-year trial period the response to electronic voting was overwhelmingly positive, relative to its accuracy, ease of use, and time savings, and that it would represent an effective evolution in the Conference voting process.</p> <p>Therefore, the subcommittee recommends that the 2018 General Service Conference move ahead with electronic voting to be used for all Conference voting, with the exception of elections for regional trustees and trustees-at-large, which are conducted by ballot.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. Conference Policy committee members only.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review final report on the translation of Conference background.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>2016 Policy/Admissions Additional Committee Consideration: The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference as well as the GSO explore ways to provide information to local translation committees and encourage a coordinated effort among local committees in translating Conference background into French and Spanish.</p> <p>2016 Floor Action that resulted in an Advisory Action: It was recommended that the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate Conference background material, considering all possible methods, with a progress report to be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions that describes the process and costs.</p> <p>From the January 28, 2017 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:</p> <p>The committee agreed to forward the final report from the Subcommittee on the Translation of Conference Background to the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee. The Final report contains two plans developed by the subcommittee for translation of General Service Conference background into French and Spanish. In addition, the committee agreed that the four plans that had been considered at the 2016 Conference be forwarded to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for their consideration.</p> <p>The committee agreed that the background from the following two proposed agenda items be included as background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider developing a One-Page General Service Conference Agenda Item Submission Form as a means to aid in Spanish and French Translation of Conference background information. • Consider Developing a Translation Committee Workbook.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. Conference Policy committee members only.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to create a plan for the equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Note: This request originated from the subcommittee's report on Conference committee workload.

	<p>The committee reviewed background including detailed reports covering ten years of Conference committee data regarding how long each Conference committee met each year, the average work time needed by each committee to complete their work, the yearly and average workload (expressed as the number of agenda items), and the average time it took for each committee to handle an agenda item compared to the overall average time of 75 minutes per item. The committee considered the Composition, Scope and Procedures of the Conference committees. To glean experience from another service structure with a different approach to Conference, the subcommittee reviewed a recent <i>General Service Conference Final Report</i> from Great Britain.</p> <p>The committee asked that the GSO continue to add to the Conference data already collected regarding the number of agenda items considered by each committee and the time the committees used, and that each Conference Committee secretary, at the end of Conference, send the Conference Coordinator the beginning and end times of their subcommittee meetings and the number of items on their agenda, including standing items.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. Conference Policy committee members only. Not enough information to even look at this.

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item D

Agenda Topic	Consider request that an anonymity-protected, digital Final Conference Report be published, starting with the 67th GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At the October 29, 2016 meeting, the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference recommended to the General Service Board that, in addition to hard copy, the Final Conference Report be published in an anonymity protected digital format beginning in 2017. (This was tabled for January 2017.)</p> <p>This was further discussed by AAW.S. Publishing Committee, the committee discussed the various aspects of providing an anonymity protected, digital version of the Final Conference Report. It was noted while the format (i.e., digital) of the Report fell within the purview of AAW.S., production of an anonymity protected Report would be a policy issue, and within the purview of the General Service Board. It was reported to the committee that the trustees' Conference Committee intends to move forward with the suggestion that the current version of the 'Final Conference Report (Le., not anonymity protected) be provided in a digital format. It was the general consensus of the committee that this is an issue which should be discussed by the General Service Conference. The committee also expressed concerns that once digitized, the Report would be free and open to the public (i.e., posted to websites).</p> <p>From the January 28 meeting of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference: The committee agreed to forward to the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee a request that an anonymity-protected, digital Final Conference Report be published, starting with the 67th General Service Conference.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	If this comes out of committee as a recommendation, does your group feel that this is a good idea? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item E

Agenda Topic	Review dates for the 2020 GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Each year, the dates for the GSC 3 years from now must be selected. This committee reviews and recommends the dates to the Conference members for approval, with holidays and other relevant dates under consideration.</p> <p>April 18-25, 2020 are suggested dates for the 70th GSC.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will decide & may forward recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider proposing the dates of future GSCs as committee considerations rather than
--------------	--

	requiring that the dates be considered as Advisory Actions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	From the January 28, 2017 trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference regarding 2018 Conference dates and venue: The committee reviewed a report from G.S.O. management regarding the dates and venue of the 2018 General Service Conference. Management reported that the contract with the Rye Town Hilton for the 2018 Conference had been terminated at a cost of \$106,000, and that the 2018 Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Times Square. The relationship with the Rye Town Hilton continues to be positive, and management hopes to reduce the financial impact of terminating the 2018 contract through future events held in Rye. The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee a request to consider proposing the dates for future General Service Conference as Committee Considerations, rather than Advisory Actions.
What the Delegate needs to know?	This would allow more flexibility with regards to changing dates. Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item G

