

Area 42 Newsletter

Winter 2010

Confidential Alcoholic Anonymous Document

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

PRASSA
Radison Hotel
Los Angeles Airport
March 5th-7th, 2010
Los Angeles, CA

Area 42 2010
Spring Pre-Conference
Assembly
Tonopah Convention
Center
March 26-28, 2010

Pacific Region Forum
Torrance Marriott
Torrance, CA
August 27-29, 2010

Alcoholic Anonymous and Service Work

Alcoholic Anonymous and Service Work as explained by Bill W. in this reprint of a section of "Third Legacy Manual of World Service," which Bill wrote around the 20th Convention held in St. Louis, MO in 1955.

THE CONFERENCE IS BORN WORLD SERVICE - ITS HEART

"Recovery, Unity and Service--these are the Three Legacies of our AA experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. God, as He may speak in our group conscience, is our sole authority. And World Service is the heart of our Third Legacy."

OUR Twelfth Step--carrying the message--is the basic service that AA's Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics *in action*. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth will die.

Hence, an AA service is *anything whatever* that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer--ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum total of *all* these services is our Third Legacy.

Services include meeting places, clubs, hospitals and Intergroup offices; mean pamphlets, books and good publicity of almost every description. They require committees, delegates, trustees and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions.

These services, whether performed by individuals, groups, areas or AA as a whole, are utterly vital to our existence and growth. Nor can we make AA simple by abolishing such services. We could only be asking for complication and confusion.

Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who seek AA.

The most vital, yet the least understood group of services that AA has, are those which enable us to function as a whole; namely, the AA General Service Office, the AA Publishing, Inc., the AA Grapevine, Inc., and AA's Board of Trustees, recently renamed as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our worldwide unity and much of our growth since early times is directly traceable to this cluster of life-giving activities located, since 1938, at New York.

Until 1950, these over-all services were the sole function of a few old time AAs, several non-alcoholic friends, Doctor Bob and myself. For all the years of AA's infancy, we old timers had been the self-appointed trustees for Alcoholics Anonymous.

At last we realized that AA had grown up; that our Fellowship was ready and able to take these responsibilities from us. There was also another urgent reason for

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change. Since we old timers couldn't live forever, newer trustees would be virtually unknown to the AA Groups, now spread over the whole earth. Without direct linkage to AA, future trustees couldn't possibly function alone.

This meant that we had to form a Conference representing our membership which could meet yearly with our trustees at New York and thus assume direct responsibility for the guardianship of AA tradition and the direction of our principal service affairs. Otherwise, a virtually unknown Board of Trustees and our too little understood Service Headquarters operations would someday be bound to face collapse.

Suppose, acting quite on their own, that future trustees were to make a serious blunder. Suppose, with no linkage to AA, that they tried to act for us in time of great trouble or crisis. With no direct guidance from AA as a whole, how could they do this? Collapse of our top services would then be inevitable. And if, under such conditions, our world services did fall apart, how could they ever be reconstructed?

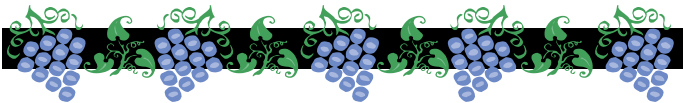
The trustees, Doctor Bob and I finally saw in 1950 that this appalling risk must no longer be taken. A direct linkage between ourselves and AA had to be built.

These were the conclusions that led to the formation of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, a body of about seventy-five elected Delegates from the States and Provinces of the United States and Canada. On a trial experimental basis, these Delegates commenced in 1951 to sit yearly at New York with our Trustees and General Service Staff members.

The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous has proved itself an immense success. Its record of achievement during its four-year trial period has been completely convincing.

Therefore, we who are the old timers of AA, are now entirely ready to deliver the principal affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous into the permanent keeping of this well-tried and tested body of AA members.

