

2016 General Service Conference (GSC) Agenda Topic Summaries

Area 42 Pre Conference Assembly

April 1 - 3, 2016

Tonopah Convention Center

Tonopah, NV

Your Delegate wants to hear all comments and feedback from you and your groups on these GSC Agenda Items. Please utilize the open microphones during the Pre-conference Assembly.

Disclosures: The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries are carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members in Area 42 can fully participate. Please do not consider them opinions of the Area 42 officers.

Confidential

This includes background for the 66th General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document; Distribution is limited to A.A. members.

Conference Committee: I. Agenda**Conference Committee: I. Agenda — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2017 General Service Conference
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Since 1966, a theme has been adopted for each conference. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate discussion of these topics into workshops, meetings, pre-Conference assemblies, etc. This gives all A.A. members the opportunity to participate and become more informed about A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Copies of the suggested conference 2017 theme shall be posted at the pre-conference, March assembly.</p>

Conference Committee: I. Agenda — Item B

Agenda Topic	Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2017 General Service Conference
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Recent topics have generally related to the selected theme. 2016: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, Concepts." a. Connecting With the Newcomer b. Connecting With Each Other c. Connecting With A.A. as a Whole</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Copies of the suggested 2017 topic ideas shall be posted at the pre-conference March assembly.</p>

Conference Committee: I. Agenda — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Pages 20-32 contain an evaluation form for delegates, trustees, directors and staff to fill out. The Trustees' Committee and the Trustees' Committee's staff will use the information to plan the next annual General Service Conference. Please fill it out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1) The delegate should read through the advance materials sent by the General Service Office prior to attending the conference. - 2) The delegate should be prepared to indicate whether he uses dashboard and if so, whether it is helpful. Also, the delegate should be prepared to indicate whether he used a laptop when attending the conference. - 3) The delegate should be prepared to attend the conference and rate/give opinions related to the presentation of topics. Topics will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A.A. archives; b. Connecting with the newcomer; c. General Service Board Report; d. A.A.W.S. Board Report; e. A.A. Grapevine Board Report; f. Finances; g. Connecting with each other; h. Trip to G.S.O and Grapevine office; i. Conference Committee reports; j. A.A. Grapevine; k. Connecting with A.A. as a whole; and Conference participation. 4) The delegate should be prepared to give an overall rating to the conference week. 5) If the delegate has suggestions for improving the conference, he should

	be prepared to share them on the evaluation form.
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Conference Committee: **I. Agenda — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>3 Areas submitted request for an agenda item in 2009 to modify current procedures for which proposed agenda items are selected. The General Service Board is responsible for actual selection of individual agenda items to be brought to the Conference, the requesting members wanted to see the Conference Agenda Committee participate in that selection. This year the committee shall again discuss this upon receiving another Trustees report on this matter.</p> <p>In April 2010 a GSC "Discuss the GSC Agenda Selection Process" workshop was held. There are 353 pages of background on this item, which includes only the first page of each attachment of each background submission, the remaining background information is available to Conference members only on the Conference Dashboard. The trustees committee found no role for the Conference Agenda Committee or other area delegates to play in the selection of agenda items. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference lovingly suggests the Conference Agenda Committee update their committee name to Conference Program Committee to accurately reflect what the committee actually is and does.</p>

Conference Committee: II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

Conference Committee: **II. 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>2015 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference C.P.C. Committee, requested the trustees C.P.C./Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities, discontinue the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W, Co-founder of A.A.", due to it's language and outdated information.</p> <p>The committee noted possible future development of materials to be provided to the medical professionals. The trustees' agreed, stating the pamphlet is to lengthy and dated, while asking subcommittee in their review of C.P.C. Pamphlets, to ensure any still relevant information from the pamphlet be captured in other AA literature.</p>

Conference Committee: **II. 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>The trustees subcommittee submitted the following suggestion(s): text be added to the pamphlet "if you are a professional..." to suggest that in cases were patient says they cannot take prescribed drugs because they are a member of A.A., the doctor can refer them to the pamphlet "the AA member-medications and other drugs"</p> <p>Draft text for a new section in the pamphlet "If you are a professional... AA members and medications no AA member should "play doctor"; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified physician. The draft comes from existing language in the conference approved pamphlet "the AA member – medications and other drugs"</p>

Conference Committee: **II. Cooperation with the Professional Community- Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider adding text to the pamphlet "Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" regarding A.A. as a resource for small businesses.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In January 2016 the trustees committee on cooperation with a professional community/treatment/assess abilities, 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 cooperation with a professional community the following suggestion(s): That text be added to the introduction of the pamphlet "is there an alcoholic in the workplace?" To clarify that AA I love can work with employers of any size, including small businesses such as medical practices, etc.

