

Area 74 Assembly Minutes May 21, 2016 -- Ashland, Wisconsin

8:30 AM – New GSR / DCM Orientation

Approximately 8 GSRs were in attendance. Thank you, Marty, for chairing.

9:00 AM – Welcome and Opening Remarks

34 GSRs in attendance

Housekeeping/Announcements including voice/vote explanation, vote by substantial unanimity unless otherwise stated.

The microphone assistant was Bill from Elgin, IL.

The traditions were read by Terry.

The Concepts were read by Mark.

The counters were Gloria and Greg.

The timer was Dawn.

Kim R. will calculate and report tallies.

If anyone has special needs, they should see Sara.

Through a voice vote everyone agreed to participate.

Opened Assembly with the Serenity prayer

Roll Call

Area Officers:

Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, Delegate, Secretary, Registrar, Treasurer.

Area Committee Chairs:

Archives, Corrections MI, Corrections WI, CPC, Finance, Grapevine Chair, Now & Then, Literature, Public Information, Structures & Guidelines, Treatment

DCMs:

01, 02, 03, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 13, 16,17, 18, 20, 21, 23

Past Delegates that are present today:

Panel 26 Len D

Panel 42 Chuck S

Panel 50 Bob M (also past ECR Trustee)

Panel 54 Torv T

Panel 60 Steve H

Panel 62 Marty L

Panel 64 Mary Jo R

The Archives Chair, Gail Z., asked Pete W. to stand in for her due to medical issues. Sara **motioned for Pete W. to have a voice and a vote at this Assembly. Motion seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.**

Approved April 2, 2016 assembly minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes. ***Passed unanimously.***

Area Officer Reports (see page 04)

Delegate's Report (see page 08)

WICYPAA Report, Jason, WICYPAA Liaison

- 1) The WICYPAA conference last January had 800 registrants and 600 attendees.
- 2) Milwaukee & Eau Claire bid for the next conference and Milwaukee won.
- 3) There are 4 bids for the conference after the next one: Waukesha, Madison, Lake Geneva and Eau Claire.
- 4) Katy spoke – we know we're here for the suffering alcoholic.
- 5) Cheryl spoke about Conference preparation.

Unfinished Business:

S&G Past Assembly Actions of Area 74 Recommendation – Jason L.

- 1) Jason presented the document and pointed out highlights.
Q: Bob M – will you go to past years?
A: No, will only move forward with the document.
Q: If somebody else pulls out past years' actions, would you add them to this document?
A: No, might be more appropriate for the Archives Committee.

New Business:

Motion: Area 74 will provide up to \$75 travel reimbursement for up to ten (10) current Area 74 Officers, Standing Committee Chairs and/or Past Delegates to attend the East Central Regional Conference when scheduled in our region. The Area 74 Guidelines and future budgets shall be amended as appropriate.

52 Y, 7 N

Minority opinion -- Greg: The motion includes Past Delegates. It should be for people coming up in service not for those who have already served.

Nobody from majority wished to change their vote. ***Motion passed with 88.1%.***

Conference Reports & Bids:

2015 Spring Conference Wrap-up Report – D-01, Nate K.

- 1) 354 registered, 204 banquet, 28 paid scholarships
- 2) \$12,964.00 revenue. \$9,650.00 expenses. \$1,000.00 seed money was returned to the Area, of the remaining \$2,313.00 ½ went to D-01 and ½ to Area 74.

2016 Fall Conference Report – D-23, Sep. 16-18, 2016, Jay H.

- 1) Registration forms are available
- 2) There are early bird room rates.
- 3) No option for electronic payments.

2017 Spring Conference Report – D-20, May 19-21, 2017, Dean C.

- 1) Venue is reserved and down payment made. The venue is a re-purposed elementary school.
- 2) All committees are set.
- 3) Flyer will be distributed at all conferences and assemblies between now and May 2017, via email and published in the Now and Then.

- 4) Motels will be included in flyer. We have three with guaranteed rates from \$80.00--\$109.00. Others available at less than \$60.00. Note that the conference will not be held at a motel though everything is very close.
- 5) Banquet will be \$22.00. Registration will be \$18.00. Option for an onsite lunch at about \$7.00
- 6) Will have a dance/DJ.
- 7) The conference committee is having conference calls every other month or so to work out the remaining details.
- 8) We do have some unique challenges because we do not have a hotel staff to do everything but it will all work out!

Q: Pete – are campgrounds open that time of year?

A: Don't know, it'll be either 80 degrees or 20 and snowing.

2017 Fall Conference Report – D-05, Sep. 15-17, 2017, Bryon B.

- 1) Had one meeting.
- 2) The venue is locked in.
- 3) Willing to look into electronic payments if there is a free way to do it.

2018 Spring Conference Bid – D-01, Nate D

May 18-20, 2018, Radisson again, \$99/room.

2018 Fall Conference Bid – D-18, Gary

His District is talking about putting in a bid for the Fall 2018 Conference.

Motion: to allow District 01 to host the 2018 Spring Conference.

47 Y, 3 N, 9 Abstentions, 94% in favor

Minority opinion, Bob M – The Guidelines for bids requests the bids are 2 years in advance, shall include date, location, approximate cost of hotel rooms, rates, registrations and banquet charges. Not all information necessary for bid was presented.

Motion to reconsider: 25 Y, 27 N, 4 Abstentions. Failed.

Bid approved.

Motion to close at 2:50 pm.

Meeting closed with The Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Zaroni, Secretary, Area 74

Officer Reports

Registrar

Hello to all Area 74 fellow servants, my name is David Johnson. I serve as your Area 74 Registrar.

As Registrar I have access to the data base of Area 74 through New Vision software. I can enter new groups. You just need to fill out a New Group form. You can get a New Group form by contacting me. I can email you a copy. Your District Committee Member might have some extra copies, and a General Service Representative from any other group might have a copy also. New Group forms are available for downloading at http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/forms. I can also change information for an existing group.

A new GSR should be registered to replace the outgoing GSR. An alternate can also be registered. If your group does not have a GSR it can have a Group Contact which can be recorded. It is important that your group has the name and mailing address of the GSR or Group Contact recorded so that group can receive our newsletter. The newsletter is mailed to the Group Contact, or GSR not to the group itself. http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/forms. DCMs can also find their change form at that address. Keep in mind a district can also register any of their committee chairs. Upcoming, I plan on sending information to all the DCMs.

The information will be a list of all the groups in their district. I ask the DCMs to ask the groups to look over the information to see if it is correct. Please send me back the changes. This may help with lowering the amount of newsletters we receive back. I use the database to generate mailing labels for the newsletter. If anyone is not receiving the newsletter, and think they should be, please contact me.

The Area Contact Directory seems to be constantly changing. Please review the list and notify me of my errors or absentmindedness. I know at this time it needs updating.

I thank you all for allowing me to be of service.

Yours, In Service,

David Johnson Area 74 Registrar

davidj3416@yahoo.com

(715) 571-3724

Q: Will you send Now & Then returned labels to groups? A: He'll send a list from all groups in District to the DCM. The Now & Then gets cleaned up automatically.

Q: When are changes needed for the 2-year Directory put out by GSO? A: The changes are due this month.

Q: Who do you notify if a group is disbanding? A: If the notice is sent to GSO, they'll make the change. They can look at the Directory today and check the group's status.

Secretary

Hello Everybody, I'm an alcoholic, my name is Michelle Zanoni and I am your Area 74 Secretary. Once again, I would like to thank everyone who sent their reports to me already. It really makes my job a whole lot easier if reports are sent to me either before, during, or immediately after the Assembly and the Area Committee meeting.

Thank you Vickie Ackley, for being such a helpful assistant.

I don't have a whole lot to report. I simply do my best to get the minutes out in a timely fashion. Thank you all for letting me serve as Secretary. It is a pleasure to work with this group of officers. The experience thus far has been a bit challenging, but very rewarding.