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*Bring the Grapevine to
your home group or
speaker event.*

*Just email to arrange date
& time.*

*Jeannette B. No. Area 42
Grapevine Chair*

tahoejj@clearwire.net

You can find the
minutes for the
Area 42 Assemblies
@

www.nevadaarea42.org

**Area 42 Pre-Conference Assembly Agenda
March 26-8, 2010
Tonopah Convention Center
Tonopah, NV**

PRELIMINARY-SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Friday, March 26, 2010

3:30 p.m. *Registration opens*
6:00 Assembly opens
Moment of silence, Serenity Prayer
Chair's welcome and overview of
weekend
6:30 GSR Orientation to the Assembly
Area Committee Meeting
7:30 Break
7:45 DCM Reports (3 minutes each)
8:15 *Registration closes*
9:00 Adjourn Assembly for the evening

Saturday, March 27, 2009

7:00 Self-Administered A.A. meeting
7:30 *Registration opens*
8:15 Assembly opens
Moment of silence, Serenity Prayer
Approval of minutes from Sept. '09
Assembly
Explanation of today's process
8:30 Agenda Item #1 Review & Sense of the
Assembly
8:45 Agenda Item #2 Review & Sense of the
Assembly
9:00 Break
9:15 Agenda Item #3 Review & Sense of the
Assembly
9:30 Agenda Item #4 Review & Sense of the
Assembly
9:45 Agenda Item #5 Review & Sense of the
Assembly
10:00 Agenda Item #6 Review & Sense of the
Assembly
10:15 DCM Reports Continued (3 minutes
each)
Area Committee Member Reports
11:50 *Registration closes*
11:50- 1:20 Lunch
12:10 - 1:00 Self-Administered A.A. meeting

Saturday, March 27, 2009 cont'd.

1:15 New Agenda Item # 1 Presentation & Sense of the
Assembly
1:35 New Agenda Item #2 Presentation & Sense of the
Assembly
1:55 New Agenda Item #3 Presentation & Sense of the
Assembly
2:15 Break
2:30 New Agenda Item #4 Presentation & Sense of the
Assembly
2:50 New Agenda Item #5 Presentation & Sense of the
Assembly
3:10 New Agenda Item #6 Presentation & Sense of the
Assembly
3:30 "How It Works" Group Proposal
3:45 Additional Needs of the Delegate
4:15 Adjourn for the afternoon. Please take all belongings
with you.
District 21 & 22 Meeting-Blue Room
6:15 Banquet
7:15 Open A.A. meeting
Speaker
8:30 Sobriety Count up and count down
9:00 Close for the evening
Dance after Speaker Meeting and Cleanup

Sunday, March 28, 2009

7:00 a.m. Self-Administered A.A. meeting
8:30 Assembly opens
8:35 Unfinished Business
8:45 New Business
9:00 Ask It Basket w/esteemed Feather Dusters (past
delegates & trustees)
10:00 Planning for Fall '09 Assembly
10:15 Adjourn

2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 1-4 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme —A Vision for You.|| A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels. Registration opens in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on Wednesday June 30, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. Registration will continue Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The opening Party in the Park starts at approximately 8:00 p.m. Thursday evening, July 1 and ends at midnight. Marathon meetings will begin at midnight on Thursday, and run around the clock until Sunday morning. Meetings start at the Convention Center on Friday at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m., with the same schedule on Saturday. Friday night and Saturday night from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., we gather in the Alamodome stadium for Big Meetings. The Flag Ceremony will take place before the meeting on Friday night, and Saturday we will have an old timers meeting, where A.A.s with more than 40 years of sobriety will share. The closing meeting will take place in the Alamodome on Sunday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Frequently Asked Questions

The 2010 International Convention will celebrate A.A.'s 75th Anniversary, July 1-4, in San Antonio, Texas. Members of the Fellowship, as always, are now gearing up for this wonderful event and the General Service Office is beginning to receive inquiries. So here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the Convention:

Registration Q When will registration forms be available?