Conference Committee: **II. Cooperation with the Professional Community- Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review draft revision of the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The C.P.C. committee and area 3 (Arizona) request a text change to the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals." On page 10 there is a sentence ...we generally become less fearful and (less) rigid. (Adding the second "less") stating that if read by professionals it could be intrepid that we become rigid and that is not the intent of the sentence.

Conference Committee: **II. Cooperation with the Professional Community- Item E.**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and/or Workbooks for C.P.C. get reviewed by the C.P.C. Conference Committee during each General Service Conference. Workbooks and kits are service pieces, and suggested changes to their content do not become recommendations; rather, put forth as additional Committee considerations.

Conference Committee: III. CorrectionsConference Committee: **III. Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review draft of video created to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The video was created over 25 years ago and has help people who are incarcerated it is out date. The new video has filmed a diverse group of people who are both in and out of prison who were able to get sober while in prison, along with a variety of correctional facilities. It will have inmates sharing their experience , strength and hope. It will also include information about AA and references to Corrections Correspondence Services as a source of hope for incarcerated alcoholics. The cost of the video is not to exceed \$70,000.

Conference Committee: **III. Corrections — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the Corrections Correspondence Service (C. C. S.)
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone interested in Corrections Correspondence Should read all the information In this Agenda Item. It is all extremely important . • A correspondence work shop would be ideal but most importantly read associated literature such as " Before you sit down to write" • Observe the Institutions Rules. • Ask permission before sending gifts like literature or The Grape Vine or LA Vina. •When first introducing yourself, briefly qualify and give them your experience, strength and hope. • Encourage inside A.A. participation. • And encourage inside correspondents to notify GSO at least six months before release so the can set up a pre-release contact from their local community.

Conference Committee: **III. Corrections — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Between conferences ideas for changes to a workbook or to the contents of a kit may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees committee and implemented. Alternatively, The trustees committee may choose to forward an idea to the conference committee for review. Aa.org has hyper links to items listed in the Kit and Workbook .

Conference Committee IV. FinanceConference Committee **IV. Finance – Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Reviewing expense of the area delegates, vs what GSC asks the area to contribute towards the cost of delegate. Annual Conference Delegate Fees have increased from \$150 in 1969 to \$12,000 since 2012. The Direct Net cost for the New York City Conference increased from \$520,480 in 2008 to \$693.429 after area fees and additional contributions are collected.

Conference Committee **IV. Finance – Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. Members.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Bequest Contributions limits have risen from \$100 in 1967 to \$5,000 in 2012.

Conference Committee: **IV. 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?	Individual contribution maximum has risen from \$100 in 1967 to \$3,000 in 2007.

Conference Committee **IV. Finance – Item D**

Agenda Topic	Discuss material from A.A.W.S. Self Support Committee.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The only material submitted for background information is the: Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet Flyer (F-203). This is available to download on aa.org.

Conference Committee **IV. Finance – Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review Self Support Packet.								
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Background included list of Self-Support Packet (F-19) contents:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Self Support Card</td> <td>F-42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix</td> <td>F-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The A.A. Group Treasurer</td> <td>F-96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A.A. Guidelines on Finance</td> <td>MG-15</td> </tr> </table> <p>Services Provided by GSO/AAWS Flyer Historical Background of Self-Support Flyer Packet contents may also be viewed on aa.org</p>	Self Support Card	F-42	Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix	F-3	The A.A. Group Treasurer	F-96	A.A. Guidelines on Finance	MG-15
Self Support Card	F-42								
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Conference Committee: V GrapevineConference Committee: **V Grapevine— Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review Audio Strategy status Update.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda	2011 Advisory Action: AA Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies for the sale and distribution of magazines, books, and products. Grapevine has begun collecting audio stories since January 2013. As of January 13,2016 Grapevine has collected 252 audio stories. A dial-in phone service at \$11.99 per month and audio editing software at \$20 per month have been set up. Future plans are to offer audio stories for sale through third party vendors.

Conference Committee: **V. Grapevine— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2017 or later.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Previous Conference Advisory Actions recommended that the Conference Committee on the Grapevine review a list of proposed related items at least one year in advance of possible production. This allows for Conference input and guidance, yet is not intended to compromise the Grapevine Corporate Board's "right of decision" to manage the fiscal affairs of the Grapevine.</p> <p>There are four suggestions for production using previously published stories from the Grapevine magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org (working titles):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Young & Sober II" - stories of teens, 20's and 30's - "Stories by Atheists & Agnostic AA members" - "Steps Four and Five" - "Beginners II" - stories about members early days in AA

Conference Committee: **V. Grapevine — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review A.A. Grapevine Workbook.
Historical Context: Why is it on the	The revised workbook is available on the Grapevine website for downloading. The workbook will no longer be printed. The cost of this project in 2012 was estimated to be \$5,000. In

Agenda?	2015 the Advisory Actions section of the Workbook was updated. Grapevine Workbook; GVR Handbook and RLV Handbook are available online at www.aagrapevine.org .
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Conference Committee: VI. Literature

Conference Committee: VI. Literature—Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	It has been brought to the attention of the Conference that there is a problem with illiteracy in many parts of Canada. Their reading and comprehension skills are poor, so even listening to speaker tapes is difficult. It is equally hard for members that use English as a second language to understand many of the words used in the 1930's. Several words used back in the '30's are unfamiliar with today's population. Even the King James version of the Bible was retranslated into today's language. The Conference has been looking at ways to improve communication since the early '70's. An example is the pamphlet, "The 12 Steps Illustrated" which was approved by the 1991 Conference; explains the program in everyday language.

