

72nd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE –

A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service

The Conference approved Advisory Actions; this is a quick reference for most of the actions.

AGENDA

1. 73rd GSC Theme will be “A.A.’s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution.”
2. Presentation Topics:
 - A. “Our Common Perils and Common Solution”
 - B. “Using A.A.’s Literature in Carrying the Message”
 - C. “Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture”
3. Workshop Topic:

“Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings.”

The committee requested that the General Service Board conduct an interactive sharing session at the 73rd General Service Conference on the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada service structure and include the following questions within the framework of the sharing session:

 - What are the successes and challenges at the group, district and area levels with respect to this topic?

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

no recommendations

- A. Review progress report on A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page.
 - a. An additional cadence strategy that increases the number of posts per month developed over the year.
 - b. A strategy of posting often, to increase the search result ranking.
 - c. Posts targeted to professionals on topics such as A.A. anonymity, Self-Support, cooperation without affiliation, and our public relations policy.
- B. Review suggested revisions for the draft pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community.” **a progress report or final draft pamphlet to the 2023 GSC**
- C. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlets for the mental health professionals. **a progress report or final draft pamphlet to the 2023 GSC**
- D. Consider creating a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. committees reach as many doctors as possible. **took no action**
- E. Review content and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
 - a. Develop a disclaimer that clarifies that the printed version of the items in the kit may not reflect the most up to date revisions on aa.org. Online versions will reflect the most updated versions.

- b. Include a list of changes of revised pamphlets and service materials based on the A.A.W.S. literature policy.
- c. Include experience from online, in-person and virtual C.P.C. events and activities.
- d. Use accessible formats for all digital devices.

CORRECTIONS

- A. Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook. **suggested that G.S.O. staff gather shared experience regarding online meetings in correctional facilities for addition to the Corrections Workbook.**
- B. Reconsider use of the term “person in custody” in A.A. literature. **took no action**
- C. Consider requests to limit changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous. **took no action**
- D. Discuss request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.’s primary purpose in mind. **took no action**

FINANCE

- A. Review Self-Support Packet. **no recommendations**
 - requested that the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee undertake a full review of the service items in the packet. The committee compiled a list of suggestions for the service material in order to provide language that is clear and consistent for the U.S. and Canada.
 - to clarify that although contributions are sent to the General Service Office, contributions are made to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”
- B. Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. **took no action**
- C. Consider request that all proposed changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes. **took no action**

GRAPEVINE

- A. Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions. **looks forward to having it available on the website, in English and Spanish**
- B. Review progress report on Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts. **Encouraged by content and growth**
- C. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2023 and later.
 - a. Best of Dear Grapevine
 - b. Book for Newcomers

- c. Best of La Viña II (working title) (La Vina book)
 - d. Prayer & Meditation (working title) (La Viña Book)
- D. Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our A.A. Fellowship. “The committee discussed the wide-ranging impact the AA Preamble change has had on the Fellowship. The committee felt that after careful consideration of Fellowship feedback, it would be premature to quantify the impact when many A.A. members are still either uninformed or ambivalent about the change. The committee emphasized that at every level of our Conference process there is a reciprocal responsibility of all A.A. members and trusted servants, of participation and communication, to embrace the guiding principles of trust and transparency.”

LITERATURE

- A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix. The committee reviewed the 2022 matrix of A.A. recovery literature. The committee agreed to follow up with the Publishing Department with suggestions regarding the usefulness and purpose of the recovery literature matrix and looks forward to reviewing the matrix at their meeting during the 2023 General Service Conference.
- B. Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
 - a. The committee recommended that the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised to add the following text regarding safety and A.A.:
 - b. In the section “For the person wanting to be a sponsor” (p. 14) under the heading “What does a sponsor do and not do?”:
 - c. Stresses the importance of A.A. being a safe place for all members and encourages members to become familiar with service material available from the General Service Office such as “Safety in A.A. – Our Common Welfare.”
 - d. In the section “For groups planning sponsorship activity” (p. 23), under the heading “How does sponsorship help a group?” add a fourth paragraph:
 - e. Sponsorship can also help a group to create a welcoming and secure environment. Safety is an issue affecting all members and it is important for groups to remain accessible to all who are seeking recovery. Sponsorship can help keep the group focused on the common welfare. The committee recommended that the booklet *Living Sober* be revised to add the following

paragraph regarding safety and A.A. in chapter 29, page 76:

- f. “Of course, A.A. is a reflection of the larger society around us and problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. But by keeping the focus on our common welfare and primary purpose, groups can help provide a safe and secure environment for all their members.”
- C. Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies. The committee reviewed a draft pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies and offered additional suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- D. Review draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.” **approved with minor editorial revisions.**
- E. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.” The committee recommended that the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adapted and produced by the Publishing department.
- F. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?” **be approved** The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- G. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.” The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- H. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
- I. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- J. Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- K. Review progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.

