

Conference week 2006 as seen by your panel 55 Delegate, Vicki Bunnell

Friday, April 21

Friday morning I met with Phyllis our Pacific Regional Trustee for a trip to the General Service Office. Phyllis will be rotating out after this year's conference I expressed our sincere gratitude for being such a wonderful example of service and let her know she will be missed by all. The good thing is we will be seeing her for years to come at PRAASA's in the future. I had set up a meeting with Adrienne B secretary to the Conference Literature Committee. We discussed some procedures about the committee meeting and questions I had regarding the time frame. I requested that we tentatively schedule a few extra hours on Monday night from 9:30 to 11:30 if we found it would be needed. Then I attended the AA meeting held at GSO, following the meeting Adrienne & I went to lunch and I discussed questions I had written down on each agenda item. Adrienne was able to give me some more insight on some of the history of these items and the time spent with her proved very helpful. Adrienne also mentioned that Valerie Martin, General Manager of the G.S.O. for Australia wished to sit in the Literature Committee as an observer if our committee should decide to vote her presence. Back at the General Service Office I spent a couple of hours with Greg M discussing more history and some concerns I had regarding the Grapevine committee procedures, he encouraged me to bring this up during general sharing, a time we all have to discuss our fellowships service structure. Greg, Doug & I took the subway trip back to the hotel and Doug shared some of the highlights of being on the International Desk including meeting with the Russian delegation sent to learn more about Alcoholism.

Saturday, April 22

The Pacific Region Delegates and guests all met early in the morning for a Historic A.A. Bus tour that was narrated by our past General Manager George D. Well this tour was a disaster, the poor bus driver had never done this tour and got us lost couldn't find his way to the bridge, kept making wrong turns he could not complete so he had to back up a few times blocking all traffic. Literally the Bus tour from hell so bad we had to start laughing. Needless to say with all the delays we had to miss a few stops and were rushed at others. We did manage to visit 182 Clinton Street, where Ebby met with Bill. We stopped at the Calvary Church where Bill first sobered up with the Oxford Group. Quickly we got out and took pictures of Towns Hospital where Bill had his spiritual awakening. This surprised me I know I must have seen pictures before in archives displays but it just never struck me that this building was so small I always imagined a regular hospital. When we finally got back to the hotel we had a little time to rest before the Delegates only meeting. Our Delegate chair did something really nice with introductions. He asked that we each stand give our name, area and committee assignment. This was really helpful for me to put a face to the names of the new members on the literature committee. When the meeting was over I was able to introduce myself to the new members and make myself available for any questions. As we parted we were reminded to remember the REAL reason we are here, to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

Sunday, April 23

Registration opens at 11:00 and after receiving our conference binder and name badge our first order of business is to gather by region for an orientation lunch. During this period we were given more information on the three areas that were bidding for PRAASA 2009, Hawaii, and Western Washington & Oakland California. We were also instructed on how we should present our candidates for the Pacific Regional Trustee election. We shared how we needed to remember that our committee work is confidential and not to be discussed until it is brought to the conference floor. And we were reminded about the General Sharing Sessions that are designed for us to share concerns or address items that are not on the conference agenda. After lunch we gathered in the conference room for a welcome from our chairman of the board class A trustee Leonard B. Leonard seems to bring a relaxation to all during conference business with his easy going attitude and this is very helpful for us to remember rule 62. As we received the opening from Fran the Northeast Ontario Delegate, I sat and realized that this will be the last time I can ever participate in the General Service Conference as Delegate. It wasn't a sad thought only that I will do my best and after all is done I will be rotating on and very grateful to have had the honor to represent Area 93. Greg M, general manager. G.S.O. then conducted roll call. This is when we all get to feel a part of the conference and it marks the formal opening. Then the first order of business came from Policy & Admissions to invite Valerie Martin, General Manager of the G.S.O. for Australia, and Nozaki, General Manager of the G.S.O. for Japan, as observers. This motion passed with unanimous approval. We then received greetings from Michael S, our delegate chairperson and a Keynote Address from Robert P, trustee. Robert brought up a point that I had not thought about. Our theme Sponsorship, Service & Self Support – In a Changing World had always struck me on the subject of dual addiction and he was able to get me to see through my single minded thought. He spoke how we live in a world of constantly changing technology, do we try and stop it or do we adapt to it? He told us how he was against online meetings then his sponsor shared a story about a man who had come home drunk one night to find all the furniture gone. His wife

had left and taken everything except his worktable & computer. He didn't remember much except when he woke up on the floor his computer was on and indicated he had received quite a few messages. They were from alcoholics from different parts of the country who suggested he go to A.A., which he did and now has been sober for two years. It really started me thinking maybe we are not adapting well and maybe that is why our membership is not growing. Then we were given a review of the upcoming conference week. Greg went over all the mechanics & order of conduct and Rick Walker the Conference secretary reviewed the agenda. The floor was opened up for questions and answers after which we were all excused to our Joint Trustee and Conference Committee Meeting. I had previously written to all the Literature Committee members advising them that this would be the perfect time to ask any questions that may help in processing our agenda items. We had a great session and many items were discussed. We were reminded that Chris C the executive publisher would be on site at all times should we need him for clarification on any item. He also showed us the new cover designs for our literature and we were given the first three printings.

