

South Florida Area 15 Delegate's 60th General Service Conference Report

Good Afternoon! I'm a member of the Vero Beach Step & Traditions Group in District 6. I have the privilege of serving as your Delegate, Panel 59, Area 15, South Florida, the Bahamas, the US & British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten & the Cayman Islands. My name is Ken C. and I'm a grateful recovering alcoholic.

Thank you District ___ for hosting the Delegate's 60th General Service Conference Report. _____, and the District Committee, I appreciate all the time and effort in making me feel welcome. Thank you.

First, I want to thank each of you for preparing me for my third "journey of a lifetime" experience. Each Quarterly, each S.E. Regional Forum, each Southeastern Conference, each Delegates Get-Together, the Special Forum in the Virgin Islands, all of my 59th General Service Conference Reports, attending the General Service Board weekend last January as Chairperson of the Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community; all these experiences prepared me to represent Alcoholics Anonymous at the 60th General Service Conference. Attending two General Service Conference's and a General Service Board weekend has by far been the greatest experiences of my sobriety and numbers on top with the greatest experiences of my lifetime. I wish I could express all the various emotions I have felt serving as your delegate, I can't. I hope it will suffice to say I was humbled, proud, grateful and privileged to be a member of the 60th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Conference Guest. The Delegate's Guest is invited to assist in accomplishing the mundane tasks that are necessary for the Delegate to be comfortable and able to partake in an extremely rigorous schedule. This year's schedule was no different than last year. Although we were out in Rye Brook, NY, a much more tranquil and serene setting, it may seem unimportant, but laundry, dry cleaning, breakfast food, snacks, etc. are all extremely appreciated, particularly when you only have 15 minute breaks, your room is about a 1 ½ miles away from the meetings and they are going on from 9:00 AM until sometimes past 11:00 PM.

But don't feel bad, Annie had a busy schedule as well; the New York Intergroup arranged many outings. When Annie was not hoofing it a mile

to the store, laundry or dry cleaners, she was on the train enroute to the city; she might be walking the Brooklyn Bridge or having lunch at the “God Box” or Ellie’s Stardust Diner. You can ask her about speaking at the A.A. meeting at GSO with Bill W. looking directly at her! Wow, no pressure!

Also, I need to thank Annie, your Registrar, for completing my story-board; I would not have had the time. She spent a weekend and the better part of a week helping me to present my conference experience to you. Can we give her a hand? Please feel free to look at all the material. I can only ask that you handle it all carefully as it will have many Districts to visit – 18 in all.

We arrived in New York on Friday, April 16th from a visit to Boston. I was off to a wonderful start. We arrived at the airport just early enough to catch an earlier flight which saved 4 hours or so waiting for transportation in New York. We arrived at the Hilton Rye Town hotel and checked in. It was wonderful to have several extra hours to get settled and visit with old friends that had arrived early. We had dinner a wonderful Mexican dinner downtown with old friends.

Saturday afternoon was scheduled for the Regional Delegates Dinner. Unfortunately, the Remote Communities Meeting was being held during the same time frame. Remote Communities is not part of the Conference and usually meets Sunday morning at 9:00 AM, however, due to the length of last year’s Conference, we were starting this year’s Conference early – 9:00 AM. The Regional Delegates Dinner includes guests. We were not certain if A.A. members who were not serving as Delegates could attend the Remote Communities meeting. In fact, they could. As Annie is serving on the Area 15 Remote Communities Ad Hoc Committee, we opted to forgo the regional dinner and attend the Remote Communities meeting.

Like last year, this was a fantastic meeting. Remote Communities entails areas where there is difficulty carrying the message due to culture, language or geography. Needless to say we have many Island Communities where there are cultural and geographic difficulties; we have two Spanish Linguistic Districts where language is a barrier and the Deaf Community where language and culture may present challenges, we also have a Special Needs Committee. Again, I was quite surprised to see how Remote Communities could be a valuable resource in overcoming many challenges within our area. Although our committees might overlap, I hope that Area 15 will look at forming a standing Remote Communities committee.