Agenda Topic	Consider a request that the GSC be held in New York City every other year
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Area 37, Mississippi request. This motion would clear up existing policy as well as leave it open to have the GSC anywhere on odd years.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you think the current site rotation for the Conference is adequate? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item H

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to allow regional service committees to bid to host the GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A request was made by a Panel 66 Delegate to consider allowing regions to bid to host the General Service Conference on the years that it is not held in New York City. When the Conference has been held in Rye, NY in recent years, it decreases Conference costs by approximately \$200,000, in comparison to holding it in Midtown Manhattan. The proposal notes that this could be an opportunity for other cities around the United States and Canada to host, with the stipulation that any qualifying bid must save the General Service Office at least as much money as would be saved by holding the conference in Rye. It is also proposed that Regional Trustees would be responsible for assisting their region in preparing bids and forming local host committees. This proposal would suggest beginning the alternate year regional rotation of the GSC beginning in 2019, with the West Central Region as the host region for 2019.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel that the General Service Conference should rotate locations through a bidding process? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item I

Agenda Topic	Consider a request that the Advisory Action delegating site selection for the GSC to G.S.O. management be rescinded.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A 2008 Advisory Action by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions recommended that the responsibility for General Service Conference site selection be delegated to General Service Office management, subject to approval of the General Service Board. This stemmed from a request by the Chief Financial Officer in December 2007 to consider widening GSO's options for the Conference meeting locations to include the Tri-State Area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, in order to explore potential cost-saving options and to meet rising costs. In 2013 The Conference Committee on Finance had an Additional Committee Consideration that suggested reconsideration of the 2008 policy on site selection, and that Conference members consider the spiritual and financial aspects. A member of the 2013

	<p>committee acknowledged in correspondence that the 2008 Advisory Action may have occurred in part to allow expediency, as bids are not always received in time to be considered by the conference. The committee was interested in the Conference making the decision on potential sites in consideration of the current financial situation.</p> <p>In December 2016, the Conference Coordinator received a request to rescind the 2008 Advisory Action, giving the General Service Conference a more active role in the responsibility of Conference site selection. The request indicates that the Conference Charter calls for the Conference to meet yearly in New York City, unless otherwise agreed upon, and that they feel that either the Charter should be changed to reflect current practices, or that any non-New York site be agreed upon on a Conference by Conference basis.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel that there is a need to rescind this Advisory Action? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item J

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to add a “YPAA Subcommittee” to the service structure.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Conference Coordinator received a request from Area 08 (San Diego-Imperial) proposing to add a YPAA subcommittee to one of the General Service Conference Committees. The intent is to inform the General Service Conference of the YPAA perspective and to activate more YPAA GSRs at the group level.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel that there should be a YPAA subcommittee in the service structure? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item K

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review 2016 annual report from the trustees' PI Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Background notes: <i>From the January 28, 2017 report of the trustees' Committee on PI:</i> The committee reviewed the reports from both corporate boards regarding their respective websites and agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on PI the 2016 Annual Report on A.A.W.S. Board Oversight of G.S.O.'s A.A. Website and the Report from AA Grapevine Board on Oversight of the AA Grapevine/LaViña Website.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will decide & may forward any recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Items B1 - B2**