The opening dinner followed, we are all allowed one guest to attend I took my son, Mason and had previously asked the delegate from our buddy area 05, Jim W (who I knew was attending alone) to take my daughter, Sarah. We had five ten minute speakers at dinner and it was interesting to watch my son as I could see he related to more than he wants to admit. My daughter a member of Al-Anon also got a good view of the alcoholic. For me one speaker really hit home when she discussed the difficulty in a search for a new home group. They both told me they enjoyed it and after dinner the four of us went to the famous Stardust café for ice cream and singing waiters a perfect ending for their last night in New York.

Monday, April 24

The morning is dedicated to our first conference committee meeting and one of our first items of business was to accept Valerie M from Australia as an observer. Now if you remember last year we worked many hours overtime. I was very impressed with how well prepared the members of this Literature Committee were. During session we had no idle chatter and we were unanimous on all the items we processed this meeting. We had ten items on our agenda and we were able to process eight during this first meeting, with only two left we all agreed there seemed to be no need for overtime. I even asked that if they felt that I was pushing too hard to ask me to slow down and make sure they were voting from the heart with A.A. as a whole in mind. Everyone was content with our work and we closed the meeting with the Unity Declaration. After lunch the conference convened with the Panel 56 Pacific Region Delegates giving their two minute service highlights and I am happy to report none of them got the bell. Something of interest was that our delegate from Alaska reported they have just celebrated 60 years of A.A. which predates statehood. Next the West Central Region gave their service highlights. Leonard then gave the General Service Board Report followed by questions and sharing. He discussed how this year the three corporate boards took their inventories resulting in many good suggestions for making improvements. Since there are so many items covered in his report I made copies for those of you who would like to read it. Next was the Grapevine Board report given by Mike Perry, chairman and a La Vina Presentation from Hernan M, La Vina editor. Mike informed us once again the Grapevine was fully self supporting, best of all it is carrying the message to a quarter million people. Remember our changing world, well so far in 2006, 120,000 people visited the Grapevine's redesigned Web site, 3,590 subscribed to the Digital Archives and 1,600 listened to MP3 recordings of Grapevine stories. This summer, online recordings will be extended, so members can subscribe to a recorded version of the current magazine, which they can listen to from desktops, iPods, or on the road in MP3-compatible CD players. I noted once again California had increased subscriptions by 2,773 yet this time New York beat us with a 3,602 increase so it looks like we now have a challenge going on. Hernan informed us that La Vina is still not covering all expenses and they are currently working on goals and suggestions in hopes to become self-supporting. We also celebrated the 10 year anniversary with a cake and found out that our La Vina editor has a very good singing voice as he led us in 'Happy Birthday'. Afterward the floor was opened for questions and sharing. Gary K chairman of A.A.W.S. Board gave the next report. His written report is over 12 pages and I'm not even sure what to share with you. Basically it was a complete overview of the year on all areas of operations and publications, a summary of the A.A.W.S. highlights that are published and sent to us monthly. If there is something in particular you were wondering about ask me and I'll let you know if it's covered. Questions and sharing followed. We next were given a power point presentation/discussion on the G.S.O. Relocation Study. The 10 year lease at 475 Riverside is up for renewal in 2008, the prudent thing was to form a subcommittee for a study. This study was done in house for the first time and by doing so we were able to save quite a bit of money. The study & presentation was very well done and made me confident they reached the right decision to plan an early renewal at our current location to lock in current rates. After questions and answers my favorite presentation was next. Finances, for some reason I found I enjoyed this presentation the most even more than last year. I think because it makes me wonder what we are doing as a fellowship. The report shows a definite decline in the number of groups that are

participating. We all keep talking about the two dollars in the basket which is definitely needed and we are still missing the connection with most of our groups. Vince K put together a concise power-point presentation that is available to anyone upon request, e-mail Ivy at GSO. During his discussion he brought up that this is not merely a money issue it is more of a responsibility issue, membership is flat & the number of groups declining to contribute is growing. He brought up the question “What can we do different?” An interesting note he gave us was that 78% of home groups with registered GSR’s are contributing and the fact that DCM’s may be more effective in reaching the groups. This was noticed due to a spike in contributions in 1990 as a direct result when GSO contacted the DCM’s directly instead of going through the Delegates. After which there was some complaints so they don’t do that anymore, maybe they should. I listed some items of the last few pages of his report that you may want to take to your group and discuss. These are real issues that could affect A.A. as a whole and could prove to be disastrous to us if we keep relying on literature sales to support our fellowship. To sum it up he said “we are not asking for money we are asking our groups to be responsible to pay their bills.” Are we really self-supporting if we are getting more from GSO than we are contributing? After questions and sharing we then heard panel 56 Delegates from the East Central Region and the Southeast Region give their service highlights. Then we broke for dinner, last year it was back to committee at this time and I must say a few people were surprised to see the literature committee at dinner this year. Chris the executive publisher came by to ask me if we needed anything from him so he could be prepared and was giving us thumbs up when he found out we were not meeting in the evening.