Conference Committee: VI Literature—Item B

Agenda Topic	Review A.A.W.S. report on "pagination" of Conference-approved digital books.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This agenda item resulted from a recommendation made by the A.A.W.S. Board to the Conference Literature Committee. Currently A.A.'s ebook pages do not match the printed book pages, which is handled by the publisher, Amazon and is not something A.A. controls when converting the books. Amazon does choose some books to map directly to page numbers; however no A.A.W.S. titles have been selected. Amazon is aware of this issue and working on a solution with no definitive timeframe.

Conference Committee: VI. Literature — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2015 there was an action advising the pamphlet be drafted for revision and brought back for review at the 2016 Conference. So far the committee has met three times and has selected a top tier of 5 stories from the 104 submitted to include in the new pamphlet. They have agreed to retain 2 existing stories (#1 & #8). There will be a final review and continued discussions with the revised pamphlet to be submitted to the trustees Literature committee by July 30, 2016

Conference Committee: VI. Literature Item D

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	2015 General Service Conference recommended the trustees' Literature Committee update 'A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic' pamphlet and title to include experience from gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and gender nonconforming members. A draft of the revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature. Aug.1, 2015, Trustees' Literature Committee Chair appointed subcommittee to present a draft or progress report in Jan. 2016. Deadline for call for stories Oct. 15, 2015. Call was sent to all Conference members, Intergroups and Central offices, Box 4-5-9, and A.A. Grapevine. Nov. 20, 2015, subcommittee received 55 story submissions. Dec. 22 and 29, 2015, subcommittee agreed existing pamphlet was dated

	and all stories should be replaced with new stories. Narrative style of stories should mirror narrative style used in other “special focus” pamphlets. Recommends rewriting introduction to reflect intent and purpose and correcting “what it was like” to “what we used to be like”. Conclusion: Subcommittee agreed further review to continue with a goal of presenting proposed stories for pamphlet to the trustees’ Literature Committee by July 30, 2016 meeting.
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Conference Committee: **VI. Literature Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the development of literature for A.A.’s with mental health issues and those who sponsor them.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	After requesting a call for stories (with an October 15, 2015 deadline), the progress report submitted to the conference committee shows they have collected 157 submissions to date. The trustees subcommittee assigned to this, discussed possibilities for the narrative style and format of the pamphlet and agreed that a “full story” narrative style would be most useful. Subcommittee agreed that further review and discussions should continue in order to ascertain either the necessity for a second call for stories (specifically, sponsors submissions) and/or identify a top-tier list of stories.

Conference Committee: **VI. Literature Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the development of a plan for the systematic review of A.A. recovery literature.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The 2015 General Service Conference forwarded an additional consideration suggesting that the “trustees’ Literature Committee “develop a plan for the systematic review of recovery literature and bring it to the 2016 Conference Literature Committee for it review.” At their August 1, 2015 meeting, the trustees’ Committee chair appointed a subcommittee to begin work on “developing a plan for the systematic review of recovery literature,” and present a draft plan or progress report at their January 30, 2016 meeting. The subcommittee agreed that “a plan for a systematic review of recovery literature” falls within the scope of the A.A.W.S publishing committee in conjunction with Publishing department. The subcommittee drafted a spreadsheet (pgs.32-33 of the background information) which can be used as an example to evaluate recovery literature on an annual basis.

Conference Committee: **VI. Literature Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and It’s Services.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	2015 Advisory Action of the conference literature committee. The revised draft pamphlet “Inside AA: Understanding the fellowship and its service agencies,” with the revised title :” Inside AA: Understanding the fellowship and its services” To be approved with minor corrections

Conference Committee: **VI. 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 the Sept 25, 15 meeting the board considered a request for Area 27 to create an “AA Guideline for Young People in A.A. (Y.P.A.A)” After full discussion the board did not feel there was a sufficient need. Instead there is a request to include information on Young

	People's conferences to the current "Young People and A.A." Literature pamphlet.
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Conference Committee: **VI. Literature Item I**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to update the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated"
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	California Northern Interior Area 07 proposes that the Twelve Traditions Illustrated is outdated. The critique focuses mostly on the style of drawing, which is "busy and figurative" and may be difficult to understand. The figures wear suits and ties, board airplanes on the tarmac, use typewriters and handsaws. Also, according to the authors of the letter, no one recognizes the Pied Piper or a pay phone. Other suggestions relate to simplifying and updating language, particularly adding a paragraph in the Tradition 11 section covering social media. Suggestions on adding a paragraph on social media on the Tradition 11 section seems to be a; What does the Delegate need to know?