Treasurer – Kim

Area 74 - 2016 YTD Revenue/Expense Report
1-1-2016 through 4-30-16

CARRYOVER FROM 2015	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2015	\$ 6,562.07
Carryover prudent reserve	3,002.53
TTL CARRYOVER FROM LAST MONTH	\$ 9,564.60

OFFICER & CHAIR EXPENSES	
Delegate	\$ 1,000.00
Area Chair-Alt Delegate	519.00
Treasurer	70.00
Registrar	15.30
Secretary	25.00
Archives	105.00
Corrections MI	45.00
Corrections WI	62.00
CPC	121.00
Finance Expenses	130.00
Grapevine	57.61
Literature	160.92
Now & Then	135.00
Public Information	25.00
Structures & Guidelines	141.92
Treatment	104.50
YTD Chair Expenses	\$ 2,717.25

COMMITTEE EXPENSES	
Archives	\$ 10.00
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	79.50
Corrections Committee MI	55.00
Corrections Committee WI	-
CPC Committee	10.00
Finance Committee Expenses	93.90
Grapevine Committee	56.84
Literature Committee	-
Now & Then Committee	2,000.00
Public Information Committee	99.50
Registrar Committee	-
Secretary Committee	-
Structures & Guidelines Committee	94.39
Treatment Committee	-
YTD Committee Expenses	\$ 2,499.13

OTHER EXPENSES	
Seat Delegate	1600.00
Registrar Internet	
Assembly & ACM Rent	250.00
Assembly & ACM Expenses	155.41
Conference Seed Money	1000.00
Other / Misc Expenses (Check Printing Fee)	50.00
ECR Conference	
ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)	
East Central Regional Forum	
Conf. of Delegates past/present Trustee election every	
International Convention	
International Convention Hospitality Room donation	
Sec/Reg computer/onetimeexpens	
Prudent Reserve	
YTD Other Expenses	\$ 3,055.41

REVENUE SUMMARY	
Group Contributions	\$ 8,352.27
Anniversary & Individual Contributions	29.00
* Other Income *	220.64
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 8,601.91

* OTHER INCOME *	
Interest Income	\$ 0.64
Refreshment Contributions	220.00
Seed Money Return Spring 2016 Conference	-
Spring 2016 Conference Gain/Loss	-
Seed Money Return Fall 2016 Conference	-
Fall 2016 Conference Gain	-
Total Other Income	\$ 220.64

EXPENSE SUMMARY	
Chair Expenses	\$ 2,717.25
Committee Expenses	2,499.13
Other Expenses	3,055.41
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 8,271.79

TOTAL ASSETS	
Balance-Checking April 30, 2016	\$7,101.55
Outstanding Checks	210.00
Balance-Prudent Reserve April 30, 2016	3,003.17
TOTAL ASSETS APRIL 30, 2016	\$ 9,894.72

BANK PROOF	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2015	\$ 6,562.07
Carry Over Prudent Reserve	3,002.53
YTD Total Revenue	8,601.91
YTD Total Expense	8,271.79
TOTAL ASSETS April 30, 2016	\$ 9,894.72

YEAR TO DATE GAIN / LOSS	
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 8,601.91
YTD Total Expenses	8,271.79
YTD Net Gain (or Loss)	\$ 330.12

GROUP PARTICIPATION	
Active Groups As of Mar 7, 2016 April 30, 2016	659
Institutional Groups	30
Groups Contributing	133
	21.14%

Area 74

2015 Final 5 Year Budget to Actual Comparison

Income ~ Final								
	2011	2012	2013		2014		2015	
Income	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)	2015 (Actual)
Group Contributions	\$14,928.72	\$17,242.53	\$18,500.00	\$16,038.30	\$17,300.00	\$19,243.42	\$18,000.00	\$21,111.00
Other Income	\$3,485.88	\$3,895.38	\$2,500.00	\$8,066.27	\$2,000.00	\$3,760.43	\$2,000.00	\$4,037.55
Personal Anniversary	\$107.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$151.00	\$75.00	\$264.00	\$150.00	\$761.00
Yearly Beginning Balance	\$15,022.11	\$7,974.03	\$6,500.00	\$6,518.39	\$6,500.00	\$6,033.97	\$6,500.00	\$6,418.77
Total Income	\$33,543.71	\$29,161.94	\$27,575.00	\$30,773.96	\$25,875.00	\$29,301.82	\$26,650.00	\$32,328.32
Area Officer and Committee Chair Expenses								
Officer Expenses	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)	2015 (Actual)
Delegate	\$2,600.00	\$1,773.55	\$2,600.00	\$2,233.94	\$2,600.00	\$1,678.00	\$2,600.00	\$1,537.92
Area Chair-Alt Delegate	\$1,139.50	\$435.00	\$1,300.00	\$976.80	\$1,300.00	\$861.00	\$1,300.00	\$907.25
Treasurer	\$799.36	\$521.80	\$700.00	\$627.50	\$700.00	\$548.00	\$700.00	\$602.00
Secretary- Registrar	\$719.50	\$415.73	\$700.00	\$669.75	\$700.00	\$509.00	\$700.00	\$572.98
Committee Chairs	\$6,188.47	\$4,707.67	\$7,700.00	\$5,425.18	\$7,700.00	\$4,404.43	\$7,700.00	\$5,407.92
Sub-Total	\$11,446.83	\$7,853.75	\$13,000.00	\$9,933.17	\$13,000.00	\$8,000.43	\$13,000.00	\$9,028.07
Committee Expenses								
	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)	2015 (Actual)
Archives	\$401.80	\$487.48	\$600.00	\$551.00	\$850.00	\$776.08	\$1,025.00	\$1,161.99
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	\$246.10	\$228.08	\$350.00	\$252.60	\$350.00	\$361.76	\$400.00	\$365.55
Corrections Committee MI		\$99.07	\$125.00	\$322.28	\$300.00		\$125.00	\$113.97
Corrections Committee WI	\$72.13	\$70.00	\$125.00	\$79.00	\$125.00	\$80.00	\$125.00	\$60.94
CPC Committee		\$108.40	\$125.00	\$61.00	\$125.00	\$141.00	\$1,105.00	\$16.00
Finance Committee Expenses	\$652.40	\$382.22	\$500.00	\$452.59	\$500.00	\$391.19	\$950.00	\$519.74
Grapevine Committee	\$186.90	\$24.00	\$350.00	\$163.63	\$400.00	\$177.65	\$900.00	\$583.78
Literature Committee		\$88.88	\$50.00	\$35.76	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$181.60
Now & Then Committee	\$5,050.45	\$5,338.18	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Public Information Committee	\$219.50	\$145.84	\$300.00	\$179.50	\$300.00	\$216.96	\$300.00	\$80.60
Secretary Registrar Committee	\$344.00	\$147.06	\$500.00	\$188.74	\$400.00	\$169.00	\$400.00	\$287.73
Struc & Guide Committee	\$34.50	\$333.36	\$500.00	\$373.28	\$400.00	\$459.00	\$500.00	\$425.24
Treatment Committee		\$90.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$37.50	\$100.00	\$25.00
Sub-Total	\$7,207.78	\$7,542.57	\$9,125.00	\$8,259.38	\$10,050.00	\$9,010.14	\$13,330.00	\$10,822.14
Other Expenses								
	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)	2015 (Actual)
Seat Delegate	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Registrar Internet			\$240.00	\$120.00	\$120.00		\$120.00	
Assembly & ACM rent				\$350.00	\$300.00	\$550.00	\$600.00	\$550.00
Assembly & ACM expenses				\$205.23	\$300.00	\$329.47	\$400.00	\$229.10
Conference seed money	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other\Misc Expenses	\$4,437.89	\$636.91	\$300.00	\$115.00	\$300.00	\$191.98	\$300.00	\$5.00
ECR Conference				\$608.44				
ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)							\$1,200.00	\$945.31
East Central Regional Forum		\$225.00	\$750.00	\$148.97			\$750.00	\$575.00
Conf. of Delegates past/present								
Trustee election every 4 years				\$200.00				
International Convention							\$750.00	
International Convention								
Hospitality Room donation							\$500.00	\$350.00
Sec/Reg								
computer/onetimeexpens							\$750.00	\$660.13
Prudent Reserve Deposits		\$600.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,201.03		
Sub-total	\$7,637.89	\$6,161.91	\$6,090.00	\$6,547.64	\$5,820.00	\$5,872.48	\$8,970.00	\$5,914.54
Total Expenses	\$26,292.50	\$21,558.23	\$28,215.00	\$24,740.19	\$28,870.00	\$22,883.05	\$35,300.00	\$25,764.75
End of Year Balance	\$7,251.21	\$7,603.71	(\$640.00)	\$6,033.77	(\$2,995.00)	\$6,418.77	(\$8,650.00)	\$6,562.07
Prudent Reserve		\$600.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,001.03	\$3,000.00	\$3,002.53