Back into session we heard our first presentation on the conference theme: **Sponsorship**

1. *Presenting A.A. to Newcomers* - reading the promises, passing on what we have been given, beginners meetings, 4-5 solid AA’s can handle many court ordered individuals at a meeting.
2. *Changes in the Alcoholic Coming to AA* – Technology has definitely changed have alcoholics really changed? Or have we? They are still getting into trouble in all the same ways. Have we lost sponsorship, one alcoholic talking to another why can we not keep it that simple? Why?
3. *Sponsorship into Sobriety, Into Service* – Carefully structured, above all complete trust.
Listen: most newcomers never had this
Learn: by listening about the other
Love: kind, patient, not boastful and be truthful
Lead: by example, spiritual nature of service work

The final for the day was our first sharing session – What’s on Your Mind? We discussed area incorporation as some areas are just now starting the process. One area had ordered books that fell apart and Chris explained that that can happen at end runs and if it should happen to you please let GSO know they will be replaced and GSO will be credited for the bad lot. A question was asked about population growing yet AA membership is not and has GSO looked into this? Gary informed us that yes they have discussed this adnauseam, wondering if we are asking the wrong questions and maybe a workshop topic on growth would be helpful.

Tuesday, April 25

The morning was dedicated to our last committee meeting and our first order of business was to review our report that Adrienne put together. Since I remembered from last year how important it is to get the wording correct before you present it to the floor we all took great care and reworded some of our recommendations and additional considerations. This process took over an hour and it proved out to be a very wise investment of time. Then we processed the last two agenda items one unanimously and the other I had a slightly different view and the committee prevailed. Then the last order of business is to elect next year’s chair who is John S of Manitoba Canada. We gathered for a few pictures and I am very happy to report the Literature Committee processed all our agenda items with NO overtime. After lunch we opened session with the panel 56 Delegates from Eastern Canada and the Southwest region give their service highlights.

Then it was time for our second presentation on the conference theme: **Service**

1. *Performing Service Without Expectations* – Can you imagine Bill saying “Have Bob call me when he’s ready”, Let carrying of the message be the key not the result.
2. *Leadership, an Ever Vital Need* – Lead side by side, not in front or behind. Is our singleness of purpose becoming negative instead of the positive aspect it can be? Districts can show leadership by being responsible to participate.

3. *Responsibility with Accountability* – My home group held me accountable, my sponsor taught me to speak up and also be responsible to support the leaders to come. As we serve down this descending ladder seeing parts
- 4.
5. of AA that few ever get to know we may be cutting ourselves out of the fellowship unknowingly, our responsibility is to share the experience with the fellowship without getting in the way.

We then closed for the day as Tuesday is the day scheduled for the trip to G.S.O. and I have to tell you I did not go this time. I was there twice last year, I was there twice in January and I was there for five hours on Friday. Instead I spent the time with our Alternate Delegate Chair Joyce P, Nevada Area 42. She has been very active in working with the Native American Indian Outreach in her area and I wanted more information to help me understand the difficulties AA is having in reaching this population. Next it was time for our Delegates only dinner and meeting, we had a one hour sharing session and panel 55's were asked to give panel 56's tips on giving their report backs. Well it not only helped them this is where I heard "Ask what they want to hear about" as I did at the beginning of my report. At this meeting we also elect next year's Delegate chair and boy did we have fun this time. We somehow got a motion to not allow alt-committee chairs to be eligible, this was debated, question called and defeated, debated more, voted, minority spoke, revote, then finally rescinded like it never happened. It was a real experience for all in getting ready for conference business. Finally we chose our Delegate Chair who is Darryl M from Kentucky.

Wednesday, April 25

Remember our workshop topic - Passing It On In A Changing World at the pre-conference that Debbie put together. All the Delegates, Trustees, Directors and G.S.O. staff are mixed and split up into groups of 16 or so, we are assigned different rooms and have a two hour workshop session on the same topic. I felt fortunate in that we also had Noriaki join our session and in this venue he was able to participate.

1. *How does a changing world affect what your group is doing today to carry the A.A. message to newcomers?* Technology changes actually give us more avenues to reach the alcoholic especially the young.
2. *Bill W. originally called the Traditions "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future." How are the Traditions fulfilling that purpose 60 years later?* Mostly everyone felt they are what is keeping us together and away from outside issues. Noriaki said Japan seems to follow them to a fault yet they are still new and have not made their own mistakes yet, we have given them great help.
3. *How does your group convey that the responsibility for self-support includes giving of effort and time in addition to money?* One group explains to new members that they are responsible in service and they expect their members to respect this and participate should they want to join the group. Members of other groups are shown & explained what specific commitments require before they are asked if they would like to serve.
4. *What current issues do you feel affect AA that need to be talked about? Why do you feel they are important? What changes would you like to see as a result of these discussions?* The lack of participation of our groups with the General Service Structure with time and money, mostly due to lack of information and communication. We can't be shy in saying we are NOT self-supporting. This is not new it seems to go in cycles where if we could speak of this on an ongoing basis this may change. Finding a good way to communicate participation and information sharing. Could it be as simple as asking your group if they would like to know?

We then took a break and went into the conference room to hear panel 56 Delegates from Western Canada and Northeast region give their service highlights. Next was lunch by region and our time to vote for PRAASA 2009. With substantial unanimity we voted to have it in Oakland, CA. Back into session it was time for elections with the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee up first. The voting members consisted of 10 delegates, 5 members of the conference committee on trustees & 5 members of the trustee's committee on nominating. After the 5th vote and out of the hat their new trustee is Denis Vezina of Southwest Quebec. Then we went on to the Pacific Regional Trustee election, for us the voting members consisted of 15 delegates, 8 members of the conference committee on trustees & 7 members of the trustee's committee on nominating. On the 4th vote Madeleine P of Idaho was elected. Even though our candidate did not get elected I want to acknowledge the honor I felt in being able to present Joe to the conference.

