

71st GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Quick reference

AGENDA

- A. 73rd GSC Theme will be "A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service."
- B. Presentation Topics:
 1. How do A.A.s go to any lengths to Recover, Unify, and Serve?
 2. Going Beyond Fear
 3. How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere
- C. Workshop Topic: Inform – The Warrantees – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

Recommended (3):

1. That the goals expressed in the 2018 Advisory Action establishing a dynamic A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be implemented by G.S.O., to provide current and relevant content about A.A. to professionals in accordance with A.A. principles and Traditions; and that a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of implementing these updates on the A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. **Passed**
2. That the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee Cooperation with the Professional Community. **Passed**
3. That the updated draft pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved with minor editorial changes and retitled "Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous." **Passed**
- 4.

CORRECTIONS

Recommended:

Revisions to A.A.W.S literature directed to members behind the walls and to replace the terms, "inmate" and "offender" with "persons in custody" **PASSED**

FINANCE

Recommended:

The committee recommended the addition of a watermark to the 2nd and 3rd pie charts with the word "SAMPLE" on page 13 of the pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix." **PASSED**

The committee recommended adding the following language to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" as follows:

On page 7 after the bulleted section entitled "A.A.'s General Service Office":

Please note that not all areas, districts, intergroups and central offices follow these divisions of service for institutions work, cooperation with the professional community, public information, etc. Therefore, prior to making contributions in your area, please find out which entity is providing these services and allocate your contributions accordingly.

On page 13 after the pie chart examples and before the question, "Where should I send contributions?" *Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.* **PASSED**

GRAPEVINE

Recommended:

That the AA grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and requested that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on GV/LV. **PASSED**

Committee Considerations:

Change language first sentence of preamble. **TOOK NO ACTION (see Floor Actions)**

LITERATURE

Recommended:

- A. The committee recommended that the "A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format," approved by the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board of Directors in January 2020, be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference. **PASSED**
- B. The committee recommended that a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' and the Appendices remain as is," and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. **PASSED**
- C. The committee recommended that, pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V. **PASSED**

D. The committee recommended a revision to page 117 in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

"Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..."

Be revised to read:

"Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..." **PASSED**

E. The committee recommended that the sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change. **PASSED**

F. The committee recommended that the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group... Where it All Begins,” be revised to omit the line on page 13, “Non alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers,” **FAILED**

G. The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. **PASSED**

H. The committee recommended that the draft update of the pamphlet, “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” be approved with the title, “Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” **PASSED**

I. The committee recommended not to retire the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” **PASSED**

J. The committee recommended that the Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is. **PASSED**

K. The committee recommended that a Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. **PASSED**

L. The committee recommended that the pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” be revised on by omitting the text on page 17 “...including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served,” as follows: The line on page 17 currently reads:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served.” Be revised to read:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses.” **PASSED**

M. The committee recommended that the paragraph containing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex on page 12 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised as follows: The paragraph on page 12 currently reads: In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” Be revised to read: **PASSED**

A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided whenever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and sponsee. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” **PASSED**

N. The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A. be approved. **PASSED**

O. The committee recommended that a draft version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. **PASSED**

POLICY / ADMISSIONS

Recommended:

- A. The committee recommended that the procedure for floor actions which is currently as follows:

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference *decline* to consider the floor action. A motion to decline to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment
- Requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Requires a two-thirds majority

Be changed to:

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference *consider* the floor action. A motion to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment
- Requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Requires a simple majority **Failed**

- B. The committee recommended that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee make use of virtual meeting technologies to develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process. **PASSED**
- C. The committee recommended that the Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 trustees' General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial. **PASSED**
- D. The committee recommended that the U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997

Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings."

- E. The committee recommended that the General Service Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Recommended:

- A. The committee recommended that in keeping with the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates," the video PSA utilizing full face actors "Party" (working title) be approved with the following revisions: That the voiceover "scratch tracks" be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production. **PASSED**
- The committee recommended that in keeping with the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates," the video PSA utilizing full face actors "Wall" (working title) be approved with the following revisions: That the voiceover "scratch tracks" be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production. **PASSED**
- The committee recommended that in addition to the work of local committees, one to two PSAs be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$60,000, and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information. **PASSED**
- The committee recommended that a feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms including, but not limited to, Netflix, Hulu, and YouTube be conducted and that a report on the research be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information. **PASSED**
- B. The committee recommended that podcasts providing sharing within the Fellowship and information about A.A. to the public be produced and distributed by G.S.O. in cooperation with the Grapevine Office. The committee requested that a progress report on the development and implementation of podcasts be forwarded to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information. **PASSED**
- C. The committee recommended that the trustees' Public Information Committee revise the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to diverse public audiences in non-A.A. settings and include a section on media training/press interviews, and

that a draft or progress report on the revision be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information. **PASSED**