2015 Final Syr Budget-Actual
As of December 31, 2015

Area 74

2015 Final 5 Year Budget to Actual Comparison

Income ~ Final								
	2011	2012	2013		2014		2015	
	2011(ACTUAL)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)	2015 (Actual)
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Treasurer	\$799.36	\$521.80	\$700.00	\$627.50	\$700.00	\$548.00	\$700.00	\$602.00
Secretary- Registrar	\$719.50	\$415.73	\$700.00	\$669.75	\$700.00	\$509.00	\$700.00	\$572.98
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CPC Committee		\$108.40	\$125.00	\$61.00	\$125.00	\$141.00	\$1,105.00	\$16.00
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Literature Committee		\$88.88	\$50.00	\$35.76	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$181.60
Now & Then Committee	\$5,050.45	\$5,338.18	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Public Information Committee	\$219.50	\$145.84	\$300.00	\$179.50	\$300.00	\$216.96	\$300.00	\$80.60
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Treatment Committee		\$90.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$37.50	\$100.00	\$25.00
Sub-Total	\$7,207.78	\$7,542.57	\$9,125.00	\$8,259.38	\$10,050.00	\$9,010.14	\$13,330.00	\$10,822.14
Other Expenses								
	2011(ACTUAL)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)	2015 (Actual)
Seat Delegate	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Registrar Internet			\$240.00	\$120.00	\$120.00		\$120.00	
Assembly & ACM rent				\$350.00	\$300.00	\$550.00	\$600.00	\$550.00
Assembly & ACM expenses				\$205.23	\$300.00	\$329.47	\$400.00	\$229.10
Conference seed money	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other\Misc Expenses	\$4,437.89	\$636.91	\$300.00	\$115.00	\$300.00	\$191.98	\$300.00	\$5.00
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ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)							\$1,200.00	\$945.31
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Conf. of Delegates past/present								
Trustee election every 4 years				\$200.00				
International Convention							\$750.00	
International Convention								
Hospitality Room donation							\$500.00	\$350.00
Sec/Reg								
computer/onetimeexpens							\$750.00	\$660.13
Prudent Reserve Deposits		\$600.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,201.03		
Sub-total	\$7,637.89	\$6,161.91	\$6,090.00	\$6,547.64	\$5,820.00	\$5,872.48	\$8,970.00	\$5,914.54
Total Expenses	\$26,292.50	\$21,558.23	\$28,215.00	\$24,740.19	\$28,870.00	\$22,883.05	\$35,300.00	\$25,764.75
End of Year Balance	\$7,251.21	\$7,603.71	(\$640.00)	\$6,033.77	(\$2,995.00)	\$6,418.77	(\$8,650.00)	\$6,562.07
Prudent Reserve		\$600.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,001.03	\$3,000.00	\$3,002.53

Alternate Delegate/Area Chair

Hello, my name is Sara and I am currently serving Area 74 as your panel 66 Alternate Delegate / Area Chair. First and foremost, I want to thank you for this privilege. I have to say April and May have been much quieter for me than the previous three months. I have been able to reflect on my journey so far in this position and have worked to better prepare myself to conduct the area service meetings being held this weekend. On April 9th, I attended the Annual Moose and Goose Corrections Literature Fundraiser in Seymour, Wisconsin. On April 30th, I attended the Spring Fling in Menominee, Michigan. Both of these events were an absolutely awesome time and it was great to be present as an AA member. I continue to participate in the DCM conference call which is held the last Tuesday of each month. As Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, I get to participate on the Structures and Guidelines Committee. We have had one phone conference call since the last assembly on April 2nd. I have not had as much contact with our Delegate, Derek T., over the past month as he has been super busy with the General Service Conference and preparing his Delegates Report to share with us today. I do have several upcoming AA events planned for the summer. I continue to read and talk with other AA members to help me grow and carry out my duties in this position as your Alternate Delegate / Area Chair. I am willing to be of service to Area 74 in any capacity asked of me. Thank you for this humbling experience!

Yours in Love & Service
Sara Plansky-Pecor
Alternate Delegate / Area Chair

Delegate's Report

Thank you all for being here today. This pre-report will give you an overview of my activities since we last met at the pre-General Service Conference Assembly. I would also like to share with you some open positions on the General Service Board and at the General Service Office.

Since we last met I have attended the General Service Conference in New York from April 15-23; more on that later ☺

I attended and participated in the District 04 Traditions Workshop on May 7 in Stevens Point Wisconsin. A special thank you to Jeff and Renee for hosting me the night before.

I attended and participated in a District 18 Workshop on Leadership in AA in Palmer on May. Thank you to Gerri Ann and Bill for your hospitality.

I also participated in two teleconferences with our Trustee and the other Delegates from the East Central Region on April 13 and May 15.

I attended the most recent District 20 meeting. I also participated in District 20's teleconference call for the 2017 Spring Conference planning committee.

To date, I have incurred approximately \$1000 of my annual \$2600 budget expenses.

I am available to present on the General Service Conference or any other topic you wish at your Workshop, group or District.

There are several openings I'd like to share with you

There is a vacancy for a Non-Trustee Director on the AAWS Board. The position will begin after the 2017 General Service Conference. Resume forms are due in by July 1, 2016 and a professional resume may also be included.

There is a Class A Trustee (non-alcoholic) vacancy on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. This vacancy will also occur AFTER the conclusion of the 2017 General Service Conference. Resumes are due in by July 31, 2016. Please forward this information to anyone you know who may have interest.

There is a job opening at AAWS for Director of Publishing. Note that resumes and cover letter are due in by June 1, 2016. Please share with anyone you know who may be qualified or have interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Tait
Panel 66 Area 74
Northern Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula of Michigan
906.203.1420
djtjune3@hotmail.com

Summary Report of the General Service Conference

April 16-23, 2016 @ Crown Plaza Times Square, New York NY

I want to begin my report with a huge thank you. Thank you for sending me to New York as your Delegate. If your group sends contributions to the General Service Board and/or to Area 74, you helped fund my travel and hotel expenses. I also want to thank you for the preparation you provided me. Leading up to Conference, I was informed that Area 74 has a tradition of preparing their delegate for attendance @ Conference. I found out through experience that this is true. Some delegates may have gone to the microphone more than I did and many went less, but I was knowledgeable about pretty much every topic and agenda item that was discussed. I also want to say thank you for your prayers and your words of support. Many of you called, e-mailed or sent text messages leading up to my departure and that really meant a lot to me. I felt 100% supported and I think I could actually feel the prayers.

The conference was definitely a week in my life I will not soon forget. I arrived Friday evening with my guest, Dawn. We had a really easy time getting out of the airport, into a cab and to the hotel. No lines, no waits, little traffic. It was very smooth. Upon arriving in New York, I was overwhelmed with an alcoholic attack of unwillingness and reluctance. I have lived in a large city and have been to New York several times so there was no sense of awe or being overwhelmed. Selfishly, I was thinking of all the work piling up at my office while I would be gone, the fact that my partner had just had major surgery only 11 days prior and that I was most likely unprepared and unqualified to be there. Of course as an alcoholic, my head was lying to me. I didn't know yet how prepared I actually was. That night I made some sponsorship calls, prayed, had some dinner nearby and got some rest. I was told that everyone hits a wall at some point during the week, mine just happened to be the moment I arrived ☺

That said, I did not take my commitment lightly. I fully understood I was on a serious errand for you and for AA as a whole. As a point of information and measure of accountability, I attended every pre-conference event, went to all of my committee meetings, voted at and participated in all full-session conference sessions and attended the post-conference brunch to say farewell to the rotating Trustees. Most days started at 8 a.m. and ended at 9 or 10 p.m.

