

Pacific Regional Trustee Report October/November 2021 Board Weekend

Greetings, Pacific Region!

We had our first General Service Board Hybrid Weekend. This was very successful and allowed Staff and Board members an opportunity to meet in person as well as virtually. One idea that made its way to the weekend was green, yellow, and red stickers. We put red on if we wished for others to stay at least 6 feet away, yellow for elbow bumps are good and green for ok with hugs. This allowed everyone to indicate their comfort level without having to tell people over and over.

Over the past 2 years we have been able to do what we are tasked to do through virtual technology; however, the united efforts and connectedness was somewhat lacking, as the hallway, dinner and between meeting conversations were absent. One drunk talking to another is important at all levels, and so this board weekend brought much needed intimacy and deep conversations. The spiritual connection was felt and expressed in our town hall style meeting General Sharing Session. These conversations will most definitely lead to better serve the fellowship.

A couple of fun stories from the weekend: We learned that someone has named Sister Judith Ann Karam, Class A Trustee, “Nun” Alcoholic as a play on Non-Alcoholic. And our Board Chair, Linda Chezem, Judge, asked us to raise our right hands at one point, rather than raise your hand during a vote. Linda and all of us had a wonderful belly laugh.

A.A. World Services

Corrections

The new Corrections Correspondence System (C.C.S.) launched September 28, 2021. The new C.C.S. provides an expedient process whereby we can match volunteers and persons in custody automatically and manually, obtain statistics and reports, and generate personalized letters that can be sent via email to outside A.A. members and via postal mail to persons in custody. Since the launch, 267 were paired that for a myriad of reasons had been sitting in the old system.

The director of Staff Services expressed her joy in seeing the excitement of the director of Technology Services, a non-AA member, in their shared work on the new system – a great example of where technology and spirituality mix.

Phase two will focus on added features and increased functionality.

Regional Forums

This assignment is in the final planning stages for the Virtual East Central Regional Forum, November 19-21, 2021. This will be the fourth and final virtual Regional Forum for 2021. Forums in 2022 will return to in-person settings and may include a virtual component.

GSO

- The General Service Office employees are back at 475 Riverside Drive. On average, about 32 employees are working from the office each day during the workweek. Due to individual circumstances, some employees continue to work from home during the transition period to a full return to the workplace with hybrid schedules.
- The general manager attended his first A.A.W.S. Strategic Planning Session September 20, bringing forth goals to carry out office wide. The central theme of the goals is rooted in the development of “Service Standards” that will address how services are delivered. Emphasis will be placed on prompt response times, answering and routing calls and emails and in-depth training of the Fellowship. One goal is to continue expanding the native functions offered by NetSuite. Another is to address ongoing issues of translation. These issues are not solely focused on the growing translation needs surrounding the General Service Conference but the number of translation requests throughout the office as well. A working group will begin to look at possible solutions for the strain this puts on our resources.
- The 10th Sub-Saharan African Service Meeting (SSASM) was held virtually September 24-26. The chair of the SSASM gave thanks to G.S.O. of US/Canada and G.S.O. of Great Britain, who made the meeting possible through their funding. During the meeting, the International staff member received an email from someone in Namibia pleading for help to stop drinking. After sending a message through the meeting chat within 20 minutes, the delegate in Namibia reached out to help that individual. How far the hand of A.A. reaches – A.A. is the same no matter where you go.
- At the end of September, the entire workforce celebrated the retirement of Clement C., senior manager of Communication Services effective October 1, 2021.
- Applicants are being sought for a director of Communication Services.
- Operations:

Fellowship Connection Release 3.0 launched on October 14, 2021. The following enhancements requested by the end-users during sharing sessions were included in the FC 3.0 release:

- New, user-friendly Dashboard
- Ability to automatically provide end dates to outgoing position holders
- Ability for area registrars to see when the service kits were ordered
- Ability to choose to receive digital or physical kits or to opt out of receiving any kits

The last phase of Release 3.0 is to provide area registrars the option to bulk upload information to Fellowship Connection. We are diligently working with our RSM consulting partners to bring this to fruition before the end of fiscal year 2021. The next quarterly sharing session with area registrars is scheduled November 3.