Agenda Topic	<p>Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan: B1. Review the trustees' PI Committee report on the PI Comprehensive Media Plan. Focus: This year's update of the Comprehensive Media Plan (C.M.P.) focused on addressing the 2016 plan's action items while awaiting the 2017 Conference's review of previously forwarded items regarding Google for Non-Profits, Twitter, LinkedIn and Flickr before undertaking further exploration of how the Fellowship might utilize existing and emerging social media and networks to make A.A. information available to the public.</p> <p>Activities: The committee responded to the Conference Committee on P.I.'s Additional Consideration to "explore ways of providing guidance to the Fellowship on carrying the A.A. message to the public online and in social media" with a review of current service material and A.A. literature.</p> <p>Action items - in progress: Many of the suggested items for action from the 2016 C.M.P. remain. These and additional items added by the committee will be addressed in the coming year as resources and time allow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue exploration of social media/networking platforms that emerge. • Suggest new methods for creating and reusing content, and for sharing content between A.A.W.S., Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. • Improve the sharing of information and resources between aa.org, aagrapevine.org and local A.A. websites. • Continue to inventory P.I. resources for their usefulness and ease of use by local P.I. committee. • Explore non-TV based video PSA alternatives. • Develop new method for gathering new P.I. audio stories in English, Spanish, and French. <p>Action items - completed: This section lists the items related to the PI Comprehensive Media Plan that have been completed or forwarded to another committee or Board for further action.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report on all new video P.S.A. distribution platform(s) established. 2. Broader use of radio (including Internet radio) for PI efforts. 3. Consider transferring A.A. Videos for Young People project from A.A.W.S. to A.A. Grapevine.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	B2. Review 2017 PI Comprehensive Media Plan. The 2017 PI Comprehensive Media Plan is focused on addressing the 2016 plan's action items while awaiting the 2017 Conference's review of previously forwarded items regarding Google for Non-Profits, Twitter, LinkedIn and Flickr before undertaking further exploration of how the Fellowship might utilize existing and emerging social media and online networks to make A.A. information available to the public. The subcommittee's discussions regarding guidance to the Fellowship on carrying the A.A. message to the public online and in social media, yielded a report which addresses carrying the message online and on social media and

	<p>developed ideas for new resources to be discussed by the Fellowship and considered by the 2017 trustees' Committee on PI. (Appendix A)</p> <p>The subcommittee further recommends that the trustees' Committee on PI forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on PI a suggestion to update the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" to consolidate the items covering Tradition Eleven and to more thoroughly include the Tradition Twelve principles of humility as it relates to anonymity.</p> <p>The subcommittee also suggests that the trustees' Committee on PI request that the staff secretary review the suggestions for updating "A.A. Guidelines-Internet" and "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A. Websites," from the Subcommittee's Suggestions regarding Service Materials (Appendix B) and bring to the July 2017 committee meeting a progress report or draft of updated materials for review. The 2017 PI Comprehensive Media Plan is focused on addressing the 2016 plan's action items while awaiting the 2017 Conference's review of previously forwarded items regarding Google for Non-Profits, Twitter, LinkedIn and Flickr before undertaking further exploration of how the Fellowship might utilize existing and emerging social media and online networks to make A.A. information available to the public.</p> <p>The subcommittee's discussions regarding guidance to the Fellowship on carrying the A.A. message to the public online and in social media, yielded a report which addresses carrying the message online and on social media and developed ideas for new resources to be discussed by the Fellowship and considered by the 2017 trustees' Committee on PI.(Appendix A)</p> <p>The subcommittee also suggests that the trustees' Committee on PI request that the staff secretary review the suggestions for updating "A.A. Guidelines-Internet" and "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A. Websites," from the Subcommittee's Suggestions regarding Service Materials (Appendix B) and bring to the July 2017 committee meeting a progress report or draft of updated materials for review.</p>
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>Nothing, the committee will review and may forward any recommendation to the Conference.</p>

Conference Committee: Public Information — Items B3

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>B3. Discuss suggestion to update the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity."</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>The subcommittee further recommends that the trustees' Committee on PI forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on PI a suggestion to update the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" to consolidate the items covering Tradition Eleven and to more thoroughly include the Tradition Twelve principles of humility as it relates to anonymity</p>
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>B-3 Do you think that the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity " needs updating? Why or why not? The Committee will decide, but may forward any ideas to the delegate.</p>

Conference Committee: Public Information — Item C - G - Brief Overview only - All reviews

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Review the distribution and tracking information for the video P.S.A. "I Have Hope."</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p> <p>Informational only, discuss only if time permits.</p> <p>Do overview of items C, D, E, F, & G.</p> <p>Time will be limited, so consolidate on</p>	<p>In response to a 2016 GSC Action the video P.S.A. "I Have Hope" is being centrally distributed and tracked. As a result of the US Federal Election, airtime on TV, locally and nationally, was very limited through December 2016. As a result, ...the distribution of "I Have Hope" was delayed until mid-February 2017. The latest monthly tracking and distribution reports will be included in the Conference Committee's background at the Conference.</p> <p>Tracking Reports</p> <p>"I Have Hope" is digitally encoded so we are able to access reports of how often – and where – the P.S.A. is aired in the U.S. There is no equivalent tracking or monitoring in Canada. We depend on stations to report on airings, while some will provide reports, others</p>