We broke out into 3 workshops. I chose geography and shared about our newest island community, the Cayman Islands. I also shared about your effort to “Adopt-A-Group” in the Bahamas and forming a Remote Communities Ad-Hoc Committee to assist in that effort. I also shared about the distance between the meetings within the U.S and British Virgin Islands and how Miami, FL is the universal port of entry for the island communities to Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States. Several areas have looked into teleconferencing to bridge distance. Although the concept seems close, no one reported success at this time. Unfortunately time was very limited. Several areas shared that they had formed Ad-hoc Committees to “Light the Dark District”. Some areas have funding available for “designated remote areas” to defray GSR’s and DCM’s travel and lodging.

For your information, there is a copy of the “Remote Communicator: newsletter on my story board. Also, I have information on literature that has been translated to many Native American/First Nation Languages.

Conference registration began on Sunday at 9:30 – 10:00. We received a big brown envelope with our Conference Notebook, Committee Workbook (mine was C.P.C.), a Service Manual and Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference. It is amazing how quickly the staff can distribute all of the conference material to 93 delegates.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Practicing A.A.’s Principles – the Pathway to Unity”. And unified we were. The Conference opened on Sunday, April 26 at 10:22 AM with a welcome from Ward E., chair, General Service Board. Ward remembered with sadness, Michael A., a man deeply linked to A.A.’s history and the start of the General Service Conference. Donna G. was admitted as the delegate representing S.E. Michigan, Area 33 and two observers from Venezuela. Roll Call was taken by Phyllis H., general manager, G.S.O. This year’s Conference had 131 voting members. Once again, I was preparing for the moment when they called my name. I was so proud to be representing such an incredible area. A few minutes later, Phyllis said, “I want to present to you, your 60th General Service Conference”. Wow! What an overwhelming sense of pride, responsibility, gratitude and privilege. I am truly blessed to represent South Florida Area 15 and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

We had greetings from Lowell L., Delegate Chairperson, a keynote address by Bill C., Trustee and reviewed the Conference Procedures. There was a

welcome change to Floor Action procedures. We broke for lunch by region. The S.E. Region had more discussion regarding SERASSA.

1:15 PM we resumed with 3 presentations on “Practicing These Principles in All Our “Service” Affairs.

2:15 PM: We were off to our first Joint Trustee and Conference Committee Meetings. I am serving as the chairperson of the Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community and our only agenda item was to review the C.P.C. Workbook, so I was eager to hear what the trustee’s might have to say. We met the Trustee’s Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community, heard their report and asked questions. We left with many ideas for our committee meeting.

Sunday evening at 6:30 PM marked the Opening Dinner of the 60th General Service Conference, hosted by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, by invitation. Each Conference member was invited with a guest. What an exciting way to start the week for all. Jim E., Class A trustee emeritus gave a wonderful remembrance of Michael Alexander with a history of his dedicated service to Alcoholics Anonymous. We had a wonderful dinner and enjoyed renewing old friendships.

On Monday, 9:00 AM, we started with our first Conference Committee meeting; again, mine was Cooperation With the Professional Community. We introduced ourselves, had a group conscience that Conference Recommendations required substantial unanimity, a 2/3’s vote, and that elections for the 61st General Service Conference Committee on C.P.C. Chairperson and Alternate would be by majority vote. We had a French speaking member, the Alt. Chairperson Elaine D., so an Interpreter was present. I continued to be amazed at Alain’s presence and his ability to be part of the committee process in such a transparent manner. We have an incredible bond; although on most occasions, we communicated through the “language of the heart”.

On Monday afternoon we had Area Service Highlights from Eastern Canada and the West Central Region. Then we had a General Service Board Report, Questions and Sharing, A.A.W.S Report, Questions and Sharing, and then a presentation on the Contributions Online project which will roll out in May or June. I think you will be impressed. An A.A. member or an A.A. Group will be able to make a contribution online with a credit card or bank checking account information.