- Member Services (memberservices@aa.org). As of October 20, the department received and responded to 9,850 emails. As of September 30, the team received about 1,000 phone calls. Since the launch of Fellowship Connection December 14, 2020, area registrars made 13,375 updates directly into the portal; the Member Services associates made 8,490 Area and Group updates in NetSuite.
- Recruitment for the new department continues with the goal to be fully staffed by November 15. Recruitment has begun to fill the receptionist position.
- Update Supply chain, paper, print and delivery disruptions 2021 – 2022: Members and IGCOs were notified the disruptions and delays are expected to continue. This is an industry-wide, world-wide issue. Our Production and Member Services teams are actively addressing in myriad ways. Contact Member Services for help in ordering.
 - Email: memberservices@aa.org
 - Phone: 212-870-3023
- A customer outreach initiative to improve the accuracy of meeting listings was carried out. The upgrade, App v.3.8.21, includes:
 - New features: a new news visual indicator, sharing of daily Quote or News item via email or text message, inclusion of meeting information when contacting entities.
 - Inclusion of the relevant meeting name into emails that are sent to entities from a meeting detail contact screen (this was requested from our entities).
 - Code update to address sporadic Location issues caused by an update to Google Play Store.
 - Google Analytics code added – this will provide App usage statistics.
- New website scheduled to launch in mid-December

AA Grapevine

- The AA message is certainly seeing growth in where and how it is carried. Additional outreach via Instagram and our new Podcast have generated fantastic traffic increases to both website and store.
 - 5200 people have listened to the Podcast. The Instagram account for AA Grapevine has 4,752 follows as of today and has had 110,000 impressions to date. La Vina's Instagram has just over 500 followers and is trending interestingly at about 10% of the English version which is comparable to what we see in print and online.
- Website traffic increased by 20,000 new users since July and is holding at over 72,000 as of September. Store traffic increased from 7,893 to 10,424, to 15,064 over July into August into September.
- Outreach through our partner Ingram has added \$122,283.88 YTD sales in physical and digital books.

- Prayer and Meditation is proving to be a popular success. We have sold 4,079 at our online store and 757 through Ingram.
- Thanks to the fantastic cooperation of the Corrections Desk and Grapevine Staff we are now directly receiving the list of inmates who have reached out for help from A.A. and can report that we are officially at a deficit of carry the message subscriptions. We received a list of over 2000 requests from the Corrections desk and have only 1,200 English Carry the Message Grapevine Subscriptions and 401 La Vina subscriptions in the pool. So please report out to those that contributed their subscriptions are making it to prisoners and the need for more is real.
- Approved a request from Chile to print and distribute the Language of the Heart and Best of Bill. Approved a request from Columbia to reproduce and distribute Happy, Joyous and Free and One Big Tent. Approved a request from Latvia to translate Young & Sober and Voices of Women in A.A.

AA Grapevine, Inc. Financial Report

Grapevine

	September 2021 Actual YTD	September 2021 Budget YTD	Variance Actual vs Budget	September 2020 Actual YTD	Variance 2021 vs. 2020
<u>Circulation</u>					
GVMagazine	56,871	60,725	(3,854)	64,239	(7,368)
GVComplete	5,300	5,299	(1)	3,398	1,902
GV ePub	3,803	1,633	2,170	1,345	2,458
Total Circulation	65,975	67,658	1,683	68,982	(3,008)

	September 2021 Actual YTD	September 2021 Budget YTD	Variance Actual vs Budget	September 2020 Actual YTD	Variance 2021 vs. 2020
<u>Financial Activity</u>					
Net Magazine	942,022	850,827	91,196	946,031	(4,008)
Net Other Publishing Items	356,387	224,939	131,448	251,931	104,456
Miscellaneous Income	180,011	-	180,011	32,645	147,365
Reserve Fund Interest	22,500	22,500	-	-	22,500
Total Income	1,500,920	1,098,265	402,655	1,230,607	270,313

