

Delegate Report
July 10, 2005
Gladwin, MI.

Delegates Report on the 55th General Service Conference April
2005 New York, N.Y.

Friday, April 15th

After giving thanks to my Higher Power, My wife Liz and I checked last minute things at the house and I headed for Starbucks for my usual morning cup of bold coffee. We then took the 5 min drive to Bishop Airport, the 20-minute flight to Detroit then on to JFK International Airport. The Flight was going smooth until I noticed the flight attendant having trouble getting two passengers to remain seated and buckled up. After circling the airport and being notified that our flight might be diverted we landed at JFK where we were detained and questioned while the Port Authority arrested the two passengers who had attempted to obtain entry into the cockpit. After gathering our luggage we took the good advice from Dennis and Ron and took a yellow cab into the City. Liz and I had gone out a day early to see a Broadway play. When we returned there was a message from my conference Buddy Randy M, from Saskatchewan, a panel 54 delegate, to call him and set up a time to meet for breakfast.

Saturday, April 16th

I started my day with my usual Starbucks coffee (NY is great a Starbucks on every corner) then we met my conference Buddy, Randy M and he took us to the same place his conference buddy had taken him the year before (passing it on). Liz and I then had time for quick look around the City. We took a two-hour boat tour of the New York Harbor.

Later in the day the NY Intergroup put on a hospitality reception for us to meet & greet the other delegates. Group 1728 held an open meeting where AA members shared our experiences on the 5 step with class A Trustees (non-Alcoholics)

From 7pm until 9pm there was a delegates only meeting, the panel 54's went over their conference experiences and we all went to the mic to get comfortable with the experience.

Sunday, April 17th

Started the day with a prayer and trip to the local Starbucks for coffee. I attended the Remote Communities Workshop, We were welcomed by co-chair Randy M (Panel 54 Area 91 Saskatchewan) my conference buddy. The meeting was chaired by Mark T (Panel 54 Area 28 Maine). A presentation was made by delegates from Southwestern U.S. and Canada about the challenges and successes in these remote areas, after listening to some of their reports I have a new respect for the delegates serving in these remote areas. Some have to communicate with 50 different languages in their area, one area is 2300 miles long by 1100 miles wide, and one travels to a group 200 miles south of the North Pole. The delegate from Nova Scotia travels by snowmobile and dog sled. The key word in the remote communities is TRUST; We must get the trust of the people that don't understand our ways before we can carry the message of hope and sobriety to them.

Under the theme "Basics of Our Home Group-Recovery, Unity and Service " the 136 Conference members (delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada, trustees of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff) of A.A.'s 55 General Service Conference met at the Crowne Plaza Time Square hotel. When the conference opened and we all answered roll call someone said "You are now a seated delegate" Wow! What an indescribable feeling I had. Delegate Chairperson Jimmy Jack B of Kansas speaking Sunday afternoon said, "We are really the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. We need not forget the group conscience of our areas, but you may set those views aside long enough to listen like you have no opinion. It allows me to levitate above the heat of the debate and get a better look at Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

We will see spiritual principles in action and experience the unity of the Conference”.

This years conference was chaired by Greg M, G.S.O.'s general manager; Elaine McD., Ph.D. (nonalcoholic) chair of the board; Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee Leonard B.; and Jimmy Jack, delegate chairperson and Eva S. G.S.O. staff was conference coordinator.

In the afternoon there was a joint trustee and conference committee meeting, where we discussed the Grapevine and La Vina with the editors.

The full board met, the panel 54's Dick A, Robin F, Regan G, co chair and Steve W, chair. Panel 55, Fran B-G, Mike N., Naomi Z. and myself Jesse P. Corporate directors, Leonard B., Class A, Robin B., G.V. Editor and GV committee sec. David E., Ch Phyllis H., Dorothy H., Ray M., Mike P., co-ch Arnold R., and John S.. David E. introduced everyone. The committee, chair Steve W. reviewed the conference committee composition, scope and procedures. Robin B., secretary reviewed the history of the conference committee. We had reports from the A.A. Grapevine Board, and the A.A. Grapevine executive. There was a discussion of the reports and of other subjects concerning the well being of the Grapevine and LaVina (et al. . . Being self supporting, ways for new subscribers to receive there book within two weeks, make Grapevine finance reports clearer, getting the “Best of Bill” in large print.