A Registration forms and housing information will be mailed d in August of 2009 to all G.S.R.s, Central Offices and Intergroups and international G.S.O.s.

Q Can I register online?

A Yes. Starting September 1, look for the link to online registration from www.aa.org. Also, the registration brochure will be available to download. You can print the registration form and mail or fax it in.

Q What about on-site registration?

A On-site registration will be set up in the Convention Center. Registration will open on Wednesday morning, June 30, 2010.

Q How much will registration cost?

A Preregistration is available until May 14, 2010, and the preregistration fee is \$95.00 (USD). After May 14, you may register on-site. The on-site registration fee is \$110.00 (USD).

Q Must everyone register? I thought I didn't have to pay to go to an A.A. event.

A Yes. Everyone must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary and, as responsible A.A. members, —we pay our own way.|| The International Convention is paid for by those A.A.s who participate in it.

Q Can travel agents register groups or individuals?

A Payments from travel agencies to register groups will not be accepted. Individuals must register themselves.

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Weather Q Isn't it hot in San Antonio?

A With 300 days of sunshine a year, San Antonio is a warm destination year round. On average, July is the warmest month, with average highs around 96° degrees Fahrenheit and evening lows around 74° Fahrenheit. Be prepared for hot temperatures outdoors. But as hot as it is outdoors, be prepared for cool temperatures indoors—the air conditioning will be on!

Transportation Q Will there be a shuttle system?

A Yes. Detailed flyers will be available onsite with shuttle bus route information and daily schedules. In the downtown core, shuttle service will be provided from pickup points near downtown hotels, but plan on walking the short distance to the Convention Center and the Alamodome. The wait for the bus may be longer than the walk to the Convention Center! In the outlying areas, we will be providing shuttle service to specific hotels. All of the hotels coordinated through the Convention Housing Bureau will be included in the shuttle system. All housing blocked for this event is less than a 30-minute shuttle bus ride from the Convention Center and Stadium.

Q What about special airline rates?

A As at other International Conventions, there will be special fares available. Discounts are also available on car rentals and train fares. For specifics about train fare discounts, [Click here](#).

International Travelers Q Where can I find information about crossing the border into the U.S. for this event? **A** If you are coming from abroad you may need a visa. For specific, accurate and up-to-date information about visas and travel to the U.S., visit the United States Department of State Web site http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html. The site shares that most Canadian citizens and many citizens of countries in the United States Visa Waiver Program (VWP) do not need a visa. However, you will need a machine readable passport valid for at least 90 days past your date of departure. The VWP countries are: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. If you do not come from a VWP country you must obtain a nonimmigrant visa. Plan ahead; it may take six months to receive a nonimmigrant visa, depending on the demand in your country.

**We hope to see you in San Antonio to celebrate 75 years of
carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous!**

Editor's Note:

The Area 42 Newsletter is comprised of service oriented articles submitted by its members. We welcome submissions and suggestions. The deadline for the next newsletter is April 23, 2010. Please submit to: area42newsletter@gmail.com

The following are the conference agenda items that were heard at the roundtables and to be considered at the Spring Pre-Conference Assembly in Tonopah