	September 2021 Actual YTD	September 2021 Budget YTD	Variance Actual vs Budget	September 2020 Actual YTD	Variance 2021 vs. 2020
Editorial	644,073	668,706	(24,633)	649,066	(4,992)
Circulation & Business	571,836	589,235	(17,399)	753,216	(181,381)
General & Administrative	5,194	78,509	(73,315)	48,535	(43,341)
Total Cost & Expenses	1,221,103	1,336,450	(115,347)	1,450,817	(229,715)
Net Income	279,817	(238,185)	518,002	(220,210)	500,027

La Viña

	September 2021 Actual YTD	September 2021 Budget YTD	Variance Actual vs Budget	September 2020 Actual YTD	Variance 2021 vs. 2020
<u>Circulation</u>					
LVMagazine	6,298	5,675	623	7,500	(1,201)
LVComplete	9	-	5	-	9
LV ePub	85	-	88	-	85
Total Circulation	6,392	5,675	717	7,500	(1,108)

	September 2021 Actual YTD	September 2021 Budget YTD	Variance Actual vs Budget	September 2020 Actual YTD	Variance 2021 vs. 2020
<u>Financial Activity</u>					
Net Magazine	36,589	10,490	(26,099)	31,271	5,318
Net Other Publishing Items	12,212	9,158	(3,054)	23,661	(11,449)
Total Income	48,801	19,647	29,154	54,932	(6,130)

	September 2021 Actual YTD	September 2021 Budget YTD	Variance Actual vs Budget	September 2020 Actual YTD	Variance 2021 vs. 2020
Editorial	183,814	189,931	(6,117)	177,676	6,139
Circulation & Business	125,007	115,151	9,856	142,233	(17,226)
General and Administrative	-	3,080	(3,080)	4,670	(4,670)
Total Cost & Expenses	308,821	308,162	660	324,579	(15,758)
Contribution GSB	260,021	288,515	(28,494)	-	260,021
Net Income	-	-	-)	(269,648)	269,648

Trustee Committees

General Service Conference

- The committee agreed that the Conference week schedule will be based on the most recent in-person Conference week schedule, which was 2019, without major overhauls. The committee supports continuing discussion by the Subcommittee on Conference Improvements to explore ways to begin Conference-wide business sooner and make use of virtual technologies where helpful at the in-person gathering.
- The committee noted that October conference calls were conducted this year to fulfill the purpose of receiving delegate perspectives on proposed agenda items for the 2022 General Service Conference. The committee noted that the January conference call will still take place especially with Panel 72 delegates being available through rotation.
- 22 proposed agenda items came through this committee with 1 being forwarded to the GSC. Overall, there were 178 submitted proposed agenda items.

- Consider alternating G.S.C. between a virtual and face-to-face format: The committee reviewed the request to consider alternating the General Service Conference between a virtual and face-to-face format and took no action. The committee noted the importance of cost-saving approaches and supports ongoing ways to do so by using virtual technology wherever effective in the context of in-person Conferences which are topics being considered by the subcommittee on Conference Improvement.
- Discuss approval process for visitors to the Conference from other General Service Structures: The committee reviewed the proposed agenda item to discuss the approval process for visitors to the Conference from other General Service Structures and agreed to forward it to the 2022 General Service Conference.
- Several items came in regarding Online Meeting participation and virtual areas. We took no action, however we forwarded to the Sub-Committee looking at exploring participation by virtual groups to inform their discussions.

CPC

- The committee discussed and proposed the agenda item to consider creating a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. reach as many doctors as possible and agreed to forward this item to the 2022 General Service Conference.

Treatment

- "Bridging the Gap" draft pamphlet: The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet, "For Professionals: "Bridging the Gap" to Help Alcoholics." The committee agreed to continue reviewing the draft pamphlet and forward any considerations for revisions to the staff secretary by mid-December. The committee noted that the term "inmate" is used and requested that it be revised to the updated term of "person in custody."

