

**2016 General Service Conference
Committee**

Agenda Topic Summaries

MSCA Area 09

**Union Local 324 Center
8530 Stanton Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90620**

I. Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider discontinuing the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2015 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference C.P.C. Committee requested that the trustees’ C.P.C. Committee review the pamphlet noting the 2015 Conference Committee’s concerns related to its language, outdated information and relevance to modern day medical professionals. On November 1, 2015, the trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities Committee agreed to forward to the 2016 General</p> <p>committee acknowledged that Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W. remains a very important piece of A.A. history and asked the subcommittee in their review of other C.P.C. pamphlets to ensure that any still-relevant information from the pamphlet was captured in other A.A. literature.</p> <p>committee acknowledged that Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W. remains a services this committee provides are quite broad and inclusive.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the words “Special Needs” should be removed from the name of the committee “Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities”? Why or Why not?

II. Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B

Agenda Topic	Consider adding text regarding A.A. and medications to the pamphlet “If You are a Professional...”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>January 16, 2016 report of the trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities Committee reviewed a progress report from the Subcommittee on Reading and Reviewing C.P.C. pamphlets and agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on C.P.C. the following suggestions:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> That text be added to the pamphlet “If You are a Professional...” to suggest that in cases where a patient says they cannot take prescribed drugs because they are a member of A.A, the doctor refer them to the pamphlet “ A.A. Member – Medications and other Drugs.”</p> <p>Draft text for the new section in the pamphlet “If You are a Professional...” (page 5 beneath the “Singleness of Purpose and Problems other than Alcohol” section):</p> <p>A.A. Members and Medications No A.A. member should “play doctor”; all medical and treatment should come from a qualified physician. The suggestions provided in our pamphlet “The A.A. Member- Medication and other drugs” may help A.A. members find the right balance and</p>

	minimize the risk of relapse. (The draft text comes from existing language in the Conference approved pamphlet “ The A.A. Member- Medication and Other Drugs”)
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group agree with adding the draft text to the pamphlet “If You are a Professional...Alcoholics Anonymous wants to work with you”? Why or why not?

Finance

III. Conference Committee:

Finance Item A

Agenda Topic	Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.																				
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2012 Conference Finance Committee suggested that a review of the delegate's fee (the amount it is suggested that each Area contribute towards the total cost of the General Service Conference) be a standing item on the Conference Finance Committee agenda. The history; 1969: \$150, 1974: \$200, 1978: \$300, 1984: \$400, 1989: \$600, 1997: \$800, 2005: \$1,200, 2012: \$1,600. The recent history is:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015 (est.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Costs</td> <td>709,868</td> <td>903,211</td> <td>750,522</td> <td>974,886</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contributions -</td> <td><u>228,168</u></td> <td><u>288,731</u></td> <td><u>246,999</u></td> <td><u>281,457</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net Costs</td> <td>481,700</td> <td>614,480</td> <td>496,472</td> <td>693,429</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Areas are certainly welcomed to send in the full amount of their delegate's portion, but not all areas can afford that.</p>	Year	2012	2013	2014	2015 (est.)	Total Costs	709,868	903,211	750,522	974,886	Contributions -	<u>228,168</u>	<u>288,731</u>	<u>246,999</u>	<u>281,457</u>	Net Costs	481,700	614,480	496,472	693,429
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What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the maximum should be raised? If so, why and to what amount? If not, why not?																				

IV. Conference Committee: Finance — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A member of \$3,000.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	From time to time A.A. raises the annual maximum amount an individual member may contribute to A.A. Here is the history: 1957: \$100, 1967: \$200, 1972: \$300, 1979: \$500, 1986: \$1,000, 1999: \$2,000, 2007: \$3,000. The maximum contribution

	has been raised, on average, every 8.33 years. 20 A.A. members gave the maximum \$3,000 last year.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the maximum should be raised? If so, why and to what amount? If not, why not?

Literature

V. Conference Committee: Literature — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	October 31, 2015 meeting, the trustees, Literature committee review and discussed a request for a plain language version of Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature a proposal for the development of a plain language version of Alcoholics Anonymous. According to the Plain Language Association International, “a communication is in plain language if the language, structure, and design are so clear that the intended audience can easily find what they need, understand what they find, and use that information.” A letter of request from Area 78 A.A. member was included.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your feel that the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous should be translated in a plain language version? Why or why not?