Conference Committee: IV. Finance – Item A

Agenda Topic	<p>Review input from the Fellowship gathered by the trustees' Finance Committee on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit? 2) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Stemming from a 2006 Trustees, Finance Sub-Committee assembled to make a clear definition of self-support. The statement reminded us: From AA's earliest days GSO and AAWS service expenses have exceeded the amounts contributed, necessary support came from literature sales income. Should we become fully self-supporting through groups and members contributions, then, revenues from literature sales will cover actual cost for literature production and to maintain a prudent reserve fund.</p> <p>If you remember, last year the Fellowship input discussion was Finance G; regarding benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical, have fully funding GSO services.</p> <p>Now we look at Advisory Action # 7:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit? The majority of the 2008 \$9,447,300 total expenses were Fellowship contributions (68%), 32% of costs were borne from literature sales. 2009 showed a downturn in contributions (totals are not in yet), so it may be that we are less likely to "pay our own way". i.e. even more dependent on the book sales. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responses were anywhere from 10% -30% to whatever it takes. - Most members felt that we are self-supporting when buying literature. - Suggestions included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing the fellowship, - Up the individual contribution limit, - Contributions are IRS tax deductible; make it possible to contribute online. - Don't fix it, if it isn't broke. 2) If there is a limit, how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness is the key. - Cut down on the health benefits and pension plans (over 9 million has been spent on them in the last 8 years). - Move offices to a lower rent area. - Cut back spending money on overseas publications. - Which drunks do we want to sacrifice to our sense of sanctity? - Get rid of Pink Cans. Eliminate & print fewer pamphlets. - Make up annual budgets using the amount received in contributions. <p>Conversation among the Fellowship is being accomplished here. We need to pay for the services we are receiving, Unfortunately, less then 1/2 of the groups are sending the contributions into GSO.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Spending limit of literature profits, if limit is desired. 2. With a limit and possible shortfall in contributions, how we shall continue pay for needed AA services. Which cuts should come first?

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

Agenda Topic	Review report from trustees' Committee or Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	We need to know how to handle issues regarding jail policy. The background shows that we need to add or change some of the language in the pamphlets to address these new changes in policy. For example: <u>For Inclusion in the pamphlet, A.A. in correctional Facilities.</u> (On page 4, at the end of the section "policy meetings" The last sentence should end as follows-added language in bold) "... And setting the conditions under which A.A. visitors may attend these meeting, including any volunteer forms that must be signed.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Jason needs to know if the proposed changes in the pamphlets will be effective.

Conference Committee: VI. **Literature – Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider developing Conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This request in various forms has been submitted and considered numerous times. Discussion has taken place in 1976, 1980, 1989, 1990, 1996, 2000 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006 and 2009 in the Trustees' Literature committee, the Conference Literature committee, or both. In 2009 the conference neither passed nor failed the proposal; it recommended that more sharing from the fellowship be gathered. Responses were many and mostly polarized. The most common arguments against were: 1) It waters down A.A. 2) there are too many pamphlets already addressed to "special" groups 3) topic is covered in existing literature 4) Concern that the pamphlet might encourage more members to be agnostic or atheist. Most common for: 1) Other than a few GV articles through the years, current literature does not address agnostic/atheist members who have found or are seeking a non-theistic spiritual path 2) Since our behavior in meetings continues to follow Judeo/Christian lines (e.g. Lord's Prayer at meetings) we need literature that gives the non-theist newcomer a sense they are not alone.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Confusions reigns – some were under the impression that Lit Committee would come up with a questionnaire to help gather information from the Groups.

Conference Committee: VIII. **Public Information – Item G**

Agenda Topic	Consider submitting a request to the Conference Committee on the Agenda to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of "Anonymity in a Digital Age"
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	There have been several reports of anonymity breaks via social networking websites. Due to the lack of information on where the members reside, the normal process of contacting their local Delegate is not an option. GSO published an article in the Winter 2009 edition of Box 459 regarding this topic. There are two separate issues being addressed. The first is copyright infringement and the second is anonymity.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that a Conference Agenda theme "Anonymity in a Digital Age" is an appropriate way of approaching the anonymity topic?