Then it was time for our last presentation on the conference theme: **Self-Support**

1. *An Informed Group Conscience* – Vital when it comes to our tradition of self-support there are no dues or fees in AA and we must pay our bills.

2. *Gratitude Through Self-Sacrifice* – I really felt a part of the fellowship when I started to contribute my time and money to AA.

During sharing on the subject of self-support I heard a couple of things I wanted to pass on. One delegate shared he has seen where groups have started to include support of district, area & GSO as a regular expense item just as they do rent, they do not use the term “extra money” to be split up. Another spoke how he cleared up confusion by letting members know that the General Service Board is just a clearing house for the money sent to provide the groups with the services they have requested. Then we had another sharing session – What’s On Your Mind? This is when I brought my concerns regarding the conflicting wording of two advisory actions on Grapevine one in 1992 and one in 2002 which allows the Grapevine Conference Committee to approve projects without the approval of the conference as a whole. My question was partially addressed by Arnold R General Service Trustee Grapevine Board. After session he met with me and requested we do a follow up together so the Grapevine Board can address this issue. Another discussion was back on self-support and how can we clearly provide information to the fellowship that we are losing the power of the purse when we keep depending on literature sales to cover our shortfall. We then broke for dinner and upon return started into Committee Reports and Discussion. As I report on the committee’s I will follow the agenda items as presented to us prior to conference. For your reference when I use recommended this is an item we voted on and if passed becomes an advisory action, when I use suggested or requested this is an additional consideration that may or may not require further conference action. We began at 7:45 the Agenda Committee always starts first everyone is anxious to hear what the committee recommends for next years conference. After Agenda we discussed Policy/Admissions, Trustees and Grapevine.

Agenda Committee

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2007 General Service Conference. The committee recommended and it was approved unanimously the theme for 2007 be: “Our 12th Step Responsibility – Are We Going to Any Length?”

Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2007 General Service Conference. The following presentation/discussion topics for 2007 were recommended and approved unanimously

- 1) Inclusiveness in A.A.:
 - a) Our 3rd Tradition
 - b) Growth of the Fellowship
 - c) Reaching Out to All Who Want it
- 2) Our Primary Purpose:
 - a) Attraction Rather Than Promotion
 - b) Working with Wet Drunks
 - c) Practicing These Principles in all Our Affairs
- 3) Humility and Responsibility:
 - a) Expressed by Anonymity
 - b) Are We Resting on Our Laurels?
 - c) Raising Literature Prices or Footing the Bill?

Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2007 General Service Conference. It was recommended and approved unanimously the following workshop topic for 2007: “Spiritual Value of Our A.A. Dollars”

Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form. The form was reviewed and suggested that the section on laptop usage be modified in light of the 2004 Advisory Action allowing use of personal computers at the General Service Conference

Policy/Admissions

Approve invitation for two observers to attend the 56th General Service Conference, one from G.S.O. Japan and one from G.S.O. Australia. The committee recommended and it was unanimously accepted at the beginning of the conference.

- a) An additional recommendation was added to update the 1977 Advisory Action which only allows one observer at a time. Due to some misinformation this recommendation was worded incorrectly and after a lengthy discussion was tabled so the committee could re-work it. It was brought back Thursday morning and discussed again & again, adding subtracting words adding a friendly amendment voted failed with 20 against minority spoke, motion to reconsider passed, amended again back to original motion passed, back on the floor with a motion to substitute, tabled again for drafting of substitution. Came back Thursday afternoon with the substitution this failed no minority speaking so now we were back to the original motion and it was suspended again for a revision. Brought back Thursday evening with corrected wording and passed unanimously.

Review dates for the 2009 General Service Conference. It was recommended and unanimously approved the 59th General Service Conference be Held April 26 – May 2, 2009.

Review report from the General Service Board on feasibility of more balanced composition/structure of regions. The committee accepted the report and agreed with its conclusions that it is feasible to change regional boundaries and the procedures are included in the “Suggested Guidelines for Changing Regional Boundaries” accepted by the General Service Conference. The committee acknowledged the magnitude of the current Ad Hoc “Regional Composition and Structure Inventory Committee” project and requested the General Service Board forward a final report to the 2007 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for review

Review request that the Conference be mindful of balancing the number of odd and even panel delegates when decisions are made that affect delegate rotation. The committee reviewed this request and took no action

Trustees

Review résumés for regional trustees:

1. **Pacific Regional Trustee** Reviewed and approved all candidates as eligible for election.
2. **Eastern Canada Regional Trustee** Reviewed and approved all candidates as eligible for election.

Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. The committee recommended and it was unanimously approved (a list was provided to us and is available upon request)

Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. The committee recommended and it was unanimously approved (a list was provided to us and is available upon request)

Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc. The committee recommended and it was unanimously approved (a list was provided to us and is available upon request)

Review report on the efficacy of the “Diversity Statement” currently being used in vacancy letters. The committee felt the statement is inclusive as is and only suggested it may be improved by positioning it at the beginning of vacancy announcement letters.

Review background material and experience pertaining to request that the selection process for Chairperson of the General Service Board be expanded to include past Class B trustees as candidates. The committee requested additional relevant background be gathered and reported to the 2007 Trustees Conference Committee, to include specific questions raised by the 2006 committee. The committee also suggests that all delegates consider discussing this topic in their areas and forward any responses to the trustees’ Committee on Nominating by October 2006

Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board to approve the revised Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. This was recommended to come in compliance with NY State Law, Passed 162/1 (minority spoke, curiosity should this be handled by Report & Charter, no change in vote)

Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board to approve the revised Certificates of Incorporation of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

This was recommended to come in compliance with NY State Law, Passed unanimously

A.A. Grapevine

Review contents of Workbook. The committee reviewed the contents with appreciation and made no changes. They also urged the AA Grapevine Board to produce a Spanish translation of the Workbook as soon as financially possible.