what will be reviewed without going into details.	will not, meaning our coverage will likely be broader than we know.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will review and may forward any recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review 2016 report from the trustees' PI Committee on the Usefulness and Relevance of Public Service Announcements.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? Informational only, discuss only if time permits. Do overview of items C, D, E, F, & G. Time will be limited, so consolidate on what will be reviewed without going into details	Recurring agenda items: (a) review current video public service announcements (P.S.A.s) for relevance and usefulness, and (b) assess the need for a new video P.S.A. The subcommittee reviewed the current video P.S.A.s. for relevance and usefulness including an evaluation of the demographic groups that might be reached, relevance and timeliness of the message and the production values of the P.S.A. The subcommittee determined that all three current video P.S.A.s remain relevant. In assessing the need for a new video P.S.A., the committee did not see the need for one at this time. NOTE: To view our current video P.S.A.s, go to the http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios page on G.S.O.'s website. Then scroll down and open the "Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s)" section where you can select a P.S.A. to view.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will review and may forward any recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review report from the trustees' PI Committee on the Implementation of a Google for Nonprofits account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? Informational only, discuss only if time permits. Do overview of items C, D, E, F, & G. Time will be limited, so consolidate on what will be reviewed without going into details	The 2016 Conference decided that a proposal for implementing a Google for Nonprofits account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for review. While there are many tools available via Google, the committee recommends two for immediate focus over the next three years: YouTube for Nonprofit Program and Google Ad Grant. This will allow A.A. to share video content more broadly and improve search engine optimization (SEO). Because Google Ad Grant warrants more discussion within the fellowship, it is being proposed to proceed only with the YouTube for Nonprofit program at this time. Unlike standard accounts a Google YouTube for Nonprofit account provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to assistance from Google staff for guidance in set-up and best practices. ▪ A channel to play our video content on YouTube, and the ability to tag this channel with keywords users are likely to use to search for AA content or to stop drinking. ▪ Use of YouTube's production studio in NYC to shoot or edit videos when the channel reaches 1,000 subscribers. A professional studio offers us higher production values at no additional cost.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will review and may forward any recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review report from the trustees' PI Committee on the Implementation of a Twitter account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? Informational only, discuss only if time permits.	<i>2016 General Service Conference Advisory Action:</i> A proposal for the implementation of a Twitter account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference PI Committee for review. <i>At its January 28, 2017 meeting, the trustees' Committee on PI agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on PI:</i> The final report of the Subcommittee on Twitter Implementation, including a

<p>Do overview of items C, D, E, F, & G.</p> <p>Time will be limited, so consolidate on what will be reviewed without going into details</p>	<p>recommendation to adopt the report’s plan for a Twitter account for the GSO of A.A.</p> <p>...This proposal put’s forward a practical step-by-step approach, budget, and timeline for consideration. Twitter is a network where members and content providers broadcast 140-character messages called tweets. Though some of the tweets are stand-alone messages, many tweets link to a website or video that users can visit for more information. Tweets may also contain images or videos and hashtags (#hashtag) that can direct you to related postings on Twitter.</p> <p>Twitter is first and foremost a discovery tool that allows users a quick and easy way to discover news and information on subjects of interest to them. It is predominantly accessed on mobile devices and can be accessed on desktops as well.</p> <p>How is Twitter useful for A.A.: Twitter offers an online platform for A.A. to push information about A.A. to followers and interested Twitter users informing them of what A.A. is, what A.A. is not, how A.A. can help the problem drinker and how to find A.A. It will actively provide pertinent information about A.A. to a platform with over 300 million active monthly users.</p> <p>Strategy: Twitter is a messaging tool and a content strategy is the heart of any Twitter implementation plan. Before we open our account, we should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are we trying to reach? • What do we want to say? • How do we say it? • How often do we say it? • What is the desired outcome of this communication? <p>Who are we trying to reach? In keeping with our mission, our tweets will be directed the general public, still suffering alcoholic and caring professionals who can be instrumental in helping us to reach alcoholics.</p> <p>What do we want to say? Our audience is diverse and in recognition of this diversity, we will want to inform the public, in as many different ways as possible, what A.A. is, what A.A. is not, how A.A. can help the problem drinker and how to find A.A.</p> <p>How do we say it? A.A.’s simple, direct, and honest storytelling lends itself perfectly to Twitter’s direct and informal voice. Above all, we will need to make sure that our voice does not come across as robotic or formal.</p> <p>How often do we say it? As with all communications, it is important to strike a balance between too little and too much information. Industry best practices recommend planning for between 5 – 7 tweets per day.</p> <p>What is the desired outcome of this communication? The primary outcome of these communications would be to inform the public of what A.A. is, what A.A. is not, how A.A. can help the problem drinker and how to find A.A. and to introduce them to aa.org where they can discover more detailed information and tools.</p>
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>Nothing, the committee will review and may forward any recommendation to the Conference.</p>