Sunday evening Conference members and their guests gathered for the opening dinner, an open A.A. meeting followed.

Monday April 18th

I needed my daily Starbucks, because my working days started early and ended late into the night. I didn't see much of Liz, the N Y Intergroup volunteers kept her and the other guests busy with sightseeing, plays and dinners. It was easy to concentrate on the conference when you know your loved ones are in the safe hands of a good group of A.A.'s.

The chairperson for my conference committee was Steven W.; panel 54. We met in the morning to discuss the Agenda items A, B & C, and asked the full 55 GSC to consider the following additional considerations.

- Because the Grapevine is not conference approved it doesn't become an advisory action, but rather additional consideration.
- The Grapevine AA's meeting in print, the concept or Grapevine is approved but not each monthly booklet.

Other subjects discussed were ways to make Grapevine self supporting, ways to appeal to more members to become Grapevine Reps in there groups, districts, Inter-Groups, Offices and Areas.

After lunch there were reports by the General Service Board (Elaine McD.), AAWS Board (Ron G.), and The Grapevine (David E.), followed by questions and sharings. Later the Panel 55 Delegates from the Southeast and Southwest reported their area highlights

That evening John S., Grapevine director moderated a presentation on A.A. Grapevine “A Vision for the Future” followed by a sharing session.

Tuesday April 19th

After prayer and meditation and my morning Starbucks, I met Hank S. the delegate from southern Ohio for breakfast then we went for a walk in Central Park, a place I always wanted to see. Hank showed me his early morning meditation spot. I attended committee meeting in the morning we went over Agenda items and Grapevine and LaVina material and reviewed the Grapevine workbook. We had Grapevine committee elections for next year Naomi Z. from Texas and Fran B-G from Ontario,

Canada will serve as Chair, and Co-Chair respectively. We selected Naomi Z to be our presenter on the conference floor.

In the afternoon Panel 55 delegates from eastern Canada and West Central gave their area highlights.

After lunch we had the opportunity to go to the GSO and Grapevine offices on Riverside by subway (with the help of the panel 54 as guides). We met the AI-Anons and our guests at the office. The GSO and Grapevine staff gave tours of the facilities and had a dessert social. It was wonderful to be able to see our office at work for AA. What an experience to be there where it all takes place everyday. I am truly thankful for all the hard work and many hours the staff put in for this fellowship.

Then it was back to the hotel and back into our dress-up clothes for the evening delegates only session

After the session we went to a closed speaker meeting of A.A. around the corner from the hotel. Finally back to the hotel Past delegate Dennis S. (my delegate) called.

Wednesday April 20th

Starbucks... I Attended workshop "Do I carry the A.A. message or my own" (see attachment #1)

Panel 55 delegates from Northeast and Western Canada presented area highlights.

At our Regional Delegates Luncheon with trustee Dorothy M. she stated that she knew it was time to move on, that rotation is part of accepting a service position in AA. She says she feels sadness, joy relief and heart felt gratitude for being afforded the privilege to serve AA as trustee for the last four years. Many thanks go out to Dorothy M. for her leadership in the East Central Region. There were elections for Southwest Regional Trustee, East Central Regional trustee and Trustee at large/US (see attachment #2). Prior to the elections we had two minutes to make our presentations for our candidates, the Third Legacy was used. Ron A. our Michigan candidate made it to the next to the last ballot. On the 4th ballot Bob M, panel 50 are 74 Northern Wisconsin/Upper Michigan was elected to replace Dorothy M as trustee. I called Ron A. and Jack W. with the news.

After a 43 to 43 tie, they went to the hat and Dorothy W. panel 44, area 52 N.D. became the first woman from the East Central Region to be elected as Trustee-at-large. Congratulations to Dorothy W. and to Bob M. on your new journey into AA service work.

Panel 55 delegates from Pacific and East Central gave their area highlights. There were committee reports on Agenda items for the 55th GSC, there were 69 items on the Agenda. On Grapevine we thought because we only had three items to consider we would be finished in a matter of minutes ... wrong. It took 2 hours to discuss why we need a new book for young people.

This was followed by a presentation on service and sharing session.

Late that evening Dorothy M. treated her East Central Region Delegates and guests to ice cream at the Stardust (the singing waiters were a hit)

Thursday April 21st

Starbucks. I met my conference Buddy Randy M. for breakfast. Committee Reports and discussion. There was a lot of floor action today, committee got bogged down on some issues (5 hrs spent on minor issues).

