



# Area 15 Delegate Conference Report



South Florida, The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands  
British Virgin Islands, St. Maarten, Antigua, and The Cayman Islands

*This report is on the 64th General Service Conference which took place at the Winchester Hilton Hotel—Rye Brooke, NY. The festivities began on Saturday, April 26 with attendance at the Remote Communities Committee meeting and South-east Regional Area Dinner. The Conference continued through Saturday, May 3, including an official visit to Stepping Stones and the farewells of three Trustees.*

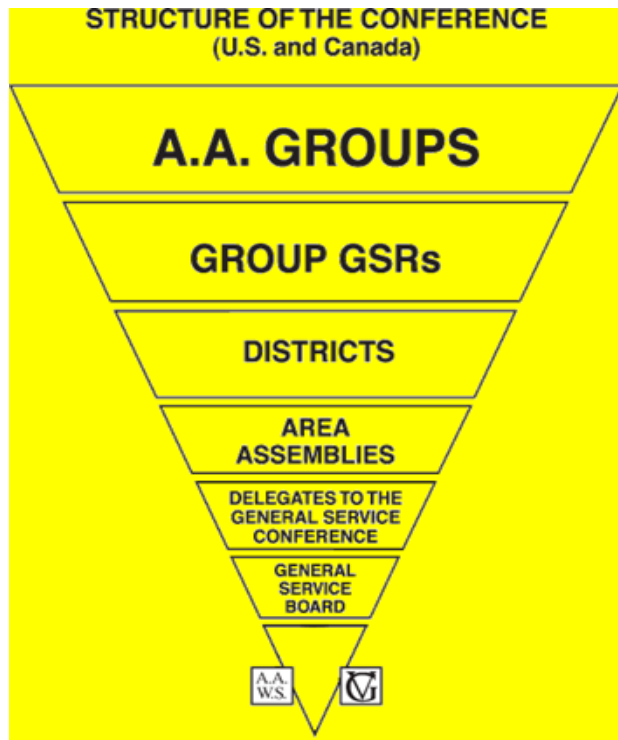
## A.A. Spiritual Pamphlet Approved

The Willing MAY 9, 2014  
Times Special Ed. VOL.II, NO. 3

The Literature Committee recommended and the conference approved the "Many Pathways to Spirituality" pamphlet in one of the most heartfelt discussions of the conference. The pamphlet includes references to the "Great Spirit," God, "Creative Intelligence," Higher Power, "Allah", and the Lord's Prayer, and several short paragraphs about the real world battle tested experience of A.A.s. The Conference approved the revised Circles of Love and Service pamphlet, a correction to the Preface of the Big Book. The Conference also rejected the changes to Living Sober and the Primary Purpose (blue) Card (F-17) that "Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers."

## Circle and Triangle With Recovery, Unity and Service—Not Now

The Literature Committee discussed, but took no action on the request to consider the use of the Circle and Triangle as an unofficial Service Mark on Conference approved literature. The Committee, however, did not discuss the difference between a Trademark, a Registered Mark and a Service Mark. At the closing lunch, one of the Class A Trustees stated he believed the General Service Board would look at the use of the Circle and Triangle with the Three Legacies in it at their Board meetings given the interest of the Fellowship in it.



The Committee also did not approve a mental illness pamphlet despite vigorous debate and minority opinions. The Board member indicated this may be revisited by the Board as well.

The **Trustees Committee** approved the slates for the Class A and B Trustees for the General Service, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine Boards, and the Pacific and Eastern Canada Regions, and the Officers of the General Service Board.

**DON F.**  
**PANEL 63, AREA 15, DELEGATE,**  
**SOUTH FLORIDA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF**  
**THE BAHAMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH**  
**VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST. MAARTEN, ANTIGUA, AND**  
**THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
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## Markings on a Journey Updated

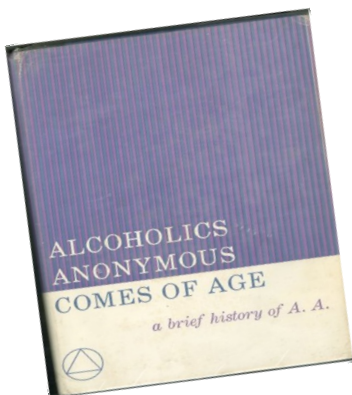
The Archives Committee recommended and the Conference approved the update of the video "Markings on a Journey." The Conference previewed the updated video and gave the A.A. Archivist, Michelle Mirza, a standing ovation.

## 75th Anniversary Big Book Debuts

Last year, the Archives Committee recommended and the Conference approved the Commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition of the First Edition First Printing. This 75th Anniversary Big book was published on April 10, 2014, the same day as the very first Big Book was published.

