

2010 AA General Service Conference (GSC) Personal / Group Opinion Poll

Dear Area 93 Group Member:

February 15, 2010

One of my duties as your delegate is to present the Area's collective group opinions during this year's GSC from April 18th to April 23rd in New York. The following questionnaire contains subjects that will be voted on by all the Conference members.

Please help me to know your personal views by answering the questions you may have an opinion on and return to me by one of the following methods before April 15th when I leave for the GSC.

- 1) Give it to your GSR
- 2) Bring it to the Pre-Conference Workshop/Area Assembly in Simi Valley on March 20th and 21st
- 3) Mail it to the Area 93 Delegate
- 4) E-mail it to delegate@aaarea93.org
- 5) Call the Area delegate

Thank you for your help in preparing me for the General Service Conference (GSC). This way your voice will be heard. Jeff J., Panel 59 Delegate | C.C.A.A. Area 93

LITERATURE

Background – From a women's group in the Minnesota area. It was voted on at their area assembly to request a book be developed about early women from A.A.'s beginnings up to 1950. Their meeting format includes presentations given with conference approved literature as background material. They said, "...that Many of us had read books about Marty M., Florence R. and Ethel M. but none of the literature was conference approved". After extensive searching the only thing close to 'conference approved' were articles submitted to the Grapevine (our meeting in print) that are suggested by the authors of this item to be considered as source for a book. Research provided by our GSO suggested the first women's group started in 1941. Percentages of women in A.A. have increased from our beginnings. Membership surveys indicate that between 33-35% of our current membership are women.

Literature Agenda Item – Consider request to develop a book on the history of early pioneer women in A.A.

What is your gender? (optional) Male ____ Female ____

Do you enjoy reading about A.A. history? Yes ____ No ____

Have you read A.A. comes of Age? Yes ____ No ____

Do you think you would order a copy of this book if it is produced? Yes ____ No ____

Thoughts: _____

(please use the back of this page if needed)

Background – The material for the *Living Sober* booklet was gathered in the early 1970s from group and individual correspondence of shared experience. A selection of this material was sent to writers to compile this into a book and published in 1975. With a change only to add an appendix in 1998, this booklet has not been altered. This item was submitted by a group in N. California that has been using this booklet, reading a chapter and discussing each week, and cited there is no reference to the internet or to social networking sites and felt there were outdated references such as "ham radio". They have requested a review of this booklet.

Literature Agenda Item – Consider request to review the booklet *Living Sober*.

Do you currently use this booklet as a part of your recovery program? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, how have you utilized this book in your life? _____

Should this booklet undergo a thorough review to determine its relevance to today's A.A. members?

Yes ____ No ____

Please offer any thoughts you may have: _____

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LITERATURE

Background – This item has background material that includes past requests for literature or video specific to atheist or agnostics/non-believers in AA. It also includes similar requests addressing Spirituality vs. Religion. Many persons who asked for this or something similar in the past, understood that there are various pieces in existing literature, but wish to have these brought together to a single source and/or include stories from those who have remained successfully sober in A.A. for some time. Those on the extreme would go through all literature and remove references like “Him who presides over us all”, etc. and then there are those who would say “let the searcher find the information on their own”. This item has been discussed and debated at all levels of service to our fellowship and, if anything else, has brought awareness to some member's intolerance of the atheist, agnostic or non-believer and the use of prayers that may sway a newcomer, who may not be familiar with our spiritual program, right out the door.

Consider the wording of this agenda item. The maker of this motion offered additional thoughts included as background. In the body of a letter he clarifies: “...This motion asks us to develop literature on spirituality. It should cover a wide range of spiritual experience and beliefs. In addition, it will include stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober following the steps and principles of our program...”

Pre-Conference Workshop – We will be discussing this and other topics (not on this poll) for this year's conference at our Area 93 workshop held this year at Simi Valley 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063 (Simi Valley Senior Center) on Saturday March 20th, 2010. All A.A. members are welcome to participate.

Literature Agenda Item – Consider developing Conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Do you currently see a need for a piece of literature of this nature?

Yes ____ No ____

I can hardly summarize 124 pages of background material on this subject, but does the very brief summary above provoke any thoughts for you?

Please Explain _____

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PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI) | FINANCE

Background – *From the trustees' P.I. committee January, 2010:*

The committee addressed many aspects of issue of anonymity: the spiritual principle, anonymity on the personal level, and in past advisory actions. Of concern was the proliferation of anonymity breaks on social networking sites and at events ranging from AA meetings to conferences and conventions. The committee recognized that there are opportunities through sponsorship, Tradition workshops and Forums (see page 4 more on Forums) to help the Fellowship become more informed about our tradition of anonymity. They also anticipate that the 2010 International Convention will provide many occasions for communications from the International Convention Coordinator covering this issue.

PI Agenda Item – Consider submitting a request to the trustees' Committee on the Conference to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of "Anonymity in a Digital Age."

Do you see any harm in breaking one's anonymity on the internet or social web site?

Yes _____ No _____

Please Explain: _____

(please use the back of this page if needed)

Background – Please see the free pamphlet (ask your literature representative) or visit aa.org

Finance Agenda Item – In the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"

1. Consider request to replace the "pie charts" on page 12 with text such as:

Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine the contribution amounts to the following entities: District; Area; G.S.O. and Intergroup/Central Office, if one services your district.

Which do you prefer a) Pie Chart _____ b) Text as described above _____

2. Would you like to include information about A.A. Grapevine. Yes _____ No _____

3. Consider request to add Seventh Tradition stories.

Would short stories be helpful to you and your home group? Yes _____ No _____

Have you ever wanted to visit our GSO? Have you ever wanted to meet the people that deal with the day to day affairs of A.A on a national level?, receiving phone calls, emails and letters with concerns that affect your group or a neighboring group or A.A. as a whole? Have you heard of a Forum?

These are very informative and no question is a dumb one. In **2010** we will have a Regional Forum in Torrance, at the **Marriott Torrance Hotel 3635 Fashion Way Torrance, California 90503, August 27-29**. And in 2011 an additional Regional Forum will be held at Warner Center in the San Fernando Valley. Please be sure to visit either of these events. If you have any questions about Forums, please contact me. My number is on this poll. Registration can be found on our aa.org website several months before the event. And it's FREE! The reason I decided to include this on this year's poll is because our Region is huge (it spans Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Oregon and California). These two events are both within driving distance and we will probably not see them in our backyard again for a long while.

I have to tell you that after I went to my first Forum, I never felt more connected to A.A. Our General Service Office (GSO) services our needs and listens to our members. But when you meet these folks in person it just brings this movement called Alcoholics Anonymous into perspective. We support our national headquarters and they provide vital services to our members at home and abroad. I have never met nicer people who share our common concern about our ability to reach the suffering alcoholic.

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris, then Chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. They were to be weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure.

Regional Forums

There is no registration fee for Regional Forums. The General Service Board covers the expenses of meeting rooms. In many places, area committees, districts and groups cover or defray the transportation and lodging expenses of the trusted servants representing them at a Forum

Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing at Forums is captured in Forum Final Reports which are distributed to all attendees. Regional Forums Final Reports are available on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. Forums provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. Regional Forums and Local Forums carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship.