VI. Conference Committee: Literature — Item H

Agenda Topic	Consider request for revision to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At their September 25, 2015 meeting, the A.A.W.S. Board considered a request from Area 27 (Louisiana) to create an A.A. Guideline for Young People in A.A. (Y.P.A.A.) After full discussion of the request, the Board did not feel there was sufficient need to create a new Guideline. However, the Board felt it would be helpful to include information on young people’s conferences in current A.A. literature. Accordingly, the A.A.W.S. Board Agreed to forward to the trustees’ Literature Committee a suggestion to review the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” and consider inclusion of information about Young People conferences. On January 30, 2016 the trustees Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the “Young People and A.A.” pamphlet to include information on young people conferences.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group agree to have information on young people’s conferences in the pamphlet “Young People and AA.”? Why or why not?

VII. Conference Committee: Literature — Item I

Agenda Topic	Consider request to update the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	On January 30, 2016 meeting the trustees’ Literature Committee review and agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature a request to update the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated”. CNIA, Area 07, voted with substantial unanimity that this item be submitted for consideration at the General Service Conference. This item originated from a group in Stockton who noted the pamphlet has not been updated since 1971. Illustrations in the pamphlet may not reflect what our society looks like today.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your feel this pamphlet should be updated? Why or why not?

need to know?

Public Information

VIII. Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B1**

Agenda Topic	Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan: Review the trustees' Public Information Committee reports on the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At its January 30, 2016 meeting, the trustees' Committee on Public Information agreed to forward to the Conference Committee on Public Information the following two recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That a proposal be developed for the implementation of both a Google-For Non- Profits account and a Twitter account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public.2. That a guideline be developed on "Carrying the A.A. Message Online and in Social Media." <p>The 2015 subcommittee on Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan Final Report of January 7, 2016: Discussion focused on the suggestions from the 2015 Conference Committee on Public Information following their review of the 2015 Public Information</p>

	<p>Comprehensive Media Plan.</p> <p>The subcommittee prepared an addendum to this report addressing the Conference Committee's request to "explore specific questions regarding the exploration of new avenues for presenting A.A. information." The addendum details the subcommittee's reasoning that resulted in the following six suggestions regarding new avenues for presenting A.A. information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the trustees' P.I. Committee forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on P.I. a recommendation that a proposal be developed for the implementation of both a Google-For-Profits account and a Twitter account for carrying the A.A. message of A.A. information.2. That the trustees' P.I. Committee forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on P.I. a recommendation that a guideline be developed on "Carrying the A.A. Message Online and Social Media."3. That the trustees' P.I. Committee forward to the trustee's Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee a request to explore the feasibility and potential implementation of an official LinkedIn page for C.P.C. purposes.4. The trustees' P.I. Committee forward to the trustee's Archives Committee a request to explore the feasibility and potential implementation of an official A.A. Flickr page dedicated to public display of historic A.A. photos, illustrations, and other artifacts from A.A. history with links to aa.org and aagrapevine.org for additional information.5. The trustees' P.I. Committee forward to the A.A.W.S. Board a request to explore the addition of content sharing functionality (i.e. share buttons) to aa.org.6. 6. The trustees' P.I. Committee forward to the A.A.G.V. Board a request to explore the addition of content sharing functionality (i.e. share buttons) to aagrapevine.org.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or members have any ideas or experiences with bringing new avenues for presenting A.A information? What are they?

IX. Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a request to reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates"
Historical Context;	The 2011 General Service Conference Advisory Action:

Why is it on the Agenda?

Established a “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates.”
At its January 30, 2016 meeting, the trustees’ Committee on Public Information agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on Public Information:

A request to reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates.”