Conference Committee VII Policy/Admissions

Conference Committee **VII Policy/Admissions - Item A**

Agenda Topic	Approve request for two observers from A.A. in the Ukraine to attend the 2016 General Service Conference.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The role of the Policy/Admissions committee in approving requests to the GSC for international guest observers has historically been one of formality but is seen as appropriately handled current procedure (no "rubber stamping" as cautioned against in Concept VII). The current request falls within the guidelines for allowing foreign AA observers to attend the GSC. The GSC has allowed these observers for decades. The policy for the approval of observers was reviewed in 2012. In 2013 the participation of the Policy/Admissions Committee in the process was determined to comply with convention and is in alignment with the Twelve Concepts.

Conference Committee **VII Policy/Admissions - Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on plans for French and Spanish translation of all Conference background.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Recommendation from 2015 conference finance committee that resulted in an advisory action: "The trustees committee on the general service conference create a plan to translate all conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 conference committee on policy and admissions that describes the process and costs, including options using third party translators and a proposal to change into submission deadline" This initial phase of translations would be coordinated by GSO and included in the budget at \$80,000 - \$120,000 for the year. For plans are being submitted for review by the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, and three feature a September deadline for the submission of new agenda item proposals. Two call for the translation of background using professional and fiscal resources we do not have and are not likely to see in the coming year or two. The third and fourth plans are more modest and might be done sooner, but require that A.A. embrace a more "let's give it to the point/keep it simple" style of proposing new agenda items. In all plans, everyone receives the same background, whether it is in English, Spanish or French.

	<p>Even if no Translation plan is adopted, we must know that the General Service Office will see operating expenses increased by \$350,000 each year, or roughly 1,000,000 every three years, and the office does not have guaranteed income sources to cover that.</p> <p>The trustees committee on the General Service Conference notes but in the matter of translation plans all-conference members need to give serious consideration to their fiduciary responsibility to A.A. and to the implications of these plans regarding the development of an informed group conscience.</p> <p><u>Summary Comparison of Plans A, B, C, D for an April Conference.</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Plan</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Proposals Due</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Agenda Items Approval by the Conclusion of Meeting</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Dashboard Posting Date</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Pre-conference Review</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>Sept 15</td> <td>Oct - Nov GSB Meeting</td> <td>Jan 26</td> <td>19 weeks</td> <td>\$331,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>Sept 27</td> <td>Oct – Nov GSB Meeting</td> <td>Jan 25</td> <td>18 weeks</td> <td>\$207,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>Sept 25</td> <td>Oct – Nov GSB Meeting</td> <td>Nov 23</td> <td>20 1/2 weeks</td> <td>\$45,680</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>Dec 15</td> <td>Jan – Feb GSB</td> <td>Feb 23</td> <td>7-8 weeks</td> <td>\$45,680</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Recommendation: the trustees committee on the General Service Conference submits all four Translation plans to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions for their consideration.</p>	Plan	Proposals Due	Agenda Items Approval by the Conclusion of Meeting	Dashboard Posting Date	Pre-conference Review	Cost	A	Sept 15	Oct - Nov GSB Meeting	Jan 26	19 weeks	\$331,000	B	Sept 27	Oct – Nov GSB Meeting	Jan 25	18 weeks	\$207,000	C	Sept 25	Oct – Nov GSB Meeting	Nov 23	20 1/2 weeks	\$45,680	D	Dec 15	Jan – Feb GSB	Feb 23	7-8 weeks	\$45,680
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Conference Committee VII Policy/Admissions - Item C

Agenda Topic	Review report from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference Regarding Conference observers from other fellowships.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	A request came in from the Chair of ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) Board of Trustees, to attend our GSC (General Service Conference). This will help them gain experience, strength, and hope, for their Conference. In the history of the AA GSC there has never been a request to attend it from another 12 step fellowship. Serious policy changes would need to be made if this passed. Does Area 42 believe that other 12 step fellowships be allowed to attend the AA General Service Conference?

Conference Committee VII Policy/Admissions - Item D

Agenda Topic	Consider request that all Conference members be sent the same background with the exception of digital media and works in progress.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In recent years the background documents for the GSC Agenda Items have only been sent to members of a specific Conference Committee and not to all GSC Conference Members. There has been a request to consider that all background documents (not just a summary) be provided to all GSC members to allow those members to be fully informed. The documents to be provided would have an exception for digital media and works in progress. These exceptions would allow for presumably cumbersome material (i.e. films) and certain other information by request of the provider (presumably for reasons of privacy, Anonymity, or confidentiality). An example of the

	latter would be exhibits from another Fellowship sharing their experience regarding social media and that other Fellowship requesting the data provided be given only to specific Committees for reasons of confidentiality.
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Conference Committee VII Policy/Admissions - Item E

Agenda Topic	Review dates for the 2019 General Service Conference.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Each year the committee considers dates for the General Service Conference three years in advance, taking into consideration the importance of avoiding conflict with significant holidays. Background on this item includes 1993 - 2018 GSC dates, along with a 2019 calendar.

