

71st General Service Conference Report

Theme: “*A.A. in a Time of Change*”

Matt K., Area 11 (Panel 71) Delegate
Spring Assembly May 23, 2021

Please Write Down Any Questions

Please write down your questions so you do not forget! We want to make sure your questions are answered.

What do all these acronyms mean???

(GSR, GSC, GSB, GSO, DCM, PI, etc.)

- Welcome first-time Assembly attendees!
- Important for us to explain context
- Hoping to help everyone understand the Conference process a bit better.

Service Sponsorship: A Valuable Tool

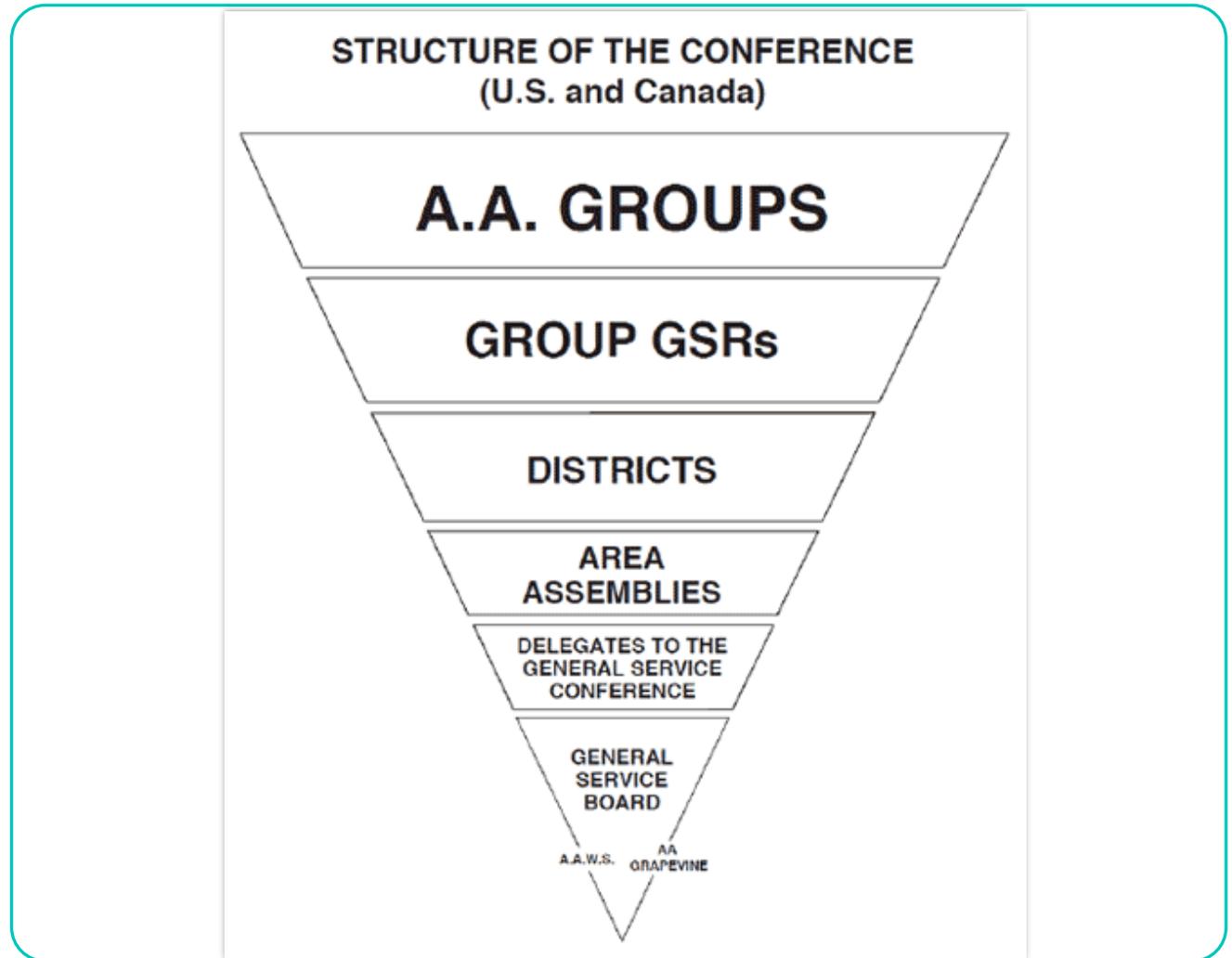
THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service

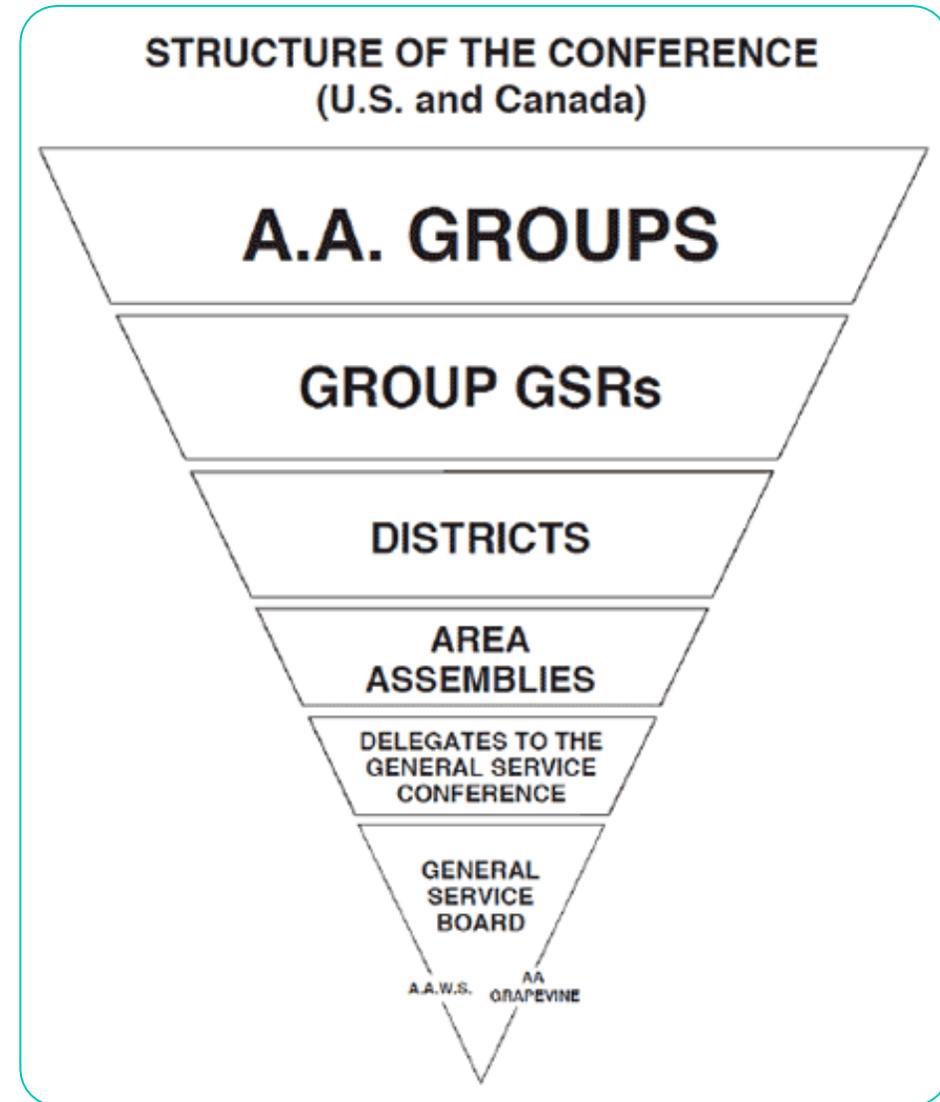
1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. - the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives - with a traditional "Right of Decision."
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. parso for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Overview of the Service Structure