Many people became ill at the General Service Conference this year. Some delegates missed parts of the conference and one even ended up in the hospital. I did not get sick until the last day while traveling home. I may have nodded off at a couple sessions, but I definitely attended everything.

Overview & Timeline of This Report and the General Service Conference

I have organized this report generally in a chronological manner. The committees meet early in the week and the conference reports begin on Wednesday. This is where the real business of the Conference happens. Throughout the week, there were finance and board presentations, workshops, panel presentations and sharing sessions. These are spread out and meant to break up the business so it is not too 'hypnotizing' and by the end of the week I knew why. When I was newer to AA, the first Delegate's Report I ever heard was from Don Bennett, Past Delegate from Area 19. His report was all about the food, so in a nod to him, I feel I must report about the food. Breakfast was on our own every morning, but all lunches and dinners were taken together with the full conference except for two ECR Delegate lunches and one Delegate-only dinner. The food was usually OK, but some if it was marginal. It seemed a little excessive and I followed suggestions about going light when I could.

This presentation is a combination of slides I created, slides from some of the Board's presentations and a few slides from the Delegate from Maryland. Many of the Delegates have shared their Power Points around the country and agreed that they could be used in whole or in part. It made the daunting task of preparing the presentation a little more manageable.

Pre-conference

The first day of scheduled events, Saturday, was considered pre-conference. A bus trip to Stepping Stones in Katonah, NY helped break the ice and some of my fear and anxiety started to subside. It was amazing to see the dedication and commitment of the employees and volunteers that help preserve and interpret Bill and Lois' home. It is owned and managed by a foundation and operations are funded by contributions and sales in the gift shop. There was some great fellowship on the way there and the way back. On the way back I was seated next to an Appointed Committee Member serving on the Trustees' Literature Committee and in front of the GSO Staff Member assigned to Literature, Sandra Wilson. Sandra would also serve as the Secretary for the Delegates' Literature Committee. Her loving smile really melted my resistance. Saturday evening included the Remote Communities Meeting, the 1728 meeting and the first Delegate's only meeting. Afterwards I met my committee chair and other committee members and had a chance to fellowship with other delegates, including those from our region.

Pre-conference photos

These are photos of the pre-conference trip to Stepping Stones. It was a beautiful day and we also got to have our photo taken at Bill's writing desk in the studio he built himself called Wit's End. The garage gift shop is now open.

Structure of the Conference

Most of you are familiar with the upside-down triangle. I really liked this image that shows the total "Conference Structure" which is the large oval, and then the members who attend the actual General Service Conference week, which are those encircles in the small oval.

Who Makes up the Conference?

This slide shows the make-up of the conference members. 93 Delegates come from the US and Canada. 25 are Trustees and Directors and the remaining 16 are GSO and Grapevine Staff. As you can see the Delegates make up a “substantial unanimity” of the voting body.

Full Conference Opening Session and Day 1

The full conference began Sunday morning with roll call. I was told it would be emotional and I was not too moved until the very end. It was when I realized that every member of the conference showed up and was present in the room at the same time. That was a powerful example of commitment. All these servants came from all over North America and they all showed up and were present at the opening. Very cool!

The minute the Chairman of the General Service Board opened the meeting, there was a floor action to change the agenda and revert it to the original agenda that was set prior to the poll vote in December 2015. The poll vote postponed the Anonymity Workshop until 2017 and replaced it with a Discussion Workshop devoted to the General Service Board’s Strategic Plan and brainstorming about the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was not surprised. I suspected the issue would be brought forward, but I did not expect it to come the very first minute the floor was open. The Chairman of the Board admitted that the poll vote process was handled improperly. There was much discussion for and against and it went on for at least 60 minutes. Finally, the question was called. I voted in favor of restoring the agenda; after the heated discussion we had at our sharing session, I was sure Area 74 would want me to vote that way. I was in the minority but did not go the mike for minority opinion; I felt that everything had already been stated in discussion. The motion failed and the Conference moved on. Sunday afternoon included the Finance Report from our Treasurer David Morris. I will present highlights of the report a bit later. Sunday afternoon was also the joint Trustees and Conference Literature Committee meeting. At this meeting, the Delegates on Literature were able to ask questions of the Trustees serving on Literature. It was a short meeting, but packed with information.

The opening banquet took place on Sunday night and it was a great experience. I sat with many of the Delegates from Canada and also the Delegate from Colorado and her husband. There were five speakers, 10 minutes each. It was a great format and all of the speakers were excellent. I also had a surprise visitor after the opening banquet. My good friend, Daaiamah, now lives in New York. She had taken me to my first meetings in Chicago and helped me stay sober. She showed up at the hotel after the banquet and her timing could not have been better. She saw me through the worst and was now seeing me at my best. I was able to thank her again for helping me stay sober.

Board Reports & Financials

I have attempted to make the board reports and financials as palatable as possible. A HUGE amount of information was provided. I am simply providing an overview as I see fit for this forum. I have not cherry-picked information. I do not have an agenda. This is information that was presented at the General Service Conference for me to bring back to you. I did try to include a bit of everything and to capture overall spirit, especially with the budget outlooks. I have included a few slides on each of the following:

- General Service Board Report
- AAWS Report
- Grapevine Board Report
- GSB Treasurer’s Report

These are meant to provide an overview. I am certain that some of you may want a more in-depth look at things. I have access to and can e-mail Power Point presentations from the Board Reports, and more particularly the “Around the Picnic Table” presentation from our General

Service Board Treasurer, David Morris. He does an expansive and thorough report and really is able to present an overview of our Fellowship's financial health in a digestible format.

General Service Board Report Slide #1

There were six regional and local forums in 2015 and some of us attended the Forum in Milwaukee last November. The 2016 Forums are in Denver, Thunder Bay Ontario, Kamloops British Columbia, Waikoloa Hawaii and Orlando Florida. We have a new General Manager at the General Service Office, Greg Tobin. As you know, one focus of the board has been on strategic planning and AA's future.

General Service Board Report Slide #2

Many of the topics on this slide will look familiar from the Special Sharing Session held before the Pre-Conference Winter Assembly in April. I will cover some of the highlights of the 'brainstorming' session later in my report.

AAWS Report #1

Alcoholics Anonymous provides oversight of G.S.O. group services, A.A.W.S. Publishing and translations, and owns copyrights. The AAWS Board Report included summary items such as

- There are 79 employees at the General Service Office in New York.
- Big Book sales in 2015 were down about 500,00 from 2014
- 2015 publishing sales were roughly \$2 million below estimate
- The 2016 budgeted shortfall for AAWS is \$26,000 and change

AAWS Report Slide #2

And....

- The largest International Convention to date was held in Atlanta, but with a (\$210,431) shortfall
- 2015 Contributions were up over budget and up 3.71% over 2014, but as we will see in a later report there are fewer groups contributing, with each contributing a greater amount.

AA Grapevine Board Report

This slide provides some pertinent numbers and info related to Grapevine and La Viña. As you can see 2015 Grapevine circulation is down 2,034 from 2014. Important to note is that Grapevine had a budgeted loss of \$14,614, but came out with net income of \$245,204. The greatest amount of gross profit came from books and related items at \$505,806. In March 2016, Grapevine Inc. transferred \$260,000 into the reserve fund. This is the third consecutive year that Grapevine Inc. has done so. Overhead costs came in \$227,899 below budget in 2015.

Grapevine App

The Grapevine subscription app is now available. You'll be able to access past issues since the inception of the magazine app subscription and e-mail articles to friends.

Regional Pages

In Winter 2016, the grapevine website www.aagrapevine.org will feature regional pages.

