58th General Service Conference

The 134 members who make up this year’s General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada convened in New York City, April 27–May 3, for the 58th annual meeting of what many consider A.A.’s business meeting.

The theme of this year’s Conference was “Communication and Participation — The Key to Unity and Self-Support.” Conference members were the delegates from the 93 service areas of the U.S. and Canada, Class A (nonalcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees, and directors and staff members of the two corporate boards—A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine Inc.

Registration for the weeklong event took place Sunday morning, when Conference members lined up to eagerly receive their copy of the Conference Manual. The Opening Session began with a welcome from chairman of the General Service Board Leonard Blumenthal. Then the Conference was officially opened with the roll call, by Greg M., G.S.O.’s general manager.

France J., of Northeast Québec, was the delegate chairperson, and though French-speaking, she delivered her greeting in English: “I stand before you at the mike to welcome you in the language of Shakespeare. I hope my pronunciation is correct....”

Chuck B., West Central regional trustee, delivered the keynote address, in which he said, “we must strive to keep our primary purpose first and foremost as we progress through the week and to do what is best for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.”

That evening was the opening dinner, a time of fellowship and seeing old friends. Many past delegates and former trustees attended. Tim D. (Alabama/NW Florida), chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee, chaired the open A.A. meeting that followed the dinner. Bill F. (Colorado), alternate chairperson, led the meeting. Speakers were Janet H. (Western Pennsylvania), Andy T. (Grapevine director), Mike D. (Nevada), Mary D. (G.S.O. staff), and John S. (trustee).

Presentations and sharing sessions at the Conference, which met at the Crowne Plaza Times Square, addressed such subjects as how to keep A.A. strong, the importance of service, leadership, and contempt prior to investigation. Kiki R., delegate from the District of Columbia, touched on how the message of unity expressed in the First Tradition leaves room for a divergence of opinion in our Fellowship. Bob C., Southeastern Michigan, noted in his presentation that in the give and take at the Conference, “we trust that a democratic process engaged in by people acting in good faith will be in the best interest of our Fellowship, even though we may not agree with all the decisions made.”

Four observers attended the Conference at the invitation of the General Service Board: Ann N., general secretary of G.S.O. in York, England (equivalent to our general manager); Louise Foxcroft, a nonalcoholic trustee on the G.S.B. of Great Britain; and Elfido Q. and Jose R.,
two regional trustees from Mexico.

Spaced throughout the week, new delegates presented their Area Highlights. There were four “What’s On Your Mind” sharing sessions in which Conference members come to the mike to ask questions, present concerns of their areas on issues that did not appear on the committee agendas, or simply speak on any A.A. business they choose.

The agendas of the 13 Conference committees consist of items forwarded to them by the corresponding trustees’ committees. After deliberation on agenda items each committee reports its recommendations to the entire Conference for discussion, approval, or rejection. Beginning Wednesday evening, the delegate chairperson of each Conference committee presented its recommendations. Conference members were then free to go to the floor to ask questions, disagree, make suggestions or changes, and share the concerns of their area on any given issue. This process continued for the next day or more before some items resulted in Conference Advisory Actions. (Highlights of Actions appear on page 3.)

Among the agenda items at this year’s Conference, the Public Information Committee reviewed the results of the A.A. Membership Survey, which is produced every three years. The Treatment Facilities Committee assessed sample footage of the revised video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.” Another agenda item was a review by the Conference Literature Committee of the revised version of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”

The work of the Conference goes on 365 days a year—in the groups, in the districts and areas, at the General Service Office, and in the constant work of committees, from the local areas to the trustees’ committees. However, it is during Conference week that it all comes together. Doug R., G.S.O. staff member, was the Conference coordinator. Working behind the scenes, staff and support personnel from the General Service and Grapevine offices made the week run seamlessly.

The work of chairing the Conference was shared by Leonard Blumenthal, (nonalcoholic) chairman of the board, Greg M., G.S.O. general manager, and France J., the delegate chairperson.

Each morning at 7:30 the G.S.C. Serenity Group met for an open A.A. meeting, with topics taken from A.A. literature. Sharon F., Central Southeast Ohio, was the chairperson. Secretary/treasurer was Ted K., of Virginia.

New York Intergroup hosted a hospitality suite for early arrivals Saturday afternoon. Throughout the week local A.A. and Al-Anon members planned a variety of activities for the family and friends of delegates.

Tuesday afternoon there was a trip to G.S.O. and Grapevine offices. Conference members and the family and friends who accompanied them to New York had the opportunity to tour the offices and visit G.S.O.’s Archives.

At the Delegates Only Meeting Tuesday evening Joe B., Mid-Southern California, was elected delegate chair for the 59th Conference; John T., South Dakota, will be alternate chair.

Wednesday afternoon the Conference elected three new trustees: Ken B., Nebraska, will be the new West Central regional trustee. The new Western Canada trustee will be Vic P., of Olds, Alberta. Terrance Bedient will replace Vince Keefe as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee.

Friday afternoon, following closing remarks by Leonard Blumenthal, the Conference officially closed with the Serenity Prayer in English, French, and Spanish.

On Saturday morning, members of A.A.’s 58th Conference came together for the last time at the closing brunch. Rotating Class B trustees Chuck B. and Tom K., and Class A trustee Vince Keefe addressed the gathering.

Then it was off to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois W. Conference members were especially interested in visiting “Wit’s End” a small cement block studio in the woods behind the house where Bill spent hours, “just sitting,” thinking and writing.

Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>53,595, 1,220,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4,745, 93,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>58,340, 1,314,552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correctional facilities</td>
<td>2,359, 60,912</td>
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<td>Internationalists</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Members</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,699, 1,375,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside U.S.&amp; Canada</td>
<td>52,469, 669,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>113,168, 2,044,655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent and actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.
2. U.S. and Canada only.
3. We are aware of A.A. activity in more than 180 countries, including 60 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year’s figure.
2008 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some Advisory Actions and a few additional committee considerations appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the Final Conference Report.

Advisory Actions

Agenda— that the theme for the 2009 General Service Conference be: “Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s Message — Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action.”

Cooperation With the Professional Community— that the video segments directed to professionals in the legal/criminal justice and health care fields to be streamed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site be approved with suggested changes and that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities oversee these changes.

Finance— that the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups and that this information be forwarded to the 2009 Conference Committee on Finance.

International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums— that the following four cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2020: Detroit, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Vancouver; that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2010 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

Policy/Admissions— that representatives from other National A.A. service entities be granted admission as observers upon their request to the annual General Service Conference of the United States and Canada; that admission is not to exceed three countries and two representatives per country; that the request for admission be made through the General Service Office in New York; and that decisions regarding responsibility for guest observer expenses be at the discretion of the General Service Board.

Public Information— that the 2008 television public service announcement, “I Thought,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee be approved, and that reference to newspapers be added to the tag line; that the Conference Committee on Public Information annually review current television public service announcements for relevance and usefulness, retiring a P.S.A. only when it is no longer relevant and/or useful to the Fellowship.

Report and Charter— that a section titled “District Information” and an illustration of the District Information Change Form (F-43) be added to Chapter Three of The A.A. Service Manual, after the section on redistricting; that the Online Intergroup of A.A. (OLIAA) be listed in a new section titled “Online Intergroups” under the section “International Correspondence Meetings” in the A.A. Directories above where “Online Meetings” appear; the listing will include the online intergroup Web site and e-mail addresses.

Treatment Facilities— that the revised video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” be completed with minor changes and brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities for review.

Trustees— that the slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board at the May 2008 meeting; that the slates of directors of the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Corporate Boards be elected at the annual meeting of the boards, May 2008.

Additional Considerations

Archives— requested that the G.S.O. Archives’ “Statements of Policy” related to accessing the Archives, as well as the “Sound and Video Access Policies,” be added to the next printing of the Archives Workbook; discussed various ideas for creatively making A.A.’s archives and history more readily available to the Fellowship in the future.

Corrections— reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and the Corrections A.A. Group Handbook and made several suggestions to both.

Grapevine— agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2009 or later two CDs of stories from La Viña on Traditions One — Twelve; discussed the Grapevine’s legacy of self-support and encouraged the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to uphold that legacy; suggested several ways that the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and the Fellowship could increase awareness of the Grapevine and La Viña’s roles in A.A.

Literature— that a draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American,” taking into consideration the committee’s suggested changes, be returned for review to the 2009 Conference; that a draft of the revised pamphlet “The A.A. Member— Medications and Other Drugs” be brought to the 2009 Conference for review.
Reports From G.S.O., the General Service Board, and Trustees’ Committees

General Service Board Report

Trustees’ Report: Once again we come together to conduct our annual Conference, our 58th. The theme, Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity and Self-Support, is particularly relevant.

On January 1, 2008, Bob Pearson, who served as G.S.O.’s general manager from 1975 to 1984, died peacefully in Bellevue, Idaho. Bob is remembered as a mentor and a role model, both as a sober alcoholic enjoying life to the fullest and as a devoted and extraordinarily effective trusted servant in his role as director, trustee and general manager.

This year we welcomed five new Class B trustees to the board: Conley B., Southwest regional trustee; John K., northeast regional trustee; Jo-Anne L., trustee-at-large/Canada; and two general service trustees, Dorothy H. and John S. Last year I asked Tom K. to serve as acting Eastern Canada regional trustee, concurrent with his duties as Western Canada trustee. Tom will rotate off the General Service Board at the close of this Conference. I have also appointed Jo-Anne to serve as acting Eastern Canada regional trustee until the 2009 General Service Conference. She will serve in this interim position in addition to her role as trustee-at-large/Canada.

The board met in executive session, July 29, 2007, and discussed an additional consideration forwarded by the 2007 Conference Committee on Trustees that an “Appeal to the General Service Conference dated April 11, 2007 concerning the decision made in the January 2007 Executive Session of the General Service Board not to begin a search for a new General Manager of the General Service Office be given a full hearing at the next scheduled Executive Session of the General Service Board.” The board had a full hearing of the appeal and matters related to the terms of employment of the general manager.

In February of this year, I was advised by Greg M. that it was his intent to retire as the general manager of the General Service Office by Dec. 31, 2008. This marks the conclusion of a ten-year period of outstanding service and commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous by Greg. The General Service Board, on behalf of all A.A. members in the U.S. and Canada, is grateful for his dedication over this time and for assisting in the transition process to his successor. A search committee for a new general manager began its work immediately.

The board, in response to an additional consideration from the 2007 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, initiated a discussion of the inventory questions in February 2008. We will continue the discussion in August and expect to forward a summary of our discussions to the 2009 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Directors’ report: Each year directors serving on Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. report to the General Service Conference on A.A. publications, group services provided by the General Service Office and other activities linked directly to A.A.’s primary purpose. A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. employees agree that our purpose, expressed through requests for use by five G.S.O. staff members who will participate in a 90-day trial to determine whether direct access will ease processing time for the growing number of requests for archival research.