A.A. Groups

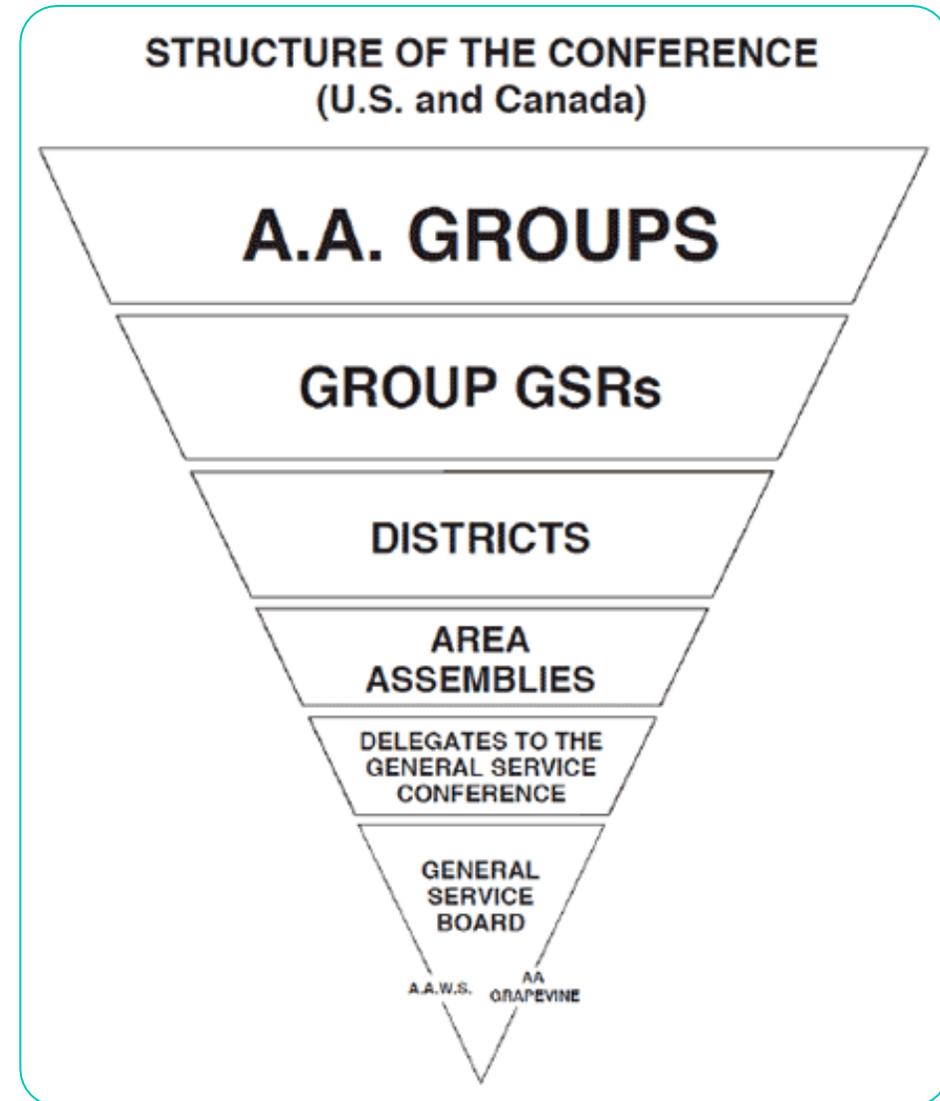
- MOST IMPORTANT!



General General Service Representatives (GSRs)

“The general service representative [...] link[s] [...] [the] group with A.A. as a whole.”

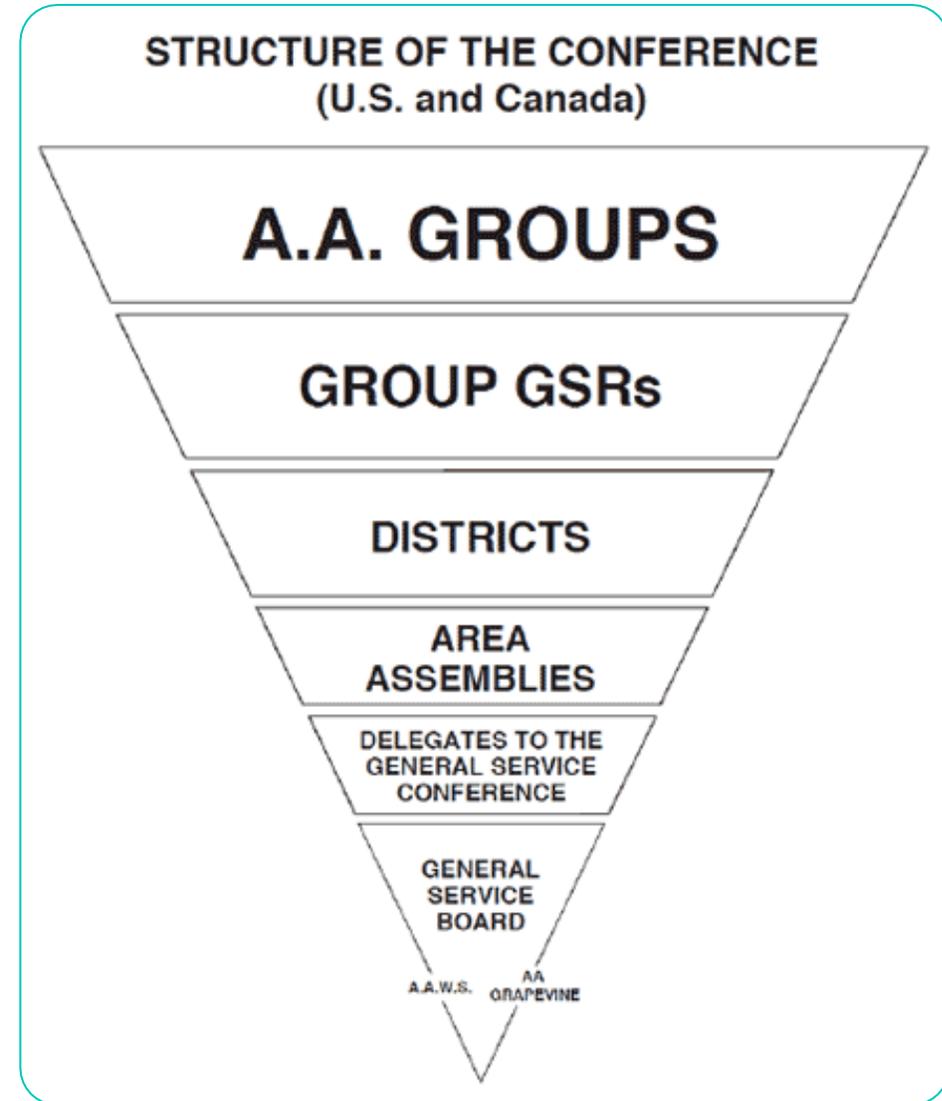
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Districts

- “District – a division within an area, represented by [district] committee member(s) [DCMs].”