Finance Presentation

As I mentioned...David Morris, the Treasurer of the General Service Board, does an amazing presentation. It has 91 slides and he goes through all of our finances in about 45 minutes. Some of you may have seen it at the Regional Forum in Milwaukee. I cannot even pretend to be able to summarize his report. But I have tried to bring out some salient info and am sharing some

slides from his presentation. This first slide just pulls out some highlights. The Board clearly wants to mirror back the importance of communicating out about the need to support financially the services and actions that we request through the General Service Conference. As referenced several times throughout the presentation, print sales are declining, expenses are going up and a smaller percentage of groups are contributing.

Coffee Graphic Slide

This is certainly not the first time many of us have seen one of the comparisons. The dollar of 1935 is \$13.00 today.

Financials Overall Slide

For 2015, The General Service Board operated in the black, the Grapevine operated in the black, but La Viña was at a loss. Total amount we were in the black for 2015 was just over \$300,000 which we will see in a later slide

GSB Overview slide

This slide shows how you arrive at the \$205,625 gain for the General Service Board. The first column shows the high level summary for the GSO General Fund and the column on the right shows the high level summary for AAWS publishing.

Self-Support Bottom Line

An important note on this slide is that we as a Fellowship are only supporting 74.3% of the services we receive by contributing to though our 7th Tradition. This concern will likely become acute as the sales of print literature go down. If contributions do not go up, how will we make up the difference?

Member Services & Statistics Slide

As you can see in this slide the number of members is declining slightly over the last three years. The number of groups contributing to GSO is going down and the percentage of groups contributing is going down. But the number of groups is slightly higher.

Percentage of groups contributing

This slide clearly shows the percentage of groups contributing going down over the last 10 years.

7th Tradition/Self Support Graph Slide

This graph shows the relationship between total contributions and percentage of groups contributing. The blue bars show that total contributions are continuing to increase over time (total dollars on the left hand side), albeit slightly in the last three years. The red line is the percentage of groups contributing to GSO, clearly dropping. The percentages can be seen on the right hand side.

GSO/AAWS Slide

The doom and gloom continues...

Membership flat, contributions going up but only slightly from fewer groups and expenses on the rise.

Grapevine Outlook

Grapevine has made huge cuts, but there are limits. Subscriptions will decline and expenses will increase

International Convention Slide

I wasn't sure where exactly to put this info in the overall flow, so decided to stick it here. There was some grumbling about the loss and definite concern that we had the biggest attendance ever, but came out over \$210,000 in the red on the conference. The overage was due to late-game changes in bussing and security because overall attendance was higher than expected. Hotels were needed further out from the Conventions Center and extra bussing was needed and hence additional space needed to be rented at the Convention Center for increased transportation staging

2016 Budget Outlook

2016 budgeted shortfall is \$325,600 with increasingly larger shortfalls forecast for the next three years

Budget Outlook and Trends

The yellow bar on this chart shows the projected losses for 2016 through 2018. The projected loss for 2018 is \$1,447,800. This takes into account that membership continues to stay flat and that contributions continue to stay relatively flat, literature sales stay flat, Grapevine subscriptions decrease and expenses for AAWS and Grapevine grow slowly at 2-3% increase per year. Note that Prudent Reserve would only be 7 months by 2018.

General Service Board Strategic Plan and Brainstorming Sessions

So these trends were the reason for the request for brainstorming on the General Service Board's Strategic Plan. This begins to make a little more sense in my mind in the context of the financial reports.

Wednesday morning featured the brainstorming breakout groups followed by open sharing sessions. I actually really enjoyed the breakout groups; each group was made up of a mix of trustees, staff members and delegates. As you may recall, I was assigned to the 'Increasing Revenues' group. There was lots of lively discussion and I introduced the '\$50 Big Book' campaign; my opinion being that many alcoholics don't respond to a nuanced ask for money. I expressed the idea that many alcoholics, including myself, need to hear things a little more bluntly to understand. The threat of a future \$50 price tag on a Big Book might spur contributions to the GSB.

On Thursday morning the recorders from each breakout session reporting their findings to the full conference. The report-backs were followed by 10-minute open sharing sessions where anyone could come to the mike and make comments. The full-conference sharing sessions were too short in my opinion; each sharing session ended with a dozen or more people lined up at the mic. Clearly conference members had a lot to share on this subject. While there were a handful of open sharing sessions during the week, the sharing session that followed the breakout reports were the last ones of the week. This meant that all who had items to share related to the brainstorming session were not given an opportunity to share. I did address this fact in my nightly evaluation form.

Some highlights from each category, and remember that these were just sharing/brainstorming sessions:

Increasing Revenues

- Reminding others that money in the basket is a *personal sacrifice*
- Maybe we should sell drunk junk?
- We should use language like "financing services" rather than "raising revenues"
- Send the F-203 service piece to non-contributing groups

Better communication

- Improve the literature purchasing process on our website
- Make the web contribution portal larger/more present on the website

Decreasing Expense

- Decrease conference expenses
- Polling the fellowship about what services they actually want and/or require
- Charge a fee for Regional Forums
- Shrink the GSC to five days

More/better communication

Communication

- Develop an app

Structure

- no notes

It became clear to me after listening to all the reports that communication was the key element in all the sessions.

Trustee Elections

I sat nearby to watch the process for electing the West Central Regional Trustee and the Western Canada Trustee. The Western Canada trustee election was held on Wednesday and took 40 minutes. The West Central Regional Trustee election took place on Thursday and took 45 minutes. The elections followed 3rd legacy procedure with all delegates from the region being seated in a roped off area and then an equal number of voters – ½ from the Conference Committee on Trustees and ½ from the trustees' Nominating Committee. The WCR trustee election was slightly more exciting and after the 5th ballot the last two nominees were tied 50/50 and it went to the hat. I am excited to be a part of the election at next year's Conference where we'll elect our East Central Regional Trustee.

Presentations

The Conference also included segments of presentations that helped break up the extensive business of the week. These included topical presentations (all done by 2nd year Delegates) and Area Highlights (all done by 1st year Delegates). By the time I did my Area Highlights on Wednesday morning, I was no longer nervous at all!

Committee Work

Committee Meetings began Monday and went through Tuesday. The Literature Committee met for a total of 13 hours, but only scheduled for seven. We met one hour early both days and worked through lunch. Tuesday afternoon included a visit to GSO. Since all of the members of the Literature Committee, including myself, had been to GSO before we decided to come back early to finish our committee work. The discussions were intense and I only had one moment where I wanted to quit. I was trying to express myself, but the words were not coming out as I wished. We had an extra staff member who sat in to assist our Secretary as this was her first Conference. At one point in deliberations, we also called in a consultant and a member of the publishing department to discuss the pagination issue.

The plain language Big Book was, of course, a lengthy discussion. There was really only one member of the committee who stood in favor, but did agree to go along with whatever the committee decided.

Our final item of business was to elect the 2017 Literature Conference Committee chairperson. The first vote was a tie between myself and one other delegate, due to an abstention. Laura Goostree will serve as chair next year and I was elected Alternate Chair of Literature.

Literature Committee Photo

Larry Mumby from Alberta and one of their DCMs home was lost. They were actually slated to have their Assembly in the town that burned, Fort McMurray. Prayers for them.

Conference Reports/Advisory Actions

The conference reports began at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and went until the Friday night conclusion of business. This is where the real business takes place. The chair of each committee presents their final report to the full conference. The full report includes recommendations and additional committee considerations. Any committee recommendations are debated by the full body and voted upon using AA-style Robert's rules of order. Some agenda items do not come out of committee the same they went in. Some do not see the light of day, but may become a floor action if a member of the Conference or their area feels very strongly about it. Those recommendations that are approved by the full body with substantial unanimity become Conference Advisory Actions and are acted upon by the corresponding Trustees Committee in the year following the Conference.

After each committee's recommendations are debated and voted upon, the chairperson takes questions regarding their committee's additional considerations. There is no debate or voting on additional considerations; only questions.