Corrections

- The publishing director reported to the committee that a contract with JPay has been signed which will allow distribution – via tablets – of A.A. literature to correctional facilities. A contract has also been signed with Edovo (the premier software provider serving JPay and others like JPay). This latest development is a game changer in providing A.A. literature to the military as well as correctional facilities.
- Revision to inner-facing A.A.W.S. literature to replace "inmate" and "offender" with "person in custody": The committee discussed the update report and recommended that G.S.O.'s Executive Editor consider a "hard/soft" deadline with the goal of all of the relevant material being updated by year-end 2023. They requested that the Executive Editor provide an update report to the January 2022 meeting including inventory, dollar amounts, projections, and a timeline for completion.
- The committee discussed the request to reconsider using the language of "person in custody" to describe an inside A.A. member in A.A. literature and agreed to forward this item to the 2022 General Service Conference.

Finance

- G.S.O. financial results: The committee reviewed the G.S.O. unaudited financial results for September 30, 2021. Gross literature sales year to date are \$8,613,803 which is 76% of the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 and \$1,477,745 more than last year. September gross sales were \$746,519, the first time since June that monthly sales did not exceed \$1 million. Gross sales are averaging \$957,089 per month compared to a budget of \$950,000 per month. To meet the budget, monthly gross literature sales need to average \$928,732 over the last three months of the year.
- Contributions year to date are \$7,416,647, which is 74% of the 2021 budget of \$10,000,000 and \$293,439 more than this time last year. Contributions are averaging over \$824,072 per month compared to a budget of \$833,333 per month. Monthly contributions have declined from \$940,632 in July to \$762,965 in August to \$736,734 in September. To meet the budget, monthly contributions need to average \$861,118 over the last three months of the year.
- Total operating expense for the period ending September 30, 2021, is \$11,543,559 which is 73% of the budget amount of \$15,887,354 and \$512,887 less than last year. 2021 includes depreciation while 2020 does not. If depreciation is added to 2020, total operating expense in 2021 is \$652,671 less than last year. Payroll and benefits year to date are \$6,978,975, which is 73% of the budget amount of \$9,518,557 and \$567,919 less than last year.

The combination of the above revenues and expenses resulted in G.S.O. reporting a preliminary surplus of \$1,448,089. This compares to a budgeted surplus of \$747,312 and a deficit of \$612,104 at this time last year.

- Progress report on preliminary G.S.O. 2022 Budget: The 2022 budget process followed the model of the 2021 reforecast process where senior managers were asked to develop budgets for their functional areas with the guidance and support of the finance team. For 2022, G.S.O. Staff played an increased role by assuming primary responsibility for the development of budgets for their respective assignments, again with the support of finance. Now that senior managers and G.S.O. Staff have been integrated into the budget process, the next and final step toward making the budget a true group conscience is to integrate the A.A.W.S. and G.S.B. Boards into the process. The first iteration of the budget resulted in a deficit which must be closed. Toward this end, we are proposing special Board meetings devoted solely to the budget.
- Reserve Fund report: As of September 30, 2021, the Reserve Fund balance net of Grapevine subscription liability is \$12,806,277, which represents 8.48 months of G.S.O. and Grapevine expenses. (Target is 9-12 months.) The balance includes the \$250,000 the G.S.B. voted in July to transfer to the Reserve Fund. We are currently in a multi-year process of transferring the funds of the Reserve Fund from one bank to another. Since most of our funds are in CDARs we are transferring the money as CDARs mature.

- The committee also discussed the Self-Support Card and the inconsistent language regarding making contributions to G.S.O. (General Service Office) when it should be made to G.S.B. (General Service Board). The committee discussed using references to G.S.O. contributions, noting that G.S.O. might be what resonates with the Fellowship. The committee noted that the Self-Support card is reviewed every year by the Conference Finance Committee, as part of the self-support package. The trustees' Finance Committee voted to request that the A.A.W.S. self-support subcommittee draft a communication to the 2022 Conference Committee on Finance suggesting a review for inconsistencies in our literature regarding to whom contributions are sent in the self-support packet.
- New Business: Josh E., chair of AA Grapevine sent a request to the trustees' Finance Committee to form an ad hoc committee to explore the appropriate approach to discuss compensation to the GV for intellectual property and discuss other shared services between the corporate Boards. Due to lack of resources and not wanting to add more work to staff, the chair will add this topic to future committee meetings.