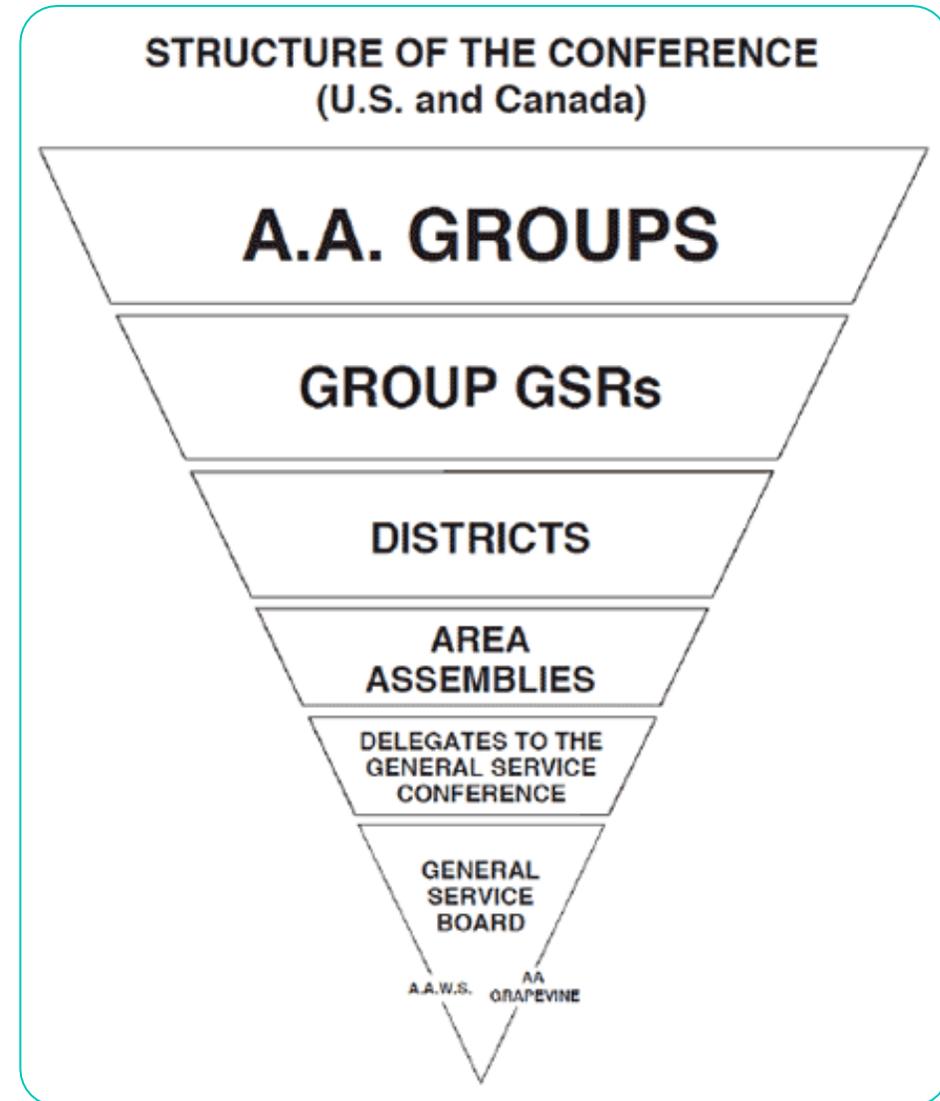
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Area Assemblies

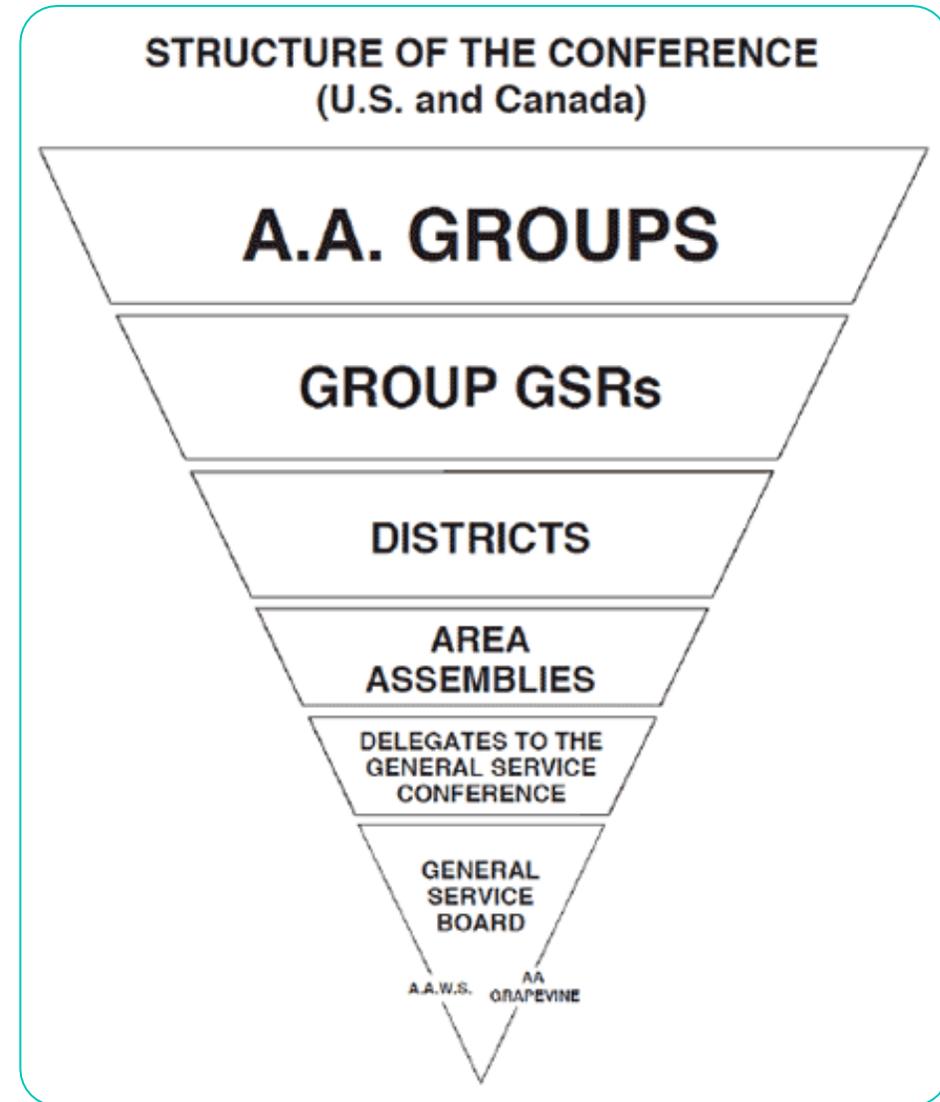
- “The area assembly is the **mainspring of the Conference structure** — the democratic voice of the movement expressing itself”