There was an International Presentation on 18th World service meeting and A.A. around the world. 48 delegates representing 35 countries or zones

Committee reports and discussion. The things the delegates found most valuable to them were; committee reports, General sessions, workshop reports, service rotation, singleness of purpose, sponsorship and country to country.

Past Delegate Laura H, Southeast Mi. called.

Friday April 22nd

I had my morning prayer and Starbucks.

Signed books for other delegates.

There was a presentation on the 2005 International Convention "I Am Responsible" Doug R. gave a report on what was going on with convention preparations at the time.

Committee discussions all day. Lots of friendly amendments were Presented, but most were turned down, I'm not sure how friendly they were in the first place (ha-ha) we were scheduled to adjourn at 4:30pm, but we knew that was not going to happen because of all the agenda items that still needed to be discussed. We continued to go over and over the same items. When we finally finished the cheers went up. The panel 54 delegates shared for a minute each on their conference experience for the last two years.

Liz and I went out to dinner with the Ohio and Pennsylvania delegates and their wives. It was a happy and sad day.

Saturday April 23rd

There was a brunch with the 55th General Service Conference delegates, we took pictures and said our good-byes to each other. The new chair of the G.S.B. of AA introduced the rotating trustees Charles B., David E., Richard G., John K., Dorothy M., and Elaine McD. In Elaine McD.'s farewell talk she said "What other group or organization listens to its members before it makes decisions? A.A we need it for the Alcoholic one block away who is suffering. You have the responsibility to pass it on to your area, but more than that to your group."

Thank you for giving me the opportunity and privilege to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Jesse W P., Delegate
Panel 55, Area 32 Central Michigan

See attachments for a list of all Agenda items brought before the 55th General Service Conference and the 2005 conference advisory actions and additional considerations.

• 2005 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

Public Information — that the Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2004 Membership Survey with the following revision to the reporting categories under "Length of Sobriety": Sober

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

Floor Actions — that the draft manuscript, Inmate to Inmate, including revisions suggested by the 2005 Conference Committee on Corrections, be returned to the trustees' Committee on Corrections for review and revision, mindful of the concerns expressed during the Conference discussion, and that the revised draft manuscript be submitted to the 2006 Conference Committee On Corrections.

Agenda — that the theme for the 2006 General Service Conference be: "Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World"; that the Workshop topic for the 2006 General Service Conference be "Passing It On to Others in a Changing World."

Correctional Facilities — that the "Singleness of Purpose Statement," be included in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals"; that the name of the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities be changed to the Conference Committee on Corrections.

Finance — that in the interest of self-support, area contributions for delegates' expenses be increased from \$800 to \$1,200 effective with the 2006 Conference and that areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion the Conference costs.

International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums — That an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

Literature — that the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, continue to be developed and a progress report and/or draft copy be brought to the 2006 Conference Literature Committee; that the term "sexual preference" be replaced with "sexual orientation" on page 10 in the pamphlet "AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic"; that the revisions suggested by the committee to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, be approved.

Policy/Admissions — that the timetable for the election of delegates from the Western Canada Region be revised to allow for an even distribution of new delegates on each panel; that the 58th General Service Conference be held April 27 - May 3, 2008.

more than 10 years. Sober between 5-10 years. Sober between 1-5 years. Sober less than 1 year; that the television public service announcement (PSA) "Living in Chaos," developed by the trustees' P.I. Committee, be approved.

Report and Charter — that online meetings in languages in addition to English, French and Spanish be listed in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS" with the meeting language indicated next to the listing and in accordance with a 1997 Conference Advisory Action. Trustees — that new language be added to existing language of the Bylaws of the General Service Board regarding successor terms of Class B trustees in the event of resignation or death; that the slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2005.

Additional Considerations

Archives — the trustees provided updates to the Conference committee on the following ongoing projects: preparations for the International Convention, Ownership of Material, the current status of the audio preservation project, and distribution increase of the Markings newsletter.

Cooperation With the Professional Community — discussed the need for a pamphlet directed to the criminal justice system and requested that the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities/Cooperation With the Professional Community review current C.P.C. literature to see whether it provides easily accessible information on singleness of purpose, open and closed meetings, proof of attendance at meetings, anonymity and how to contact A.A. locally, and report to the 2006 Conference Committee on C.P.C.