- L. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- M. Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A. The committee reviewed the Subcommittee Report on Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) and several requests for development of study guides from the Fellowship. The committee also reviewed the minutes of the discussions on this item by the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee noted that additional information would be needed in order to provide direction on these requests. The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee provide further information regarding the purpose of the proposals and examples of what Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions study guides would look like.
- N. Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- O. Discuss the existing version of the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated." **updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustrations**
- P. Discuss G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy:
 - A. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?" **approved**
 - B. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?" **approved**
 - C. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A." **approved**
 - D. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "This Is A.A." **approved**
- Q. Review progress report regarding strategy to make current literature accessible in all possible formats. The committee encourages the trustees' Literature Committee to continue in their efforts to make literature accessible in all formats and provided several suggestions for more e-literature and other accessible digital platforms, such as Liquid Mode PDF for mobile screens.
- R. Review progress report regarding Literature Committee workbook. The committee reviewed a draft of the Literature Committee workbook and noted

that the development of the workbook is moving in the right direction. The committee provided several suggestions regarding the length and content of the workbook and requested that a revised draft be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature for review. Discuss changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as directed by the 71st General Service Conference.

- S. Consider an update of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope*. The committee recommended that a second volume of the book Experience, Strength and Hope be developed with the stories dropped from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and that a progress report be brought to the Conference Committee on Literature once development of the publication is in progress. The committee discussed the changes to the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions resulting from advisory actions of the 71st General Service Conference and took no action. The committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level.
- R. Discuss changes to the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as directed by the 71st General Service Conference. The committee discussed the changes to the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions resulting from advisory actions of the 71st General Service Conference and took no action. The committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level.

POLICY / ADMISSIONS

- A. Review G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection. The committee reviewed the G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection, noting with appreciation the level of detail regarding specific sites considered. The committee requested that the next site selection report provide detail on the financial, logistical, and spiritual implications of holding the General Service Conference at other locations throughout the eight regions of the U.S./Canada service structure, perhaps in rotation with the New York City metropolitan area.
- B. Review dates for the 2026 General Service Conference. three proposed dates for the 76th General Service Conference. The committee selected

the following dates in order of preference for the 76th General Service Conference: April 26-May 2, 2026; April 19-25, 2026; and May 3-9, 2026.

- C. Discuss the procedure: "Process for Approving Observers to the Conference." Add procedure - To approve routine requests from qualified representatives of other A.A. service structures to observe the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.
- D. Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the G.S.C. between meetings. The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the General Service Conference between meetings and looks forward to continued development of the process.
- The committee reviewed the progress report from the trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups in the U.S. and Canada Service Structure and expressed appreciation for the ad hoc committee's work. Given the Fellowship's interest in this topic and a desire for accountability to the Conference, the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions requests a progress report be provided as part of their background material in advance of the 73rd General Service Conference.
- E. Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process. The committee recommended that the compilation of all Conference committee background be made available annually on or before February 15 in English, French, and Spanish.
- F. Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story "Freedom from Bondage" in the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recommended that the paragraph in the story "Freedom from Bondage" which was removed due to pagination issues from the Fourth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous be restored in all future printings and publications in which the story is included.
- G. Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship. **took no action** The committee felt that the topic of service sponsorship is well addressed in the current version of the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" and in the current A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Committee recommendation made pre-Conference:

The committee recommended that two persons from A.A. in Brazil, Maria do Carmo Angelin Inojosa Zanré and Ana Elisa Limeira, Board of Trustees "Class B," and one person from A.A. in Argentina, a trustee, be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference as

observers.

Note: This item was passed using the Conference Polling process

PUBLIC INFORMATION

A. Review the 2022 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed support for the vision and architecture and reported that this version of the CMP brings a practical and implementable plan into vision. The committee agrees it serves as an inventory of ongoing work and plans, a guideline for the General Service Office and AA Grapevine Office in their work, budgeting processes, and HR planning to effectively support A.A. members in carrying the message to all who suffer from alcoholism.