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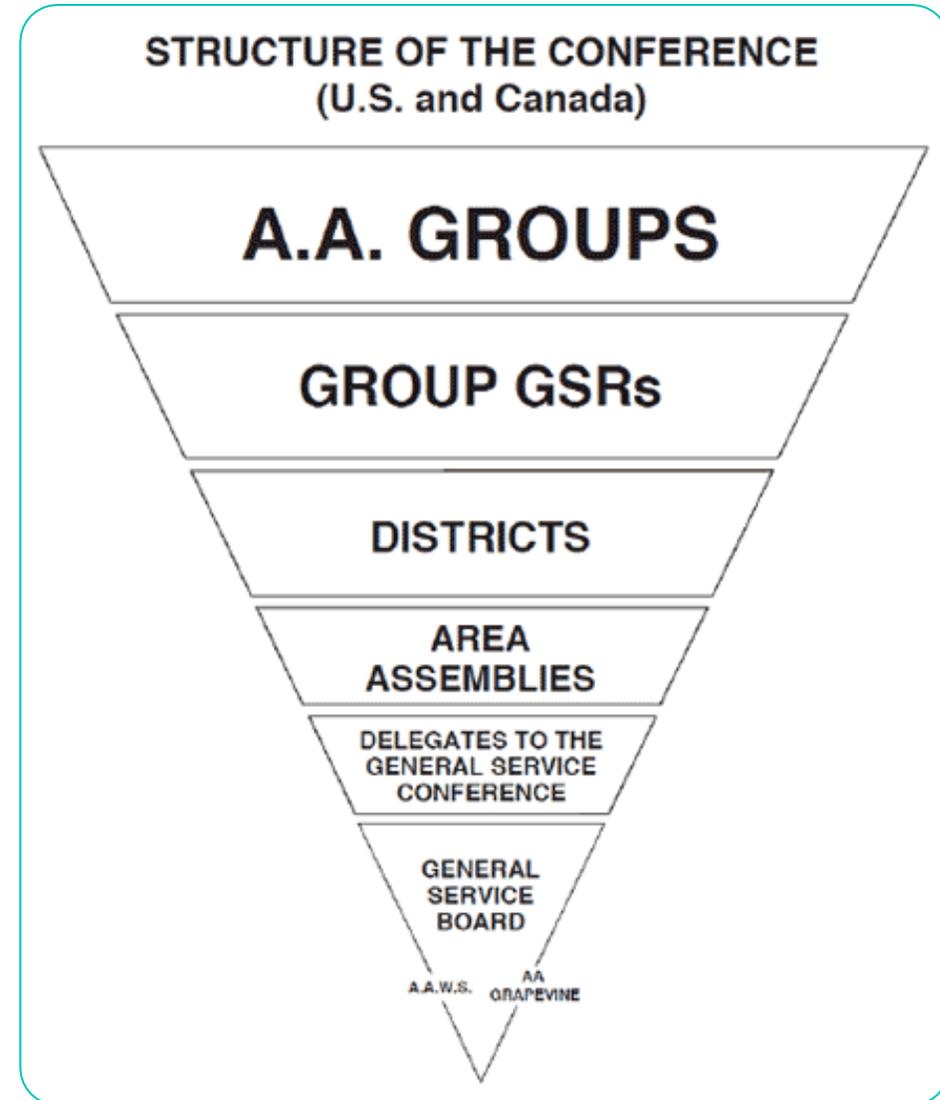
Delegates to the General Service Conference

- A.A. came of age of 1955 when the General Service Conference was adopted permanently
- 93 Area Delegates from 93 Areas (plus additional voting members of the Conference, as will be later explained)



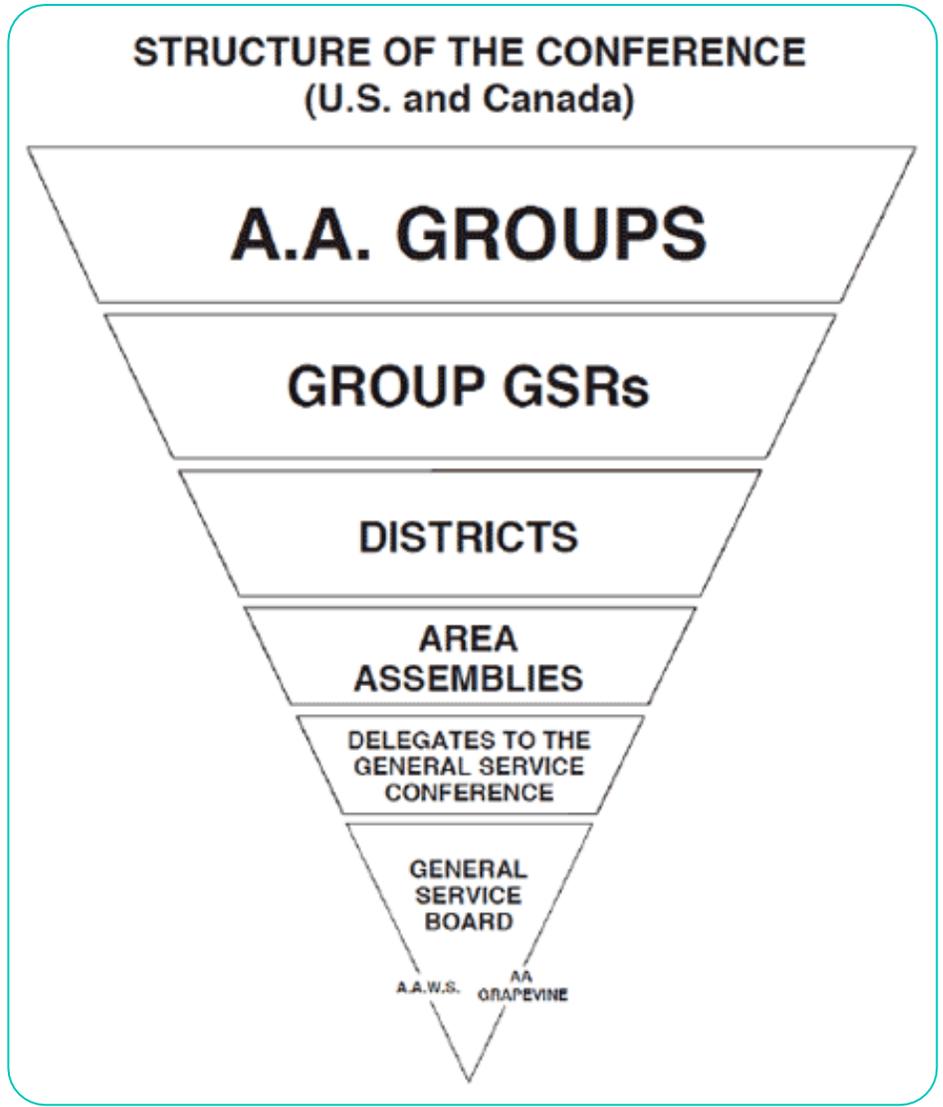
The Three Corporate Boards

- General Service Board (parent corporation)
 - A.A. World Service, Inc. (subsidiary)
 - AAWS Publishing
 - Services (GSO)
 - A.A. Grapevine, Inc. (subsidiary)
 - A.A. Grapevine/La Vina office and publishing



What's the point?

This report is all about the **annual General Service Conference meeting**



General Service Conference annual meeting

- Annually (usually in April)
- Usually approx. 1 week
- Usually in NY (online in 2020 and in 2021)
- Began experimentally in 1951
- Permanently solidified in 1955
- Collective Conscience of service structure through representation
- Agenda items come from many sources (Areas, Districts, Groups, and/or members, etc)!

Who attends the General Service Conference?

- 1 Delegate from each Area (93 Areas total)
- 21 Trustees on the General Service Board
- Non-Trustee Directors on the A.A. World Services Board and A.A. Grapevine/La Vina Board
- A.A. Staff from the General Service Office and Grapevine/La Vina Office
- (Common for some non-voting observers)

What does “Panel 71” mean?

- Panel 71 = the 71st General Service Conference
- To figure out the current panel number
 - Current year – 1950 = current panel number
 - E.g., the first General Service Conference was in 1951. $1951 - 1950 = 1$ (it was panel 1 that year)
 - $2021 - 1950 = 71$ (this year is panel 71)

Area Assemblies & Their Relation to the General Service Conference

- AREA ASSEMBLIES LINK THE LOCAL AREA WITH A.A. AS A WHOLE!
- Pre-Conference Assembly (happens BEFORE the General Service Conference; feedback given to Area Delegate)
- **Spring Assembly (post-Conference; happens AFTER the General Service Conference; Area Delegate provides update to Area on what happened)**
- Fall Assemblies (even years: we elect our next Area Delegate—odd years: presentations/workshops/etc.)

Context hopefully helps!
This is a report about this year's
General Service Conference.

Now... what happened at this year's
General Service Conference...?

Location of the 71st G.S.C.