Consider a suggestion that A.A. Grapevine produce an anthology of La Viña stories in the year 2007 or later. The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that The AA Grapevine produce an anthology of La Vina stories in the year 2007 or later. At 8:30 we took a quick break and returned to session at 8:45 with the Archives Committee and Report and Charter Reports.

Archives

Review Workbook. After reviewing the workbook and a few revised forms, the committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee review a legal opinion of the revised sample "Deed of Gift" form before inclusion in the next printing of the Archives Workbook.

Consider that the Conference Archives Committee annually review a list to be compiled by G.S.O.'s Archivist of proposed archival recordings (format to be determined by A.A.W.S.) to be produced for sale by A.A.W.S. so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production. The committee came forth with a recommendation on this item and after lengthy discussion on what this motion would actually accomplish it was tabled so the committee could reword their motion. When it was brought back Thursday afternoon it came as an additional consideration with clear language as follows. The committee requested that the trustees' Archives Committee develop oversight procedures for the Boards and Conference Archives Committee for possible production and distribution of selected archival recordings, and that the proposed procedures along with a sample descriptive list of archival recordings be brought to the 2007 Conference Committee on Archives for their consideration.

Report and Charter

Review *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2005-2006 edition:

1. **Review editorial updates to *The A.A. Service Manual*.** The committee reviewed the list of changes and forwarded suggestions to the Publications Department
2. **Discuss the discrepancy between the Conference Charter and *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding panel rotation of district committee members (D.C.M.s).** The committee discussed the discrepancy and took no action feeling it did not constitute a threat.
3. **Consider a request to include a description of the duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.) on page S30.** The committee requested that a list of duties be developed and brought back to the 2007 Conference Report & Charter Committee for review.
4. **Consider a request to restore the graphic "Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group" to Chapter 2.** The committee recommended this be restored and this passed unanimously
5. **Consider a request to insert an inverted triangle graphic similar to the one found in "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" pamphlet.** The committee felt inserting this particular triangle would disrupt the flow of the Service Manual and took no action.
6. **Consider a request to revise page S28 to more accurately reflect the number of groups in a metropolitan district.** The committee felt adding particular numbers would be deceiving in some instances and requested a description be developed and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee for review.
7. **Consider a request to add a descriptive sentence on the role of a trustee-at-large to the second paragraph on page S63 in the section "Trustees-at-Large."** It was recommended to add a paragraph to allow the Trustees-at-large to attend zonal meetings in the years between World Service Meetings and passed unanimously.

Consider a suggestion to restore *The Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.* to its original form as published in 1962. The committee requested the publications department restore this to its original form by adding back the footnotes.

Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*. The report was reviewed and noted with appreciation the timeliness of the distribution process.

Discuss A.A. Directories:

1. **Consider a request to add/attach an explanatory letter regarding the appropriate use of the A.A. Directories.** The committee requested the existing explanatory statement on the front cover of each directory be made more prominent.

2. **Consider a request to revise the statement on page ii, located below the box “An A.A. Group.”** The committee recommended to add a disclaimer paragraph to the directories and again the conference went into lengthy discussion a friendly amendment was accepted then more discussion went on it was late and we finally decided to continue this until the morning. When it came back the committee had re-worded it striking one word disallowed the friendly amendment and a vote took place, this passed with 8 opposed and no minority opinion voiced

At 10:00 it was time to call it a night except Phyllis had previously requested the Pacific Region meet to have ice cream. As it turned out a couple of the other regions had the same idea and we all ended up gathering at the same place and took over the café with our general Service Manager Greg & his wife joining us.

Thursday, April 27

We continued in the morning with Report and Charter and then went on to International Conventions/ Regional Forums and CPC

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Discuss addition of informational flyers to the Regional Forums section of G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site. The committee noted appreciation to this addition in response to the suggestion of the 2005 conference.

Discuss the Report on Restructuring and/or Increasing Regional/Special Forums from the trustees’ Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The committee accepted the report and asked that the trustees’ consider the following suggestions.

- Add the topic “Regional/Special Forums” to the AA Grapevine’s I-Say Forum
- Add articles regarding personal Forum experience to future issues of Box 459
- Implement a subscription process for ordering Final Forum Reports
- Distribute a summary of past Conference committee suggestions on ways to encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums to local Forum host committee contacts

Review report on the 2005 International Convention in Toronto. The committee reviewed the report and expressed appreciation of the hard work on coordination this event. They also noted the financial results of a \$39,039 loss, showed less than one percent over budget. Gratitude was expressed for the extranet broadcast of the opening Flag Ceremony, and committee member’s encouraged further exploration of this type of access to future International Conventions. The committee also discussed how special needs challenges are handled and briefly reviewed the site selection process.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

Discuss the need for three short video segments that could be streamed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields, with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000. The committee recommended this project go forward. Discussion of cost was a concern and of having the conference approve the final product. The motion passed with 15 against, the minority voice was heard and a motion to reconsider failed, approval stands.