<p>Conference Committee: Public Information — Item G</p>	
<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Review report from the trustees’ PI Committee on the 2017 A.A. Membership Survey.</p>
<p>Historical Context;</p>	<p>After an extensive discussion of the merits of the random survey methodology and the</p>

Why is it on the Agenda? Do overview of items C, D, E, F, & G. Time will be limited, so consolidate on what will be reviewed without going into details	online survey potential, the subcommittee recommended that the 2017 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area, on a random basis, as was done for the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey. The subcommittee further suggests that the trustees' Committee on PI request that the staff secretary engage a professional survey consultant to review the current A.A. Membership Survey methodology, possible methods for surveying the membership electronically and any reasonable hybrid of the two methods, and to request a report for the July 2017 trustees' Committee on PI meeting.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will review and may forward any recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: Public Information — Item H

Agenda Topic	Review revised text for inclusion in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The C.P.C. Conference Committee had been discussing the contents of the C.P.C. Kit, which contains some pamphlets that fall under the purview of other assignments and they would like some of the suggestions for changes to literature that falls to other trustees' committees including P.I., Literature and Corrections, to be considered by those committees. <i>At their July 2016 meeting the trustees' C.P.C./Treat./Access. Committee:</i> Agreed that the staff secretary will send a memo to the appropriate committee with suggestions for revisions to pamphlets that fall under the purview of other trustees' committees. <i>At the January 28, 2017 trustees Committee on PI:</i> The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on PI revised text for the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings." Page 16 #11 - Add source of information: "The latest A.A. Membership survey of the U.S. and Canada indicates that"... #12 - Add source of information: " A.A. Membership survey." Page 18 Add website addresses
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the suggestion to add the source information and websites to the Does your group agree with these revisions? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Public Information — Item I

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee's procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: Public Information — Item J

Agenda Topic	Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This topic is on the agenda every year. Between Conferences, ideas for changes may be received. The Conference Committee reviews the contents of the PI Kit and Workbook annually. They can recommend changes to the Kit and Workbook
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. Committees are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item B1 B2 B3 B4

<p>Agenda Topic</p> <p>Pass on review items</p> <p>Mention they are being reviewed, If time remains, touch on B2</p> <p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p> <p>Informational only, discuss only if time permits.</p> <p>Do overview of items B1, B2, B3 & B4</p> <p>Time will be limited, so consolidate on what will be reviewed without going into details</p>	<p><i>The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2018-2020 Edition:</i></p> <p>B1. Review list of editorial updates. - Each year a list of standard editorial updates, along with any errors to be corrected, are forwarded to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter for review. Background documents are available to committee members only.</p> <p>B2. Consider request to add text regarding area websites to Chapter Four of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.- At their January 28, 2017 meeting, the Trustees’ Committee on Literature reviewed a request to consider adding text regarding Area Websites to Chapter Four of The A.A. Service Manual, “The Area Assembly and Activities,” right after the section on “Area Newsletters or Bulletins,” and agreed to forward this request to the 2017 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.</p> <p>Proposed draft text:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Area Websites Many AA entities now use websites as a way to communicate meeting and service information within the Fellowship. An AA website can serve as a public information tool, providing information about AA to the public as well. As with newsletters, it has been found prudent for a committee (rather than one or two individuals)</p> <p>B3. Review request to add the bylaws of A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. as appendices. - Area 44, No. New Jersey, - Currently, the Bylaws for the affiliated Service Corporations of the General Service Board, Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (AAWS) Inc. and the Grapevine Inc. are not readily available to the Fellowship. I would request that next year's General Service Conference consider adding the Bylaws for AAWS Inc. and the Bylaws for the Grapevine Inc. as Appendices in the A.A. Service Manual following the Bylaws of the General Service Board.</p> <p>B4. Review request to add a footnote to Concept VIII to accurately reflect the current ownership of the service corporations. - "That an "*" be added to Concept 8 with a footnote to accurately reflect the current ownership of the service corporations as is currently footnoted in Concept XI. This would be right after "full stock ownership" in Concept XI.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUGGESTED REVISION CONCEPT VIII</p> <p>The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b)But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership 1 and of custodial oversight which they</p>
---	---

	exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic.