For your information, it was reported that attendance for the International Convention is in excess of 37,000 as of April 18, 2010.

We had a wonderful Grapevine Board Report with an accompanying PowerPoint Presentation. Robin B., Executive Editor's resignation was announced to a standing ovation for her service to the Grapevine and our fellowship. The Grapevine Executive Editor/Publisher position will need to be filled quickly. If you know of an A.A. member with an extensive publishing background, possibly a service background and a willingness to relocate to New York, please see me. Resumes' will be accepted until June 1, 2010. Also, there will be an opening for a Non-Trustee Director on the Grapevine Board. Again, if you or someone you know is interested in these positions, please see me as soon as possible. We then had Questions and Sharing.

Next, we had a complete Presentation/Discussion on Finance with an accompanying PowerPoint Presentation and Questions and Sharing. For your information, the Retirement Fund accounts for about 12% of the Reserve Fund. It was reported that, for the last 2 years, the Reserve Fund is adequate for the short term but not adequate for the long term.

At 4:45 we started Area Service Highlights from the Southeast and Northeast Region.

We had dinner and then at 7:15 PM, Area Service Highlights from the East Central and Pacific Region, a Presentation/Discussion on Archives and a Sharing Session – What's On Your Mind?

On Tuesday, we started bright and early at 9:00 AM with our second respective Conference Committee Meeting. The Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community worked hard and made several Considerations to the Conference. I was fortunate; we completed all our business in the time allotted. Several committees met late and one met during the Conference. Before closing our meeting, we elected the chairperson and alternate for the 61st General Service Conference. We presented a gift to our secretary, Mary C. and Sheila, her assistant, for their invaluable assistance to our committee.

We all took turns sharing about our Conference Committee experience. Rubin shared that our thoughts and ideas had legs. Alain shared that we were like a family. Kate thought the committee room and experience was like being in a safe place. Mike shared about the unity he felt. Sheila, our

Secretary's assistant, cried. Sheila said it was the first time she had ever been asked to share at the C.P.C. Committee. I shared about how I really watched the committee process work at the Conference level, how rewarding it was to welcome the panel 60 delegates to our committee and watch the growth in all of the committee members. We were all certain that we had "the best committee"... we did.

We broke for lunch. By the way, the food was excellent. They fed us well.

1:15 PM We had area service highlights from the Southwest and Pacific Region. At 1:50 we heard 3 presentations on "Unity Through Inventory". At 2:15 we had another "What's On Your Mind" session.

From 3:00 to 5:00 we broke out into workshops to discuss the Conference Agenda Selection Process. It seems apparent to me that the process has evolved since 1993 when delegates received only their committee background. I believe the A.A. groups have been empowered with our present process which may sometimes feel cumbersome. I believe we have also entered an era where we, the fellowship, are recommitting to trust in the committee process.

It was now time for the Delegates Dinner and Delegates Only Meeting. The dinner and meeting was great. This is the time we bond and enjoy each other's company. I think we ended about 9:00 and then it was time... ..ice cream with our S.E. Regional Trustee, El N.. Ice cream tonight is at the Trustee's expense. Last year we went to Ellie's Stardust Diner in Times Square where they sing and dance on the tabletops. It seems us drunks like that – dancing on the tabletops! Well, ice cream is ½ mile down the road by cab... so... ice cream at the hotel. Arrangements were made for ice cream bars and some miscellaneous desert items. This was definitely not the same as the city! We had a great time anyway.

It's now Wednesday, April 21, 9:00 AM. We had elections for the Pacific Regional Trustee and the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee. Rod B. was elected as the Pacific Regional Trustee. Rod's election is exciting in that he is a Native American. At 11:30 we had another What's On Your Mind Sharing Session and then broke for Regional Luncheon's.