Archives: Laserfiche software has proven invaluable in preserving and utilizing the many thousands of documents stored in G.S.O.’s Archives. Test software was installed for use by five G.S.O. staff members who will participate in a 90-day trial to determine whether direct access will ease processing.

Archives

Trustee’s report: The new sound and video access policies have been implemented, allowing individuals to receive copies of our recordings on a limited basis. These policies permit us to share some of our thousands of audio recordings with the Fellowship, while abiding by copyright laws. The trustees’ Committee also approved new language designed to help foster awareness of copyright issues relevant to A.A.’s archival collections, for inclusion in the Archives Workbook. The committee approved extensive revisions to the Archives Workbook, the Archives Guidelines, and the pamphlet “The A.A. Archives.” In order to continue our efforts to increase security in the Archives, we have implemented digital video surveillance of our Archives exhibit areas.
Archivist's report: In 2007 we responded to nearly 2,000 individual requests for research and information, an increase of almost 30% over the previous year. We enhanced our exhibit area in the Archives in several ways: we installed a digital listening station, allowing visitors to listen to excerpts of A.A.’s founders and pioneers sharing their stories; we installed two new exhibit cases so that we can display more of our treasures; and we created a self-guided tour here in the Archives, so our visitors now pick up a tour script when they enter the room and walk through A.A.’s history, learning about the significance of the objects and images on display.

Several new rotating exhibits were mounted in the Archives in 2007; we highlighted A.A.’s connections to Hollywood, and A.A.’s associations with the military. Our traveling exhibit was on the move, traveling from Florida to Canada, Illinois to Texas.

Amy Filiatreau, (nonalcoholic) archivist

Audit Committee

Trustees’ Report: The trustees’ Audit Committee, formed by the General Service Board in 2003, is composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of five trustees. The Committee reports to the General Service Board and reviews such items as audit process, audit results, internal controls, best accounting practices, and management integrity.

Herbert Goodman, (nonalcoholic) trustee

Compensation Committee

Trustees’ report: This committee, formed in 2006 by the General Service Board, consists of six trustees. It was created to assist the General Service Board in its fiduciary obligation of Prudent Corporate Governance. The committee reports to the General Service Board and reviews and advises A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. on such items as overall compensation philosophies and policies, annual salary increase process, best compensation practices, and executive compensation.

Herb Goodman, (nonalcoholic) chairperson

Conference

Trustees’ report: We reviewed the Advisory Actions pertaining to the 58th Conference, including the theme, the Evaluation Questionnaires, and a Post-Conference Sharing Session. The committee developed and approved the schedule for the 2008 Conference. The committee recommended that Conference committee agendas and background material be made available on an Online Dashboard on an experimental basis for two years, beginning with the 2008 Conference, in addition to the hard copies and CDs currently available.

John S., chairperson

Staff report: The Conference coordinator is the G.S.O. contact for General Service Conference members. The Conference process continues throughout the year and the coordinator corresponds regularly with delegates and alternate delegates. The coordinator is also the contact for area and district committee members, as well as past delegates, in the 93 areas in the U. S. and Canada. The coordinator also serves as secretary to the Conference Advisory Committee and the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community prior to the 2008 General Service Conference; assembling suggestions for the Conference theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics; working with the G.S.O. staff and general manager on planning and coordinating each phase of the Conference; scheduling and assembling reports and other information for the Conference Manual; and, with the guidance of the Publications Department, the Early Bird edition of Box 4-5-9 and the Conference Final Report.

Doug R.

Cooperation With the Professional Community/ Treatment Facilities

Trustees’ report: C.P.C. — A primary committee focus is assisting local C.P.C. committees in providing A.A. information to professionals who, through their work, come in contact with the still-suffering alcoholic. Among its work, the committee reviewed the final report on exhibit correspondence and created a sample C.P.C. PowerPoint presentation for inclusion in the C.P.C. Kit. The committee also reviewed the sharing, received by the C.P.C. staff, on local C.P.C. committee guidelines on dress, punctuality, etc. for A.A. members staffing a booth at a national level conference. The committee agreed that the current guidelines included in the “For the Volunteers Staffing an A.A. Exhibit” letter are sufficient. The committee worked with the Publications Department on video segments directed to professionals and recommended that they be forwarded only to the members of the 2008 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community prior to the 2008 General Service Conference for their consideration. The total cost is not to exceed $60,000.

Treatment Facilities — Responding to a 2007 Conference Advisory Action that, “the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous be revised, retaining only the script, and that sample footage or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities,” the committee began its work of overseeing the development of the new video. A progress report, including suggestions for minor script changes along with sample footage of the proposed new video, was forwarded to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities.

Bob M., chairperson

Staff reports: C.P.C. — The staff member on the C.P.C. assignment, along with a capable assistant, provides information about A.A. and facilitates communication with those outside A.A. who have direct contact with the still-suffering alcoholic through their professional work. In 2007, 535 requests for information from professionals were associated with visits to G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site. Other requests arrived by letter, e-mail, fax and phone. More than 22,535 professionals receive A.A.’s newsletter for professionals, two issues of which were published in 2007. The C.P.C. assignment arranged for displays at 45 national or international conferences of professionals in 2007. Also, the C.P.C. staff member greets students from Cornell University Medical Center who visit G.S.O. throughout the year.

Mary D.