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item C.

Agenda Topic	Consider request that changes to <i>The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Area 28, Maine request. The 66th General Service Conference approved a recommendation by the Report and Charter Conference Committee that The A.A. Service Manual be revised per existing schedule after the 2016 General Service Conference and that a new edition be published biannually (Le. every two years), beginning in 2017 at a savings of approximately \$45,000-\$50,000 in alternate years when a new edition is not published. The next edition of The A.A. Service Manual is to be published in 2018 (after the Conference), the subsequent edition in 2020 (after the Conference), etc. There are often numerous changes to The A.A. Service Manual as a result of conference action(s). It would be beneficial if a simple list of the changes was put together and made available to the fellowship that could be printed for inclusion with The A.A. Service Manual for quick reference rather than referring back to the Final Conference Report. Distribution could be done through the aa.org website, other electronic means and inserted in manuals being distributed.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the request to GSO making list of changes to the Service Manual available? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item D

Agenda Topic	Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<u>Note: Eastern, Western, and Canadian Directories have been mailed to committee members only.</u>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will discuss and may forward recommendation to the Conference.

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item E

Agenda Topic	Discuss GSC <i>Final Report</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Note: The 2016 General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i> was mailed to committee members only.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. If you have thoughts on how GSRs use this report to inform their groups or how it can be improved, please share them directly with the Delegate.

Conference Committee: Treatment/Accessibilities — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review the revised draft pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The revised pamphlet is included in the background. District and Area Committees and individuals are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will review and may forward recommendations to the Conference.

Conference Committee: Treatment/Accessibilities — Item B

Agenda Topic	Discuss the accessibility of the A.A. message for armed services veterans.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? The trustees took this letter and sent to both CPC & Treatment Committees looking for experiences in communications with veterans!	<p>District 20 in Area 57 (Oklahoma) would like to request that you consider the special needs of our veterans within A.A. and those still suffering from this disease as an agenda item for the 2017 General Service Conference. We feel that this could generate more discussion and awareness. We would also like to see an exploration be conducted to determine how Alcoholics Anonymous might better gather and share experience for alcoholics with military experience past or present. Perhaps more service work could be spurred at both local levels and throughout the United States and Canada in regard to how efforts can be improved.</p> <p>We are not asking for new literature (unless the GSC deems that appropriate), or for a desk to be created at GSO, What we are asking is that we take a harder look at things that have been done in the past or new things (especially in the line of communication) that could reach the still suffering alcoholics in this particular venue. We don't wish to dictate where it could possibly be on the agenda, but Special Needs might be appropriate. We have been unable to find any service piece on this issue.</p> <p><i>2016 trustee’s report to the General Service Conference:</i></p> <p>The 2016 trustee’s Committee on the General Service Conference took no action on a request to <i>consider the development of an Armed Services Conference Committee (with establishment of corresponding Armed Services General Services Board Committee and General Service Office Armed Services staff position)</i>. However, the trustees’ Committee noted “great interest in this subject,” requesting that “the General Service Office explore this issue in depth and report back to us.”</p> <p>It should also be noted the General Service Office is in the process of exploring strategies to be more effective in its service to alcoholic veterans and active members of the Armed Services.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. District and Area Committees and individuals are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.