The S.E. Region had more discussion on SERASSA guidelines. We also voted to admit Puerto Rico into the S.E. Conference and Regional Forum rotation. Puerto Rico will be in the rotation for the Southeast Regional Forum in 2014 between Kentucky and Louisiana. Puerto Rico will host the

Southeastern Conference in 2021 between Virginia and Alabama/NW Florida. The additional Special Forum will take place in West Virginia in 2013.

At 1:15 PM we had 3 presentations on the Conference Agenda Selection Process. At 2:00 PM we started Committee Reports and discussion.

Time for Action! Discussion and Voting!!!!

**CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE
60TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 60th General Service Conference and the General Service Board:

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities (2:00 PM)

No recommendations.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (2:15 PM)

No recommendations.

This was the committee I chaired. Our only agenda item was to review the C.P.C. Workbook. As a committee we took our responsibility very seriously. From our meeting with the Trustees Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities, we had a list of items to discuss and an opportunity to present Considerations to the Conference which come as strong recommendations to the Trustees Committee for completion over the next year. Last year, the Trustees Committee acted on all the Additional Considerations of our committee.

The following is a list of "Considerations". Please note these are not Additional Considerations as we did not have any Recommendations from the Final Conference Agenda.

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

- The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities gather sharing from the Fellowship on the need to develop a sample format for one-on-one C.P.C. contact with professionals for inclusion in the C.P.C. Workbook.
 - The first bullet on page 14 in the C.P.C. Workbook, be revised to read: "Consider showing videos such as the C.P.C. video 'A.A. Cooperation With the Professional Community', 'Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous', 'A.A. Videos for Young People,' at this point, or other videos appropriate for the audience."
 - The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a service piece with Class A trustees' shared experiences emphasizing the value found in the continued use of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.
 - The trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore including in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook a sample letter which reinforces the value to professionals of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne as well as providing information on how the recipient may subscribe to the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.
- The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider creating a process by which professionals attending national C.P.C. exhibits can request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.
 - The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities consider adding to the "About A.A." postal card a question to allow professionals to request follow up contact with local C.P.C. committees.
 - The committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities discuss developing a method by which appropriate C.P.C. pamphlets and other materials may be consolidated on cost effective digital media such as CD and DVD in order to be distributed to professionals.

The use of the French Grapevine "LaVigne" within the C.P.C. Workbook prompted thoughtful discussion on the magazines use and its relationship to A.A.

Policy/Admissions (2:30 PM)

It was recommended that:

21. Donna G., alternate delegate, Area 33, Southeast Michigan, be seated as a Conference member at the 60th General Service Conference because Derek D., the Panel 59 delegate for Area 33, resigned.
22. Angel C. and Carlos H. from the General Service Board of Venezuela be admitted to the 60th General Service Conference as observers.
23. The 63rd General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 2013 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays, hotel availability and Bylaws' deadlines of the General Service Board, Inc.
24. The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan to bring forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration, along with an estimated cost for conducting the inventory.

There was an Amendment to strike "conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference". The amendment failed. There was a Minority Opinion and then a Motion to Reconsider which failed.

Composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee

The composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee (CIPC) will have a proportional representation similar to the General Service Conference including delegates, trustees, a non trustee director, a G.S.O. staff member and a Grapevine staff member.

Selection of eligible delegates shall include those not elected as chair of a Conference committee who are willing and able to serve. The Conference Inventory Planning Committee will consist of 17 individuals with representation as follows:

11 Panel 60 Delegates

Alternate Conference delegate chair
 Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions
 Alternate Chair - Conference Committee on Agenda
 One delegate from each region for a total of 8 to be chosen by lot by the chair of the General Service Board, the G.S.O. Conference coordinator and the Conference delegate chair.

Trustees, Directors and Staff

One Class B regional trustee
 One Class B general service trustee who will serve as chair of the committee
 One Class A trustee
 One Non-trustee director
 One G.S.O. staff person

One Grapevine staff person

The trustees, non trustee director and G.S.O./Grapevine staff will be appointed by the chair of the General Service Board.