The committee offered the following suggestions for the next iteration of the CMP to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- Continue to focus on standardizing a unified stylistic approach in our messaging and media.
- Create a synopsis or executive summary of the CMP as the complete document is detailed.
- Now that we have a CMP that outlines many channels of work the committee requested the Trustees ensure we do not lose the work that is captured and avoid trying to branch off into too many directions and digital platforms.
- Consider the creation of a short video capturing how a Comprehensive Media Plan can be a helpful guidepost as we seek to use new and existing communication platforms, in keeping with our Traditions.
- The committee recognized that we are a Fellowship of varying technical abilities. The committee noted the importance of ensuring we are not leaving anyone with technical barriers behind.
- Include additional information in the CMP on how Alcoholics Anonymous can connect with the professional community.
- Use consistent A.A. language throughout the CMP versus more marketing or business terminology.

B. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

1. Review the distribution and tracking information for two video PSAs:

The committee encourages enhancing our future tracking and distribution to include comparison analytics to other non-profits with public service announcement distribution.

- i. "Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall"
- ii. "Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer

a Party.”

2. Review the 2022 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs.” The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.” The committee found the current Conference-approved PSAs to be relevant and useful. In assessing the need for a new video PSA, the committee did not see the need at this time.

C. Review a progress report and the G.S.O. Podcast Plan. The committee met with the Grapevine publisher, Communication Services staff, and Publishing staff who responded to key questions. The committee suggested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee, G.S.O. Communication Services Department, and A.A.W.S. Publishing Department in cooperation with the staff secretary, focus on proposal one, to consider moving in the direction of creating a G.S.O. Podcast using the AA Grapevine podcast experience.

The committee shared that the focus described in the 2021 Advisory Action, “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,” is on target and that G.S.O. can create episodes on many service-related discussion topics. The committee feels that the different topic focus will help avoid competing with the Grapevine Podcast. To support the successful continued development of the G.S.O. Podcast the committee offers the following suggestions and looks forward to a progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- Entrust G.S.O. to manage the podcast’s creation and adherence to A.A. principles to allow the seamless production of a regular series of episodes.
- Ask the trustees’ Public Information Committee to research the best methods for future podcast episodes to be completed in Spanish and French.
- Develop the methodology to invite participants in recorded sessions based on topics to include our trustees, staffs, and members in the episodes.
- Establish internal and external resources to support the production of the G.S.O. Podcast. It may be helpful to engage freelance support that brings experience on creative Podcast development and formatting.
- Implement analytics as described in the G.S.O. Podcast Plan to report annually to the Conference Committee on Public Information.

D. Review report on “YouTube Performance.”

The committee reviewed and accepted the trustees’ PI Committee report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account. The committee offered the

following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- Staff continue to update the A.A.W.S. YouTube account to maximize its effectiveness as a social media channel to carry the message to the alcoholic.
- Improve the ability to search and locate our A.A.W.S. YouTube channel as members have shared it is difficult to find and many are unaware that we have a YouTube channel.
- Consider adding more Spanish video content.

E. Review report on “Google Ads Performance.”

•The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 trustees’ Public Information Committee report on the Google Ads performance. The committee encouraged G.S.O. to develop an annual project calendar relating to Google Ads. The committee noted that the office should continuously optimize the Google Ads campaigns based on standard best practices in keeping with A.A. Traditions focusing on target audiences utilizing A.A. literature we currently have and that may be developed. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to the report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information:

The G.S.O. Communications Department in cooperation with the staff secretary should make the following updates to the campaigns to ensure improved campaign performance.

- Evaluate and experiment with ad targeting
- Creation of more and diverse content
- A/B test ad copy and design
- Add/remove keywords and negative keywords
- Change keyword match type
- Test multiple landing page options
- Approve/deny basic campaign suggestions provided by Google Ads
- Review analytics on messaging to ensure it is reaching the target audience
- Include keyword testing of AA Google Ads searches to ensure they are being made available to those seeking help with a drinking problem.

F. Review report on “Meeting Guide Performance.”

The committee looks forward to a report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee suggested that the Meeting Guide App keep its focus on providing information on locating A.A. meetings.

G. Review the “2021 Fourth Quarter Report on A.A.W.S. Board Oversight of G.S.O.’s A.A. website.” . The committee finds the website is easier to navigate and user-friendly. The committee suggested that G.S.O. continue to improve our search engine optimization, setting priorities and reasonable goals to

move forward.