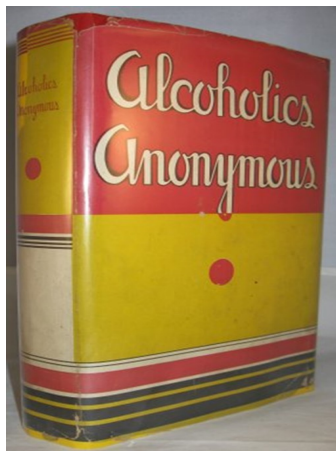
## No Increase in Delegate Conf. Expense

The Finance Committee felt the Areas contributions for the Delegates' GSC expenses did not need to be increased even though the approximate cost is around \$4,000 per Delegate.



## 2015 GSC THEME

The Agenda Committee chose the theme of "Celebrating 80 years of Recovery, Unity and Service – the Foundation of Our Future and approved presentation topics about "Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action."



## Develop Plan to Translate Background Material Into French and Spanish

The Finance Committee recommended that GSO develop a plan to translate the GSC Background Material into French and Spanish. It was also discussed that GSO coordinate volunteer Areas to translate 50 pages or so each and send them to GSO to compile and distribute.

## GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE FINANCES

### OVERALL GSO, AAWS, AA GRAPEVINE INC.

Before we get to the actual figures, some interesting financial information. The cost per group is \$146.96, the cost per member was \$6.84, and the cost of services NOT covered by contributions is \$1.87 per member per year. Also, a 1.00 in 1945 has the buying power of \$13.00 in 2014, or 8 cents in 2014 would buy a \$1.00 worth of stuff in 1945.

GSO had net income of \$204,215, while revenues and expenses were up by over \$500,000. Net sales were \$12,604,719. Contributions of \$6,906,371, included the highest amount of contributions ever in one month in December. These sums came from 42.5% of the 64,694 groups listed with GSO about the same as last year.

### A.A. GRAPEVINE, INC.

The Grapevine had a net profit of \$315,205, with most of it coming from "Other Publishing Income." Magazine Income decreased by \$100,547.

### La VINA

La Vina lost \$142,544 in 2013, after a loss of \$115,820 in 2012, and \$69,723 in 2011.

### RESERVE FUND

The Reserve Fund balance of \$15,301,653 covers approximately 10.9 months of operating expenses. GSO paid \$7.7 million into the Pension Fund in the beginning of this year, after earning \$3,564,880 from investments. The Pension Fund still owes \$3.6 million for "Pension Benefits," and \$3 million for the "Post Retirement Medical Fund." **This leaves us in a much better position than in 2012 when we owed around \$14 million total to both.**

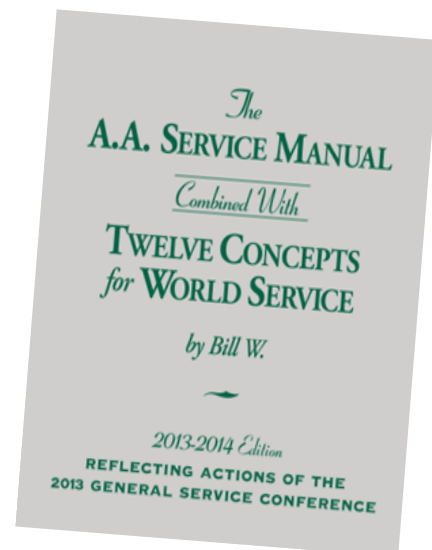
## Groups and Attendance Sheets

The CPC Committee recommended and the Conference approved a change to the wording in the "If you are a Professional" pamphlet to read that **some** groups will "have an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip furnished by the referral source, with the referred person being responsible to return the slip."



## ADVISORY ACTIONS, ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS, AND REGISTRAR DUTIES

The Report and Charter Committee recommended and the Conference approved additions to the Service Manual defining "Advisory Actions" and "Additional Committee Considerations," and adding updated duties and qualifications for Registrars.



## GROUPS AND MEMBERS ESTIMATES

As of January 1, 2013

	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Members</u>
United States	59,321	1,295,656
Canada	<u>5,093</u>	<u>93,071</u>
Sub-Total	64,414	1,388,727
Correctional Facilities	1,499	36,838
Internationalists (Sea-going)	3	15
Lone Members	<u>0</u>	<u>67</u>
U.S. & Canada Total	65,916	1,425,647
Outside U.S. & Canada	<u>48,726</u>	<u>705,902</u>
World Wide Total	114,642	2,131,549

\*170 countries and 63 autonomous general service offices



**New Deadline to Submit Conference Agenda Items - December 15, 2014**

Last year, the Policy/Admissions Committee recommended and the Conference approved changing the Agenda Item submission date to December 15, 2014, one month earlier than before.

## A New Video for Corrections

### "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell"

The Corrections Committee recommended and the conference approved the creation of an updated video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."