Conference Committee: Treatment/ Accessibilities — Item C

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: **Treatment/ Accessibilities — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review Treatment Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference. Several changes are being requested to the Treatment Kit and Workbook, including: an addition to the Kit of the pamphlet, "Is A.A. For You," and to revise the language regarding apathy on p.6 in the Treatment Workbook. The content list of the Treatment Committee Kit is available on G.S.O.'s website, AA.org, with hyperlinks to most items listed.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group think the proposed changes should be made to the Treatment Kit and Workbook? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Treatment/ Accessibilities — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Kits and Workbooks are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference. The content list of the Accessibilities Committee Kit is available on G.S.O.'s website, aa.org, with hyperlinks to most items listed. It is also in the background material, along with a list of changes to the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook that have already been implemented since the 66th General Service Conference. The draft of the revised Workbook will only be available to the Conference Committee, but below are some notes that were provided to the Publishing Department by the trustees' committee prior to the revisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Section: Rewrite introductory paragraph with an emphasis on inclusion. Accessibility issues apply to all members who have difficulties in participating in A.A., whether those difficulties be physical, mental, emotional, geographic, cultural, ethnic, spiritual, etc. 2. Change Special Needs-Accessibilities to Accessibilities where ever possible. 3. Always suggest that people with challenges are included on Accessibilities Committees throughout the workbook. 4. The term "Deaf" should be capitalized when it is used as a shortened reference to being a member of the Deaf Community. 5. The term "Hard of Hearing" should be capitalized when it is used as a shortened reference to being a member of the Hard of Hearing Community. 6. The committee requested that the section on working with the Elder community be amplified. Possibly sharing from an Elder member. 7. Add local list of meetings that are accessible for people in wheelchairs, ASL interpreted and that provide babysitting in the section, Suggested Activities for Accessibilities Committees in the workbook. 8. Provide information in formats that allow people with challenges to engage in carrying the message. If the Accessibilities committee has people with challenges as members it will be the first step in expanding the awareness of these challenges within the committee. 9. New Section: Suggestions for Single Parents: phone meetings, internet, list of child care meetings, approaches for child care meetings, workshop on child care at AA meetings, legal issues about childcare at meetings. 10. New Section: Inclusiveness, make the AA message accessible to underserved communities: Remote communities/geographic, cultural/ethnic, spiritual, creative meeting technologies, CPC/PI teamwork to access leaders in underserved communities, communication vehicles to these communities i.e. radio, television programming, etc. 11. Never say a "disabled person" or "the disabled." Say a person "with disabilities." 12. The word "accommodating" is also seen as derogatory.
What the Delegate needs to know?	What does your group think about the proposed changes to the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook? Are there any other changes that are important to your group?

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eastern Central regional Trustee; 2. Southeast Regional Trustee - Cecilia R. Standing for Area 14 3. Trustee-at-large/US - Tom G. Standing for Area 14
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Resumes of Candidates – East Central Regional Trustee (mailed to Conference Committee on Trustees members only)
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only.

Conference Committee: Trustees— Item B

Agenda Topic	Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of A.A., Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board has been reviewed and recommended. Presentation will be to the GSC for disapproval, if any.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of Directors of A.A. World Services Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. Presentation will be to the GSC for disapproval, if any.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of Directors of A.A. Grapevine Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. Presentation will be to the GSC for disapproval, if any.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item E

Agenda Topic	Discuss voting procedures for electing trustee-at large/U.S.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of Directors of A.A. Grapevine Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. Presentation will be to the GSC for disapproval, if any.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider request regarding the number of regions and number of regional trustees serving on the General Service Board.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<i>From the minutes of the January 28, 2017 meeting of the trustees' Committee/ Nominating:</i> “The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Trustees a request that the 2017 General Service Conference discuss the need to restructure the number of regions and number of regional trustees serving on the General Service Board.” The General Service Conference Inventory Report Compendium 2013-2015 questions the size of regions within the following excerpts. It also hints at the fact that it is difficult for regional trustees to be effective for the entire region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should regional divisions be based on membership numbers, the number

