

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 134 members of the Conference consisted of the 93 Area Delegates, Class A (non-alcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) Trustees, and directors and staff of AAWS and the Grapevine. For the week (April 22-28), a number of issues were discussed and voted upon. In keeping with the Concepts, a 2/3 majority is required to make any action binding on the Trustees. These are called ADVISORY ACTIONS—some are listed below:

- ▶ Trustees: Eligible Class B (alcoholic) Trustees will be considered along with Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustees in General Service Board Chair selection. (After 6 hours of discussion & several votes, the final vote was almost unanimous—only 2 voted “no.”)
- ▶ Treatment Facilities: An update of the 1987 video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* was recommended, the script will remain the same. Sample footage or a progress report will be brought to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities. (Pat B. was elected to be the 2008 Chair of this Conference Committee.)
- ▶ Finance: The annual contribution limit to the General Service Board from individual A.A. members was increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000—with the same limit for AA members’ one-time bequests.
- ▶ Literature: Production of the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, was approved. A revised pamphlet title was approved: “AA for the Black and African American Alcoholic.” The issue of GSR reimbursement for service functions was addressed and will be included in several pamphlets and the *General Service Manual*.
- ▶ Grapevine: The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña may include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer. (Sometimes these are called the “grey pages.”)
- ▶ Public Information (PI): The 2007 A.A. Membership Survey will continue to be conducted by area on a random basis. A video project on carrying the message to young people will be developed, and will include submissions from the Fellowship. The public service announcement “A Force of Nature” was approved.
- ▶ Archives: Future projects involving widespread distribution of archival recordings will receive Conference guidance prior to production.
- ▶ Corrections: An informational media presentation draft for correctional employee training was approved—a suggested change will be reviewed and approved by the Trustees’ Committee on Corrections.
- ▶ Report and Charter: The Publications Department may insert into *The AA Service Manual*, where appropriate, the inverted triangle graphic that currently appears annually in the General Service Conference manual. Also, in the *Manual* under Districts, it will be stated that Groups per District vary from 5 in rural Districts to 90 or more in a metropolitan District.
- ▶ The theme for the 2008 General Service Conference will be: “Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity and Self-Support.”

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

These were discussed and not voted on. Here are some of the considerations:

- ▶ Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) discussions: a possible on-line CPC workbook; also, the value of utilizing our professional friends of A.A. at local A.A. events.
- ▶ Several workbook changes for CPC, PI, Corrections were discussed.

- ▶ Methods for developing interest in Treatment, Corrections, CPC, and PI service work were examined.
- ▶ Treatment: the committee is developing service material which includes material locally produced by Areas & Districts.
- ▶ Finance: Literature shipping costs will remain unchanged for now.
- ▶ International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums: The site-selection procedures for the 2020 International Convention were discussed—selection of International Convention sites 12 years out provides the best choices.

FINANCIAL

- ▶ Income: The 2007 budget projects net sales of \$12,000,000; the gross profit is estimated at \$6,560,000 (this is \$300,000 less than in 2006).
- ▶ Contributions: 2006 contributions were \$6,068,000; 2007 contributions are budgeted to be \$6,200,000.
- ▶ Operating Expenses: budgeted at \$12,525,550 for 2007.
- ▶ The Grapevine anticipates a loss of \$81,300; La Viña estimates a loss of \$72,333.
- ▶ Contributions are up by 12% in 2006—contributions often rise in the year following an International AA Convention. It is notable that contributions cover 49% of operating expenses.

Material from Pat B.'s Conference report & from Box 459 Early Bird Edition, June-July, 2007

Estimates of Groups and Members (Groups listed with GSO) as of January 1, 2007

	GROUPS	MEMBERS
US	53,665	1,213,269
Canada	<u>4,874</u>	<u>95,443</u>
Sub-Total	58,539	1,308,712
Correctional Facilities (US & Canada)	2,432	63,357
Internationalists		65
Lone members		<u>227</u>
Total	<u>60,971</u>	1,372,361
Outside US & Canada	<u>53,590</u>	<u>616,899</u>
Grand Total	114,561	1,989,260

(AA activity is known in about 180 countries; there are 57 autonomous General Service Offices world-wide.)

from Box 459 Early Bird Edition June-July 2007

The complete report will be available in the upcoming Final Report of the 57th General Service Conference.