Showing the full faces of actors portraying A.A. members brings two of our most cherished traditions into opposition — our call to carry our message effectively to the still suffering Alcoholic, and our belief that anonymity is a bedrock principle that in

	<p>many ways defines who we are as individuals and as a Fellowship. The subcommittee is unanimous in its belief that with proper disclosure that actors are being used, the display of full face of a character can have a real benefit to the effectiveness of a video without diminishing either the reality or the perception of our commitment to anonymity. However, the danger is also real that use of full faces may result in a video of promotion rather than attraction, and personalities coming before principles. The subcommittee believes that the importance of these considerations requires that a proposed video in which full faces are used be evaluated in light of these considerations by the General Service Board as a whole, and the General Service Conference, in each case with substantial unanimity that the proposed video is consistent with our traditions. The solution is thus primarily procedural, requiring that the issues arising from the use of full faces are fully disclosed and explored by both the Board and the Conference prior to moving forward.</p> <p>The policy below was approved by the trustees' Public Information Committee on January 29, 2011 and was reviewed and approved by the A.A. General Service Board on January 31, 2011:</p> <p>Videos produced and distributed by the General service Board or its affiliated corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., that include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor's full face, unless: a) The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with the A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not in fact or in appearance place personalities before principles. b) The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such video. For purpose of this Policy, a "Video" is any item of visual media in which a live actor appears, regardless of the medium in which the video is presented (DVD, film, electronic file, etc.).</p> <p>Note: A copy of this policy shall be given to all entities participating in the production of a video prior to commencement of production. The background documentation for the policy will always be distributed with the policy</p> <p>This agenda topic originated in CNCA 06 in Panel 63. We have discussed this at assemblies in Panel 65.</p>
<p>What does the Delegate Do not? need to know?</p>	<p>Does your group feel that there is a need to change this policy? Why or Why not?</p>

Report & Charter

X. Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item A6

Agenda Topic	<p>The AA Service Manual 2016-2017 Edition: Consider request to revise text the Concept Eleven essay regarding “male/female” distinctions in the Twelve Concepts for World Service.</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>This is a request to remove two paragraphs in the Concept XI essay. The paragraphs are on page 58 of the <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> in the Service Manual. The first is the paragraph which begins with "Women workers present still another problem." and the following paragraph which begins with "It is possible for these forces to defeat..."</p> <p>The request to remove these two paragraphs stems, in part, from the difficulty of finding candidates willing to make themselves available to be Trustees (especially Class A Trustees).</p> <p>To quote from the proposal for this Topic, "Ironically, Bill Wilson's essay on Concept XI uses language and imagery giving potential trustee candidates reason to question if Alcoholics Anonymous is an outdated and out-of-touch organization." (from background material Item A6, Document 1).</p> <p>Another thing that affects this item is that in 1985 the General Service Conference passed an Advisory Action that stated, "The A.A. Service Manual contains the original <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> as adopted by the 12th General Service Conference on April 26, 1962."</p> <p>There is a footnote stating these paragraphs are out of date and that these paragraphs no longer reflect the policy of GSO.</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>Does your group think these two paragraphs should be removed from the <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i>? Why or Why Not?</p>

XI. Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item B

Agenda Topic	<p>Consider A.A.W.S recommendation an alternative publishing schedule for The A.A Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>At the present time new editions of the <i>A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> are published every year. This item, if passed, would result in new editions being published every other year. They would be published in the even numbered years, i.e. 2016, 2018, 2020 and so on. This would result in a cost savings estimated to \$45,000 to \$50,000 in the odd numbered years.</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>Does your group think that the Service Manual be published every other year, instead of the current publishing schedule of every year? Why or Why Not?</p>

Treatment/ Special Needs-Accessibilities

XII. Conference Committee: Treatment/Special Needs -Accessibilities — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider removing “Special Needs” from Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibility’ name and throughout the committees’ Composition, Scope and Procedure.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the August 2015 meeting of the trustees’ committee it was asked that the staff secretary explore appropriate and effective vernacular for the name of the trustee’s committee and to provide a report. The report noted that in the field of academicians the term “Special Needs” was replaced with “Diverse Needs” around 1975. There is also reference made to the State of California and the State of Carolina and Access Sonoma County, from the Sonoma County Intergroup website to show different vernaculars used. The letter received from District 12, Area 24 states reference to the Committees’ workbook first line, “while there are not special A.A. members, there many members who have special needs”. Both feel this is a contradictive statement, if there are no special members, how can they have special needs. Both also feel that the statement, also from their workbook, “Some committees serve parents with young children who may have limited access to A. A. meeting”, proves that the services this committee provides are quite broad and inclusive.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the words “Special Needs” should be removed from the name of the committee “Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities”? Why or Why not?