Conference Committee: IV. Finance – Item B

Agenda Topic	<p>“Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consider a request to replace the Pie Charts with wording about each group’s autonomous informed conscience 2) Discuss request to include material about A.A. Grapevine 3) Consider a request to add Seventh Tradition stories
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request submitted by District 81, Area 67, Southeast Texas to the Conference Coordinator for consideration of discussion at the 2010 General Service Conference. Request: Remove the pie charts on page 12 and replace it with a statement such as “Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine amounts to the following entities: District; Area; G.S.O. and Intergroup/Central Office, if one services your district. 2. Request submitted by the chairperson of the AA Grapevine Board of Directors to the Trustees’ Committee on Finance for consideration of discussion at the 2010 General Service Conference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add the question/answer: Q - Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine, Inc? / A - No. AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals, and contributions made to GSO do not cover the AA Grapevine’s operating expenses. The Grapevine’s income comes solely from the sale of subscriptions and other publications. Groups support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Vina magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth-Step work. - On page 7, 2nd paragraph, change “...A.A. literature...” to “...A.A.W.S. literature and Grapevine magazines...”so it reads: “Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, A.A.W.S. literature and Grapevine magazines, local meeting lists, G.S.R. travel expenses to attend service functions), and a “prudent reserve” has been set aside to cover any emergency contingencies that might arise, the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following A.A. service entities. - Add a line labeled “Grapevine/La Vina Subscriptions” above “Others” on page 13 in the example of the distribution plan. 3. Request submitted by Area 14 Assembly, North Florida and by Panel 58, Area 56, Southwest Ohio to the Trustees’ Committee on Literature, which agreed to forward for consideration of action to the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance. Request adding stories of personal experience about the use of the seventh tradition to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”?
What does the Delegate need to know?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the groups in your area support a discussion of these changes to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”? 2. Do the groups in your area support a discussion of these 3 changes to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”? 3. Do the groups in your area support adding stories about the use of 7th tradition?

Conference Committee: IV. Finance – Item C

Agenda Topic	Discussion of additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about self-support
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Since 50% of the groups are M.I.A. (not heard from/ not listed/ do not participate in area/ structure) consider ideas to increase participation in the 7 th tradition
What does the Delegate need to know?	Any ideas from their groups on this subject



The Archives Corner

Service Opportunities!

Are you interested in local AA history? Do you want to know how it all began? Where have we been? Where are we going?

Being a member of the Area 42 Archives Committee is the **best** service job in AA – and **you** are invited to join us! You can:



Put together a history of your home group;



Serve your District as its Archives Liaison;



Have you ever served on an AA committee:



H & I, Las Vegas Roundup, CPC, Founders' Day, etc.? We need those histories, too.



Interview Long-Timers;



Come to Las Vegas Central Office to help sort, catalogue & present Area, District, Group, & Individual stories;



Use your construction & design skills to develop the Area Archives display space at Central Office; or



??? – we're open to suggestions!

For more information, please contact:

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Beginning, therefore, with our Twentieth Anniversary in 1955, the Third Legacy of World Service will henceforth be for all members of Alcoholics Anonymous to have and to hold for so long as God may wish our society to endure.

THE CONFERENCE IS BORN

IT was one thing to say that we ought to have a General Service Conference, but it was quite another to devise a plan which would bring it into successful existence. The cost of holding such a Conference was easily dismissed. Even though the outlay might be \$20,000 for each yearly session, this would be only fifteen cents apiece extra for each AA member, and mighty well worth it. What member wouldn't give that much to be sure that AA didn't collapse at its center in some future day of great need or crisis?

But how on earth were we going to cut down destructive politics with all its usual struggles for prestige and vainglory? How many delegates would be required and from where should they come? Arrived at New York, how could they be related to the Board of Trustees? What would be their actual powers and duties? Whatever the plan, it had to be sound enough to work well on the first trial. No blunders big enough to create a fiasco could be allowed. With these several weighty considerations in mind, and with some misgivings, I commenced work on a draft of a plan, much assisted by Helen B. of the office Staff.

Though the Conference might be later enlarged to include the whole world, we felt that the first Delegates should come from the U.S. and Canada only. Each State and Province might be allowed one Delegate. Those containing heavy AA populations could have additional representatives. To give the Conference continuity, the delegates could be divided into panels. Panel One, elected for two years, would be invited for 1951, the first year. Panel two, elected for two years, would be seated in 1952. Thereafter, one panel would be elected and one would be retired yearly. This would cause the Conference to rotate. The election of State and Provincial Committeemen and Delegates could take place at large centers of population within each State and Province. Or, to save expense, such Assemblies of Group Representatives could be held at annual State or Provincial Conventions.