Conference Committee VIII Public Information

Conference Committee VIII Public Information- Item A

Agenda Topic	Review 2015 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The PI conference committee receives reports about the AA websites, aa.org and aagrapevine.org. The A.A.W.S. manages the websites through the Technology/Communication/Services committee. The reports include website analytics, suggestions for improvement, changes made and any other actions taken.

Conference Committee VIII Public Information- Item B 1

Agenda Topic	Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.: Review the trustees' Public Information Committee report on the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (media plan) is an ongoing effort approved in 2012 to "Increase awareness of what A.A. is and what A.A. can and cannot do ... so that any alcoholic in need can find A.A."</p> <p>In its report on the 2015 media plan, the Trustees Committee responded to a request from the 2015 conference to "explore specific questions regarding ... new avenues for presenting A.A. information [to the public]".</p> <p>Among other findings the response says that, "TV is no longer the majority attention holder of our recreational viewing. It shares its audience almost equally with the internet as a whole." Because of this, the response suggests updating the 2016 media plan to use the internet and social media to inform the public about A.A.</p> <p>Specific recommended updates to the 2016 media plan are summarized in item B.2</p>

Conference Committee VIII Public Information- Item B 2

Agenda Topic	Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.: Review 2016 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2016 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (2016 media plan) approved in 2012, has the stated goal to "Increase awareness of what A.A. is and what A.A. can and cannot do ... so that any alcoholic in need can find A.A."</p> <p>Based on a review conducted at the request of the 2015 conference and supported by the report in item B.1, the Trustees Committee suggests adding the following items to the</p>

	<p>2016 media plan: “Both a Google-For-Non-Profit and a Twitter account [should] be developed for carrying the message of A.A. to the public.” “Guidelines [should] be made available for carrying the A.A. message online and in social media.”</p>
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Conference Committee VIII Public Information- Item C

Agenda Topic	Review the July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 distribution and tracking information for the video P.S.A. “Doors.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2015, Conference Committee on Public Information recommended that the video public service announcement (P.S.A) “Doors” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee. A report is available that summarizes the tracking and distribution data; most notably the number of “audience impressions” which is the estimated number of people who viewed the P.S.A.

Conference Committee VIII Public Information- Item D 1

Agenda Topic	Review 2015 report from trustees’ Public Information Committee on the Usefulness And Relevance of Public Service Announcements. : Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the English and French language versions of the video P.S.A., “Tengo Esperanza” at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the distribution work of local public information committees.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2001 the trustees’ PI committee requested a report detailing the Usefulness and Relevance of PSAs being centrally distributed, tracked, and evaluated. In 2002 the following advantages which maximize the A.A. dollars spent were presented: increased airplay, distributing correct supplies to various stations, PSA coverage to areas with no P.I. committees, tracking allows local committees to see where PSAs are being played and approach stations not utilizing PSAs, provide information on the type of PSA played most often. In 2003 the amount was set not to exceed \$30,000. The cost was raised to \$40,000 where it currently stands. Centralized distribution of the PSA, “Tengo Esperanza” in English and French at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 will ensure the advantages of tracking continue as they have since the committee’s initial findings in 2002.

Conference Committee VIII Public Information- Item D 2

Agenda Topic	Review 2015 report from trustees’ Public Information Committee on the Usefulness And Relevance of Public Service Announcements. : Consider discontinuing the video P.S.A. “I Thought.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Discontinuing “I Thought” is suggested because it is not available in HD (high definition) which is the standard TV format.

Conference Committee VIII 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: Why is it on the Agenda?	California Northern Coastal Area 06 wishes to have the General Service Conference reconsider the Panel 61 Information Advisory Action regarding A.A. videos containing full

	faces.” Reason: Deaf members need to have facial expressions to understand.
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Conference Committee VIII Public Information- Item F

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Public Information Kit and Workbook
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The publications department is addressing the committee suggestion that the PI Kit listed on aa.org have links to those items available online, and work continues on the cooperation with the professional community, Corrections, Treatment Committee, and Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit links. The Workbook has been updated. This includes updating the anonymity statement under <i>sample meeting format</i> , expanded information regarding aa.org under GSO's AA website, and updating the annual letter to the media to include information on the anonymity video. Workbook will be published in English Spanish and French as the stock is depleted.

Conference Committee: IX. Report & Charter

Conference Committee: IX. Report & Charter — Item A 1.

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition: 1. Review list of editorial updates.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. board and the Grapevine inc. board Annually review. The AA service manual combined with 12 concepts for world service and forward necessary updates to the conference committee on report & charter. The background information was mailed to Committee members only and are not for duplication.