A G.S.O. staff member, appointed by the G.S.O. general manager, will serve as the non voting secretary to the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and coordinate committee meeting schedules and correspondence.

As a resource for the development of an inventory plan, the Conference Inventory Planning Committee will use the background, recommendations, questions and summary of suggestions contained in the report of the February 2, 2009 trustees' subcommittee on "Discussion of the Proposal for a General Service Conference Inventory" and the January 6, 2010 report of the trustees' subcommittee on "Developing a Plan for the General Service Conference to Conduct an Inventory of Itself," along with any additional, related background material the committee may deem appropriate.

A delegate from each region was pulled from the hat at the end of the Conference.

There was a lot of debate surrounding the recommendation for a Concept V Minority Appeal. The recommendation failed and therefore did not become a Conference Advisory Action. A Floor Motion was introduced. This committees report concluded at 4:30 PM.

I took a stroll out to the lobby outside the Conference room. There was a table exhibiting all the Big Books in various languages. Like last year when I looked at the table, I had a huge lump in my throat. It is quite overwhelming to see all of those Big Books in every conceivable language. It was reported that the Big Book is in 59 or 60 languages.

Corrections (7:35 PM)

It was recommended that:

8. The pamphlet "Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities" be revised so that the sentence "Obey the rules of the facility you are visiting" is replaced with the following text:

"Deciding to participate in Corrections Twelfth Step work is an important individual decision. A.A. members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities, and fully understand and be willing to comply with all rules/regulations prior to commencing such work."

9. The pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" be revised so that the last sentence on page 4 under the heading "Policy Meetings" that previously read:

"Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which A.A. visitors may attend these meetings."

Will now read:

"Policy matters include deciding when and where the group is to meet; and setting the conditions under which visiting A.A. members may attend these meetings, including any required volunteer orientation and forms that must be completed."

10. The pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" be revised so that the following two sentences are added to the end of the first paragraph under "Inmate Groups":

"Since regulations *can and do vary*, A.A. members will need to be specifically informed about the rules/regulations of each facility they will enter. To that end, good communication between corrections administrators and local A.A. committees is essential."

All three recommendations passed unanimously. Area 15 agreed unanimously as well.

Public Information (7:55 PM)

It was recommended that:

25. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.

There was discussion surrounding the use of full faces. I went to the microphone and suggested a disclaimer be added both audible and visual. The ensuing discussion centered around the fact that disclaimers had never been used on PSA's and that the actors were portraying drunks not sober A.A. members.

There also was a discussion surrounding the statement "is your world perfect". There was an amendment to change the statement which failed.

26. The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

There was a lot of discussion on this recommendation due to the cost. It was brought to our attention that it cost \$28,000 to distribute the video, the balance of \$7,000 was the actual cost to track the video.

Thursday 9:00 AM we resumed this committee.

27. The following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," under Facts About Anonymity on page 10, to read as follows:

"A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still-living A.A. members should be respected in obituaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice."

28. The A.A. Video for Young People titled "Animation" be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: "For more information, search 'Young People' at www.aa.org."

Everyone loved the video. It is timeless and extremely well done. It will also be translated into French and Spanish. There was a lot of discussion regarding the very end where it is suggested that the viewer can get additional information at www.aa.org. Then it says "or search YPAA. It was pointed out that Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous is a generic statement, however if you searched YPAA on Google, you would get the International Conference of Young Peoples Intergroup site.

It was also pointed out that the video uses the term Central Office vs. Intergroup. I went to the microphone and shared that South Florida has both Central Offices and Intergroups and possibly that statement could be corrected at minimal cost. I asked the Trustees to consider that "Search YPAA" is an endorsement and affiliation and ultimately this video will be "Conference Approved". There was an amendment to the recommendation which reflected minor change in wording. The amendment passed. The question was called and the recommendation passed.