Fuel for the Journey



Interesting Features of the 71st G.S.C.

- Scheduled April 18-24, 2021 (online); went until 2:15am April 25, 2021; Pre-Conference Events April 17th. That said, Area 11 Delegate attended Saturday April 17th to Sunday April 25th.
- Online for the second time
- Lengthy list of agenda items and background material
- Special practice of carry-over items from last year (time constraints)
- Email polls in advance
- Three Chairs, Alternated Chairing General Sessions
 - Chair of the General Service Board (Class A – nonalcoholic)
 - Another Class A Nonalcoholic Trustee
 - 1 Class B Trustee

Some Memorable Moments

- Roll Call
- The first vote on the first recommendation. (Thought: “I hope I don’t break A.A.” – followed by, “I am not capable of breaking A.A.”)
- A.A. is big! Connecticut’s struggles differ from those struggles in remote parts of Canada
- How Informed can a group conscience become? IT IS LIMITLESS! Discussion can change a member’s mind many times.
- Dedication, resilience, and tenacity of all involved (Saturday April 17 to 2:15am Sun April 25th)
- A.A. Service and the opportunity to be a trusted servant
- Overcoming fear of first time at the “microphone”

**Any A.A. members that have
not said anything at an Area
Assembly Before?**

We have all been afraid! You are among
friends!

Question

What was Doctor Bob's sobriety date (often referred to as A.A.'s birthday)?

Doctor Bob's Sobriety Date

June 10, 1935

Question

What year was the First Edition of the (English) Big Book published?

First Edition of the (English) Big Book

Published in 1939

Question

What year was the Second Edition of the (English) Big Book published?

Second Edition of the (English) Big Book

Published 1955

Question

What year was the Third Edition of the (English) Big Book published?

Third Edition of the (English) Big Book

Published 1976

Question

What year was the Fourth Edition of the (English) Big Book Published?

Fourth Edition of the (English) Big Book

Published 2001

Question

How many Editions of the Spanish Big Book have been published so far?

Editions of the Spanish Big Book

Three Editions published so far

Conference Preparation

- Background material for years tracked
 - 2018- 650 pages
 - 2019 – 644 pages
 - 2020 – 1,072 pages
 - 2021 – 1,487 pages
- Delegate Preparation this year
 - Reading of background material
 - Board Report Videos in advance (GSB, AAWS, GV/LV)
 - The Conference “Dashboard” where info was distributed
 - Committee meetings in advance of Conference (relatively new practice)
 - Housekeeping
 - Meeting with Chair of Trustees’ Committee
 - Joint meeting: Conference Committee/Trustees’ Committee
- Not to mention: the Pre-Conference Assembly process!

Pre-Conference Assembly: Process

- On the one hand...
“Conference Delegates are primarily the world servants of A.A. as a whole, that only in a secondary sense do they represent their respective areas. Consequently they should, on final decisions, be entitled to cast their votes in the General Service Conference *according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.*”
—Reprinted from page 13 (Concept 3 essay) of 2018-2020 version of the A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.
- On the other hand...
GSRs ensure that their Groups “are part of the delegate’s **thinking** at the Conference.”
—Reprinted from Page S17 of the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.
- Your Area 11 Delegate worked hard to gather your **thinking**, which was an extremely important part of the process. Thank you so much for participating in the Pre-Conference Assembly process. Please know that the thoughts on the many items we discussed—pro and con—were strongly considered and repeatedly reviewed throughout the process.
- Pre-Conference Assemblies are also important to get local members discussing big-picture A.A. matters

Conference Committees

- **Agenda (* Area 11 Panel 71 Delegate Assigned to this one)**
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Finance
- Grapevine/La Vina
- Literature
- Policy and Admissions
- Public Information
- Report and Charter
- Treatment and Accessibilities
- Trustees
- Archives (secondary committee)
- International Conventions/Regional Forums (secondary committee)

The Committee Process

- Random assignment (but with some requirements)
- Meet in committees to review agenda Items pertaining to that committee
- Committee has 3 options related to each agenda item
 - (1) Take no action
 - (2) Make an “additional committee consideration”
 - The Committee asks the Corresponding Trustees’ Committee to explore (after Conference week) and potentially move forward with taking some action (but not binding)
 - (3) Can make a recommendation
 - If the committee makes a recommendation, the full Conference must then vote on it
 - If the recommendations passes with 2/3, it becomes an Advisory Action
 - If the recommendation achieves simple majority, but not 2/3, it is considered a strong suggestion

71st G.S.C. Data on Area Delegates

- Average Age: 54
- Oldest: 74
- Youngest: 34
- Average Length of Sobriety: 27 years
- Longest Sobriety: 45 years
- Shortest Sobriety: 8 years
- Average Length of Service: 24 years
- Longest Service: 42 years
- Shortest Service: 6 years

The “1728” Meeting

- $12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1728$
- Opportunity for Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustees on the General Service Board to learn
- A few speakers followed by discussion
 - Dr. AI (A.A. is full of paradoxes; cannot explain A.A. with science)
 - Concept 1 (ultimate authority → groups) and Concept 6 (active responsibility → trustees) paradox
 - Challenge to balance spiritual obligations with legal obligations

Question

Linguistic “districts are made up of groups that conduct meetings in a language other than English.” *—Reprinted from page S29 from the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.*
In Area 11, our linguistic District is District 10.

True or False:
Out of the 93 Areas, all of them have Linguistic districts.

Linguistic Districts

False.

Not all Areas have linguistic Districts.

Question

True or False:

All Areas containing linguistic Districts only contain one linguistic District.

Linguistic Districts

False.
Some Areas contain more than 1 linguistic District.

Remote Communities Sharing Session

- Area 82 (Newfoundland and Nova Scotia) Presentation
 - Labrador (District 16): large land mass; low population; often difficulty connecting with Area 82; expensive to try to carry the message; very difficult to travel in winter months; unreliable phone/internet.
 - Large Area strategy to reach that District
- Area 15 (South Florida) Presentation on Linguistic Districts
 - Linguistic Committee to reach linguistic communities: Spanish, ASL, French, Finnish, Haitian Creole
 - Note: includes Islands, such as Bahamas and Cayman Islands (travel to Area Assemblies)
- Area 9 Presentation on Cultural Remote Communities
 - Discussed importance of avoiding elitist features that can come with serving as a Delegate (e.g., Delegate-only meetings at regional service assemblies, etc.). We do not want the General Service Conference to become a remote community.

Remote Communities (Continued)

- Discussion after Presentations (Remote Communities Sharing Session)
 - Urban locations as remote communities in some Areas
 - Technology can create a remote community for those without access
 - The big book (see page 101) contains a word considered to be one of the worst racial slurs possible in some places
 - Large portions of Canada without roads, but alcoholics live there (some sober, some not)
 - In Hawaii, their Area is separated by water
 - Area 44 (Northern NJ) has a linguistic District comprised of Polish-speaking groups
 - Remote communities can mean culturally—not just physically remote
 - Important to remain sensitive to cultural differences (Canada story)

Archives Presentation by G.S.O. Archivist

- Functions of the G.S.O. Archives
 - Records of incorporation materials
 - Provide information for researchers and A.A. members
 - Assist and support local A.A. Archives
 - Special efforts to archive A.A.'s activities during the Covid-19 pandemic (as is the local Area 11 Archives Committee)
- 71st G.S.C. theme “A.A. in a Time of Change;” some timely quotes from co-founder Bill W.
 - “I do not think that any of us would presume Alcoholics Anonymous in its present form would necessarily last forever. We can only hope that it will lead to better things for those who suffer from alcoholism.” -Bill W., Remarks at the 1956 GSC
 - “We live in an era of change. Our Twelve Steps probably won’t change; the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service—let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever.” Bill W., 1960 GSC talk.