H. Review report on “AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast.” The committee finds recent modernization of the Grapevine website to be effective and inviting. The committee finds the AA Grapevine Podcast is well received by many A.A. members and an effective method for sharing the collected voices of A.A. members. The committee noted that the current hosts might limit attraction to all members, potential members, or professionals and to consider the full intended audience regarding diversity, attraction, and belonging.

I. Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 trustees’ Public Information Committee feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms and requested that further research be conducted. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- Committee members would like to see additional research comparing paid versus donated media value ads and the effectiveness of these different approaches.
- Include research on Canadian streaming platforms to better understand PSA regulations and the specific streaming platforms found within Canada.
- Focus on obtaining A.A. member feedback from various age groups on the desire from the Fellowship to embark on A.A. paid placement ads on streaming platforms.

J. Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials:

1. Consider suggestion to revise the flyer “A.A. At a Glance.”

The committee considered the suggestion to revise the flyer “A.A. At a Glance” and requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus improvements based on the following suggestions and looks forward to a progress report or draft flyer to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- Keeping most of the content messaging of this effective Public Information tool, modernize the look and language of the flyer.
- Remove any reference to the word “drunk.”
- Update the contribution and self-support language to remove any reference to a dollar amount of contribution.

2. Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings.”

The committee considered the suggestion to revise the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” and asked that the trustees’ Public Information Committee move forward with the update. The committee asked that the staff secretary start with the draft pamphlet provided for review. In addition, the committee shared their own editorial revisions. Finally, the committee requested the staff secretary send a memorandum to the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department of all changes and looks forward to a progress report or draft pamphlet to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

3. Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.” **Suggested changes**
4. Consider request to retire and replace the “A.A. Fact File.” **Recommended to be retired**

The committee considered the request to replace the “A.A. Fact File” with a service material version of a new digital P.I. Press Media Kit. The committee reviewed the new digital P.I. Press Media Kit and offered suggestions to the “Who are A.A. members” and the “24-hour plan” sections.

K. Review request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.

The committee considered the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media by reviewing a draft survey developed to gather shared experience from the Fellowship. The committee requested the trustees’ Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on distributing the survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population, and obtain results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

L. Review report on development and distribution ideas for the “A.A. Triennial Membership Survey.” The committee recommended that a 2022 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted with a budgeted cost not to exceed \$20,000. The process will include mailing, digital back-end response and analysis, creation of message and distribution, including a “How to” video for groups/members.

M. Review content and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

The committee discussed the content and format of the P.I. Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the updated content list provided by the staff secretary and agreed to all the changes.

REPORT AND CHARTER

- A. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report. The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of the 2022 General Service Conference Final Report.
- B. Review The A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition. The committee recommended that chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of The A.A. Service Manual be revised to correct inaccuracies and to provide clarity and consistency on the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc.

The A.A. Service Manual can be utilized for all individuals involved in the General Service structure. The text is not limited to new people in service or only GSRs. Class A trustees, appointed committee members, nontrustee directors and other roles in general service should be able to draw upon the experience shared in specific chapters.

- C. Discuss Conference Committee on Report and Charter Composition, Scope and Procedure. The committee recommended that items 5 and 6 that relate to Regional Directories be removed from the Scope of the Report and Charter Composition, Scope and Procedure.
- D. (Note: Regional Directories are no longer being produced.)
- E. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments." The committee reviewed the progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments." Bill W. references an Amendments section in the introduction to the Twelve Concepts for World Service and the committee wanted to reaffirm the 2021 advisory action that: "A new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled 'Amendments,' and that it contain 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." The committee requested that the staff secretary work with A.A.W.S. Publishing on a draft update of the section to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- F. Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole." **took no action** The committee agreed that the GSR pamphlet adequately describes the role and

purpose of a GSR. The committee agreed that this statement is better left to local group autonomy.