Corrections

Trustees’ report: The committee reviewed the final changes to the DVD “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” and approved the DVD for production, translation and distribution. Committee members discussed avenues of possible distribution of the DVD to get it in the hands of relevant professionals. We also reviewed recommended changes in the service piece A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information for A.A.s on the Inside.

Madeleine P., chairperson

Staff report: The Corrections assignment is responsible for helping A.A. members and local committees carry the A.A. message into a variety of correctional settings. Around 600 pieces of mail a month arrive from inmates, many requesting free literature, others asking to participate in our Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) or for help in making contact with A.A., either by asking for a meeting in their facility or for a prerelease contact. We try to facilitate these requests, primarily through our network of area, district and local Corrections committees. The newsletter, Sharing From Behind the Walls, containing excerpts of sharing from inmate letters sent to G.S.O., is also a responsibility of this assignment.

Gayle S. R.
Finance and Budgetary

Trustees’ report: At last year’s Conference, we reviewed the proposed budget for 2007 and reported that the G.S.O. expected a profit from operations of approximately $237,450, which after Conference actions resulting in mid-year budget adjustments, was reduced to $89,450. Actual results for 2007 were significantly higher than both the original and adjusted budget; in fact, a net profit of $1,018,600 was realized. While expenses for the year were approximately $110,000 (less than 1%) under budget, total revenue was approximately $202,000 better than expected thanks to strong sales and contributions. At the end of 2007, the Reserve Fund balance represented approximately 9 months of operating expenses.

Our revenue essentially comes from two sources: profit from literature sales and contributions. We should all be encouraged that contributions in 2007 were again higher than the previous year, in this case by about $457,800 (7.5%). This represents the tenth year in a row that contributions have increased over the previous year.

Contributions of $6,381,600 received from groups and members were $330,700, or 5.3%, greater than budgeted, and $457,800 (7.5%) more than budgeted, and $713,000 higher than $12,393,800, which was $743,800 (6%) greater than 2006. (This compares with 73% and 27% in 2006 and 2005; 68% and 32% in 2004; 72% and 28% in 2003; 71% and 29% in 2002; 70% and 30% in 2001; and 73% and 27% for 2000.)

In 1994, G.S.O. lowered prices and increased discounts on literature. These changes were undertaken to lower the Reserve Fund, which was at that time was approaching the upper limit of 12 months of combined operating expenses established by the General Service Conference. In subsequent years, it became necessary to restore the revenue stream with pricing adjustments. At December 31 2007, this adjustment produced approximately $900,000 in the following year, in this case by about $457,800 (7.5%). This represents the tenth year in a row that contributions have increased over the previous year.

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The 2007 service dollar was spent on the following activities: Group Services 33% (which includes the Groups Services Department; Box 4-5-9: A.A. Directories; records and files; contributions processing; and French services); the General Service Conference, 12.3%; Lovers, Internationalists, and Overseas Services, 9.8%; Trustees' and Directors' activities, 6.8%; Regional Forums, 7.1%; Archives, 9.6%; C.P.C., 5.6%; Public Information, 5.4%; Correctional Facilities, 4.5%; and Treatment Facilities, 2.2%; Special Needs; 1.4%; Nominating 1.8%; other various 0.5%.

At the Grapevine, magazine income was approximately $55,000 greater than the prior year, with average circulation approximately 2,200 copies higher as well. Average print circulation during 2007 was 106,099. This compared with 103,679 for 2006, 104,336 for 2005, 108,426 for 2004, 115,753 for 2002, 115,001 in 2001, 115,700 in 2000, 115,900 for 1999, 117,300 for 1998, 120,679 for 1997, and 128,360 during 1996. Gross profit on the magazine of $1,182,770, was $31,000 greater than last year but $18,000 less than budgeted. Other publishing income was $45,000, greater than budgeted and $153,000 higher than the 2006 as well. Excluding La Viña, The Grapevine reported a loss from operations of $25,047, which was approximately $23,000 less than the 2006 loss of $48,872. See the Grapevine directors’ report in this issue for details.

La Viña had a 2007 average circulation of 10,979. This compared with a 2006 average of 10,223, a 2005 average of 9,453, a 2004 average of 9,316, a 2003 average of 9,222, and a 2002 circulation of 9,000, 8,600 in 2001, 6,500 in 2000, 8,000 in 1999, and 8,400 in 1997. During 2007, subscription income was $102,152 and direct costs of publishing were $66,917, resulting in a gross profit of $35,234. The overall loss in La Viña for the year was $67,040 compared with a loss of $26,000. Since inception of the magazine, approximately $1,134,000 has been invested in La Viña in excess of revenues.
generated. In 2001, the General Service Board recommended that La Viña continue to be published and agreed to provide the necessary funding.

The subcommittee concluded that, overall, the General Service Board has been well served by the investments made in the Reserve fund and the decisions made by those charged with maintaining this fund.

The outlook for this year appears to be favorable, and we continue to have the financial wherewithal to carry our message.

Vincent Keefe, (nonalcoholic) treasurer

General Sharing Session

Trustees’ report: The topic of the July 2007 session was “A.A. and Controversy—Tradition 10.” The October topic was “A.A. Grapevine, Inc.—Challenges and Opportunities of Fulfilling Our Mission in the Electronic Age.” In February 2006, the session focused on “Special Needs—A New Frontier.”