The committee offered the following points for these segments to be considered:

- Describe how professionals can use AA as a resource, including utilizing GSO’s Web site and local AA Web sites, requesting presentations from local CPC committees, and connecting alcoholics to local AA service committees.
- Utilize Class A trustees or other non-alcoholic friends in the videos to share their experience of cooperating with AA.
- Include footage from AA Conference-approved videos and other sources to make these videos more dynamic and interesting to professionals, as appropriate.
- Exercise care to ensure that the videos attract rather than promote.
- Make videos available in DVD and other formats to be used by local CPC committees for presentations and at exhibits at professional conferences.

Discuss ways C.P.C. committees present A.A. to professionals, such as slide presentations, demonstrations of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site or local A.A. Web sites, and the use of A.A. booths at professional events. The committee requested the trustees develop sample presentations for possible inclusion in the CPC kit and report back to the 2007 Conference.

Review contents of Kit and Workbook. The committee requested that GSO staff gather sharing from local CPC committees pertaining to attractive design of AA booths at professional conferences and effective training methods for booth volunteers, for possible inclusion in the CPC workbook. With CPC done we took a break, we came back and spent the rest of the morning working on the Policy & Admission revisions. When this was continued we finally broke for lunch. After Lunch we had presentations on International "AA around the World" by Dorothy W, Trustee at large and Doug R GSO staff International desk assignment. It's really inspiring to listen how we are working with and reaching other service structures and alcoholics in other countries even when the language barriers are sometimes difficult. We then continued with committee reports having the Policy/Admissions revision brought back and suspended again. We went on to the Archives revision and after questions and acceptance of their report we started with Finance.

Finance

Discuss the draft "Finance Card" created by trustees' Finance Committee. The committee reviewed the trustees' draft and asked that they consider the following short message for use on the card.

"The 7th Tradition states Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting through our own contributions. The contributions help cover the group's expenses. But the 7th Tradition is more than simply paying for rent and other group expenses. It is both a privilege and responsibility of both groups and individual members to insure that our fellowship, at every level including group, Intergroup/central office, local services, district, area and the General Service Office, remain forever self-supporting and free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose. The monetary amount of our contributions is secondary to the spiritual connection that joins us in unity with our groups around the world."

Discuss a proposal to replace the word "donation" with the word "contribution" in A.A.W.S. literature. It was recommended to replace the wording in all literature when reprinting. This passed with one opposed the minority voice spoke and no re-vote was requested.

The pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix":

1. **Discuss a request to add references about other A.A. information for group treasurers.** The committee recommended the following information be added to the Q & A section. An amendment was requested and debated then voted against, then another amendment requested and failed. The original motion passed with one opposed and no minority voice spoken.
2. **Q.** Does A.A. have any specific information for our group or group treasurer about how to handle our group's finances?
A. Yes. There are two excellent publications available from G.S.O., A.A. Guidelines on Finance and the pamphlet "The A.A. Group Treasurer," that provide specific information to groups regarding practical matters related to their group finances, such as setting up bank accounts, obtaining tax ID numbers, and outlining the responsibilities of a group treasurer.
3. **Discuss a request to remove the pie charts from the pamphlet.** The committee took no action on this item feeling it is helpful for group discussion.
4. **Discuss a request to add an additional pie chart reflecting a 25/25/25/25% distribution.** The committee felt the existing pie charts were clear enough and did not need any changes and took no action.

Discuss requests to rescind the small-order freight charge policy instituted by A.A.W.S. effective 7/1/05. The committee recommended the current small-order freight charge policy be replaced with a policy of charging shipping on all orders which seems to be more in keeping with the spirit of treating everyone equally. We had an interesting debate on this item, what I was hearing is how this has only been in effect for 10 months and already groups and districts are working together to place orders, especially in areas where they do not have central offices. It seems that a new unity is being formed and they like it. The motion failed with 25 voting for it the minority spoke and no-revote requested, vote stands.

Discuss requests to eliminate the discounts on volume purchases of A.A.W.S. literature. The committee felt the ripple effect of this action would not help AA as a whole and took no action. At around 4:45 Public Information was supposed to be called and the chair was not ready so they then asked for Literature I only had enough time to read my report before dinner break. At 7:15 we started with our recommendations took a break followed by Literature additional considerations then on to Policy/Admissions revision and Corrections

Literature

Review the revised draft pamphlet “Too Young?” We recommended the revised pamphlet be approved and this passed with one opposed and no minority opinion spoken.

Review the revised draft pamphlet “It Happened to Alice!” We recommended the revised pamphlet be approved and this passed with one opposed and no minority opinion spoken.

Consider suggestion to revise the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.” We recommended the pamphlet be revised and this passed with one opposed and no minority opinion spoken.

Discuss request for a review of language in A.A. literature that refers to the first 164 pages of the Big Book. We recommended and the conference approved unanimously the word “largely” be added to the preface of the Fourth Edition as it originally appeared in the preface of the Second Edition. So that it reads “Therefore, the first portion of this volume, describing the AA recovery program, has been left *largely* untouched in the course of revisions made for the second, third and fourth edition.” We also recommended and the conference approved unanimously that the word “largely” be added to the introduction in the book Experience, Strength and Hope. So that it reads “In all four editions, the first 164 pages have remained *largely* unchanged, preserving AA’s message just as it was originally recorded by the founding members.” Further we suggested that the word “largely” be added when appropriate to references in AA World Services service material concerning any changes to the first 164 pages of the Big Book. **“Young People and A.A.” draft manuscript:** We recommended and the conference voted in favor unanimously that the revised pamphlet Young People and AA be approved.