Grapevine — agreed to forward to the Grapevine Corporate Board the request that a collection of A.A. Grapevine stories for young people be produced in 2006 or later

Treatment Facilities — reviewed the results of the 2004 Treatment Facilities Committee Survey, which noted that in many areas, inpatient treatment services have decreased and outpatient services have increased; and, many local Treatment Facilities Committees bring A.A. meetings into other institutions such as nursing homes, halfway houses and homeless shelters.

April 2005
Revised 4/18/05

55th ANNUAL GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

**Statistics on Delegates
(91 responses)**

	Years
Average age	54
Oldest	68
Youngest	33
Average Length of Sobriety	17
Longest Sobriety	35
Shortest Sobriety	8
Average Length of Service	15
Longest Service	33
Shortest Service	7

Makeup of the 2005 General Service Conference

There are 136 voting members of the 55th General Service Conference Annual Meeting: Ninety-three delegates elected by the service areas of the U.S. and Canada comprise 68.4 percent of the voting body. Delegates always make up more than two-thirds of the voting members.

General Service Board of Trustees and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and Grapevine directors, totaling 27, comprise 19.9 percent of the voting members.

The General Service Office staff, general manager, senior advisor to the general manager and Grapevine executive editor, managing editor and senior editor totaling 16, comprise 11.8 percent of the total.

The structure of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous consists of twenty- one trustee members. Originally, the majority of trustees were nonalcoholic, but now only seven*, known as Class A trustees, are nonalcoholic. Class A trustees bring to the Board special expertise in areas such as business, medicine, and law, and may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms.

The fourteen alcoholic (Class B) trustees serve four-year terms. Eight are elected to serve regions of the U.S. and Canada. Two are elected as trustees-at-large, one representing the U.S. and one for Canada. The remaining four general service trustees are selected based on their expertise in areas of finance, publishing, or other fields that would be helpful to the General Service Board and its corporate boards. Two general service trustees serve on the A.A.W.S. Board, and two serve on the Grapevine Board.

The AA.W.S. Board oversees the publishing activities of Alcoholics Anonymous (except for Grapevine material) and the General Service Office. This board is composed of nine directors: two regional trustees, two general service trustees, three non-trustee directors, the general manager of G.S.O. and the G.S.O. staff coordinator.

The Grapevine Board oversees the operation of the A.A. Grapevine, and is composed of nine members, including one Class A trustee, two general service trustees, two regional trustees, three non-trustee directors and Grapevine executive editor.

English/Anglais/Inglés
January 2005

2005 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items

I. Agenda

- A.** Review suggestions for the theme of the 2006 General Service Conference.
- B.** Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2006 General Service Conference.
- C.** Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2006 General Service Conference.
- D.** Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

- A.** Review shared experience on ways local committees approach professionals in addition to writing letters, for possible inclusion in the C.P.C. Kit.
- B.** Consider ways that members share information about A.A. one-on-one with professionals, for possible inclusion in C.P.C. materials.
- C.** Discuss the need for a pamphlet directed to the criminal justice system.
- D.** Consider request to create a video for professionals.
- E.** Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

III. Correctional Facilities

- A.** Consider including the following statement on A.A.'s Singleness of Purpose in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals":

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.”

- B. Consider the revised updated draft manuscript of A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate.
- C. Review Final Report exploring the feasibility and cost of producing and distributing an informational video introducing A.A. to training academies for corrections personnel. [Note: the estimated cost of production and distribution is \$50,000.]
- D. Review the draft service piece on “Guidelines for the Development of Workshops Introducing A.A. in Training Programs for Correctional Personnel.”
- E. Consider suggestion that the name of the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities be changed to the Conference Committee on Corrections.
- F. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

IV. Finance

- A. Discuss self-support.
- B. Review and discuss report from trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee on delegates’ fees.
- C. Discuss request to include information on how to obtain a tax ID number in the “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” pamphlet.

V. Grapevine

- A. Consider request that in 2006 or later, the Grapevine produce a collection of stories for young people, drawn from previous issues of the A.A. Grapevine magazine, similar to Spiritual Awakenings.
- B. Consider request that in 2006 or later, La Viña produce an audio compact disc of La Viña stories on Steps Seven through Twelve as a companion to its CD of stories on Steps One through Six.
- C. Review Workbook.