Roll Call/Opening Meetings

- Roll call (became a Conference member)
- Consent for observers
- Reviewed “How the Conference Operates”
- Keynote address by Newton P. (trustee-at-large for United States)
 - Our service structure--“senior structure”—observed by service structures throughout the world
 - Growing rigidity might be one of A.A.’s biggest dangers

Quote on Rigidity in A.A. (from the 36th General Service Conference Final Report in 1986, by Bob P. past General Manager/past trustee/senior advisor to the General Service Office)

“I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of treatment centers or professionals in the field, or non-Conference-approved literature, or young people, or the dually addicted, or even the ‘druggies’ coming to our closed meetings. If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these and any other problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because we can’t control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense.

If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing A.A. today, I would have to answer: the growing rigidity — the increasing demand for absolute answers to nitpicking questions; pressure for G.S.O. to ‘enforce’ our Traditions; screening alcoholics at closed meetings; prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., ‘banning books’; laying more and more rules on groups and members. And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met. One of his favorite sayings was ‘Every group has the right to be wrong.’ He was maddeningly tolerant of his critics, and he had absolute faith that faults in A.A. were self-correcting”

–Reprinted from the 36th General Service Conference Final Report (1986) with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.

ESTIMATED WORLDWIDE A.A. INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP MEMBERSHIP

YEAR	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	GROUPS	YEAR	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	GROUPS
1935	2	0	2001	2,215,293	100,131
1940	1,400	50	2002	2,092,460	103,768
1945	12,988	556	2003	2,066,851	104,589
1950	96,475	3,527	2004	2,082,980	105,294
1955	135,905	6,249	2005	1,867,212	106,202
1960	162,037	8,615	2006	1,996,935	106,477
1965	232,105	12,444	2007	2,044,655	113,168
1970	311,450	16,459	2008	2,085,125	116,773
1975	533,590	26,456	2009	2,103,033	115,773
1976	574,318	29,352	2010	2,057,672	107,976
1977	612,876	31,587	2011	2,133,842	114,070
1978	627,456	33,241	2012	2,131,549	114,642
1979	868,171	39,964	2013	2,138,421	115,358
1980	907,575	42,105	2014	2,040,629	115,326
1981	937,705	47,797	2015	2,089,698	117,748
1982	1,065,299	53,576	2016	2,103,184	118,305
1983	1,191,946	58,576	2017	2,087,840	120,300
1984	1,351,793	62,860	2018	2,130,419	125,352
1985	1,445,999	67,019	2019	2,077,374	125,557
1986	1,556,316	73,192	2020	2,138,201	129,790
1987	1,617,296	76,184			
1988	1,734,734	85,270			
1989	1,793,834	87,696			
1990	2,047,469	93,914			
1991	2,148,757	96,500			
1992	2,489,541	89,215			
1993	2,062,380	90,155			
1994	1,790,528	89,239			
1995	1,726,341	86,449			
1996	1,959,829	96,997			
1997	1,967,433	97,568			
1998	1,989,124	98,710			
1999	1,995,804	99,020			
2000	2,160,013	100,766			

Because A.A. has never attempted to keep formal membership lists, it is extremely difficult to obtain completely accurate figures on total membership at any given time. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with general service offices (G.S.O.s) around the world and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members. We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, including 64 autonomous G.S.O.s in other lands.

Agenda Committee Experience (Generally)

- Good example of Concept 2 and the process of “delegating authority”
- Good example of Tradition 2... a “group conscience” shapeshifts and emerges over time
- Met as a committee a few times before the Conference week (relatively new practice)
- Met for around 8 hours as a committee during Conference week
- Discussed next year’s theme, workshop, and presentation topics (a bit of word-smithing); felt like past NERAASA Program Chair experience came in handy
- Reviewed surveys from Conference members and made suggestions on improvements
- Discussed potential changes to the Conference schedule and ways to engage A.A. membership more in the Conference process
- Beth P. from Area 10 (Colorado) elected Chairperson of the Agenda Committee for next year; Matt K. from Area 11 (Connecticut) elected as Alternate Chairperson.

General Service Board Report

- General Service Board Highlights (Video Report)
 - G.S.B. met 13 times total in 2020 (including 10 special planning meetings); also, additional ad-hoc and subcommittee meetings
 - Trustees Committees hard at work (Concept 11)
 - Cancellation of in-person events took much effort
 - First virtual General Service Conference in 2020
 - Attendance at many virtual international events
 - Budget concerns in 2020, but the Fellowship stepped up with contributions
 - Looking into multidimensional Public Information approach using digital media
 - VRIP payout completed (thus less payroll costs); but new hires at the G.S.O.

(Continued) General Service Board Report

- Strategic planning goals:
 - (1) The GSB modeling inclusivity and acceptance;
 - (2) G.S.B. seeking to improve communications to remain relevant and connected to those it serves; and
 - (3) G.S.B. model promoting the importance of Traditions
- Q & A took place
 - An amends was made for an approach that was taken at last year's G.S.C.
 - Search for a new General Manager (employee of the General Service Board) at the General Service Office is nearing completion

Question

As of May 23, 2021, how many total translations are there of the Big Book?

Big Book Translations

As of May 23, 2021, there are 73 total translations of the Big Book

A.A. World Services Board Report

- The year 2020 was a bit of a rollercoaster
- Lot of changes!
 - The G.S.O. went remote in a matter of 1 day
 - Planned first remote General Service Conference, first remote AAWS Board meeting and General Service Board weekend, etc.
 - Virtual World Service Meeting
 - Virtual U.S./Canada Forums (be sure to attend the Northeast Regional Forum June 4-6!)
 - New online literature store
 - Contribution Lockbox (streamlined mail distribution; may affect the mailing address at some point)
 - ERP system is HERE and Implemented (Fellowship Connection Launched! Note: DCMs have read-only access)
- 16 new hires total
- The Big Book has now been translated into 73 languages—most recently Tatar (Russia) and Oriya (India).
- Videos of the Big Book in American Sign Language is available online
- Efforts made with electronic distribution of books being placed with online vendors (visible in more places); working on trying to get into a national online Corrections library

A.A. Grapevine/La Vina Board

- Free access was provided for a few months in 2020.
- Challenges: 40% decrease in subscriptions; needed to take draw-down from Grapevine Liability Fund; new Grapevine publisher needed
- New websites launched
- Audio version of Language of the Heart in French and Spanish produced in 2020
- Daily Grapevine Quote book available in Spanish and French
- YouTube Channel
- Like A.A.W.S., working with an outside sales company to get literature onto tablets being used by prisons and otherwise be available into 50+ online platforms
- Letter from an inmate: "I'm sitting here in prison, I have 75 days sober, thank you so much for the Grapevine."
- 3 new books in 2021: Free on the Inside, Mujeres en A.A., Prayer and Meditation
- Carry the Message Project (can use Grapevine/La Vina subscriptions to carry the message)
- Might see developments soon on GV/LV reps being able to receive text messages
- Opening for a new Grapevine Publisher

Question on Non-Trustee Directors

How many Non-Trustee Directors serve on the *General Service Board*?

Non-Trustee Directors

ZERO Non-Trustee Directors serve on the General Service Board.

Non-Trustee Directors only serve on either of the two subsidiary corporate boards (A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.), but not on the General Service Board. The General Service Board includes only Trustees. Check out page S77 of the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual.