These are the highlights of the Advisory Actions that came out of this Year's General Service Conference. I have provided you a printed list of the Advisory Actions. I will review the Action and how I voted along with any pertinent info. The printed list of Advisory Actions that were provided in hard copy show the floor actions as numbers 1-3. I'll revisit the floor actions after reviewing the Advisory Actions, because they actually come at the end of debate and voting on the committee recommendations. The following recommendations were approved by the 66th General Service Conference:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2017 General Service Conference be: "Supporting Our Future."

I voted in favor. Y125/N4; no minority opinion

5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2017 General Service Conference:

a. Growth:

1. Diversity -- Outreach and Attraction
2. Safety – An Important Consideration
3. Communication – Today and Tomorrow

b. Participation:

1. Fellowship vs. Membership
2. Leadership: "I am Responsible"
3. Is Your Voice Heard?

c. Contributions:

1. Spirituality and Money
2. Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations
3. Apathy and Power of the Purse

The question of the Anonymity Workshop came up and it is to be assumed that it will be on next year's agenda. There was much discussion on the presentation/discussion topics. Item a.2 was originally titled "Safety-Our Responsibility" and it was amended to "Safety-An Important Consideration" after Class A Trustee Ivan Lemelle, a judge, stated it might not be prudent to appear as if we (GSB) are responsible for safety in all meetings. Made sense in light of recent lawsuits. The amended motion passed with 115Y/13N. **I voted in favor of the motion**

6. The Conference Agenda Committee review the summary of the previous year's Conference evaluations and, where appropriate, make suggestions for improvement to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

I voted in favor. 1282/N4; no minority opinion

7. The General Service Office post to the Conference dashboard, and regularly update information concerning the status of all proposed Conference agenda items.

I voted in favor of this recommendation. 116Y/11N; no minority opinion

The total time for debate & vote on recommendations and questions on Additional Considerations was 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Archives

No recommendations.

No recommendations came out of committee, but there were several items under Additional Considerations.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. A new section on A.A. and medications be added to the pamphlet "If You are a Professional..." with the following text:

[Under the Heading] A.A. Members and Medications

A.A. does not provide medical advice; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified health care professional. The suggestions provided in the pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" may help A.A. members minimize the risk of relapse.

There was lots of discussion on this one. The original recommendation included the word "physician". It was amended on the floor to the words "Healthcare professional". **I voted in favor; all in favor except one & no minority opinion**

9. Text be added to the last paragraph of the first page of the pamphlet “Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” to read (additions in **bold**):

A.A. can help organizations, **corporations and businesses, regardless of size**, contact men and women who have achieved sobriety, and are willing to share their experience freely with anyone who seeks help.

No discussion; unanimous approval

10. Several minor revisions to the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals” be approved.

No discussion; one opposed. No minority opinion

11. An introductory paragraph for professionals be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” addressing the notion that while some language in the 1958 pamphlet is dated, the issues are prevalent today, and asked that a draft introductory paragraph be brought back to the 2017 Conference Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee for review.

No discussion; unanimous approval

CPC debate, voting and questions on Additional Considerations took 35 minutes.

Corrections

It was recommended that:

12. The video to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” with the title “A New Freedom” be approved. We were shown the 30-minute video while the conference was in full session. I found the video to offer a broad range of inmates from all different backgrounds – black, white, Hispanic, native American, male, female. The inmates talked about AA principles, steps (especially 4th/5th step and amends), prayer and meditation, the Big Book ,Daily Reflections, etc. The whole video felt useful and relevant, especially since I do corrections work; I could see it being used right away in the facility I go into. The video ended with Corrections Correspondence info and Corrections address in NY. There were some debate regarding the placement of real bank logos and also about the potential connection of AA to domestic violence. The domestic violence issue came up later as floor action that was defeated. **I voted in favor of the approving the video. There was only 1 vote against and no minority opinion.**

Debate and voting on the recommendation and questions on Additional Considerations took 1 hour and 5 minutes

Finance

No recommendations.

There was a recommendation to increase the individual contribution, discussed for 35 minutes, but it failed 49/75. **I spoke to the minority opinion and stated our Area’s desire that it be pegged to inflation; no one changed their vote.**

Total time for debate, vote and questions on Additional Consideraitons was 1 hour 10 minutes

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

13. The delegate chair for the Grapevine Conference Committee be allowed the same participation at the January A.A. Grapevine Board Meeting as all other delegate chairs at their corresponding trustees' committees.

I voted in favor of this motion. This passed with substantial unanimity; minority opinion – agreed in spirit with the recommendation but suggested we should not be directing the corporate board what to do.

Total time on Grapevine for debate, voting and questions on Additional Considerations was 45 minutes.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

No recommendations.

Literature

It was recommended that:

14. The trustees' Literature Committee develop a plan that includes a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items, taking into consideration the following: content, relevance, and usefulness; and prioritized by time span since last review. The committee requested that the plan also include an annual report, to be forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee, reflecting the results of their review and any other items for proposed updates or revisions.

This recommendation passed with substantial unanimity and after minority opinion was heard, it failed to be reconsidered

15. The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to include information about young people's conferences and that the proposed text be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee for review.

This recommendation passed with substantial unanimity and after minority opinion was heard, it failed to be reconsidered

16. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

17. The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

There was substantial unanimity on this vote with only one opposed; one Trustee strongly encouraged the Trustees' Literature Committee to keep the "Free Beer at your first meeting"

graphic.

I voted in favor of all recommendations. It is understood that the committee members stick with committee decisions. Of course they are free to vote their conscience, they are discouraged from speaking against committee recommendations on the floor. Our committee chair, Jay Eckstein, came to the floor fully prepared.

The debate and vote on recommendations and questions for the Additional Considerations took 1 hour and 35 minutes.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

18. Mykhailo Araslanov, past World Service Meeting delegate, and Yury Tarnavskyy from Ukraine be admitted to the 66th General Service Conference as observers.

This was basically accepted at the opening session. I sat with one of the Ukrainians at the Sunday Trustee farewell brunch and heard part of his story.

19. Implementation of Phase 1 of the Conference Translation Project to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French, as described in the 2015 Advisory Action, continue with an estimated cost of \$50,000 - \$100,000.

There was much, much discussion on this recommendation. The committee basically recommended that all conference background NOT be translated into French and Spanish and to continue with translating pre-conference and conference materials ONLY into French and Spanish. This was one discussion where I had to play catch up a little bit. Apparently at the previous Conference it was made clear that we were going to move forward so that eventually ALL background would also be translated. The debate was very heated and it eventually ended up in a floor action, which comes later in this report. **I voted in favor of this recommendation. Substantial unanimity with no minority opinion.**

20. The 69th General Service Conference be held April 28-May 4, 2019 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

Substantial unanimity with only one opposed; the Delegate from Kentucky said it conflicted with the KY Derby; that got laughs.

Total time for debate and voting on recommendations and questions on Additional Considerations was 2 hours and 38 minutes.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

21. A proposal for implementing a Google-for-Non-Profits 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.

22. 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 Public Information Committee for review.

I voted in favor of both of the above motions. There was 75 minutes of debate and

discussion. There was an attempt to amend the recommendation for immediate implementation, which failed 47Y/87N. There was also a floor action to move these forward to implementation right away. That was discussed at length and failed but did have a majority. **This issue is where I actually ‘found my voice’ at the Conference.** The discussion began late on Wednesday and was tabled until Thursday. I was so revved up about it that I immediately went back to my room so I could draft my comment for the mike the next day. It was exhilarating to say the least.

23. The English- and French-language versions of the video public service announcement “Tengo Esperanza,” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to distribution by local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

This item passed with unanimity after only 10 minutes of discussion.

24. The video public service announcement “I Thought” be discontinued.

This item passed with unanimity after no discussion

Debate, voting and questions on additional considerations for Public Information took 1 hour and 48 minutes

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

25. A new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, after the “Regional Forums” section with the following text:

Local Forums

In October 2006, the concept of Local Forums was approved by the General Service Board. The purpose of Local Forums is to bring Forum information to A.A. members in remote, sparsely populated areas, urban neighborhoods or underserved A.A. communities. Any A.A. community or service entity may request a one-and-a-half or two day Local Forum. Unlike Regional Forums, the responsibility for Forum expenses such as meeting room rental and miscellaneous expenses are assumed by the Local Forum Committee. The General Service Board will send two participants, one from the Board and one from the General Service Office or Grapevine office, and display literature at Board expense. Like Regional Forums, Board participation in Local Forums requires the approval of the trustees’ Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The Regional Forums coordinator works closely with the Local Forum organizing committee to create an agenda that is responsive to local needs.