- D. The committee recommended that the trustees' Public Information Committee revise the flyer "A Message to Teenagers" to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to young people. In addition to revisions to language in the twelve questions and updated graphics, the committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee provide suggestions on what the best format would be to present information contained in the flyer. **PASSED**

REPORT AND CHARTER

Recommended:

- A. The committee recommended that the compilation and printing of the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be discontinued **PASSED**
- B. The committee recommended that the revised manuscript distributed to all Conference members in April 2021 with the inclusion of the Original Conference Charter be approved as the 2021-2023 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service* **PASSED**
- C. The Committee recommended that paragraph one, the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, found in the Appendices of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, which currently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions

and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous. **PASSED**

- D. The committee recommended that a new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments," and that it contains an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. **PASSED**

E.

TREATMENT/ACCESSIBILITIES (my committee)

Recommended:

- A. The committee recommended that the following audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces, developed by the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities, be approved and posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. website Male – Navy Captain, Female – Air Force pilot, Male – Army Combat Medic **PASSED**

Committee Considerations:

Gather more audio military interviews from as broad a cross-section of A.A. members in active military duty as possible, including members of the Canadian Armed Forces and native Spanish- and French-speaking members.

The committee reviewed the progress report on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic" and requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

TRUSTEES

- A. Recommended: the approval of the slate of trustees and officers for GSB, (C) A.A.W.S., Inc. Board, (D) Grapevine Board, and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Board. **PASSED**

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

Class A Trustees

Molly Anderson
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Linda Chezem, J.D.
Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.
Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM
Nancy McCarthy
Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA

Class B Trustees

Beau B.
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Kathi F.
Francis G.
Tom H.
Deborah K.
Trish L.
Jan L.
Mike L.
Paz P.
Marita H. R.
Irma V. N.

ARCHIVES

No Recommendations

INT'L. CONVENTIONS / REGIONAL FORUMS

No Recommendations

AAWS / Grapevine & La Vina

AAWS Highlights

7th Tradition - \$10.26M, set another record, up 15.8% from \$8.86M in 2019. (on-line contributions more than doubled)

Cost of services- %10.81 million, down 14.9% from \$12.7M in 2019.

AAWS publishing gross-profits - \$6.58M down 29.7% from \$9.36M in 2019, used to cover \$550K shortfall

between 7th Tradition contributions and cost of services.

Self-Support covered 94.9% of the cost of services compared to 69.8% in 2019.

Grapevine Financial Highlights

Print subscriptions decreased by 4.5%, on-line and mobile app subscriptions increased by 7.7%

Net loss \$299K in 2020

La Vina magazine circulation decreased by 36.6%

Genera Fund support of La Vina service activity was \$385K in 2020 compared to \$297K in 2019.

Reserve Fund stands at 7.9 months of operations.

FLOOR ACTIONS

#1: It was recommended that:

The Original "Ad Hoc Committee Progress Report - Google Grants and the 7th Tradition," from the trustees' Finance Committee, dated March 30, 2020, be immediately released to all members of the 71st General Service Conference. We feel strongly that this information is indispensable for the purposes of looking at the Google Grants through the lens of our AA Principles.

Passed

#2: It was recommended that:

The A.A. Preamble be changed from:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

To:

In Alcoholics Anonymous we share our experience, strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. **Passed**

#3: It was recommended that:

The first sentence of the A.A. Preamble be revised with gender-neutral language by replacing the words

"men and women" with the word "people" to read: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."

Revision:

The first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as it currently reads:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."

Be revised to read:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."

Passed

#4: WITHDRAWN

#5: It was recommended that:

That the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" be updated to include language that is both respectful and inclusive of all Indigenous peoples as well as add fresh stories and updating inaccuracies contained in the current pamphlet and that a draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. **Passed**

#6: It was recommended that:

The Preamble revision described in the third floor action of the 71st GSC as the new revised A.A Preamble be presented to the General Service Board for approval. **Passed**

NOTE:

The above Advisory Actions have yet to be confirmed by the General Service board, at their annual meeting, which is usually held the Saturday immediately after the Conference. Since the Conference this year did not actually end until 2am Sunday morning, this meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday May 1st, 2021.