

A GRAPEVINE MILESTONE REPORT

AA At Work

Question

WHAT IS the General Service Conference supposed to do when it meets each year?

Answer

THE CONFERENCE acts as a two-way exchange of information and guidance between AA's far-flung local groups and its worldwide service and publishing centers in New York.

Question

WHAT DID the Conference do this year?

Answer

IT HEARD 16 separate reports on the work of the past year—from General Service Headquarters, AA Publishing, the AA Grapevine, the Trustees of the General Service Board; and from the Committees on Policy, Public Information, Literature, and Finance and Budget which carry out Conference decisions and recommendations between Conferences. . . .

IT FORMED 8 working committees to meet during the Conference, consider various problems and ideas, and recommend action to the Conference as a whole, for tasks to be accomplished during the coming

THE AA GRAPEVINE

AN INCREASE IN PRICE to 35¢ per copy and a larger magazine (64 pages) received unanimous endorsement by the Conference, after full prior discussion and approval of the Policy Committee, the Finance and Budgetary Committee, and the Trustees of the General Service Board. Complete information for all subscribers and readers appears on the inside back cover. These changes are effective with the July issue.

THE EDITORS

year—committees on: the Conference Agenda, Admissions to the Conference, the Conference Report and Charter, Finance, the Grapevine, Literature, Policy, and Trustees. . . .

IT SAW a "printer's copy" of Bill W.'s forthcoming book, "AA Comes of Age," and heard Bill's report on the final stages of this work which, he anticipates, will not only "set the record straight on AA's early days," but will also serve to "explain and interpret the Third Legacy to the average AA member who has already benefited—unknowingly—from that Legacy." Bill also told the Conference of his nearly-completed work in helping to prepare a network television documentary on Alcoholics Anonymous, as projected at last year's Conference.

IT DISCUSSED area problems and experiences in such matters as local public relations, AA clubhouses, and cooperation with outside agencies—in one "delegates only" session and in a panel conducted entirely by delegates. . . .

IT ASKED, and received specific an-

swers to, some 40 questions placed by delegates in the "Ask-It Basket" regarding the affairs of AA's three service arms, area problems, and other matters....

IT VOTED—either through endorsement of a committee recommendation or approval of suggestions voiced by individuals—13 separate matters for action during the coming year....

IT VISITED (in appreciable numbers) the offices of General Service Headquarters, AA Publishing, and the Grapevine; inspected records and procedures; got acquainted with some of the total of 37 people who carry on the day-to-day work of these three agencies. . . .

AND IT WENT HOME—after listening to Bill on Sunday and closing the meeting with the Lord's Prayer—to carry the message of the Conference to local groups in the 48 United States, the 7 Canadian Provinces, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, from which they had gathered to discharge their responsibility to AA as a whole.

(Ed. note—for details of Conference actions and reports, see the "boxed" items scattered throughout this issue, as well as "Conference Highlights" which is mailed to all groups by GSH. For complete details, "Final Report on the Conference" is available from GSH for a dollar.)

ABOUT AA PUBLISHING, INC.

total books shipped in 1956	30,654
total pamphlets shipped in 1956	602,536
total wallet cards shipped in 1956	199,427

MISCELLANEOUS CONFERENCE ACTIONS

- a proposal for a leather-bound gift edition of the Big Book—tabled at the 1956 Conference—was not approved, after discussion indicated widespread disagreement. . .
- General Service Headquarters was directed to designate Thanksgiving Week as "AA Gratitude Week..."
- after discussion at two Conference sessions, delegates postponed consideration of a change in the present ratio on the General Service Board of 7 alcoholic and 8 non-alcoholic trustees . . .
- a suggestion of the Finance and Budgetary Committee that individual contributions to General Service Headquarters be limited to \$100 was approved . . . (*Note: all contributions from non-members are returned to the donors.*)
- in response to an "Ask-it Basket" question the delegates decided unanimously that detailed personal information regarding the salaries of AA staff members be disclosed privately to any delegate on request, rather than announced in full Conference session. It was emphasized that all pertinent financial data pertaining to Headquarters and other matters are open to individual inspection by delegates.
- GSH was asked to assist delegates and area committeemen in carrying the message of AA's worldwide services by: providing delegates with a summary of General Services Headquarters services and expenditures—so that they can give a copy to all committeemen and group secretaries.
- preparation by GSH of two new pamphlets was approved, tentatively entitled: "What Kind of An Old Timer Are You?" and "Your 199-999 Partners in AA."
- GSH was also requested to include a story in the "Exchange Bulletin" about misuse of the AA World Directory, re-defining its AA purposes.

NEW TRUSTEES NAMED

Two NEW NON-ALCOHOLIC TRUSTEES were named to serve on the General Service Board by the General Service Conference: Professor Harrison M. Trice, Assistant Professor, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, and Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, psychiatrist, to replace Jack Alexander and Frank B. Amos, resigned.

Three vacancies among the alcoholic members of the Board also were filled: Charles B. of Vancouver and John Park L. of Philadelphia, replacing area trustees Adam C. of Toronto and Cliff W. of Los Angeles, whose four-year terms have expired; and General Service trustee Richard S., Baldwin, L. I., replacing Sigurd S., Scarsdale, N. Y., resigned.