I voted in favor of this motion. It passed unanimously with no discussion.

26. The following text in endnote 4 be removed from Concept XII on page 73 of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

4. Bill here, apparently inadvertently, used the phrase “in action and spirit,” instead of “in thought and action,” that appears elsewhere in both the Conference Charter and the

statement of Concept XII.

I voted in favor of this motion. Little discussion. Only 1 minority opinion stated.

27. The following text be removed from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us — of both sexes — have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our "moms" and "pops," and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man- woman relatedness that we undertake.

It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they *are* women.

This passed with substantial unanimity w/12-15 opposed. No minority opinion offered. There was concern in discussion about changing Bill's writings, but in light of trying to get a broader spectrum of Class A Trustees but then asking them to read our manual, it certainly sends a mixed message. **I voted in favor.**

28. Endnote 10, on page 59 in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the Concept XI essay be revised by the Publishing Department with language noting that two paragraphs have been removed from the Concept XI essay and are available upon request from the G.S.O. Archives Department as a reference to A.A. history.

Substantial Unanimity with 6 opposed and no minority opinion. I voted in favor.

29. *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised per existing schedule after the 2016 General Service Conference and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., 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.

This recommendation passed with substantial unanimity; minority opinion was offered and there was a vote to reconsider that failed 56/67. **I voted against the motion.**

30. The category title "Online Meetings" be changed to "Online Meetings/Online Groups" on page vi and vii in the A.A. Directories.

There was some healthy discussion on this recommendation that centered around groups v. meetings and who determines that. There was a clear message (especially in light of recent legal matters :) that the GSB and GSO do not decide who is a group and who is a meeting. The group is a meeting if it says it is a meeting. GSO staff confirmed that it does accept contributions from online GROUPS. **I voted in favor; substantial unanimity with a handful opposed.**

Total time spent on Report and Charter was 1 hour 15 minutes.

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

31. The term “Special Needs” be removed from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and throughout the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure. The new name of the committee will be the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

32 minutes of discussion; the recommendation passed with unanimity and no minority opinion. **I voted in favor**

Trustees

It was recommended that:

32. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy J. McCarthy
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees

Thomas Ardolf
Richard Boisvert
Carole Boerner
Joel Castellaw
Joe Downey
Bill Farnsworth
Yolanda Flores
Scott Huyghebaert
William Noonan
Chet Parker
Richard Purtell
Bob Wilcox
Cate Wittig
Albin Zezula

33. The appointment of the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Chairperson	Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
First vice-chairperson	Bob Wilcox
Second vice-chairperson	Chet Parker
Treasurer	David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Secretary	Bill Farnsworth

34. The February 2016 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016:

Assistant Treasurer	Donald W. Meurer
Assistant Secretary	Eva Sanchez

This appointment process is in accordance with the General Service Board Bylaws.

35. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Richard Boisvert
Beau Bush
Joe Downey
Homer Moeller David Noll
William Noonan
Richard Purtell
Eva Sanchez
Greg Tobin

36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Lynda Bergeron
Carole Boerner
Ami Brophy
Joel Castellaw
Josh Eggleston
Yolanda Flores
Ivan Lemelle
Paz Preciado
Albin Zezula

All of the above were approved with substantial unanimity, no discussion and no minority opinion, although there were a few who voted no. I voted in favor of all.

37. If a vacancy for a regional trustee occurs prior to September 1 in the first year, then an election for a three-year term would occur at the following General Service Conference (GSC) for the affected region. If a vacancy for a regional trustee occurs between September 1 in the first year and August 31 of the third year then the delegates from the affected region would be given an option to hold an election for a six-year or five-year term, or leave the position vacant, depending on when the vacancy occurs. Regardless of whether the term was for three, five or six years, the regional trustee would be expected to serve two years on one of the two operating corporation boards.

This recommendation passed with substantial unanimity. I voted against the recommendation. The vote was 116Y/14N; I was the only member to go to the mike with minority opinion, stating my concern that we'd possibly be asking a regional trustee to serve six years. A couple of Class A Trustees joked with me after and said "What about us?" as some of them serve six years.

Floor Actions

There were 11 floor actions brought forward during the course of the full conference. These items go to the end of agenda and debated and voted upon by the full body ONLY AFTER the full body votes that the action has merit and can be discussed. The full conference takes a vote to "Decline to Consider" each floor action. Many were not heard, but the ones that were heard created considerable debate and discussion. Three floor actions resulted in Advisory Actions:

1. General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and A.A. Grapevine budgets with the pre- Conference material for all future Conferences.

30 minutes of discussion. There were some amendments. 107Y/20N. I voted in favor of the motion.

2. The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference 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 General Service Conference.

This was the item that got a lot of airtime at our pre-Conference Assembly. I was quite concerned that I would need to bring a floor action on this item and was not particularly sure that I was prepared or even wanted to do it. When the Report and Charter Committee Report was released and I saw that the Committee did not address the issue, I knew I'd have to speak up. A short while later, a Delegate from Texas went to the microphone and she offered up the above floor action. I was pleased, because it went even farther than the motion we discussed in Area 74. Obviously, I voted in favor of the floor action. It was a 45 minute discussion. It passed by one vote 87Y/42N

3. 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.

As I mentioned earlier, there was a floor action that I was very in support of. This floor action was to start implementing measures to have more of a presence on the web (i.e. with Google not-for-profit and Twitter) rather than wait for a proposal to come back next year. The floor action failed, although it did receive a majority vote. I spoke in favor of the motion (again). It was mentioned that Bill W spoke of how we should listen to the strong majority. I felt good about the discussion and I better understand our need for unity even when we don't get our way.

Additional Committee Considerations

Every committee report included additional committee considerations. These are basically suggestions to the Corresponding Trustees' Committees, not directives. I have provided hard copies of these for today and all Area Committee Members should have received them via e-mail. Out of respect for the Assembly's time, I will not review every single Additional Committee Consideration, but will discuss some of the highlights:

Corrections

(Page 2) The committee suggested varying lengths of the new Corrections video "A New Freedom" so that it could be used for other audiences. This seemed prudent because while the video was excellent, 30 minutes might be too long if you have a captive audience for only a few minutes.

Finance

(Page 3) The last two items are of note in my opinion. While they do not direct the Board to take any action, I see these suggestions as being useful. I learned at the conference that we fund travel to the World Service Meeting when held in New York for attendees from countries that may or should be able to fund themselves through self-support (i.e. England).

Literature

(Page 5) No action was taken on the plain-language Big Book (first bullet), but you will there was an additional consideration for the Trustees' Literature Committee to explore the need for additional plain-language recovery literature. Please note the second-to-last committee consideration. The Literature Committee decided to send back the work that the Trustees' Literature Committee had created because it missed the mark of what was requested by the 65th Conference's Literature Committee. The request is more nuanced than last year's. This was very interesting to see how it was handled.

Policy and Admissions

(Last bullet, page 6) Clearly this addresses the poll vote taken in December of 2015 to change this year's Conference Agenda regarding the Discussion/Workshop on the Strategic Plan.

Electronic Voting

Electronic voting was used on Friday during the Conference this year. There was 40 minutes of discussion prior to getting business underway. We had to 'test' the process and there was some controversy over whether it was working or not. Once everyone's suspicions had been addressed, the assembled body settled down and we used the system. I found it extremely beneficial in seeing which way the room was going. I got much more accurate numbers on the votes. Electronic voting was much faster than hand counting. The only drawback I noticed was that you could not tell if someone speaking in the minority had actually voted in the minority, but that is a 'trust the process' thing I guess.