But how could Assemblies of Group Representatives choose their Committeemen and Delegates without terrific political friction? As veterans of many a group hassle and intergroup brawl, we shivered. Then came a happy thought. We remembered that the usual election troubles were often caused by personal nominations, whether from the floor or from some committee issuing from a back room. Another main cause of trouble was to be seen in close elections, hotly contested. These nearly always left a large and discontented minority.

So we devised the scheme of choosing Committeemen out of Group Assemblies by written ballot, with no personal nominations at all. The Committee would then be placed in front of the Assembly, which could then elect from it the Delegate to the Conference in New York. But, sure enough, this was going to be the hottest spot of all! How could we pull the inevitable election pressure down? To accomplish this, it was provided that a Delegate must receive a two-thirds vote for election. If a Delegate got a majority of this size, nobody could kick much. But if he or she didn't, and the election was close, what then? Well, perhaps the names of the two highest in the running, or the three officers of the Committee, or even the whole Committee could be put in a hat. One name would be drawn. The winner of this painless lottery would become the Delegate. Since the high candidates in the running would all be good ones, we couldn't miss getting line Delegates by this method.

But when these Delegates got to New York, what would they do there? We thought they would want to have real authority. So, in the Charter drawn for the Conference itself, it was provided that the Delegates could issue flat directions to the Trustees on a two-thirds vote. And even a simple majority vote would constitute a mighty strong suggestion. It would become traditional too for the Trustees, thereafter, to submit the names of all proposed Board members to the Conference for confirmation. This would give the Conference an effective voice in the selection of Trustees.

Along with a temporary plan for financing the Conference, we put these ideas and their detailed applications into a pamphlet called "The Third Legacy." We shipped about 50,000 of these documents to the groups and asked them to form Assemblies for the election of Committeemen and Delegates.

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With Dr. Bob's approval, I stumped the country for the Third Legacy Plan, talking to large AA audiences and watching Assemblies select their Delegates in more than two dozen States and Provinces.

How well I remember that first tryout in Boston! The Irish turned out in force. To our amazement, the proceedings were as unruffled as a mill pond, even though ballot after ballot failed to get anybody a two-thirds majority for election as a Delegate. The Assembly finally drew lots among the whole Committee, and out of the hat popped a mighty good Delegate! Everybody was pleased and happy; the heat was off. If the Irish could do it without a fight, anybody could. Right there we got the first glimmer that AA had begun to move from partisan politics into true statesmanship.

Much the same thing happened at all the other stops. About a third of the Delegates chosen were real old-timers. The rest were active AAs, sober four to eight years. The large majority named were chosen by a two-thirds vote, only a few of the elections being decided by lot, as Boston had. And when these few were so chosen, there was never any hard feeling. It was tremendously encouraging.

The first Conference was set for April, 1951. In came the Delegates. They looked over Headquarters, cellar to garret, got acquainted with the Service Staff, shook hands with the Trustees. That evening, we gave them a briefing session, under the name of "What's on your mind?" We answered scores of questions of all kinds. The Delegates began to feel at home and reassured. Seeing so much quick understanding and increased confidence, our spirits rose. To a man, we sensed that something very big was happening. One strenuous Conference session followed after another. The Delegates overhauled our finances with a microscope. After listening to reports from the Board of Trustees and from all the Services, there was warm but cordial debate on many a question of AA policy. The Trustees submitted several of their own serious problems for the opinion of the Conference.

Feeling that everybody was too polite, we set up something called the "Gripe Box." Nothing but excellent questions were dropped into it; nobody was mad about anything, believe it or not!