International

- REDELA zonal meeting (Meeting of the Americas): The committee discussed the report of the hybrid REDELA Meeting of the Americas held October 3-7, 2021. The committee noted the opportunity for REDELA countries and U.S./Canada to attend the hybrid meeting virtually who, without this platform, would not have been able to attend. Redela countries is so interested in Mujeres in AA-this will be so helpful in Spanish speaking countries
- Following a professional consultant report (see addendum) and committee discussion, the committee recommended that the General Service Board withdraw from coordinating the 27th World Service Meeting (WSM) Theme: "A.A. in the Digital Age" currently scheduled to be held October 1-7, 2022 in Tokyo Japan. The committee noted that based on the continued unpredictability of the pandemic and financial concerns the General Service Board would be unable to support a physical destination/hybrid meeting.
- Following a professional consultant report (see addendum) and committee discussion, the committee recommended that the General Service Board propose to the 27th World Service Meeting (WSM) that the General Service Office U.S./Canada coordinate the 27th WSM (currently scheduled October 1-7, 2022 in Tokyo Japan) to be held virtually only and financed by WSM delegate fees and the WSM Fund.
- At the Peru GSC this prayer was said: "Conference Prayer: "God, grant me the serenity, courage and wisdom to keep this meeting safe, especially from ourselves".

International Conventions/Regional Forums

- It was noted that a slide in the Treasurer's report comparing contributions by region causes disunity. The Treasurer stated this slide will be removed from future presentations.

- Special Forum - North/South Connections: The committee considered the North/South Connections joint planning committee request to reschedule the December 11, 2021, event to until mid-year 2022; and recommended to the General Service Board that the North/South Connections Special Forum be rescheduled to 2022.
- It is planned that the survey will be dispatched in four separate time periods leading up to the International Convention: December 2021-March 2022; December 2022-March 2023; December 2023-March 2024; December 2024-March 2025. The survey will be dispatched to the U.S./Canada structure and International General Service Offices. It was also discussed that we want to be careful not to overinterpret the data and to make sure that we perform the same outreach at each junction (i.e., same distribution list). The committee discussed possible platforms and modalities for distribution of the survey, as well as announcing the survey. Suggestions included use of Regional Forums, Grapevine/La Viña, Box 4-5-9, aa.org and aagrapevine.org websites, regional trustees and World Service Meeting delegates as viable options for announcing the survey. The committee also discussed use of the Meeting Guide App, YouTube, and the possibility of an early International Convention website that can also be used to provide information (i.e., border crossing) in addition to the survey.
- The committee reviewed an invitation from the board of Al-Anon Family Groups and recommended to the General Service Board that A.A. accept the invitation to participate in Al-Anon's International Convention to be held June 29-July 2, 2023, in Albuquerque, New Mexico in a similar fashion to A.A.'s participation in Al-Anon's 2018 International Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, with a possible hybrid component.

Literature

- Review progress report regarding draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in Living Sober and "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship": The committee reviewed the progress report and requested that the sentence on page 76 that currently reads: "Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A." be revised to read: "Problems found in the world can also make their way into A.A." The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report with the requested revision.
- Review progress report regarding development of a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report regarding the development of a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.
- Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "Twelve Steps Illustrated.": The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the pamphlet "Twelve Steps Illustrated."
- Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "Twelve Concepts Illustrated.": The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the pamphlet "Twelve Concepts Illustrated."

- Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
- Review progress report regarding pamphlet “Young People in A.A.”: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report regarding the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.”
- Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic”: The committee reviewed the working group progress report including plans to reach a broad participation from the target audiences. To support efforts to expand ways to submit stories, the committee requested that the secretary seek input from the Grapevine Editor on ways to accept online and audio story submissions. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the January 2022 meeting.
- Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American”: The committee reviewed the progress report. The committee requested that Carolyn Walsh and Marita Rhinehart compile a list of A.A. members from the target populations who may serve on a future related project. Trustees' Literature Committee members with contacts in the target populations were also asked to submit names to Carolyn and Marita. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the January 2022 meeting.
- Review progress report regarding development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*: The committee reviewed the working group progress report. To support efforts to expand ways to submit stories, the committee requested the secretary seek input from La Viña editor on ways to use online or audio story submissions. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report that includes a list of upcoming Hispanic events as well as potential outreach efforts at Spanish linguistic districts and Central Offices at the January 2022 meeting.
- Review progress report regarding a version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition), translated into plain and simple language which is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible: The committee reviewed the subcommittee progress report including the development of a plan for consultation and oversight which will be updated at the next meeting. The committee also received a verbal update from the Publishing department regarding ongoing work with the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee on recruiting from a wide pool of plain-language professionals for this project. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the January 2022 meeting. Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A.: The committee discussed the work done by the TABB subcommittee related to workbooks and looks forward to a progress report at the January 2022 meeting.