- G. Consider requests that the chapter titled "The Doctor's Opinion" be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition. **took no action** The committee noted that Bill W. was involved in the repagination of Alcoholics Anonymous for the second edition. It was also noted that such a change would impact other pieces of A.A. literature that reference pages in the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee added that they did not recognize a strong "spiritual need" to revert to the original pagination.
- H. The committee followed up on the 2021 committee consideration regarding updating and continuing to make available the print listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada (Item F 25). The committee discussed the estimated cost to fulfill this request as well as results of a poll involving 107 Intergroup/Central Offices and decided unanimously to request the General Service Office retire this document and remove it from aa.org.
- I. The committee discussed a possible edition of The A.A. Service Manual in American Sign Language (ASL). While aware of the long list of projects and current workload at G.S.O., the committee requested that the A.A.W.S. Board research the need for and feasibility of a translation of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service into ASL and asks that a report be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. In addition, the committee encourages local areas, districts, and Intergroups/Central Offices to make ASL interpretation and service opportunities more accessible to the Deaf community.

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

- A. Review progress report on pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic." The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.
- Include stories of only those who found recovery from the age of 60 years or older.
 - Form a working group to help gather sharing from A.A. members who found recovery after age 60.
 - Consider who is the target audience.
 - Conduct a broader call out for stories through multiple distribution methods.
 - Include stories of senior alcoholics with health issues, are hard of hearing, are immigrants, and have experience in finding recovery or barriers to online meetings.
 - Consider a new format for the pamphlet that is more accessible, noting that the current foldable format is challenging to open and navigate pages

for those who may have dexterity challenges.

- B. Review progress report on military audio interviews.
- Reach out to military senior leadership.
 - Seek interviews from members in various military/armed forces branches.
 - Consider broader distribution channels, through diverse communication methods such as AA Grapevine, La Viña, WhatsApp, and LIM.
 - Distribute a questionnaire to interviewees for the audio-military project.
 - The military consultants on the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee develop a project plan that will include reporting to the entire trustee committee.
- C. Discuss draft version of A.A. Guidelines for remote communities. The committee asked that the staff secretary to revise the service piece and looks forward to it being made available to Remote Committees once the updates have been made.
- The committee encourages G.S.O. Publishing to continue to maintain the most current cultural terminologies.
 - Remove the names from the sharing in the guidelines (though currently anonymity protected; highlight the message rather than the name).
 - Remove the section "Three Challenges" and replace it with the title "Challenges in carrying the message to underserved populations" and include broader sharing with culturally sensitive language.
 - Remove the current sharing on sponsorship from the section "Spanish-Speaking Women in A.A. Remote Community" and include sharing that positively highlights the importance of sponsorship.
 - Also include in the section "Spanish-Speaking Women in A.A. Remote Community" information on special-interest meetings/groups, like what is shared in the Conference-approved pamphlets "Hispanic Women in A.A." and "Women and A.A."
 - Expand the section and title on online group/meeting resources to include a broader cross-section of digital sharing and resources.
- D. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook. The committee noted with appreciation that the suggestions provided in the 2021 Committee Consideration that will be implemented at the next Kit update.
- E. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook. The committee discussed the contents of the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook and suggested that the section "Sharing Experience" in the workbook include experience on A.A. members with service animals.
- The committee discussed the content and format of the Kit and Workbooks. The committee

encourages G.S.O. to continue to explore and develop digital approaches to publishing and updating A.A. resources so that changes can be updated more quickly and efficiently with the most up-to-date resources for local committees. The committee also noted the importance that print versions also be made available to those who prefer to receive printed materials.

- F. 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. **Approved** The committee recommended that the Long Form of Tradition Five be added to the pamphlet, The A.A. Group on page twelve in the section "What is an A.A. Group?" at its next printing.
- G. Consider request to revise text in the chapter "Getting plenty of rest" in the booklet Living Sober. **took no action** The committee noted that the section includes this comment later in the chapter: "If the condition persists, it may be advisable to check with a good physician who understands alcoholism well."

TRUSTEES

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
- a. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee
Joyce Saunders – Area 83 - Ontario
 - b. Pacific Regional Trustee –
Reilly Kalles – Area 58 - Oregon
- B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
- E. Discuss the revised "Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards." The committee recommended that the "Suggested Procedure to Reorganize the General Service Board and the boards of A.A.W.S., Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc." be approved as one acceptable pathway to a whole or partial reorganization of the Boards, understanding that, as provided by the Conference Charter, the final process will be determined by whichever General Service Conference might be considering reorganization.
- F. Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group." **took no action** The committee appreciated the discussion about the role and attitude of humility of trusted servants. They acknowledged that the phrases "holding office" and "officer" are used in several sections of the pamphlet, and it is clear that they have equivalent meaning to being a trusted servant. It was also noted that groups are free to adapt the inventory questions to suit their needs.
- G. Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" to include stories reflecting greater

diversity. The committee recommended that the trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" to update the stories to represent greater diversity and bring back a draft pamphlet or progress report to the 2023 General Service Conference.