Dorothy W., chairperson

Group Services

Staff report: The group services coordinator responds to all inquiries and concerns of A.A. members and other individuals regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site, and manages G.S.O.’s Intra-Office Web site committee. The responsibilities of the group services coordinator also include serving as G.S.O.’s liaison for Intergroups/Central Offices and supervising the updating of service material. Examples of service material include: Group Handbooks; G.S.R. and D.C.M. Kits; and A.A. Guidelines. The Group Services coordinator works closely with the digital media manager to update and improve G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.

Mary Clare L.

International/World Service Meeting

Trustees’ report: This committee is responsible for suggesting policies and actions to ensure that the A.A. message is available around the world, especially in areas where there is no established service structure. We provide shared experience, support translations of A.A. literature in other languages, and encourage the expansion of regional or zonal meetings. The committee is the primary link between the international A.A. community and the U.S./Canada General Service Board of Trustees. The 20th World Service Meeting will be held October 26–30 in New York City, with the theme “Service—Gratitude in Action.” We are anticipating approximately 50 delegates representing over 30 countries or zones.

Dorothy W., chairperson

Staff report: The International desk receives correspondence from groups, individual A.A.s and professionals interested in obtaining information about A.A. in countries outside of the U.S. and Canada. The staff member also corresponds with 60 international general service offices and/or literature distribution centers. Other responsibilities on the assignment are: serving as coordinator for the biennial World Service Meeting and maintaining contact with WSM delegates and their offices throughout the year; and maintaining close communications with our publications department on requests for new translations of literature, and the beginnings of new general service or information offices that may be able to distribute literature to local members and groups.

Julio E.

International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums

Trustees’ report: International Conventions — The committee recommended that the “San Antonio—75 Years” design for the 2010 International Convention logo be approved. The committee recommended that during the Convention only vendors under contract to Convention management be permitted to operate in Convention facilities.

Regional Forums — Since the 2007 General Service Conference, Regional Forums have been held in the Northeast, West Central, Southwest, East Central, and Western Canada Regions. In addition, there were two Special Forums held in northern Canada, one in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and the other in Rimoniski, Quebec:

Herb Goodman, (nonalcoholic) chairperson

Staff reports:

International Convention — The International Convention assignment entails coordinating the details involved in producing the A.A. International Convention, held every five years. Working with four committees—Trustees, Conference, G.S.O. Planning and Host—the International Convention coordinator is responsible for bringing the Convention to life and ensuring that thousands of A.A.s can share and celebrate A.A.’s Anniversary. Plans are under way for the next International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, July 1–4, 2010.

Loners/Internationalists & Homers

Staff report: The Loners/Internationalists Correspondence Service is a method of sharing for about 97 Loners in 58 countries, plus 35 Internationalists, and 100 Homers. Loners are members who are unable to attend A.A. meetings because there are no A.A. groups within a reasonable distance. Internationalists are members working or serving on a seagoing vessel for lengthy periods, and Homers are A.A.s housebound due to illness or physical incapacity. Members share with other A.A.s around the world through letters, tapes and/or e-mail.

Each new Loner, Homer or Internationalist receives a Loners, Internationalists, & Homers Directory, a subscription to LIM, and recommendations from the General Service Conference. As with any directory or list distributed by G.S.O., LIM is confidential to insure the anonymity of LIM members.

Warren S.

Nominating Committee

Trustees’ report: The committee prepared a report on nominating procedure No. 9 and the length of service of the general manager of G.S.O. in response to a 2007 additional committee consideration. The committee unanimously recommended that Terrance M. Bedient be invited to serve as Class A (nonalcoholic) treasurer starting May 2008. The committee accepted the October 2007 Final Report of the “General Service Board Unexpected Vacancy Scope and Procedures” Subcommittee and recommended to the General Service Board approval of adding language to the committee’s procedures to clarify the process for filling unexpected vacancies for general service trustees, trustees-at-large and regional trustees.
Staff report: This assignment’s staff member is responsible to the trustees’ Nominating Committee, as well as to the Conference Committee on Trustees, serving as secretary to these committees as well as to trustees’ subcommittees. This assignment also serves as a resource point for Special Needs/Accessibilities Committees within the Fellowship, sending out welcome letters, Special Needs Kits, and shared experience to area and district committee chairs in addition to responding to Special Needs correspondence. —Valerie O.

Public Information

Trustees’ report: The committee recommended that the concept “I Thought” be developed as the proposed 2008 TV public service announcement, a rough cut of which was forwarded to the 2008 Conference P.I. Committee. The committee reviewed the text and format of the Annual Anonymity Letter to the Media and suggested that this year’s letter be sent by e-mail only. The committee also oversaw the 2007 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey and reviewed a rough draft pamphlet of the results, which they forwarded to the 2008 Conference P.I. Committee.

Ward Ewing (nonalcoholic) chairperson

Staff report: This assignment is charged with assisting the A.A. members who carry our message to still-suffering alcoholics through such public outlets as schools, health fairs, libraries, and all forms of the media. The assignment communicates with over 800 P.I. committee members and P.I. committees with information on the production and distribution of television and radio public service announcements. Coordinating the triennial A.A. Membership Survey is part of the assignment.

Irene K.

Staff Coordinator

Staff report: Services to A.A. groups and members are provided through 11 staff assignments; in addition, staff members correspond with groups and members in a specific region. Staff members rotate assignments every two years; assignments are assisted by the staff coordinator. In 2007, staff received 37,993 pieces of mail (including faxes and e-mail). As assistant secretary of the General Service Board, the staff coordinator is responsible for scheduling meetings, distributing advance material, preparing the minutes of the board meetings and also serves as editor of the Quarterly Report. In the past year, G.S.O. welcomed 1,477 visitors. —Adrienne B.