General Service Board:

21 Trustees (7 Class A (non-alcoholic); 14 Class B (alcoholic);
Class B Trustees include Regional Trustees (8),
General Service Trustees (4), and Trustees-at-Large (2)

A.A. World Services, Inc. Board:

2 General Service Trustees
2 Regional or At-Large Trustees
3 Non-Trustee Directors
1 Paid G.S.O. Staff Member
(1) G.S.O. General Manager

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Board:

2 General Service Trustees
2 Regional Trustees
3 Non-Trustee Directors
1 Class A. Trustee
(1) Executive Editor/Publisher

General Service Board Finance Highlights

- 2020 7th Tradition Self-Support: \$10.26 million (set a record; up 15.8% from 2019)
- 2020 Cost of Services: \$10.81 million (down 14.9% from 2019)
- 2020 Self-Support Covered 94.9% of cost of services compared to 69.8% in 2019
- 2020 A.A.W.S. literature sale (income over expenses) down by 29.70% (compared to 2019)
- \$550K (literature sales) used to cover the shortfall between 7th Tradition Contributions and Cost of Services
- Savings in 2020: \$1.1 million less than 2019 for Travel/Meals/Accommodations; total non-personnel savings (including travel) \$1.5 million; Lockbox saves 3 full-time equivalents; VRIP (which has been since paid out) total staff savings of 5 full-time equivalents
- Grapevine had a loss of \$298,699 in 2020 (compared to a loss of \$27,303 in 2019).
- General Fund support of La Vina service activity was \$395,771 in 2020 (compared to \$297,392 in 2019).
- La Vina magazine circulation decreased by 36.6% in 2020 after several years of growth.

Financial Highlights (Continued)

- Improved Audit Results in 2020
 - Completed on schedule
 - Unqualified or “clean” audit opinion
 - No material weaknesses
 - No significant deficiencies
 - Only one recommendation (compared to seven last year)

Financial Highlights (Continued)

- What Happened in 2020?
 - Literature sales decreased significantly
 - \$1.2 Million in VRIP Severance payments
 - \$3.6 Million in pension related expenses
 - \$5.1 million in pension payments for participants who elected a lump sum payment instead of payments spread over their lifespan. (paid from pension fund not general fund)
 - Less \$1.5 million savings in the amount needed to pay expected benefits over retiree lifetimes
 - Travel, meals, and accommodations decreased by \$1.1 Million

Financial Highlights (Continued)

- Why was \$4 million needed from the prudent reserve in 2020?
 - Simply stated: several expenses were expected with not enough cash on hand at the time
 - Literature sales were down significantly at a time when there was a need for cash to meet obligations (literature sales down 29.7% in 2020 from the previous year)
 - Several long-term projects were moving toward completion, including the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, the completion of the 8th floor, Netsuite Implementation and the work on the new website
 - Moreover, cash was needed to refund registration fees and pay vendors for the International Convention prior to receiving the insurance settlement
- 2020 Prudent Reserve: 7.9 months expenses (instead of target of 9 to 12 months)
- Use of Drawdown
 - International Convention registration refunds: \$3,727,864
 - Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program (partially funded by reserve fund drawdown): \$272,136
 - Total: \$4,000,000

Financial Highlights (Continued)

- 8th Floor Construction: budget was \$1,000,000 and actual expense was \$957,347.
- ERP Budget was \$1,698,281 and actual expense was \$2,197,685 (just shy of \$500K over budget)
- Reported benefits of ERP system:
 - Bringing data together
 - More accurate and timely reporting
 - More efficient member services
 - Literature sales and contribution websites
 - Fellowship Connection
 - New technology to secure data and prevent breaches
- International Convention insurance ended up covering all expenses related to the Convention

Financial Highlights (Continued)

- Percentage of Groups that Contributed to the General Service Board in 2020
 - Percentage of Groups that Contributed Across all 93 Areas: 34.8%
 - **Percentage of Groups in Area 11 that contributed: 30.13%**

Financial Highlights (Continued)

- Some takeaways
 - The Fellowship steps up!
 - Online contributions continue to steadily increase
 - 2020 shows the importance of having a prudent reserve
 - Food for thought: how can we inspire more groups to participate in contributing to the General Service Board?
- Note on 2021 (from our Northeast Regional Trustee Francis G.): January-March 2021 Total Contributions were \$2,500,582 (not including literature sales); Gross Literature Sales, Payroll and other Operating Expenses are all trending at 24-26% percent.
- Note: the figures provided in this presentation are merely a summary of some 2020 highlights. Much more detail will be provided in the final Conference reports.
- Note: less than 1 percent (around 0.5%) of total A.A.W.S. books sold in 2020 were copies of A.A. Comes of Age
- Note: current \$7.34 challenge (not official part of Conference; effort of some Delegates)

Question

In 1939, the Big Book sold for _____ per copy.

In 2020, that figure adjusted to inflation equates to _____ per book.

Answer

- In 1939, the Big Book sold for \$3.50.
- In 2020, \$3.50 adjusted for inflation is \$64.24

A.A. International Presentation

- World Service Meeting (happens every two years)
- “Delegates” from around the world
- The two “Delegates” from our service structure are our two Trustees-at-Large (one for the United States and one for Canada)
- The 26th World Service Meeting took place online in November 2020
- Final Report is available: https://aa.org/assets/en_US/f-150_26th_WSM_finalreport_2020.pdf

Other Sessions (Sharing Sessions, Workshops, Meetings, etc.)

- Sharing Sessions
 - “What’s on Your Mind?”
 - Delegate-only Meetings
 - Innovative Area Approaches
- Presentations
 - Recovery in a Changing World
 - Unity in a Changing World
 - Service in a Changing World
- Workshop Topics
 - If we were 10 times bolder in how we...
 - (1) inform others about A.A.
 - (2) call A.A. members to action and service
 - (3) inspire and attract potential A.A. members and others in need of our life saving message... we would.....
- A.A. Meetings
 - Serenity Meetings Every Morning
 - Opening A.A. Meeting Sunday Night
- Hospitality Room/Fun!

Trustee Elections

- East Central (Cathy C. from Indianapolis):
 - Those voting: 14 Delegates in the region, 7 randomly chosen members of the Trustees Nominating Committee, 7 randomly chosen members of the Conference Committee on Trustees
 - Written resumes circulated
 - Each Area gives a 2-minute presentation
 - 3 minutes available for questions after each presentation
 - 3rd Legacy Procedure used
- Southeast Region (Tom H. from Georgia):
 - Same procedure, except 13 Delegates in that region (instead of 14)
- Trustee-at-Large United States (Marita H. R. from Nevada):
 - Resumes; regional caucus (2-minute presentation and 3 minutes for questions); 3rd legacy
 - 1 candidate from each region; then 79 Delegates the Areas in the U.S. and 8 Members of Trustees Nominating Committee vote

Committee Report- Backs/Discussions/Voting

- Committee Secretaries produce written reports of Committee Work
- Committee Chairpersons sign off on the reports
- Reports distributed to all Conference members
- Conference discusses and votes on each recommendation of each committee (one at a time)
- No discussion on Committee Considerations, but the ability to ask questions
- How the Conference Operates

“How the Conference Operates” Trivia Question

Hypothetical scenario:

A recommendation is presented and discussed by the Conference. During the discussion period, any Conference member may have the opportunity to speak (provided their point has not already been stated). Eventually discussion ends and it goes to a vote.

Out of 130 votes total, 70 voted “yes” (in favor) and 60 voted “no” (opposed).

After this vote, there is the opportunity for a minority opinion to be heard. Members who voted in the non-prevailing side are the only ones that may speak at this point.

Question:

Which side (those that voted “yes” or those that voted “no”) is considered the non-prevailing side and therefore may speak during when the minority opinion is called for?