Conference Committee: IX. Report & Charter — Item A 2.

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition: 2. Consider adding definition of “Service Manual” to Glossary of Service Terms
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	During floor debate at the past three general service conferences, the Delegates’ had questions regarding the definition of “The AA Service Manual”. Suggestion is to include definition in the “Glossary of General Service terms” beginning on page S 19 of <i>The AA Service Manual</i> .

Conference Committee: IX. Report & Charter — Item A 3.

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition: 3. Consider adding text in the Third Legacy Procedure chart in Chapter One.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The Services Study Group from area 15 is requesting the Third Legacy Procedure chart on page S22 in the General Service Manual add the words: “the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn” , into the section referring to the 4th ballot procedure section.

Conference Committee: IX. Report & Charter — Item A 4.

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition: 4. Consider draft text for a section on “Local Forums” to be added to Chapter Nine.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This motion originated in March, 2012, during an Area 29 Regional Panel discussion of the Conference Agenda Items. Draft copy of new section to be added to chapter 9

	<p>The General Service Board in the A.A. service manual:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Local forums</p> <p>In October 2006, the concept of the Local Forums was approved by the General Service Board. The purpose of Local Forums is to bring Forum information to A.A. members in remote, sparsely populated areas, urban neighborhoods or underserved A.A. communities. Any A.A. community or service entity may request a one and a half or two day Local Forum. Unlike Regional Forums, the responsibility for forum expenses such as meeting room rental and miscellaneous expenses are assumed by the Local Forum Committee. The General Service Board will send two participants, one from the board and one from the General Service Office or Grapevine Office, and display literature at board expense. Like Regional and Additional Forums, board participation in Local Forums requires the approval of the trustees committee on international Conventions/Regional Forums. The Regional Forums Coordinator works closely with the Local Forum organizing committee to create an agenda that is responsive to local needs. As all Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing at Forums is captured in forum final reports which are distributed to all attendees. Regional Forums final reports are available on GSO's A.A. website. Forums provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas.</p>
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Conference Committee: **IX. Report & Charter — Item A 5.**

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition:</i></p> <p>5. Consider removing endnote #4 in Concept Twelve of the Twelve Concepts for World Service.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>The Reno Concept Study Group became concerned about the validity (factual) Endnote #4 on page 73 of 2014-2015 edition of Service Manual. Extensive research revealed that in 1972 an unknown person in GSO publishing department marked out the printed existing words in Warranty 6 and hand wrote his or her personal preference as to what he/she felt certain phrases should say.</p> <p>Bill W.'s original words were "in action and in spirit". The unknown person changed Bill's words to "in thought and action" instead. This was their personal decision and view and resulted in the change of Bill's words in the 1974 A.A. Service Manual. Then in 1985 it was noticed that Bill's words had previously been changed. A reversal of the wording was made back to Bill's original writing. This reversal resulted in Endnote #4 stating that Bill "apparently inadvertently" used the phrase "in action and in spirit" instead of "in thought and action". Our Concept Study Group believes that Endnote #4 was added as a result of one persons speculation as to what Bill may have meant in his original writing.</p> <p>Endnote #4 was added after Bill W.'s death so no one could verify what Bill meant. There is no historical evidence that Bill meant anything other than what he originally wrote in Warranty 6, Concept XII. There is no way we can judge what anyone "apparently inadvertently" meant. Therefore we believe Endnote #4 is speculation and should be removed.</p>

Conference Committee: **IX. Report & Charter — Item A 6.**

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>The A.A. Service Manual, 2013-2014 Edition: 6. Consider request to revise text in 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 topic originates from two Delegate communications expressing concern about Bill W's writings on Concept XI. See two paragraphs in the Concept essays, pages 58-59 in the 2014-15 Service Manual, starting with the sentence "Women workers present still another problem." The two paragraphs differentiate men and women work qualifications, saying that men are better at business and women are better staff office workers. The Delegate letters say that the writing here discourages applications from some of the best potential candidates for Trustee and other AA leadership positions based on 50 year old language and imagery, "...suggesting to potential applicants that A.A. is an outdated and out-of-touch organization."</p> <p>Recognizing that there will be resistance to changing the writing of the Concepts, particularly that it might increase calls for changes in Bill's writings, both Delegate letters request that these two paragraphs be removed from the Concept XI essay. Additional information provided in the included background documents indicates that a subcommittee of the 1983 General Service Board reviewed matters regarding changes in the Twelve Concepts. A recommendation of this subcommittee, following Bill's suggestion in his introduction to them (pgs. 1-3), was that the original writing be kept intact as a record of former experience, and that future changes be guided by his suggestion that they be entered in a special section of the manual entitled "Amendments."</p>