Directors’ report: One of the operating arms of the General Service Board, A.A. Grapevine, Inc., publishes the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous in print and in audio, along with collections of Grapevine magazine articles in books, CDs, and on its Web site. With the financial support of the General Service Board, A.A. Grapevine, Inc., also publishes La Viña, the Spanish-language journal of Alcoholics Anonymous in print and audio.

Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

This past year the Grapevine published twelve issues of the Grapevine magazine, six issues of La Viña, and two books of selected stories from the magazines: To Our Own Words: Stories of young A.A.s and Lo mejor de La Viña (The Best of La Viña). The Grapevine also published a large-print edition of The Language of the Heart, and recorded The Best of Bill on Spanish and English CD. It also produced four new CDs: Old-Timers, Attitude Adjustment, and Powers of Example, remastered from Grapevine audiocassettes, and Historia de A.A., a Spanish-language translation of the English-language CD The Story of A.A. The A.A. Grapevine wall calendar and pocket planner come out in August.

The Grapevine’s chief goals in 2007 were to expand the number of people it reaches and to balance its budget. It met both. This growth was the result of a multidepartmental effort.

The editorial and the Internet department continued to update the look of the website, electronic newsletter, and magazines; to explore the use of new media; and to publish more stories by and for young readers and newcomers. The new section, “Alcoholism at Large” has drawn a hearty response from readers, as has the issue on Dating Sober.

Robin B., executive editor
The Budget Highlights

2008 G.S.O. Budget

These budget highlights describe the “OPERATIONS” of the General Service Office — A.A. World Services (the Publishing operation) and the General Fund (Service activities) and the Grapevine Operations. It excludes any activities reported separately in the Reserve Fund, Convention Fund, Post Retirement Fund or the Capital Projects Fund.

Income: The 2008 budget projects gross sales of $12,700,000, approximately flat when compared with the 2007 actual results of $12,730,000, which were $730,000 greater than the $12,000,000 estimated for the 2007 budget. While reviewing and recommending the 2008 budget, the A.A.W.S. Board considered that revenue and expense assumptions made for the G.S.O. budget ultimately affect the long-term health of the General Service Board’s Reserve Fund.

Total Operating Expenses: Total Operating Expenses for 2008 are budgeted $13,507,500, just slightly less than the 2007 results of $13,582,000.

Total Gross Profit: Total Gross Profit has fallen from 58.8% in 2006, to 56.8% in 2007, and to 55.2% for the 2008 budget. This compares with an actual income of $1,018,600 for 2007 and the $89,450 net income budgeted for 2007 (including midyear adjustments). The large variance from budget to actual results is due to higher than anticipated revenue from production costs. Because we strive to have similar selling prices regardless of our manufacturing cost, lower gross profits for individual items may occur that affect the overall gross profit. Thus price increases may become necessary as things progress.

Contributions: Contributions for 2007 were over budget by $326,000 (5.2%). Total contributions for 2008 have been budgeted at $6,675,000, an increase of approximately 2.3%. During 2007, contributions from groups and individuals of $6,384,600 were $330,700 (5.0%) greater than budget and $459,200 (7.8%) greater than 2006. Contributions received from World Service Meeting countries toward the World Service Meeting International literature fund amounted to $444,400, approximately $1,400 less than 2006. In total, contributions received for 2007 were just over $6,526,000. In addition to the work trusted servants are doing to carry the message of the necessity for voluntary contributions, historical evidence suggests that usually in the year following an International Convention we enjoy a healthy increase in contributions. Afterward the rate of growth declines somewhat.

The chart to the right reflects the approximate percentage of the A.A. groups listed with the General Service Office that have participated in the 7th Tradition by contributing to the General Service Office.

Total Operating Revenue for 2008 is anticipated at $15,507,500, just slightly less than the 2007 results of $15,592,000.

Total Operating Expenses: for 2008 have been budgeted at $13,266,700, approximately $703,000 or 5.6% more than 2007 and $593,200 or 4.7% more than the 2007 budget as well. The 2008 budget includes expenses for the G.S.O. U.S.A. net expense for the World Service Meeting. Absent the W.S.M. costs, the increase in the 2008 budget over the 2007 budget would be approximately 3.7%.

The 2008 G.S.O. budget anticipates an excess of revenue over expense of $240,796. This compares with an actual income of $240,796. This compares with an actual income of $1,018,600 for 2007 and the $89,450 net income budgeted for 2007 (including midyear adjustments). The large variance from budget to actual results is due to higher than anticipated revenue from both sales and contributions. The expected 2008 operating income, the 2007 actual income, as well as other transfers, assist in maintaining the Reserve Fund. However, during 2008, the A.A.W.S. Board will be carefully considering future actions.

Contributions: Contributions for 2007 were over budget by $326,000 (5.2%). Total contributions for 2008 have been budgeted at $6,675,000, an increase of approximately 2.3%. During 2007, contributions from groups and individuals of $6,384,600 were $330,700 (5.0%) greater than budget and $459,200 (7.8%) greater than 2006. Contributions received from World Service Meeting countries toward the World Service Meeting International literature fund amounted to $444,400, approximately $1,400 less than 2006. In total, contributions received for 2007 were just over $6,526,000. In addition to the work trusted servants are doing to carry the message of the necessity for voluntary contributions, historical evidence suggests that usually in the year following an International Convention we enjoy a healthy increase in contributions. Afterward the rate of growth declines somewhat.