29. The term "drying out" be replaced with "detox" and "rehabilitation" replace "sanitarium" in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer so that the phrase reads "...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services..." and the entire section reads as follows:

"What A.A. Does Not Do

"A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover...solicit members...engage in or sponsor research...keep attendance records or case histories...join "councils" or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them)...follow up or try to control its members...make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses...provide

detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment...offer religious services or host/sponsor retreats...engage in education about alcohol...provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services...provide domestic or vocational counseling...accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources...provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.”

30. The trustees' Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

Needless to say, there was a lot of discussion. The Conference was 50/50 on the use of actors portraying A.A. members with an audible and visual disclaimer. What about the use of full faces of Bill Wilson, Class A Trustees or Grapevine pictures?

We broke for lunch at 12:15 PM. We resumed the Conference at 1:20 PM for 2 presentations on “A.A. Around the World”. Alcoholics Anonymous is in 150 countries with 60 General Service offices.

Next, we had 3 Grapevine presentations on “Carrying the A.A. Message”. The French Grapevine “LaVigne” prompted wonderful discussion on the magazines use and its relationship to A.A.

At 2:45 PM we resumed discussion on the Public Information Committee's recommendations. I went to the microphone on this item. I received a telephone call the night before leaving my home for the Conference. The call was from a past P.I. chairperson and area officer of 10 years past. I shared with the Conference, the following: If an Interpreter is used in any video such as a video depicting special needs, full faces of the Interpreter must be used as ASL is a conceptual language and the Interpreter emotes through facial expression”.

It was pointed out that the Corrections video streams full faces and has become an accepted policy. The recommendation passed.

The next P.I. recommendation will be heard after the Grapevine Committee report as the Grapevine/LaVina staff has been asked to stay until the report is complete. The business day was coming to a close and hotel accommodations, meals and transportation were not part of the plan for these staff members.

Grapevine (3:05 PM)

It was recommended that:

14. La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:
 - Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year, beginning in 2011, followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
 - Content and substance be of primary importance.
 - An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.

The Grapevine Committee wanted spiritual parity to the Grapevine first vs. incurring a cost to print in color of \$36,000. Evidently, color printing may be a problem in prisons as the ink can be used for tattoos. It appeared that this statement was discounted, but interesting none the less. The next Conference will review progress of the magazine. We were asked to encourage area's to invite the Grapevine, LaVigne editors to visit. This question was called. The recommendation passed. There was a minority opinion, a change of a vote, and a motion to reconsider which failed 52-71.

It was recommended:

15. To the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board that, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:
 - What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
 - How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
 - What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
 - What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

Note: Responses are to be submitted to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board by 12/31/2010 and included as background material for the 2011 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

Please take special notice. The committee is asking for dialogue and broad sharing from the fellowship.

Public Information (7:05 PM)

It was recommended that:

Public Information report Item G was postponed to hear the Grapevine Committee report. This recommendation (item G) passed. There were several minority opinions and much conversation that one committee might be directing another. There was a vote change and a motion to reconsider which passed. The committee agreed to withdraw the recommendation and submit this item, reworded, as an additional consideration.

Literature (7:50 PM)

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs” be approved. This recommendation had a tremendous amount of discussion. The recommendation failed last year and came back as a floor motion for further revision by the trustees committee for this Conference.

Eventually I got up and spoke against this recommendation. I recalled many very emotional appeals for this pamphlet to go forward last year and that I had voted for the revised pamphlet last year. Last year there was difficulty with drug language in the pamphlet. This year there was the same difficulty with several stories. There was motion to call the question which passed and the recommendation passed.

There were several minority opinions. I was first at the microphone and shared some personal experience and how this pamphlet was one of our most important. I suggested that the good is the enemy of the best. Possibly it would be better to let the present pamphlet stand and get the new one right. I also shared that we ought to look at the intent of the pamphlet which I believed to be the use of prescribed drugs, not opinion on drug addiction.

There were a few other minority opinions. There was a vote change and a motion to reconsider. The recommendation failed. I presented a floor action identical in wording to last year with the exception of the year and conference number. The purpose was to keep the pamphlet alive as most

of the work had been done, the conference wanted a few new stories in place of those that related to drug addiction. It is now 9:45 PM.