- The committee reviewed the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" and requested that the trustees' Literature Committee begin to look at the accuracy and effectiveness of direct translation practices, resulting in an ineffective vehicle to presenting an authentic and culturally relevant message to linguistic communities.
- The committee also requested that AA Grapevine consider using "Do You Think You're Different?" as a recurring theme. This would allow for the presentation of a diverse group of current voices finding a common identification.

H. The report of the trustees' Nominating Committee noted they had begun discussion of thread-based forums and that more discussion is needed. The Conference committee had a discussion on thread-based forums which could allow better communication throughout the Conference structure and is forwarding a summary of their suggestions to the trustees' Nominating Committee.

ARCHIVES

A. Review content and format of Archives Workbook. **no recommendations.** Satisfied with the updates to the workbook.

The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and expressed satisfaction with the content. The committee also received a verbal report on some of the revisions and updates to the draft workbook, including:

- New shared experiences and a new subsection from local archivists on specific topics pertaining to archival work;
- Revised Guidelines for Collecting Oral Histories to include text offering suggestions on ways to conduct ASL interviews with members in the Deaf community to offer a wider diversity of sharing;
- Replaced gender-specific language throughout the workbook;
- Updated Archives policies; and other minor editorial updates.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

A. Discuss update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.

no recommendations

Theme au congress international 2025:
"90 Years – Language of the Heart"

* The committee reviewed the update report submitted by the trustees' committee regarding surveying the Fellowship on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International

Convention. The committee understands that a survey has been developed designed to gather information from the Fellowship regarding aspects of the 2025 International Convention; and that a question(s) regarding use of the Lord's Prayer and options to the use of the Lord's Prayer (e.g., the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity) will be added to the survey. It is anticipated that the survey will be dispatched in May 2022 via mail and through multiple communication platforms (e.g., Box 4-5-9, AA Grapevine/La Viña, etc.); and that a progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

- Consider options to the title "Regional Forum" utilizing more current language.
- Continue utilizing digital communication options; however, also continue non-digital options to ensure full accessibility and participation by members who may not have access to technology.

FLOOR ACTIONS

Floor Action #1

It was recommended that:

With the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language, that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not be translated into plain language in any way; that these remain in the existing form in English as in previous editions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion

Floor Action #2

It was recommended that:

The trustee' Committee on Literature continue to make edits to the draft pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" with a new draft or progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature, keeping in mind: color, diverse expressions of spirituality and accessible interpretation of meaning in the illustrations.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity

Floor Action #3

It was recommended that:

The 2022 membership survey questionnaire received final editorial review by the trustees' Public Information Committee after consulting with our professional survey methodologist, to address concerns raised by the 72nd General Service Conference related to the survey questions about Racial and Ethnic Background, and the Employment Status.

Motion passed with substantial unanimity

Floor Action #4:

It was recommended that:

The General Service Conference impose a one-year moratorium on any new agenda item received through September 15, 2022, with new agenda items held to be placed on the agenda for the 74th General Service Conference, allowing the General Service Board and its corporate affiliates time to adjust and align their processes to accommodate the 2022 Policy and Admissions recommendation to provide simultaneous translation of all background material.

Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion

Floor Action #5:

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups develop a plan to create one or more non-geographic Areas for online and telephone groups in the U.S./Canada General Service Conference structure, with a progress report on the plan to be presented to the 73rd General Service Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

Motion failed with substantial unanimity

Floor Action #6

It was recommended that:

That the following GSR Preamble be added to the pamphlet "Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole.:

The GSR Preamble

We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.

We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as he may express Himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.

Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion

Floor Action #7

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference evaluate the current process of developing Conference background material and bring back to the 2023 General Service Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions a plan that describes the process of developing background material, keeping in mind the Conference desire for background material to be targeted, balanced and with relevant historical content.

Motion failed with substantial unanimity

Floor Action #8:

It was recommended that:

The Advisory Actions from Panel 71:

Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner"

Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony." in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be returned to the original text.

Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion

Floor Action #9:

It was recommended that:

The 1995 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is.

Motion failed with substantial unanimity

Your Trusted Servant, Mitchell B.. Delegate
Area 09 Mid-Southern California, Panel 72
delegate@msca09aa.org