The chart to the right reflects the approximate percentage of the A.A. groups listed with the General Service Office that have participated in the 7th Tradition by contributing to the General Service Office.

2008 Grapevine Budget

The 2008 Grapevine Budget calls for an average circulation of 107,000, approximately 4,000 greater than the 2007 budget and approximately 900 greater than the 2007 paid circulation of 106,099. Circulation for the last several years is depicted in the chart below.

Income: Magazine income of $2,089,461 is expected, $139,000 greater than 2007. Other Publishing Income from books, cassette tapes, and miscellaneous items is budgeted at $812,700, $22,500 higher than 2007.

Total Gross Profit: Combining the magazine and other publishing items, a gross profit of $1,255,866 is budgeted for 2008. This compares with $1,667,395 for 2007 and the 2007 budget of $1,639,059.

Total Operating Expenses: Total Operating Expenses for 2008 are budgeted

at $1,895,500, $130,300 more than the 2007 expenses of $1,765,200.

Net Income: For 2008 the Grapevine anticipates a profit of $3,200. This compares with a 2007 budgeted loss of $81,300 and an actual loss from operations of $25,000.

2008 La Viña Budget

For 2008 La Viña expects a gross profit on the magazine of $34,856, compared with $35,234 in 2007. Circulation for 2008 is estimated at 11,000, about equal to the 10,970 average for 2007. Other Publishing income is estimated at $40,600, which after deducting cost of product of $10,500, expects to contribute $30,100 to revenue. Total costs and expenses are estimated at $132,529 for 2008, just $2,300 less than 2007. The 2008 budget projects a net loss of $67,371, even with the 2007 loss of $67,040.

The chart to the right reflects the La Viña magazine losses since inception (1995). To date losses of approximately $1,134,000 have been incurred.
Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

**June**

- **6-7—Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada.** Tri-Cities Spring Rally. Write: Ch., 4005 Young Rd., Belcarra, BC V3H 4P8
- **6-8—Flagstaff, Arizona.** 25th Flagstaff Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 22146, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- **6-8—Tallahassee, Florida.** Founder’s Day Florida Style. Write: Ch., Box 36034, Tallahassee, FL; www.foundersdayflorida.org
- **6-8—Kansas City, Kansas.** VII Encuentro Hispano de Kansas. Inf: Com. Org., 723 Osage Ave., Kansas City, KS 66105
- **6-8—Metairie, Louisiana.** 41st Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 638 A. Papworth Ave., Metairie, LA 70005; bigdeepsouthconvention@cox.net
- **6-8—Springfield, Missouri.** Heart of the Ozarks Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
- **6-8—Ruidoso, New Mexico.** 51st Area 46 NM State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2538, Alamogordo, NM 88311; www.newmexicoaa.org
- **6-8—Liverpool, New York.** CNY Area 47 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 271, Syracuse, NY 13211; www.aacny.org
- **6-8—Akron, Ohio.** 73rd Founder’s Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309-1200; www.shop.aofoundersday.org
- **6-8—Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada.** 50th Prince Albert Gateway Round-up. Write: Ch., RR #5, Site 32, Comp. 2, Prince Albert, SK S6V 1E3; www.princealbertroundup.ca
- **7-15—Indian Wells, California.** Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92268; www.desertpowwow.com
- **8-15—Hagerstown, Maryland.** 38th MD State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2201, Hagerstown, MD 21741; www.marylandaa.org
- **9-15—Alamosa, Colorado.** Serenity In The San Juans. Write: Ch., Box 7, Mosca, CO 81146
- **10-14—Richmond, Quebec, Canada.** 26 ème Congrès 88-10. Écrire: Prés., C.P. 63, Windsor, Q.C. J1E 3L7; webmestre88@aa-quebec.org
- **11-15—Mobile, Alabama.** Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36601; www.mobileaa.org
- **11-15—Sioux Center, Iowa.** Area 24 ’08 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 91, Lemars, IA 51031
- **13-15—Odessa, Texas.** Texas State Conv. Write: Ch., 6201 E. Business Loop 20, P.O. Box 14755, Odessa, TX 79768; www.aadistrict13.org
- **13-15—Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada.** Nova Scotia Provincial Round-up. Write: Ch., 1627 King St., Bridgewater, NS B4V 1C4
- **13-15—Tehachapi, California.** Tehachapi Mt Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1164, Tehachapi, CA 93581; www.tehachapiroundup.com
- **18-20—Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.** Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 453, Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org
- **20-22—Sept-Iles, Quebec, Canada.** 20 ème Congrès 89-10. Écrire: Prés., C.P. 1242, Sept-Iles, QC G4R 4X7
- **20-22—Tehachapi, California.** Soberfest ’08. Write: Ch., 112 E. Main St., Meriden, CT 06469
- **27-29—Pendleton, Oregon.** Round-up 2008. Write: Ch., Box 480642, Denver, CO 80248; www.fots.com