- Review progress report regarding development of a draft Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous: The committee discussed the work of the subcommittee, including the preliminary timeline that is being developed by the subcommittee. In anticipation of the call out for stories, the committee requested that the secretary seek input from the Grapevine editor on ways to use online and audio story submissions forms. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the January 2022 meeting.
- The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the draft update of the pamphlet, "Is A.A. for You?"
- The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the draft update of the pamphlet, "This is A.A."
- The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the draft update of the pamphlet, "Is there an Alcoholic in Your Life?"
- The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the draft update of the pamphlet, "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A."
- Consider a request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole": The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to include a GSR preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole."
- Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship: The trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship.
- Consider request to revise the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group" to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to revise the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group" to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.
- Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group": The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group."
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: The committee discussed several proposed agenda items, listed below, regarding requests to rescind changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, based upon the Advisory Actions of the 71st General Service Conference, and took no action. Rather, the trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward the following agenda item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature: "The trustees' Literature Committee requests that the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature discuss changes to the text of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions directed by the 71st General Service Conference.

- Consider request that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the chapter titled: “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous the chapter titled: “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939.
- Consider request to restore the original page numbering of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, by making "The Doctor’s Opinion" page one, not "Bill’s Story": The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to restore the original page numbering of the book Alcoholics Anonymous by making "The Doctor’s Opinion" page one, not "Bill’s Story."
- Consider request to add a disclaimer to the front of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to add a disclaimer to the front of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- Consider request to restore paragraph on the story “Freedom from Bondage” in the Fifth Edition of the Big Book and future printings of the Fourth Edition: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to restore paragraph on the story “Freedom from Bondage” in the Fifth Edition of the Big Book and future printings of the Fourth Edition.
- Consider request that all proposed changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request that all proposed changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes.
- Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Do you think you are different?": The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to revise the pamphlet “Do you think you are different?"
- Consider request to follow the 1995 advisory action regarding the first 164 pages of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and to update Appendices III and V after the existing text: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to follow the 1995 advisory action regarding the first 164 pages of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and to update Appendices III and V after the existing text.
- Discuss thoughts and concerns regarding A.A. literature changes: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 General Service Conference the proposed agenda item regarding thoughts and concerns regarding A.A. literature changes.

Nominating

- The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Clinton M. serve as Non-trustee Director on the A.A. World Services Corporate Board following the April 2022 General Service Conference.

- The committee recommended to the General Service Board that David S. serve as Non-trustee Director on the AA Grapevine Board following the April 2022 General Service Conference.
- The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Cathi C., East Central Regional Trustee serve as Trustee Director for two years on the A.A. World Services Corporate Board, following the April 2022 General Service Conference, to succeed Jimmy D., Southwest Regional Trustee.
- The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Tom H., Southeast Regional Trustee serve as Trustee Director for two years on the AA Grapevine Board, following the April 2022 General Service Conference, to succeed Francis G., Northeast Regional Trustee.
- The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Carolyn W. serve as General Service Trustee on the A.A. World Services Corporate Board following the April 2022 General Service Conference, to fill the vacancy that will be left by Beau B.
- The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Molly Anderson, Class A Trustee, serve on the AA Grapevine Board following the April 2022 General Service Conference, to fill the vacancy that will be left by Nancy McCarthy, Class A Trustee.
- Class A Trustee Search: The committee created a list of four (4) Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee candidates to invite to the January 2022 General Service Board weekend: Anadora Moss, Washington DC; Kerry Meyer, Minneapolis, MN; Jacob Smith, New York, NY; David Hart, San Diego, CA.