So went session after session, morning, afternoon and evening. The Delegates handled several tough puzzlers about which we at Headquarters were in doubt, sometimes giving advice contrary to our own conclusions. In nearly every instance, we saw that they were right. Then and there they proved, as never before, that AA's Tradition Two was correct. The group Conscience could safely act as the sole authority and sure guide for Alcoholics Anonymous. Nobody present will ever forget that final session of the first Conference. We knew that the impossible had happened, that AA could never break down in the middle, that Alcoholics Anonymous was at last safe from any storm the future might bring. And, as the Delegates returned home, they carried this same conviction with them. Realizing our need for funds and better literature circulation, some did place a little too much emphasis on this necessity; others were a little discouraged, wondering why fellow members did not take fire as they had. They forgot that they themselves had been eye witnesses to the Conference and that their brother alcoholics hadn't. But, both here and at home, they made an impression much greater than they knew. The interest of great numbers of AA groups commenced to deepen, something which has continued in all the four Conference years since.

In the midst of this exciting turn of affairs, the Conference agreed that the Alcoholic Foundation ought to be renamed as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, and this was done. The word "Foundation" stood for charity, paternalism and maybe big money. AA would have none of these; from here out we would assume full responsibility and pay our expenses ourselves.

As I watched all this grow, I became entirely sure that Alcoholics Anonymous was at last safe--even from me. Nearly all of the last dozen years of my life have been invested in the construction of our General Headquarters. My heart is there, and always will be. AA's Headquarters seems that important to me. When, therefore, the hour comes at St. Louis for me to turn over to you this last great asset of the AA inheritance, I shall feel not a little sad that I must no longer be your Headquarters handyman. But I shall rejoice that Alcoholics Anonymous has now grown up and, through its great Conference, can confidently take its destiny by the hand.

So, my dear friends, you now have read my final accounting to you for the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous. *This is the third and final installment from Bill's "Third Legacy Manual of World Service," which he will present in final form at the Twentieth Anniversary Convention in St. Louis this 'month. The second half of the Manual, which will not be reprinted in the Grapevine, gives detailed guidance for those actively engaged in the conduct of AA's worldwide services.--Ed.*

BILL W.

Tonopah Motels

Spring Assembly is March 26, 27, & 28th 2010

**Hi-Desert Best Western (775-482-3511)
\$95.99 single/\$115.99 double (plus tax)**

**Ramada Tonopah Station (775-482-9777)
\$64.86 all rooms single and double (includes Tax)**

**Jim Butler Motel (775-482-3577)
\$48.14 single / \$56.14 double (plus tax)**

**Silver Queen Hotel (775-482-6291)
\$54.49 single/\$65.39 double (includes tax)
\$52.31 Senior Sgl./\$63.21 Senior Dbl. (includes tax)**

**Economy Inn (775-482-6238)
\$39.00 all rooms single double (plus tax)**

**The Clown Hotel (775-482-5920)
\$37.61 single/\$39.79 double (includes tax)**

Prices are subject to change.

Prices were updated January 2010

Area 42 Current 7th Tradition Contribution Addresses:

General Services Office (GSO)
PO Box 459
New York, NY 10163
(Make Checks to General Fund)

Area 42 (All Nevada)
PO Box 70171
Las Vegas, NV. 89170-0171
(Checks to Area 42 Treasury)

Northern Area General Service Committee (NAGSC)
C/O Phil W.
P.O. Box 9080
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(Checks to Northern Area 42 Treasury)

Southern Area General Service Committee (SAGSC)
Southern Area Treasurer
PO Box 71804-1804
Las Vegas, NV. 89170-1804
(Checks to GSR Fund of S. Nevada)

Las Vegas Central Office
1431 E. Charleston Blvd. Suite 15
Las Vegas, NV. 89104
(Checks to Las Vegas Intergroup)

Northern Area Intergroup
436 South Rock Blvd.
Sparks, NV 89431
(Make Checks to N. Nevada Intergroup)