Conference Committee: **IX. Report & Charter — Item B**

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Consider A.A.W.S. recommendation regarding 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>The publishing department submitted to the A.A. World Services Board: A recommendation that the A.A. Service Manual be published biannually (every two years) instead of the current annual printing.</p> <p>The following is a summary of the possible savings of a biannual printing based on a report supplied by the General Service Office:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="649 1312 1218 1449"> <tr> <td>manufacturing costs:</td> <td>\$27,021.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>freight costs:</td> <td>\$2,684.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>indirect costs:</td> <td>\$15,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>\$44,706.73</td> </tr> </table> <p>(the indirect costs include staff labor, overhead, supplies, etc.) The estimate of savings would be for years the Service manual would not be printed, so an approximate savings of \$45,000 every other year.</p> <p>If approved, the first year of savings would be 2017. The manual would then be published every even year after the Conference (i.e. 2018, 2020, etc.)</p>	manufacturing costs:	\$27,021.89	freight costs:	\$2,684.84	indirect costs:	\$15,000.00	TOTAL	\$44,706.73
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Conference Committee: **IX. Report & Charter — Item C**

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.). Consider that the category title “ONLINE MEETINGS” be changed to “ONLINE GROUPS/ONLINE MEETINGS” in A.A. Directories.</p>
<p>Historical Context:</p>	<p>The A.A.W.S. Board met on September 30, 2015 and forwarded a request</p>

Why is it on the Agenda?	from the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter; their recommendation that the heading "Online Meetings" be changed to "Online Meetings/Online Groups" in both the US/Canada AAA directories and international A.A. directory, outside the USA and Canada.
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Conference Committee: **IX. Report & Charter — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This agenda topic is on the agenda every year. It provides the report & charter committee an opportunity to discuss the final Conference report and recommend any changes. The 2015 final report of the 65th General Service Conference was mailed to the Conference Committee members.

Conference Committee: **X. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

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

Agenda Topic	Review report on Spanish and French translations of the video <i>Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	"The committee expressed concerns about the French and Spanish translations of the video <i>Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous</i> regarding the exact translation of the direct quotes read from the translated "Big Books" and for background distractions in the videos. The committee asked the Publications Department to review these items and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Treatment / Special Needs-Accessibilities. In July, 2012 the trustees' Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities reviewed the sections that appear to be read from the Spanish and French Big Books in the translations of the video. They agreed that the sections needed to be directly quoted from the French and Spanish Big Book and requested that they be re- recorded.

Conference Committee: **X. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviews this kit and workbook yearly. Workbooks and kits are service pieces, and suggested changes to their content do not become recommendations; rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations.

Conference Committee: **X. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities— Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks for CPC, Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Facilities, and Special Needs/Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference. Workbooks and kits are service pieces, and suggested changes to their content do not become recommendations; rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations.

Conference Committee: XI. Trustees**Conference Committee: XI. Trustees — Item A 1. 2.**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: 1. West Central Regional Trustee 2. Western Canada Regional Trustee.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	These items or ones very similar are on the Conference agenda every year, reflecting on the rotation of the elections of the eight regional trustee jobs. The background material consists of listing those who have been nominated by each listing of those who have been nominated by each area as a candidate, and those who will be eligible to vote of these nominations at the Conference.

Conference Committee: XI. Trustees — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
<i>Historical Context:</i> <i>Why is it on the Agenda?</i>	This agenda item is on the Conference agenda every year and is required by the Bylaws of The General Service Board, Inc. The Conference is required to have an opportunity to disapprove the election of our trustees. The background consists of a listing of those people who will be presented to the 2013 Conference.

Conference Committee: XI. Trustees — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviewed and recommended to the General Service Board a list of Directors of AA World Services, Inc., for the election in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any.

Conference Committee: XI. Trustees — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A. A. Grapevine, Inc.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviewed and recommended to the General Service Board a list of Directors of the AA Grapevine, Inc. for election in April 2016 following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.

Conference Committee: XI. Trustees – Item E

Agenda Topic	Review report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating on expanding the pool of candidates to serve the General Service Board and the Corporate Boards.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The committee reviewed a report from the Subcommittee on Expanding the Pool of Candidates (formed on August 1, 2015) and noted that the report included a variety of options that can be utilized in the distribution of vacancy notifications. The following are the suggestions that the committee felt reflect the importance of Concept XI in order to identify, attract and recruit in a timely manner a diverse, competent and qualified pool of candidates to serve as Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees, Class B (alcoholic) trustees, non-trustee directors and appointed committee members on trustee committees.</p> <p>The subcommittee suggested expanding, whenever possible and suitable, the following mailing distribution and postings of the notification of vacancies to reach the greatest possible audience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trustees/Directors for US and Canada, past and present

