

## **The Conference Process**

### **February 25, 2017**

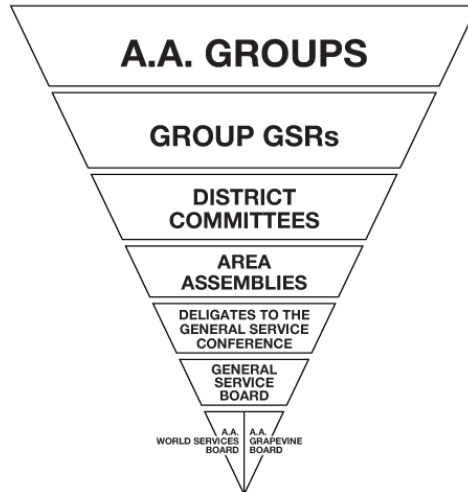
#### **Purpose**

“The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.”

#### **Brief History**

- July of 1950
  - AA’s 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and first international conference –
  - Twelve Traditions adopted
  - Dr. Bob’s last address.
- November of 1950 - Dr. Bob dies.
- April 1951
  - first AA General Service Conference – First Delegates attended the conference from each of the areas.
  - Bill W’s last public address.
  - Start of Panel 1
  - Alcoholic Foundation renamed the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
  - Conference officially takes over from the founders.
- April 1955 First Conference Charter Adopted
- April 1952 start of Panel 2
- April 1962 – 12 Concepts adopted.

**Upside Down Triangle** – AAWS, the Grapevine, etc. work for the groups



## **Sources of Agenda Items**

- The final agenda of the conference consists of items suggested by
  - AA Members
  - Groups
  - Delegates
  - Trustees
  - Area assemblies
  - Area committee members
  - Directors
  - Staff member of AA World Services and AA Grapevine

## **Channels**

- If a GSR has an idea, he or she will discuss it first with the group, then the district or area meeting, which can then forward it to a staff member at GSO servicing as the Conference coordinator
- An AA who is not part of the General Service Structure can give the idea to the group's GSR or write directly to the Conference coordinator.
- The AA Staff studies it considering the previous Conference actions then passes it along to the Trustees' Conference committee.

- The Trustees' Conference committee determines the most appropriate way of programming it.
  - Workshop or presentation subject
  - A proposal
  - A committee concern

### **Conference Membership – Voting Members**

- Area Delegates from 93 Areas in US and Canada (2/3 of conference body)
- The Directors and the Staff of AA World Services and Grapevine Inc.
- General Service Board - The 7 Class A (Non-alcoholic) and 14 Class B trustees (Recovering Alcoholics).

### **The Voting Process**

- Conference committee reports and recommendations
- The Conference can accept or refuse the recommendations
- The Conference strives for substantial unanimity (2/3 majority)
- The Conference also considers the Minority Opinion and sometimes a re-vote takes place.

### **Advisory Actions**

- Recommendations of the Conference committees or floor actions that have been approved with substantial unanimity. Once these are approved by the General Service Board they become binding.

### **The Conference Committees – Every Delegate is assigned to one of these committees**

- Agenda – Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; considers proposed Conference themes, presentation/discussion topics and Conference Evaluation. Our Panel 63 delegate Padee M was on this committee.
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities at Trustee Level)

- Corrections
- Finance (Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee) – Our current delegate Joann L. is on this committee.
- Grapevine (meets jointly with members of the Grapevine Corporate Board. Also, cover La Viña) Our Panel 65 delegate, Raymundo L., was on this committee.
- Literature (In area 6 Grapevine and Literature are combined)
- Policy/Admissions (no corresponding trustees' committee) - Responsible for matters of policy pertaining to the Conference itself and for reviewing all requests for admissions to the annual meeting of the General Service Conference
- Public Information
- Report and Charter (no corresponding trustees' committee) - Responsible for The A.A. Service Manual, the Final Conference Report, and the A.A. directories.
- Treatment/Special Needs, Accessibilities (Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities at Trustee Level) - Coordinates the work of individual A.A. members and groups who carry the A.A. message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and sets up means of bridging the gap from treatment to A.A. In addition, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups endeavoring to ensure that those with special needs have access to the A.A. message.
- Trustees (Trustee's Nominating Committee)

#### Agenda Topics Potential Outcomes

- Study the matter further.
- No action recommended.
- Create new literature
- Revise existing literature
- Change wording in AA Literature
- Discontinue certain literature (pamphlets, books, etc.)
- Revise AA Guidelines