1. **Consider revised front matter.** While we could not come to complete agreement on the changes we felt that nothing was objectionable enough to hold this pamphlet up seeing as the young people have been anxiously awaiting the revisions.
2. **Review stories.** We were very appreciative of the sub-committees selection of stories and especially the inclusion of stories from younger members.

Discuss requests to develop an Intergroup/central office pamphlet. After a long discussion on the request to develop an Intergroup/central offices pamphlet we took no action. We as a committee acknowledged that in many areas, intergroup/central offices have a vital role in carrying the A.A. message; however, we felt that there appears to be sufficient information available about Intergroup/central offices in A.A. Conference-approved literature and service material. As the structure and function of Intergroup/central offices vary throughout the United States and Canada, it was the consensus of the committee that, where a need may exist for an Intergroup/central offices pamphlet, it can be best addressed locally.

Review trustees’ Committee on Literature progress report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. After review of the progress report we agreed with the suggestion that the story submission deadline be extended until June of 2006. We recommended and the conference unanimously approved that the Spanish-

language Third Edition Big Book continue to be developed and that a report be brought back to the 2007 Conference Literature Committee.

Consider request to develop an A.A. history book covering the years 1955-2000. We reviewed the history of the agenda item that included past financial expenditures, and following a lengthy discussion understanding that we all felt this is a good idea yet the logistics of going forward and also our current financial situation, the committee agreed to take no action.

Consider proposal that the pamphlet “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic” be discontinued. We were unanimous in the decision that during its time this pamphlet was very useful and it was time to recommend this pamphlet be discontinued. The conference had a loving debate over this and when the vote was taken 74/46 it did not get the required two thirds to pass, the minority spoke up and a vote to reconsider was approved. We debated some more and after discussion where most people wanted to keep it for sentimental reasons it was brought to light we now have a pamphlet for women written by alcoholic women and sharing their own stories. Further this pamphlet will be retired to archives and remain accessible to fellowship upon request. The motion passed on the second vote with 10 opposed and no minority voice spoken. Our publisher also noted we have 10,000 in stock so should you want them place your orders now.

Consider developing a pamphlet concerning Alcoholics Anonymous, religion and spirituality. After a thorough discussion, we as a committee were unanimous in the feeling that there are already numerous references on this subject in the existing A.A. Conference-approved literature, and took no action. We also noted the main use for this pamphlet would be explaining to newcomers and remembering our presentation on Sponsorship we felt this topic is better explained one to one.

Corrections

Review the trustees’ Committee on Corrections Progress Report on the Development of an Informational Media Presentation Introducing A.A. to Training Academies and In-service Training Programs for Corrections Personnel. The committee recommended an informational media presentation be developed featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training programs for corrections personnel and be brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Corrections. A discussion about the purpose of this video came about and when Jeannie W, our newest class A trustee and prior director of California department of corrections, explained to us how helpful this would be for new hires the vote was taken and passed with 4 opposed and no minority opinion expressed. It was now 10:00 and we voted to continue corrections in the morning with a fresh start.

Friday, April 28

In the morning we gathered for a presentation from our new archivist Amy F. She first shared about herself and where she came from including the fact while she herself is not an alcoholic although numerous members of her family have found recovery in AA. She put together an audio presentation and slide show of a recording by Bill discussing the third legacy and our responsibility of holding the fellowship together. It was a very moving and emotional moment for all conference members. We then started at 9:30 to finish the rest of the committee reports finishing Corrections from yesterday on to Public Information and the final committee Treatment.

Corrections (continued)

Consider the revised manuscript of A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate. It was recommended the revised manuscript be approved the conference started a discussion on the name of the publication as it was brought up that prisoners do not refer to themselves as inmates a couple of friendly amendments were request and when it quickly became evident that a new title could not be decided on the conference floor all agreed to go forward with the publication and look to another conference for a title change the vote took place and approved with one opposed and no minority voice spoken.

Review contents of Kit and Workbook. The committee suggested that the Correctional Facilities Kit and the Correctional Facilities Workbook be re-titled “Corrections Kit” and “Corrections Workbook” and that this terminology be reflected in Corrections service material where appropriate. The committee also noted that some local committees prefer the term “Bridging the Gap” when referring to pre-release contacts and asked that acknowledgment of this local custom be included in the Workbook.

Public Information

Consider 2005 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. The committee reviewed the report with appreciation and noted the new and improved redesigned Web site. The committee also encourages a continued sensitivity to individuals with special needs in future design and development of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

1. **Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. "Testimonials" developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information.** We all were shown a viewing of the new PSA's and the committee recommended approval, the conference passed this unanimously. Additionally the committee recommended reaffirming the 2002 advisory action regarding the four year replacement plan and the conference approved with one opposed and no minority voice spoken.
2. **Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the television P.S.A. "Living in Chaos."** The committee reviewed the tracking and evaluation and thanked the trustees' for providing the useful information that helps in future distributions of our PSA's
3. **Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed television P.S.A. "Testimonials" at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.** The committee recommended we continue with this practice and added a small increase to \$31,000. This was another fun one, someone spoke up that "Testimonials" had a religious tone to it and offered a friendly amendment. After a long discussion the vote failed on the name change 140 against 20 in favor, minority spoke a motion to reconsider failed. Another amendment came out with another name change and failed. Someone finally figured out that to change this we would have to go back and change PI's first recommendation that passed and Eva S spoke up saying Testimonials is the word the Spanish community uses as we use sharing. Finally all amendments were gone and the original motion passed with 8 opposed and no minority opinion.