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Area Delegates and Chairs 3. Committee members 4. GSO and Grapevine Staff 5. Central Offices and Intergroups in US and Canada 6. Persons whose resumes are on file from prior searches 7. Past and present appointed committee members 8. Past ad present Grapevine Editorial Board members 9. Past Delegates 10. Announcements in/on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Box 4-5-9 b. AA Grapevine c. About AA d. AA.org e. International Convention Registration Form f. Announcement in Regional Forums presentations. <p>Each time a vacancy arises a conference call would be held to discuss skills and background needed and these would be communicated to the Trustees Nominating Committee. It was also suggested that questions be added to the resume form that would identify diverse characteristics of candidates and that internet searches would be used for non-alcoholic candidate</p>
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Lisa Conference Committee: XI. Trustees – Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider option presented by the trustees' Committee on Nominating regarding the unexpected vacancy of Regional Trustees.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This subcommittee's report to the trustees committee on nominating is being forwarded for consideration:</p> <p>"If a vacancy for Regional Trustee occurs prior to September 1 in the first year then an election for a three-year term would occur at the following General Service Conference (GSC) for the affected region. If a vacancy for a Regional Trustee occurs between September 1 in the first year and August 31 of the third year then the delegates from the affected region would be given an option to hold and election for a six-year or five-year term, or leave the position vacant, depending on when the vacancy occurs, regardless of whether the term was for three, five or six years, the regional trustee would be expected to serve two years on one of the two operating corporation boards."</p> <p>The subcommittee discussed possible changes to the General Service Board By-laws and two trustees' nominating committee's procedure No.11 "Procedures for Electing Regional Trustee Candidates in the US and Canada" that would make this change possible. It was decided that the GSC Committee on Trustees and possibly the whole GSC should weigh in on this matter prior to developing the appropriate changes in those documents.</p>

Conference Committee: XII. Archives

Conference Committee: **XII. Archives — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Explore ways to encourage groups to write or update their histories.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This request was submitted by the Chair of the 2015 National Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Workshop, along with duplicate requests from Northeast Ohio, Area 54 and New Mexico, area 46:</p> <p>The National Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Workshop by action at its meeting on this day: wishes to express it's sincere gratitude for the continuing support of GSO Archives plus A.A.'s Trustees' Archives and Conference Archives Committees in its efforts to guide archivists throughout the fellowship to gather and maintain our historical records.</p> <p>Requests that these entities explore ways to encourage groups to write or update their histories, in recognition of this critical aspect of A. A. Archives.</p>

Conference Committee: **XII. Archives — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review Archives Workbook
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Workbooks for Archives, C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Committee, and Special Needs/Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.</p> <p>Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented.</p> <p>Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a Workbook during the next General Service Conference.</p> <p>Note: Workbooks are service pieces, and suggested changes to their content do not become recommendations; rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations. The Archives Workbook (M-441) is, available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website (www.aa.org).</p>

Conference Committee: XIII. Int'l Conventions/Regional ForumsConference Committee: **XIII. Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Since 1975 Forums have provided an opportunity for enhancing knowledge and communication among AA members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the GSO and the AA Grapevine. They offer a meeting place to ask questions and share ideas to help carry the AA message. The committee is seeking additional ideas to provide information about and increase interest in Forums to all members of AA.</p> <p>Do your group members know about regional forums? What are their suggestions on how to inform members of these events and how to attract members who have not had a forum experience?</p>

Conference Committee: **XIII. Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss report on the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>In order for future coordinators to understand the scope of the International Conventions, it is important to accurately report the details of past conventions. The following are the highlights of the 2015 International Convention that was held from July 2nd through the 5th in Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>There were 56,900 registered attendees while only 50,000 were anticipated with the largest international contingent coming from Mexico. The daytime meetings were held at the Georgia World Congress Center and Omni CNN Hotel and the big meetings were held in the Georgia Dome. 1,000 people participated in over 250 AA meetings, panels and marathons in 11 languages and there were simultaneous translations in the stadium of seven languages. There were enough speakers to cover even last-minute cancellations and there were 94 flag bearers for the flag ceremony.</p> <p>The successes also way outnumbered the disappointments. There was a weather issue that affected the fireworks but the Old-timers’ meeting was well received. Also successful was the web page for registration and the convention app. Approximately 88% of the attendees registered online and over 30,000 downloaded the app.</p> <p>The host committee and over 4,000 volunteers did a wonderful job. They met challenges with solutions including problems with navigating with scooters and wheelchairs. Other challenges and successes at the convention included transportation to and from the convention on MARTA, whether to say the Lord’s Prayer, and the coordination of everything from bussing and housing to signage and hotels. The special booths, including the ones for Anonymity and Carry the Message, were also well received.</p> <p>Finally, the convention anticipated a small excess of revenue over expenses of about \$80,000. The unaudited financials reported expenses over revenue of \$210,000 . While the income exceeded the budget by \$829,000, the expenses exceeded the budget by \$1.1 million. The 2010 convention had \$844,545 in revenue over expenses. The largest loss was in San Diego in 1994 of \$632,027. Overall, it was a successful convention.</p>