

# 66th General Service Conference - Highlights

April 17 - 23, 2016 - Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel, New York, NY

## 2017 General Service Conference Theme:

**“Supporting Our Future.”**

### Presentations will be:

#### **Growth:**

Diversity -- Outreach and Attraction  
Safety – An Important Consideration  
Communication – Today and Tomorrow

#### **Participation:**

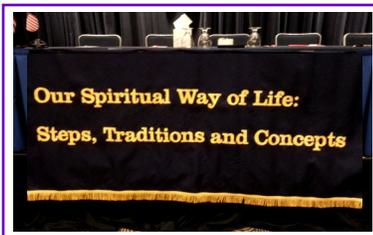
Fellowship vs. Membership  
Leadership: “I am Responsible...”  
Is Your Voice Heard?

#### **Contributions:**

Spirituality and Money  
Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations  
Apathy and Power of the Purse

The (deferred) **Workshop Topic** will be:  
“Anonymity — The Spiritual Foundation”

*(These are important topics that can be talked about and discussed throughout the Fellowship – in groups, at district meetings or service events, and at assemblies.)*



### Conference Voting members: 134

- 93 Delegates (69.4%)
- 26 Trustees, A.A.W.S. Directors, and Grapevine Directors (19.4%)
- 15 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff (11.2%)

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## **New Trustees**

### Class A (Non-Alcoholic) Trustees

**Nancy McCarthy**

**Hon. Christine Carpenter**

### Class B (Alcoholic) Trustees

West Central Regional ... **Thomas A.**

Western Canada Regional ... **Cate W.**

General Service ... **Carole B.**

**Both Class A  
Trustees are from  
Eastern Missouri !!!**

\* **Advisory Actions:** Recommendations that were voted on and passed with substantial unanimity — 2/3 or more

**Delegates will have increased participation in the selection of Conference Agenda Items:**

1. Throughout the year delegates will have access to all proposed Agenda Items and updated information about the status of these items.
2. A new policy and a plan will be developed that provides the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items — to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference.

**The 66<sup>th</sup> GSC votes electronically for the 2nd time.**

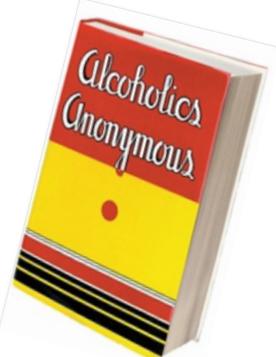


The 2nd trial period was Friday. After evaluations and discussions, future use will be determined in 2017.

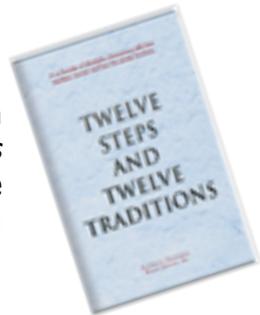
**Delegate Statistics**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sobriety</u>	<u>Service</u>
Average....57 years	Average....22 years	Average...17 years
Oldest.....76	Longest....50	Longest... 49
Youngest..33	Shortest... 9	Shortest... 6

**LITERATURE**



The Literature committee considered a request to develop a plain language version of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action. While sympathetic to the spirit of the request, the committee agreed that developing a plain-language Big Book was not appropriate at this time.



The Committee suggests that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the need for expanding availability of "plain-language" recovery literature.

**Advisory Actions**

- Revise the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to include information about young people's conferences.
- Update the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today.
- Undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations.
- The trustees' Literature Committee develop a plan that includes a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items.

**Additional Committee Considerations:**

Development and revisions to the following are progressing. Further review will be at the 2017 GSC:

- Revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman"
- Revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic"
- The development of literature for A.A.s with mental health issues and those who sponsor them is progressing.



## Grapevine/La Viña

**Subscription Challenge** In 2015: Missouri East & West won the Grapevine Challenge. Delaware won La Viña.

Special sections in an upcoming edition of GV and LV will be devoted to these states.

New: Grapevine Subscription App.

La Viña: 20th anniversary this year. Several special LV events are being held around the country in 2016.

Hispanic AA members are now 5% of our Fellowship

Launched: LV Spanish Language text message service

The GV committee suggested that the AA Grapevine Board produce two books:

1. Stories by Atheist and Agnostic A.A. members (working title)
2. Steps Four and Five (working title)

## Finance

- Trends continue:**
- ◆ Membership levels remain flat.
  - ◆ Contributions show little growth.
  - ◆ Literature sales show slow to no growth.
  - ◆ Expenses continue to grow slowly: 2-3% per year.
  - ◆ The Reserve Fund is predicted to decline — If nothing changes, the Reserve Fund will start to be used for operating expenses - starting this year.
  - ◆ An average of \$10.82 per member per year contribution could keep this Fund stable.
  - ◆ Some services are on hold, and if nothing changes, cuts in services may be necessary.



### Considerations

- Took no action on increasing the area contribution (currently \$1,600) for the delegate expense to the Conference.
- Took no action on raising the individual bequest limit of \$5,000.

**Recommended but Not Approved:** To increase limit for individual contributions from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Quote from the Conference:

**Remember — Finance has no importance in and of itself. Finance is simply a way to help carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.**

### Feasibility Study

The GSC brainstormed ideas on solutions to support AA into the future:

- improving internal and external communications
- increasing revenues
- reducing expenses
- structure

Workshop report due later this year



### International Convention

56,900 attendees at Atlanta.

The Committee expressed gratitude to everyone who helped.

**2020: Detroit**

### Public Information

**Advisory Actions:** proposals to develop plans for Google-for-Non-Profits and Twitter accounts for carrying the message of AA to the public. To be reviewed at the 2017 GSC.

No action was taken in the policy on use of Actors full face in videos produced by the GSB/AAWS.

(The policy is: No full face, unless a proposed video is consistent with Tradition and is authorized by the GSB.)



### Cooperation with the Professional Community

#### **Advisory Actions:**

Text changes and revisions to the Pamphlets:

“If you are a Professional ...”

“Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?”

“How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals”

“Problems Other Than Alcohol”

No action was taken on a request to discontinue the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” Even though it is considered outdated for CPC use, it may have historic value to the Fellowship.

### Policy/Admissions

**Translation Project:** A recommendation to provide the background material in English only at this time, due to cost and time factors, was sent back to the trustees. Ways of using local translation committees will be explored.

**Advisory Action:** move forward with first phase of translating pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French.

No action was taken on a request regarding observers from other recovery fellowships to the GSC.

### Corrections

**Advisory Action:** The video created to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” will be re-titled: “A New Freedom.”

**Consideration:** Corrections Correspondence: Spanish speaking inmates need AA correspondents. Suggestions are listed in the Conference report.

### Treatment

#### **Advisory Action:**

Remove term “Special Needs”: the committee’s new name will be the **Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.**

### Report and Charter

#### **Advisory Actions:**

- New editions of *The A.A. Service Manual* will be published every other year (even). Cost savings are projected to be \$45,000 - \$50,000 in the alternate years not published. Revisions will continue on a yearly schedule.
- Outdated language regarding women will be removed from the Concept XI essay in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* P. 58:

*“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. ...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.”*

(An end-note will refer to GSO Archives as a reference to AA history.)