VI. Literature

- A. Consider revised draft introduction developed by the Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees’ Committee on Literature to be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as recommended by the 2003 Conference and per additional consideration of the 2004 Conference Committee on Literature.
- B. Consider revised draft pamphlet ‘Too Young?’
- C. Review trustees’ Committee on Literature progress report on “Young People and A.A.” pamphlet.
- D. Review trustees’ Committee on Literature progress report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, Alcohólicos Anónimos.
- E. Consider revised draft text for the section titled “Service Sponsorship” on page 28 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
- F. Consider the revised draft comic book format pamphlet “It Happened to Alice
- G. Review draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet ‘The A.A. Group.’
- H. Consider revised text for the section titled “The A.A. Grapevine” in the pamphlet “Your A.A. General Service Office.”
- I. Discuss suggestion to develop a publication oriented toward and addressing the concerns of A.A. members with long-term sobriety.
- J. Discuss suggestion to replace the term “sexual preference” with “sexual orientation” in the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.”
- K. Discuss request to revise the table of contents in Living Sober by creating “unity,” “service,” and “recovery” sections and by including a subtitle under chapter titles.

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Review dates for the 2008 General Service Conference.
- B. Discuss report from trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference regarding the use of laptop computers at the General Service Conference.
- C. Consider requests to revise the timetable for the election of one delegate in the Western Canada Region to allow for two odd and two even panels in that region
- D. Consider request that a second Conference Committee on Literature be formed.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Consider 2004 annual report from the trustees’ Committee on P.I. regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.
- B. Review and approve final draft of the “Alcoholics Anonymous 2004 Membership Survey” pamphlet.
- C. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

1. Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. - "Living in Chaos" - developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
2. Review information on centralized redistribution, tracking and evaluation of television P.S.A., "We Know What It's Like."
3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed television P.S.A. - "Living in Chaos" - at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local P.I. committees.
4. Consider removing the phrase "and taking pills" from the P.S.A. "Teenager," spot #6, on the radio P.S.A. CD item #R-10.

D. Consider report from trustees' Committee on Public Information recommending first steps in determining the feasibility of replacing two videos, "A.A. - Rap With Us" and "Young People and A.A.," with estimated initial project costs not to exceed \$20,000.

E. Consider a suggestion to replace/update the video "Alcoholics Anonymous - An Inside View."

F. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

IX. Report and Charter

A. Review The A.A. Service Manual, 2004 - 2005 Edition.

1. Review editorial updates to The A.A. Service Manual.
2. Review updated chart to replace "A.A. Grapevine, Inc." on page S80.
3. Consider adding proposed text pertaining to the A.A. Grapevine Digital Archive and Reprint Policy.

B Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

C. Discuss A.A. Directories.

1. Consider request to include online meetings in languages other than English, French and Spanish in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS."
2. Consider request to include adding Web site information for online meetings listed in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS."
3. Consider placement of a central office serving Native North American People in the A.A. directories.

X. Treatment Facilities

A. Review results of survey regarding activities of local committees involved in Treatment Facilities service.

B. Consider request that the "Singleness of Purpose Statement" currently used in six C.P.C. pamphlets be added to the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Facilities."

C. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

XI. Trustees

A. Review resumes of candidates for regional trustee and trustee-at-large:

1. East Central Regional Trustee
2. Southeast Regional Trustee
3. Trustee-at-large/U.S.

B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board.

C. Review slates of directors of A.A. World Services and Grapevine Corporate Boards.

D. Review request that the qualifications for regional trustee and nontrustee director be updated to include the following:

"That an Appointed Committee Member not be eligible as a Regional Trustee or nontrustee Director candidate until one year after his or her last service as an Appointed Committee Member."

E. Discuss recommendation from trustees' Nominating Committee that new language be added to the Bylaws of the General Service Board regarding successor terms of Class B trustees in the event of

resignation or death.

XII. Archives

A. Review Workbook.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

A. Consider the concept of broadcasting an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed Intranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.

B. Discuss the upcoming 2005 International Convention.

C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums.

D. Discuss the concept of restructuring and/or increasing Forums (Regional/Special).

Dates to Remember

53rd Mi. State Convention

Aug. 26-28

Mt. Pleasant, Mi.

East Central Regional Forum

Nov. 4-6

Houghton, Mi

Jesse W. P., Delegate Panel 55, Area 32 Central Michigan

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