2007 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey:

1. **Discuss how to get more area delegates involved in the distribution and collection of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaires.** The committee suggested that a presentation on the relevance and the process of the survey be included as part of the General Service Conference agenda in the years in which the survey is scheduled.
2. **Consider request to add the following categories to the "Length of Sobriety" section in the "2007 A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet: Sober between 11 - 20 years and Sober more than 20 years** The committee agreed that no action necessary at this time and that the trustees' committee consider this prior to printing the next survey.
3. **Consider request to add "Domestic Partner" to the "Marital Status of Members" section of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire.** The committee recommended that the section on "Marital Status" be revised and re-titled as "Domestic Status" with the following 4 options: MARRIED; SINGLE; DIVORCED; OTHER (please specify) This passed with 12 opposed and no minority opinion spoken.
4. **Consider request to add a "Sexual Orientation" category to the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire.** The committee discussed this in length and took no action.
5. **Consider and approve the 2007 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire.** The committee recommended that the membership survey questioner be approved and the conference passed with three opposed and no minority voice spoken. Additionally the committee recommended the option of "internet" be added to the survey questionnaire under how did you hear about AA. The conference approved with one opposed and no minority voice spoken.

Consider request that the list of early symptoms derived from outside literature on page 17, item #19 in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings," be replaced with a list derived from A.A. literature. The committee requested the trustees' review the pamphlet and bring a report of their findings to the 2007 conference. Review report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information on Videos for Young People. The committee recommended and the conference approved with one opposed and no minority opinion the videos "Young People and A.A." and "A.A.: Rap with Us" be replaced and that the trustees' Committee on Public Information develop an idea for a film, video tape or some other such instrument targeting young people, including storyboards and estimated costs, taking in consideration the findings in the January 2006 trustees' report on Videos for Young People with the widest possible diversity range, and that a report be forwarded to the 2007 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.

Review contents of Kit and Workbook. The committee reviewed and felt no changes needed at this time.

Treatment Facilities

Consider both the scope and name of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities.

It was recommended and the conference approved unanimously. The word "institutional" be deleted from the scope so that the second paragraph of the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities will read as follows: "The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other non-correctional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements." The phrase "and other non-correctional environments" be added to the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities so that it will read as follows: "The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities and other non-correctional environments, and to set up means of 'bridging the gap' from the facility to the A.A. community.

The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other non-correctional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements."

Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook: The committee reviewed with appreciation the revisions and additions to the Treatment Facilities Workbook forwarded from the trustee's Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities. These revisions and additions were based upon the shared experience received from local treatment facilities committees in response to a questionnaire sent to areas, districts and Intergroup/central offices in 2004.

When all the committee reports are done any floor actions that were brought up during discussion of reports are then heard. We had a total of 5.

Floor Action # 1

To amend the Cooperation With the Professional Community Advisory Action: By inserting the following language into the Advisory Action after medical fields: "and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community"

The conference approved this unanimously. Two other Floor actions failed and two were voted to decline to hear.

One of them was the discussion of the Intergroup/Central office pamphlet a floor action was called to bring this to the conference. When this came up a motion was made to decline to hear this floor action and the conference voted a two thirds majority not to discuss. For me this validated that the conclusions the literature committee had originally come forth with were sound.

So now we are officially done with conference business and the last thing to do is say good bye. This is kind of a tradition that all the second year Delegates speak at the closing. I was exhausted and my defenses were down and unexpectedly this got very emotional for me. What I was able to speak was I wanted to thank God in front of all for finally showing me that there is something I can have trust and put my faith in and that would be the fellowship of AA and it's trusted service. I truly believe this process works.

Saturday morning we had our closing brunch and three rotating Trustees' said their good byes one of them being Phyllis H. I have spoken with her since and she will gladly take the title of past trustee and we will see her in the future. After brunch we all went to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill & Lois Wilson. This bus trip was much more organized and very enjoyable. Michael was able to fly in Friday and join the tour, we had 6 busses and they were set up to greet us with lunch and an informational talk. I really enjoyed the outside surroundings and all around feel of comfort; however the inside was a bit too crowded with all of us so my view was brief. We returned to the Hotel and joined Area 05 Delegate Jim & Shami for dinner and a show.

Sunday in NY was a relaxing day and time for an AA meeting. Keith Delegate from Hawaii had also stayed over and we joined him and Irene K GSO staff conference secretary to CPC committee at her home group. She introduced us to her past sponsor visiting from San Jose, CA and the five of us all went out to dinner and fellowship.

Monday morning it was my turn to be tour guide as Mike had never been to the General Service Office. Once again I found myself taking the subway uptown and another visit to GSO, I am really starting to feel at home there. Adrienne was hard at work and surprised to see me, she again thanked me for a wonderful conference committee experience. We visited the staff members that had not taken a few days off and on to see Robin the executive editor of the Grapevine. With conference over I took a moment to relax on Bills couch in the Archives.

On the way back we decided to visit Ground Zero, I must say for all the times I have now been to NY I never wanted to go there and I am glad I did. There is a feeling there that is hard to explain and a very respectful attitude among visitors.

In conclusion I can only say this conference was a once in a lifetime experience I'm in love with this fellowship. I thank you all for putting your trust in me.