16. The revised pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be approved.

There was a friendly amendment to insert a paragraph on gay and lesbian members which brought a bit of passionate discussion by members of that persuasion. The recommendation passed.

17. The trustees' Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

This recommendation had a lot of discussion and ultimately passed 93-32. There was a minority opinion, a vote change and a motion for reconsideration which failed. We closed at 11:20 PM.

It is now Friday, April 23, 2010, 8:35 AM. We had a wonderful presentation by Rick Walker on the upcoming International Convention in San Antonio. The opening Flag Ceremony will be anonymity protected and broadcast on our website; www.aa.org.

At 8:50 AM we started back with the Literature Committee.

18. The paragraph regarding closed meetings on page 22 of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.," which reads:

"A closed meeting is limited to members of the local A.A. group or visiting members from other groups. The purpose of the closed meetings is to give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics."

Be replaced with:

"A closed meeting is for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking. Closed meetings give members an opportunity to discuss particular phases of their alcoholic problem that can be understood best only by other alcoholics."

19. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

Both of these recommendations passed unanimously.

20. The trustees' Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

There was a friendly amendment to remove the words “draft or” which was accepted by the committee.

Report and Charter (9:35 PM)

It was recommended that:

31. The General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees emeriti to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

This recommendation passed unanimously.

32. The Publications Department publish the Area Service Highlights in their entirety in the *Final Report*.

This recommendation passed. There was vote change, a motion to reconsider which passed, an amendment which failed and the recommendation passed at 10:45 PM.

33. *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.

NOTE: Rescinded by Floor Action #4

Well, this was the big one! This was the example of what a responsible Conference this was. I think we threw out the rule book to get through this one. We actually set this aside for the committee to reconsider and re-write their recommendation along with the assistance of 3 makers of floor motions. The difficulty was tying the hands of editors whether staff or publications. The committee's intent was not to do this. This recommendation was rescinded by the committee and came back as a floor action. Hooray!

Agenda (1:30 PM)

It was recommended that:

5. The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: “We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let it Begin With Us.”

Unanimous.

6. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2011 General Service Conference:
- a) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:
 - 1. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
 - 2. Carrying A.A.'s Message Online
 - 3. Grapevine – “A.A.’s Meeting in Print” and More . . .
 - b) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:
 - 1. Self-Support – Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
 - 2. Humility – Accepting the Group Conscience
 - 3. An Informed Group Conscience – Using the Three Legacies
 - c) Diversity in A.A.:
 - 1. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
 - 2. The Hand of A.A. – Inclusive Never Exclusive
 - 3 Tradition Five – Our Primary Purpose
 - d) Sponsorship:
 - 1. Importance of a Home Group
 - 2. Leading by Example – Attraction Not Promotion
 - 3 Recovery, Unity, Service
7. The following be the workshop topic for the 2011 General Service Conference: “How to Increase Participation in A.A. – Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs.”

Trustees (2:00 PM)

It was recommended that:

34. The following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2010:

Class A Trustees

Terrance B.
 Frances B.
 Corliss B.
 Ward E.
 John F.
 Michele G.
 Rogelio F.

Class B Trustees

Rod B.
 Kenneth B.
 Conley B.
 Donald C.
 Dorothy H.
 John K.
 Roberta L.
 Jo-Anne L.
 George M.
 Don M.

Don M.
Eleanor N.
Victor P.
Pamela R.

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson	Ward E.
First vice-chairperson	Jo-Anne L.
Second vice-chairperson	Dorothy H.
Treasurer	Terrance B.
Secretary	John K.

35. The January 2010 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 2010:

Assistant Treasurer	Donald M.
Assistant Secretary	Doug R.

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2010:

Andrea B.	William N.
Joe D.	Victor P.
Phyllis H.	Doug R.
Roberta L.	Pam R.
George M.	

37. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2010:

Ginger B.	Dorothy H.
Frances B.	Don M.
Robin B.	Eleanor N.
Kenneth B.	Albin Z.
Nancy H.	

All recommendations passed unanimously.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹ (2:40 PM)

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Archives¹ (3:15 PM)

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Finance (3:25 PM)

It was recommended that:

11. The following be added to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” where appropriate:

Q. Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine?

A. No. A.A. Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.

There was a friendly amendment to add “or individuals” to the committee’s recommendation. The recommendation passed 120 – 3.

12. In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading “How can groups participate?” in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”; the second sentence “(rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,...)” be changed to read “(for example: rent, refreshments, A.A. **and A.A. Grapevine literature**,...)”

13. The trustees’ Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

Floor Action (5:15 PM)

There were 17 Floor Actions. Several were combined with others and came back. Others failed to become recommendations.

It was recommended that:

1. The request for development of procedures for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference, be recommitted to the General Service Board, taking into account considerations expressed during the 2010 General Service

Conference, and forward a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Passed 108 – 11.

2. The revised 60th Conference draft pamphlet, “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs,” be returned to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

This is the exact same Floor Action as last year’s Conference. Only the Conference number and year were changed. As I said earlier, I made this floor action. There was no motion to decline, discussion started with the verbage of the action. The floor action was transposed wrong, the word “draft” was missing and a coma was missing. I am at the microphone and several people are giving me copy to correct the motion. Finally, we realize the error. After a lot of discussion on two stories being replaced and the trustees soliciting new stories from the fellowship, the floor action passed 107-17. Once again, I am amazed at the responsibility that emerges through the Conference process. I am very proud of that process and that you have entrusted me to be a part of that process.

It is 7:50 PM. We took a break here and selected the delegates to serve on the Conference Inventory Committee. Tom Kepner, Delegate, Panel 60, Area 37, Mississippi will be serving from the S.E Region.

Next we had a wonderful skit on the International Convention. The actors were the staff from GSO who posed questions to the International Coordinator, Rick Walker. It was hilarious! It is now 8:15 PM and we are on Floor Action #10 which becomes part of the Floor Action after the next one.

3. The request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix” be recommitted to the trustees’ Finance Committee and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Finance.
4. The Conference Committee on Report and Charter’s Advisory Action which read:

“That *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* be published exactly as approved by the Conference in the General Service Conference *Final Report*.”

Be rescinded and replaced with:

“That the Publications Department work cooperatively with the Conference Committee on Report and Charter on the Final Report of the General Service Conference to ensure that all *Advisory Actions* and *Additional Committee Considerations* are consistent in format, grammatically correct, and accurately reflect the actions of the General Service Conference.” [See Advisory Action #33]

This Floor Action, #10, actually became Floor Action #17 which passed 85-34. There was a minority opinion and a motion to reconsider which passed. A motion was made to suspend the rules which passed. The Report and Charter Committee met along with the makers of Floor Action #10, #14 & #15 to hammer out a new recommendation. There was a motion to table #10 which passed. There was a motion to rescind Conference Advisory Action #3 which passed. Floor motion #17 was introduced. There was a motion to table which passed.

Floor action #12 was withdrawn. Floor action #13 was withdrawn. Floor action #11 was declined.

There was a motion to remove floor action #17 from the table which passed. The floor action was discussed. There was a motion to call the question which passed. The recommendation passed 127-3. Wow! Talk about unity in action!

Motion # 10 was withdrawn. Motion #14 was withdrawn. Motion #15 was withdrawn. We had a delegate respectfully ask for a big “Yeehaw”!

“Yeehaw”!

Well, it is now 10:10 PM Friday. It is time to close; we have a farewell from Robin B., Executive Editor of the Grapevine and Delegate Farewells; which we missed last year, then we have a Farewell Breakfast at 9:00 AM.

Thank you and God Bless each of you.

Love in Service,

Ken C.
Delegate, Panel 59
South Florida, Bahamas,
U.S. & British Virgin Islands,
Antigua, St. Maarten & Cayman Islands