Public Information

- A.A.W.S. YouTube channel: The committee noted that two Spanish language YouTube videos, Alcohólicos Anónimos and Esperanza: Alcohólicos Anónimos were viewed a combined total of 10,752 times. The committee requested that the Communication Services department provide analytics about the countries that are viewing them. The committee requested that a quarterly analytics report is also provided about the AA Grapevine YouTube channel.
- G.S.O. podcast pilot episode: The committee discussed the podcast pilot episode and affirmed G.S.O. can effectively produce a professional sounding podcast and the episode outlined the beginnings of a framework for future theme-based episodes. The pilot episode used existing content material such as previous Box 4-5-9 articles and AA Grapevine audio story recordings. Improvements can be made to ensure that each episode is cohesive around particular themes. We can expand on regular consistent podcast segments, such as Archives, AA Grapevine News, What's New, G.S.O. rotation on each assignment, and even a Did You Know? segment, so that people will understand what to expect from the G.S.O. podcast. The committee requested that the staff secretary coordinate with team members across G.S.O. and AA Grapevine to create a full podcast plan that details information on production, timeline, delivery channels, guidelines, cost, and proposals of 6 to 12 episodes.

The plan to include the departments involved in producing a finished product and an outline of the analytics that could be collected to gauge the podcast success as a service tool. A full plan will be brought forward for review at the January 2022 meeting

- Progress report on two new PSAs and updates to audio PSAs: The committee discussed the post-production efforts of the two 2021 Conference-approved PSAs. The committee secretary reported that the target distribution date and press release is November 2021. The committee looks forward to a progress report on the broadcast distribution and tracking of the two PSAs at the January 2022 meeting.
- The committee also discussed the 2021 P.I. committee consideration that a PowerPoint presentation be developed for P.I. and C.P.C. committees for the purpose of providing shared experience on “how to” present about A.A. at non-A.A. events. The committee looks forward to a progress report on this effort from the staff secretary at the January 2022 meeting.
- A.A. Membership Survey: The committee discussed the final proposal engaging the professional survey methodologist, Dr. Alexandra Cooper, to conduct a focused review and analysis of the A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. The committee will participate in “A.A. Leadership” meetings with the methodologist in the fourth quarter. The staff secretary shared that the work has begun and a final report with findings and recommendations is planned to be provided at the January 2022 meeting.

General Service Board Sharing Session

Theme: What’s on Your Mind?

October 30, 2021

Regional Trustee Francis G. welcomed everyone to the first “hybrid” General Sharing Session. With Board Weekend attendees on a screen behind him and more attendees seated in front of him, Francis shared the history of the General Sharing Session, including how it used to be held in a “town meeting” format. As an experiment, the group agreed to try a return to that format, so Francis invited attendees to share “What’s on your mind?” He encouraged sharing on any topics people felt strongly about as well as any “elephants in the room.” With that he placed a toy elephant on the podium and invited the sharing to begin.

Our G.S.O. manager shared several questions that could benefit from wider sharing. These include: How can we manage the enormous workload on employees and trusted servants and still find some work/life balance? Considering current budget concerns, can we return to printing and mailing our newsletters rather than just relying on digital distribution? Similarly, how can we balance budget realities with wanting to make all our materials available in all three languages? A G.S.O. employee followed up on the topic of translation and the effect of having over 180 agenda item submissions, with many on a similar topic. The strain on resources could be helped by summarizing agenda items which many areas do to keep the volume of background more manageable. However, are we comfortable with that? Another member observed that translation is a complex matter that can’t be solved by software or outside agencies. The Conference has let us know they want everything translated into all three languages but right now the desire for translation has outpaced our ability.

A general service trustee wanted to bring several of the elephants together in one elephant pod. She noted that it took two full interim meetings plus the Board Weekend meeting to address all of the items on the trustees' Literature Committee agenda. Concept IX talks about flexibility, prudence, and vision. While hours are spent considering the background before meetings, it feels like lightning rounds on each item. Should we reimagine how we conduct our meetings? Maybe there are creative ways to allow more space for discussion, more room for vision. If there were more lines of communication with the Fellowship, perhaps there would be more conversations and fewer accusations. Can delegates use technology to communicate more frequently and more clearly that we are only doing what the Fellowship has asked us to do?