Post-conference

The final day was a post-conference brunch where the outgoing Trustees were given an opportunity to share. A total of three Trustees were rotating off: two Class A (non-alcoholic) and one Class B (alcoholic). All of the talks were excellent, but one in particular really hit me. Michelle Grinberg, who is an attorney from West Virginia, came particularly well-prepared and delivered an excellent address regarding our future and how we must come to Conference prepared to discuss big ideas, and leave the minutia and word-smithing for another day.

The guest experience

The Delegate is allowed to bring a spouse or a guest to stay with them during Conference week. Some like to go to Conference alone, others find it helpful to have someone there as a support. I fell in the latter category. A full program is organized by volunteers from the local Intergroup. Some of these volunteers are past Delegates and they understand the Conference process. Guests can participate in as much or as little of the planned activities as they want. My guest was Dawn M. and I can say with assurance that Dawn took full advantage of all that was offered; she took New York by storm. I have to admit that I was somewhat envious at all she was able to see and do during the week. I also want to thank Dawn specifically for her support during the week. She served as my clothing sponsor and also went down and got coffee and rolls every morning at the Italian coffee shop near the hotel. The manager befriended us and we even received a discount for being 'regulars'. Please see Dawn if you have further questions about the guest experience; she'll be happy to share.

Other items/Final Thoughts

I really got a lot of help from the outgoing delegates. I was not afraid to ask for help and I am grateful for that. I was told I wouldn't really know what it was like until I went and I can say that is the 100% truth. I was way more prepared than I thought I was. I thank you for the work you all did in getting me prepared, and especially for the prayers. I could feel the support coming from those at the conference and from all of you here in Area 74. It was a long week and I would say that it is not for the weak-hearted. It is a long week and sometimes felt way-to-serious, but I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service to you and to AA as a whole. I understand that next year will be a completely different experience and that I will come to the table even more prepared. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Questions

I have lots of notes from the Conference, my Conference binder and copies of board reports, etc that may be useful to answer your questions. If I am unable to immediately answer questions from the podium, I will be happy to locate the answer for you if I can. I am available to come to your group, district and/or workshop for presentations. Please let me know how I can be of service to you! I am open to taking questions at the Chair's discretion.

Delegate's Report Questions and Answers

Q: When will corrections DVD be available for purchase?

A: Not sure.

Q: Was there a cost set for producing it?

A: Don't know.

Q: What was the discussion around the decision to not translate conference materials and what is being translated?

A: They will still translate pre-conference and conference materials, but not the background materials.

Q: You mentioned a Trustee who told you not to wordsmith, but to look at the big picture. Our census is flat lining. Our old terminology is what kept us sober. Our primary purpose is being lost. The message is being diluted. Are we really looking at the big picture? Did you hear any of this at the Conference?

A: A marketing plan is not what we need. We need to carry the message.

Q: Local forums to be added to Regional Forums. Couldn't find it in the Service Manual. It was in the Conference Advisory Actions. Why was that not in the background material?

A: I assume that's more of a comment than a question.

Q: GSO's income stream slide: is it possible to get statistics from the past couple of years to see if there's a trend in Literature sales vs. 7th Tradition contributions?

A: If it's not a part of this year's, it's something we could put together.

Q: What was the general sense of the body regarding the Google and Twitter accounts?

A: Mostly positive.

Q: Regarding floor action #2 – was that something that passed to deal with this year or for next year's agenda?

A: They will present us next year with policy and a plan. If it's approved, it will be some process to get the Delegates involved in the agenda.

Q: Budget Outlook & Trends – GSO currently anticipates negative results ... Has there been a significant change?

A: ** Sorry, I couldn't grasp the meaning of this question or answer, and the recording was not clear, either. ** -- MZ

Q: Compare the # alcoholics in the program to the # of books sold. There used to be a lot of people in treatment centers. I don't see them at meetings, but they are buying books. Back when I came in, the old-timers who joined AA in the '40s, '50s, and '60s went out looking for people and brought them into the meetings. Now a lot of people are looking to the hospitals and treatment centers to get people into the meetings. I don't see a lot of people just walking in off the street. Does this account for the loss of books and profit? Should we get more aggressive in trying to get people to come to meetings?

Q: Literature Committee approved a progress report on AAs with Mental Health issues and those who sponsor them. What was the progress?

A: Not clear on this -- MZ

Q: The word "additional" is gone from "considerations" – was this a Conference Action?

A: Not sure. My sense is these documents were prepared hurriedly.

Q: Agenda item bullet point 1 – The committee discussed the importance of the AA General Service Conference 3-year inventory—where does it go? Did it die?

A: It didn't die.

Q: Will the closing comments of the Trustees be printed in the final report?

A: Not sure, but might get one Trustee's report. They are copyrighted by AAWS and the Trustees have no right to share them.

Q: Is the Budget Outlook & Trends a worst-case scenario?

A: This is what would happen if things stay the same. It's not the worst-case scenario.

Q: Will the new corrections video be included in the Corrections packet?

A: Don't know.

Q: Where is the money actually being spent? Cut expenses, not services.

A: I have access to that information, however there are some line items that seem to not include everything. I will send you what I have.

Q: Why don't you have access to all of it? Would like to see more of a breakdown of International convention that lost so much money.

A: I didn't know what I didn't have.

Q: Will there be a report on the highlights of the Feasibility Study?

A: It was meant solely for discussion and sharing, not to take action.

Q: Any discussion on the correlation between losing money and not having an online presence?

A: Yes, there were those conversations over lunch and dinner.

Q: What is your sense of the conference? Would they be leaning toward cutting expenses or adding revenue? Can the GSC handle it if things stay stagnant and we suffer these losses?

A: There was talk about a perceived us vs. them. They are putting it on us to take action. There is genuine concern there. The General Service Board does feel it's a conundrum.

Q: The Trustees Committee slate of officers on the General Service board, any questions as to why the 1st vice chair, and 2nd Vice Chair are Class B and not Class A? Occasionally these people need to represent AA to non-alcoholics.

A: Don't know, but it was mentioned in side conversations.

Q: Would they consider a request that all conference members be given the same background material with the exception of digital media? It says the committee agreed that the practices are in keeping with the Conference Charter. Is that in reference to what we were talking about earlier about not getting enough information? (Committee considerations, p. 6, bullet point 3).

A: It is referencing draft pamphlets that are ready for review. We wouldn't want them getting out in public because they are not published yet. Also may refer to videos that need reviewing.

Q: Doesn't this refer to that each Delegate Area has to request what background material they want and if this were to pass, we'd get all the background material?

A: I think it's referring to format: print, data stick, or email (?).

Q: Where do they get the numbers for membership?

A: The membership survey which comes out every three years.

Q: Did you hear if GSB reached out to groups saying we need more money?

A: If there's a call from New York that they need money, people would do it.

Q: What is the Grapevine inventory?

A: I have the Grapevine Board report which has that.

Q: There's all new Grapevine literature within the past couple of years, but the Grapevine isn't doing well. Why don't they just go back to the Grapevine magazine only?

A: The books make money, the Grapevine itself doesn't.

Q: The Literature Committee talked about the pamphlet, "Understanding Fellowship" The service structure was at the top of the pyramid. What was the feel of the committee regarding this? I hardly feel it was an accident, was anything brought up on the floor of the conference about it?

A: The draft pamphlet we were provided is a confidential document. The Trustees Committee had been asked the year prior to develop a pamphlet which talked about the services offered. The pamphlet was a description of the service structure. The idea being, people want to know if we're going to hand over more money what services are being provided, so the intent was to be a communication piece about what services GSO provides and possibly what services different committees provide. Many AA members are not familiar with committee work.

Q: What happens when they ask a committee to consider something?

A: a committee consideration is just a request to please look at this item but they don't have to do anything with the suggestion, so the full body did not discuss and vote on it.

Q: Additional Committee Considerations – International Conventions/Regional Forums the 2nd & 3rd bullet points we lost \$210,000.00 at the International Convention – how much discussion was there?

A: There was not.

Q: Grapevine makes a lot of money on their literature, so that's why they're doing stories about atheists and agnostics in Steps 4 & 5?

A: These would be the suggested titles should they choose to publish a new anthology of stories.