**July**

- **4-6—San Francisco, California.** Western Round-up 2008. Write: Ch., Box 420974, San Francisco, CA 94143; www.livingsober.org
- **4-6—Abbottsford, British Columbia, Canada.** Abbotsford Round-up. Write: Ch., 2589 Magnolia Cres, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3N1; abbottsfordrally2008@hotmail.com
- **11-13—Tahachapi, California.** Tehachapi Mt Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1164, Tehachapi, CA 93581; www.tehachapiroundup.com
- **11-13—Harristown, Pennsylvania.** PENNSY-FAA XX. Write: Ch., Box 254, New Cumberland, PA 17070; www.pennsyn-pa20.com
- **17-20—Atlanta, Georgia.** 33rd Atlanta Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 357136, Duluth, GA 30090; www.atlantaroundup.com
- **17-20—Lubbock, Texas.** Lubbock Caprock Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6511, Hood River, OR 97831; www.pnc1946.org
- **18-20—San Ramon, California.** 61st NCCAA Summer Conf. Write: Ch., 2416 Inglewood Dr., Lodi, CA 95242
- **18-20—Carvalhassett Valley, Maine.** 31st Area 26 Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 2155, Biddleford, ME 04005
- **18-20—Madison, Minnesota.** 32nd Freedom Fest Campout. Write: Ch., 409 S. 4th St., Milan, MN 56062
- **18-20—Omaha, Nebraska.** Conv. Hispana de NE. Write: Ch., Box 7167, Omaha, NE, 68107
- **18-20—Logan, New Mexico.** Ute Lake Round-up. Write: Ch., 113 Torrecon Dr., Clovis, NM 88101
- **18-20—Deadwood, South Dakota.** 4th paha Sapa Mtn Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1212, Spearfish, SD 57783
- **18-20—Princeton, West Virginia.** Area 73 ‘08 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2103, Beaver, WV 25613; www.aawv.org
- **18-20—Rimouski, Quebec, Canada.** 29ème Congrès du Bas St-Laurent. Écrire: Prés., CP 651, Rimouski, QC G6L 7C7
- **24-27—Copper Mountain, Colorado.** Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 480642, Denver, CO 80248; www.fots.com
- **25-27—Jefferson City, Missouri.** 57th MO State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 187, Reeds Spring, MO 65737
- **25-27—Tarrytown, New York.** 40th NY State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1, Malverne, NY 11565; www.aaseny.org
- **25-27—Westlake, Ohio.** 25th East Central Regional Conv & 52nd OH State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 22156, Beachwood, OH 44122-2156; www.areas54.org

**August**

- **1-3—Savannah, Georgia.** 13th SE Regional Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 5195, Ocala, FL 34478-5195; www.sewomantowoman.org

**Planning a Future Event?**

To be included in the Box 4-5-9 Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. three months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

**Date of event:** from ________ to ________, 20____

**Name of event:** __________________________

**Place (city, state or prov.):** __________________________

**For information, write:** (exact mailing address) __________________________

**Contact phone # (for office use only):** __________________________
1-3—Boise, Idaho. ’08 Gem State Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 44176, Boise, ID 83711-0176; www.gemstatetroundup.org
1-3—Washington, Southwest Washington Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2728, Vancouver, WA 98668; www.swwjam- borea.org
8-10—Scottsdale, Arizona. 13th Salt River Intergroup Round-up. Write: Ch., 4602 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85014; www.saltriver.org
8-10—Midland, Michigan. 56th MI State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 67, Adrian, MI 49221; www.smi56.org
13-17—Fort Lauderdale, Florida. 52nd FL State Conv. Write: Ch., 6110 NW 31st Terr., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309-2251; www.52lstateconv.com
15-17—Oakhurst, California. 23rd Summer In The Sierras. Write: Ch., Box 1116, Oakhurst, CA 93644
15-17—Taunton, Massachusetts. The Incredible Tapestry. Write: Ch., 306 Winthrop St., #240, Taunton, MA 02780; www.theincredibletapestry.org
15-17—Elko, Nevada. 12th Serenity In The Rubies Campout. Write: Ch., Box 6146, Elko, NV 89803; serenityintherubies@yahoo.com
15-17—Green Lake, British Columbia, Canada. Green Lake Campout. Write: Ch., Box 224, Lac La Hache, BC V0K 1T0
15-17—Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. Lakeshore 52nd FL State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 231, Fanwood, NJ 07023; www.asoshawa.org
15-17—Mont-Laurier, Quebec, Canada. Congrès du District 90-22. Écrire: Prés., 321, rue Notre Dame, Gatineau, QC J8P 1L2; district9022@hotmail.com

September
5-7—Chicago, Illinois. 35th IL State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 111, Chicago, IL 60601-0111; ilstateconference2008@gmail.com
5-7—Indianapolis, Indiana. INCYPAA Conf. Write: Ch., Box 55661, Indianapolis, IN 46220; www.mysercpace.com/incypaa2008
5-7—Kansas City, Missouri. 18th Bridging The Gap Workshop Wknd. Write: Ch., 2618 Patee St., St. Joseph, MO 64507; bridgingtp@gap10@aol.com
12-14—Somerset, New Jersey. NJ Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 43104, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043-0104
12-14—Houston, Texas. Southeast TX Correctional Svc. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 925241, Houston, TX 77292-5241; www.aaseta.org
18-21—Hendersonville, North Carolina. Serenity In The Smokies – Women’s 12 Step Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 10266, Knoxville, TN 37939; www.serenityinthesmokies.com
19-21—Salina, Kansas. 51st Kansas Area 25 Conf. Write: Ch., 11 N Eastborough Rd., Salina, KS 67401
19-21—Ashland, Virginia. Home Into Freedom VA Corrections Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2711 Buford Rd., Box 119, Bon Air, VA 23335-2423
20-21—Kingman, Arizona. Hualapai Mtn Round-up. Write: Ch., 212 1st St., Kingman, AZ 86401
26-28—Duluth, Minnesota. 63rd Duluth Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55801-0771
26-28—Somerset, New Jersey. 52nd NNJGS Area 44 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 231, Fanwood, NJ 07023

Box 4-5-9, June/July 2008