	<p><i>of areas contained in each region or some other criteria.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Should regional divisions be based on membership numbers, the number of areas contained in each region or some other criteria.</i> ▪ <i>Is the size and structure (proportions of delegate/trustee/ staff) of the Conference the most effective for conducting the work of the Fellowship? If not, how could it be made more effective?</i> ▪ <i>Is the selection/election process for trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would you change it?</i>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item. Committees and individuals are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review revisions to the General Service Board By-Laws
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Advisory Action #37 from the 2016 General Service Conference Committee on Trustees talks about vacancies and terms of trustees.</p> <p>The Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws drafted an amendment to the GSB Bylaws Incorporating...When the amendment was reviewed by general counsel he advised that the amendment as worded would not conform with New York law because the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law prohibits directors being appointed to a term of more than five years. However, to delete the six year provision would nullify the purpose of the amendment. Therefore, with the advice and direction of counsel, the Ad Hoc Committee redrafted the amendment in terms of one year increments which would preserve the intention of the Advisory Action and, in counsel’s opinion, would comply with the statute.</p> <p>Other edits were suggested for the purpose of making the document easier to navigate, internally consistent and to remove or update historical references.</p> <p>On February 2, 2017, the General Service Board conducted an electronic poll of all its members and by substantial unanimity recommended that the amended Bylaws of the General Service Board of A.A., Inc. be accepted and forwarded to the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: Archives — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider proposal for a new publication. Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Talks, 1951-1970 (working title).
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>From A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee report, June 17, 2016: <i>Summary:</i> “The never-before-collected General Service Conference talks of Bill W. provide a fresh perspective on the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement and allow interested readers to read and appreciate more of his writing. The talks include important details of A.A.’s early history and the development of the General Service structure. Most of his talks (those that can be recovered and that are not wholly repetitive), as well as some key talks by important Class A trustees for historical context and perspective, are to be included in this unique collection – the first time ever in printed form.”</p> <p><i>Note:</i> “Discussion at the GSB and G.S.O. levels have led the G.S.O. Archives and Publishing Department to explore ideas for new book publications based on making archival materials available to the Fellowship. A proposed agenda item sent in for the 2016 General Service Conference suggested the possibility of selecting some past Conference presentations for publication. The GSC recording project (indexing tapes of past conferences) uncovered the fact that Bill W. had given numerous presentations to Conferences from 1951-1970. The general manager requested that a book proposal be developed.”</p> <p>From A.A.W.S. Board minutes, June 17, 2016 minutes: “The A.A.W.S. board reviewed and agreed to forward to the trustees.</p> <p>Background attached: 1. <i>Unity in Action: Bill W. General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970</i> (working title) – introduction and sample chapters. For committee only. 2. Estimated manufacturing and production costs. For committee only.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the request to publish a new book "Unity in Action"? Why or Why not?

Conference Committee: Archives — Item B

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee’s procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.

Conference Committee: Archives — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review Archives Workbook
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Background notes: Workbooks for Archives, C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Committee, and Special Needs/Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.</p> <p>Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees’ Committee and implemented.</p> <p>Alternatively, the trustees’ Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to</p>

	<p>review proposed changes to a Workbook during the next General Service Conference.</p> <p>Note: Workbooks are service material, and suggested changes to content do not require recommendations; rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations. The Archives Workbook (M-44I) is available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website (www.aa.org).</p> <p>Background document attached:</p> <p>1. Archives Workbook (sent electronically to Conference Committee members only).</p>
<p>What the Delegate needs to know?</p>	<p>We will not hear group consciences on this topic. If you have suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them personally with the Delegate.</p>

Conference Committee: Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract 1st time attendees
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Trustees committee annually discusses ideas and suggestions are sent in throughout the year.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. If your District or Area committee has suggestions please share them personally with the Delegate.

Conference Committee: Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review 2030 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><i>The committee reviewed and agreed to forward the International Convention Site Selection Guidelines for the 2030 AA International Convention to the 2017 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums for their information.</i></p> <p>In August 2017 the invitations to bid and the bid criteria for the 2030 International Convention will be sent to all area delegates with a November 30, 2017 deadline. In the year when the bid process begins, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums reviews the guidelines for informational purposes.</p> <p>At their January 28, 2017 meeting, the trustees' International Conventions-Regional Forums Committee also requested that the Conference Committee on International Conventions-Regional Forums consider reviewing dates utilized for the celebration of International Conventions (weekend of July 4th).</p> <p>Until now, all AA International Conventions have been held over the U.S. Independence Day holiday weekend. Both scheduled upcoming International Conventions (Detroit, Michigan in 2020 and Vancouver, British Columbia in 2025) are scheduled over this weekend.</p> <p>There is no formal policy that requires the International Convention to be on these dates. In 2000, the Conference Committee on International Conventions-/Regional Forums recommended that "The time frame for the 2010 International Convention be expanded from July 4th weekend, 2010 to May 1 through September 15, 2010. Expanding the time frame provides flexibility to the bidding cities." This recommendation did not result in a Conference Advisory Action.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. If your District or Area committee has suggestions please share them personally with the Delegate.

Conference Committee: Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item C

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Agenda Item is listed under every committee. To better handle workload, each 2017 Conference committee is being forwarded this request about adding text to the committee's procedures so that each committee would have the option of meeting by conference call in the 60 days prior to the General Service Conference. These conference calls could be used to make decisions about how to conduct business, determining how voting would be conducted, potentially re-ordering items on the agenda, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what the committee considered priority items.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Should the Conference committee meet via conference call 60 days prior to conference to conduct suggested topics? Why or Why not? Each Conference Committee will decide for themselves.