## No Living Sober Changes

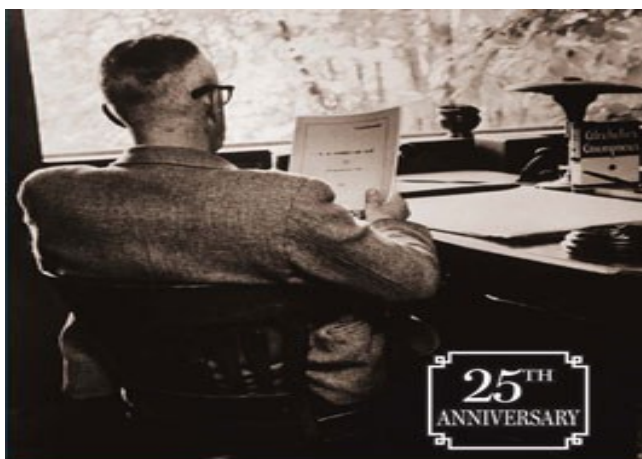
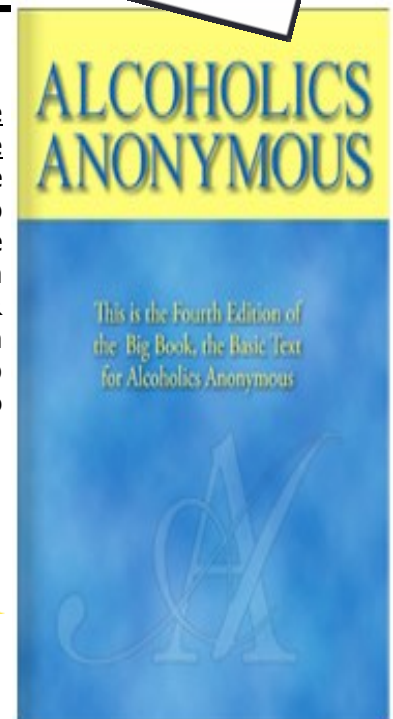


The Literature Committee recommended removing the following text: "Many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug; like addicts of any sort who want to maintain recovery, we have to keep away from the first dose of the drug we have become addicted to." They felt the statement was confusing in regard to A.A.'s Singleness of Purpose, but the Conference voted it down.

## No Q & A Changes

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON SPONSORSHIP

The Literature Committee discussed the suggestion to change the pamphlet on Questions & Answers on Sponsorship **and took no action.**



## THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings



**UNITY! OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!**

**Grapevine Review of La Vina**



The Grapevine Committee approved the A.A. Grapevine board's suggestion to create a new business plan for LaVina for the 2015 Conference, and the Right of Decision of the GV Board on formatting decisions, but the GSC voted it down. La Vina had 10,145 subscriptions, almost 1,000 more than 2012. Most of the increase came from around 900 subscriptions purchased by a Hispanic Convention in California.



**Grapevine Circulation Down Again**

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. reported the average monthly subscriptions for Grapevine were down to 77,126 from 83,258 in 2012. That is a loss of 6,132 monthly subscriptions. The Grapevine also had 5,535 online subscriptions for the year. The Grapevine Committee reviewed the "Alcoholism at Large" pages, but they took no action.



**Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities**

The Treatment/Special Need-Accessibilities Committee thoroughly discussed a proposal to revise the "Bridge the Gap" pamphlet to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity and took no action. The Committee asked the General Service Board to consider whether there is a need to develop a pamphlet for Bridging the Gap activities for Corrections.



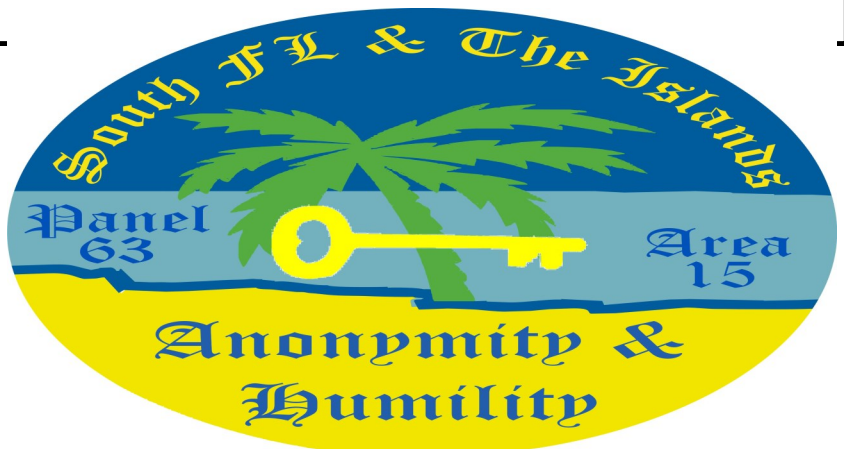
**International Conventions**

The Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums recommended an anonymity protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the International Convention in 2015. Vancouver will host the 2025 International Convention. Registrations for the 2015 International in Atlanta will be available in September.



**General Service Conference Continues its Inventory**

The General Service Conference continued taking its own inventory and discussed how effective the Conference was in treating all conference members equally under Concept Four, how well the Conference considers the Minority Opinion under Concept Five, does our Conference Structure encourage each individual to act as a member of a "Society of Alcoholics in Action," does our year long Conference process encourage Conference members to lead and serve in the spirit of our upside down triangle service structure, and whether the Regions in A.A. should be based on membership numbers or other criteria.



**ARE YOU WILLING?**