On the mind of a regional trustee is that there are many people who don't feel heard - as reflected in the number of agenda items received. She wants those members to know their items were received and carefully considered, even if it is not being forwarded to Conference. She wondered if she should pick up the phone and talk to the submitters, so they don't interpret "took no action" as not being heard and considered. Another trustee agreed that a phone call can make a difference. With a phone call you feel more included in the conversation.

A regional trustee observed that not everything needs a committee or subcommittee. Many things can be handled in a Zoom meeting or with an email. Also, while she respects all items submitted, as a trustee she has a mission statement to consider what is our best use of time and resources. What is best for the Fellowship?! She also expressed concern about attendance dropping off at service events in her region. How can we get back in touch with groups that went virtual? How can we find those GSRs and other trusted servants? What's our plan to rebuild after the pandemic?

A non-trustee director shared that we've been struggling to make everything just like it was - only on Zoom - but we're feeling disconnected, separate, apart. It's reflected in how many agenda items are from individuals rather than coming through a group conscience -- we're not connected like we used to be. Others agreed and have heard about members wanting to bypass their delegate with agenda items. A trustee-at-large shared that there are similar problems in other parts of the world: members disconnected from their groups, not enough board members or other volunteers. Half the number of members are participating in service. She feels the Conference should talk about finding a way through this, perhaps add a day onto the end of Conference or begin with this issue to set the tone. A general service trustee agreed that we need a reset, a time out. He feels we need time together that isn't structured around arguing about who's right and who's wrong. He would love to just hear from delegates, talk together, start over with the spirituality of why we come together. A G.S.O. employee concurred that because of technology we've lost our tempo and it has thrown us off. We talk about the power of pausing in A.A. and we need to find a way we can pause as a Fellowship. It's an uphill bike ride now but it won't be forever. We just have to keep pedaling, keep practicing.

A regional trustee shared that at the beginning of the pandemic every media outlet wanted to know what would happen to A.A. if we couldn't meet? What's proven to be true is what was written in a service piece we put out: A.A. is not a place. We've come through many times of great stress. A.A. was born during a terrible depression. We may have shrunk due to the

pandemic, but we know there is no shortage of alcoholism. We are probably exactly where we need to be in the time we find ourselves. A non-trustee director shared, "When I read A.A. history I see that our very best has come from our members! They may not all be as engaged as I am in the structure, but I have to set aside my alcoholic ego. It requires flexibility and an element of risk tolerance. How can we employ modern communications to carry the A.A. message? That problem is already being solved around the Fellowship. What is it in me that causes me to resist that? I suppose that's my elephant."

A G.S.O. employee shared that we are in a delicate place with the Preamble, but the hope is that our answers will graduate from "your group can do whatever it wants" to "here's the shared experience of why to have a genderless, ageless Preamble." A regional trustee shared, "An elephant doesn't forget. So, let's not forget where we came from, and that God is here... We just need to stay unified." Another trustee shared this experience: "This has been rough. My home group has been fractured twice. First over being on Zoom or not, then over electronic contributions. It hurts. That's my home... I learned how to love people and how to be loved in A.A. but it's been different since the pandemic. And I hear this regularly. It's like a snow globe after it's been shaken. One of the conditions that needs to take place before change can take place is dissatisfaction. We've seen it in the agenda item submissions. We're dialed into that dissatisfaction. Ready for change... I don't know a better time to have these conversations than right now. Those people who submitted those items love A.A. just as much as I do. A.A. is better when we're all working together rowing in the same direction."

Francis wrapped up the session by sharing, "I still have hope. What helps is interaction with other alcoholics. We need to include the people who feel slighted. We all need to have the opportunity to voice our position. We all want to be included in the process. I want to thank you all for helping A.A. during challenging times. But then, when were there not challenging times?! Let's close with the Serenity Prayer."

Yours in love and service,
Kathi F

Pacific Regional Trustee
cell: 520-906-9346
email: prtrustee@area03.org