Corrections (Advisory Actions)

- Advisory Actions
 - It was recommended that:
Revisions be made to A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls and that the terms “inmate” and “offender” be replaced with “person in custody.”
 - Note: literature banned in some correctional facilities in Canada

Treatment and Accessibilities (Advisory Actions)

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

Public Information (Advisory Actions)

- It was 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.
 - 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 8 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Public Information Advisory Actions (Continued)

- It was 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.**
 - The committee noted that podcasts would serve as a new format to produce “service material” to communicate on topics with similar sharing that can be found in Box 4-5-9, About AA, aa.org, and sharing from AA Grapevine and La Viña.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Advisory Actions

- It was recommended 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.
 - **The trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee 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.**
 - 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."

Finance Committee Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
 - A watermark with the word "SAMPLE" be added to the 2nd and 3rd pie charts on page 13 of the pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

Samples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

Your Group Service # _____
(Be sure to write group name and service # on all contributions.)

 _____ % to district
_____ % to area committee
_____ % to G.S.O.
_____ % to intergroup or central office
_____ % other A.A. service entities
_____ % other A.A. service entities

OR

 **10%** to district
10% to area committee
30% to G.S.O.
50% to intergroup or central office

OR

If you have no intergroup/central office:

 **40%** to district
30% to area
30% to G.S.O.

Q Where should I send contributions?
A For contributions to G.S.O., make checks payable to "General Service Board" and send to:

General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
or visit Contributions online at aa.org

For contributions to other A.A. service entities, contact your district committee, area committee, and local intergroup/central office for addresses. You can enter the addresses in the spaces provided on the next page to save for easy reference. And remember that these addresses may change when a treasurer rotates.

13

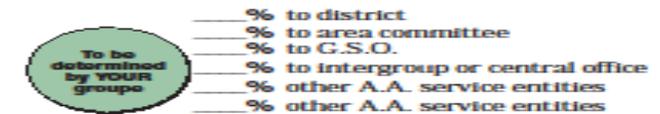
Finance Committee Advisory Actions (Continued)

- The following language to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” be revised:
 - 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 4 inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.

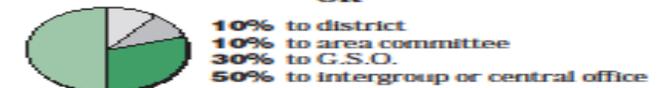
Samples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

Your Group Service # _____
(Be sure to write group name and service # on all contributions.)

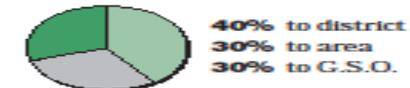


OR



OR

If you have no intergroup/central office:



Q Where should I send contributions?

A For contributions to G.S.O., make checks payable to “General Service Board” and send to:

General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

or visit Contributions online at aa.org

For contributions to other A.A. service entities, contact your district committee, area committee, and local intergroup/central office for addresses. You can enter the addresses in the spaces provided on the next page to save for easy reference. And remember that these addresses may change when a treasurer rotates.

Trustees Committee Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
 - The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:
 - Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustees: Molly Anderson, Hon. Christine Carpenter, Linda Chezem, J.D., Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A., Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM, Nancy McCarthy, Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA (full names included here as these are not A.A. members)
 - Class B Trustees: Beau B., Cathi C., Jimmy D., Josh E., Kathi F., Francis G., Tom H., Deborah K., Trish L., Jan L, Mike L., Paz P., Marita H.R., Irma V.

Trustees Committee Advisory Actions (Continued)

- It was recommended that:
 - The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:
 - Chairperson: Linda Chezem, J.D. (non-alcoholic)
 - First Vice-Chairperson: Trish L.
 - Second Vice-Chairperson: Jan L.
 - Treasurer: Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA (non-alcoholic)
 - Secretary: Francis G.
 - Assistant Treasurer: Paul K. (AAWS employed worker)
 - Assistant Secretary: Jeff K. (AAWS employed worker)

Trustees Committee Advisory Actions (Continued)

- It was recommended that:
 - The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:
Beau B., Irma V., Jimmy D., Carolyn W., Vera F., John W., Deborah K., Jeff W. (G.S.O. staff), and G.S.O. General Manager (TBD)
- It was recommended that:
 - The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any: Josh E, Coree H, Ino F, Mike L, Cindy F, Nancy McCarthy (nonalcoholic), Francis G, Paz P, AAGV Publisher

Trustees Committee Recommendation Not Resulting in Advisory Action

- This recommendation did not achieve substantial unanimity, but it did achieve simple majority (which is interpreted by the General Service Board as a strong suggestion):

The General Service Conference charge the General Service Board with the setup of quarterly virtual meetings of Conference Members, to begin following the October 2021 General Service Board Weekend. These meetings would follow several weeks after each Quarterly Board Meeting, to allow Conference Members the opportunity to request additional information, ask clarifying questions, and to secure a greater sense of transparency.

Report and Charter Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
 - The compilation and printing of the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be discontinued.
 - 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.
 - A revision be made to 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.
 - 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, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Grapevine/La Viña Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
 - The AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Note: the item regarding the Preamble, though it did not come out of the Committee as a recommendation, was addressed as a Floor Action (as will be explained shortly).

Literature Advisory Actions

- It was 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
 - 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.
 - 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.

Literature Advisory Actions (Continued)

- A revision be made 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. ..."

Literature Advisory Actions (Continued)

- 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:

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."

Be revised to read:

"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."

Literature Advisory Actions (Continued)

- 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.
- The existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” not be retired.
- The draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved with the working title, “Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated.
- 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.
- 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.
- The pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” be revised 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.”

Literature Advisory Actions (Continued)

- 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:

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.”

- The draft pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A. be approved.

Literature Advisory Actions (Continued)

- **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.**

Note: the Big Book is currently translated into 73 different languages. This would serve as another translation and would neither change nor replace the big book.

Literature Committee Recommendation Not Resulting in Advisory Action

- The following recommendation was made to the Conference by the Conference Committee on Literature and did not pass with substantial unanimity nor simple majority:
 - The pamphlet, "The A.A. Group... Where it All Begins," be revised to omit the line on page 13, "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers," as follows:

The paragraphs on page 13 currently read:

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking." Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

Be revised to read:

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking." Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism.

Agenda Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
 - The following theme for the 2022 General Service Conference:
“A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service.”
 - The following presentation/discussion topics for the 2022 General Service Conference:
 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
 - The following workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference:
The Warranties – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World.

Policy & Admissions Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
 - Krishna M.V., general secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India, be admitted to the 71st General Service Conference as an observer. (Note: This agenda item was approved using the Conference Polling process.)
 - The trustees' General Service Conference Committee develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process.
 - 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.
(Note: this policy can be found in the pre-conference background material. Most noteworthy for Area 11 is the earlier submission for proposed General Service Conference agenda items.)
 - **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."**
 - **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.**

Policy/Admissions Recommendation Not Resulting in Advisory Action

- The following recommendation was made by the Policy/Admissions Committee to the Conference and did not achieve substantial unanimity—but did receive simple majority (which is considered a strong suggestion to the General Service Board):

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

Policy/Admissions Recommendations Not Resulting in Advisory Actions (Continued)

- The following recommendation was made by the Policy/Admissions Committee to the 71st General Service Conference (through email poll) and achieved simple majority (but not substantial unanimity):
 - That the General Service Conference invite Appointed Committee Members from trustees' committees to attend the 71st General Service Conference, except sessions designated for delegates or trustees only, on a one-year trial basis, as non-Conference members to share points of information. (Note: This agenda item was considered using the Conference Polling process.)

International Conventions/Regional Forums Advisory Actions

- No recommendations

Archives Advisory Actions

- No recommendations

Time for a Joke

What do you call it if someone starts
breakdancing at the General Service
Conference...?

What do you call it if someone starts breakdancing at the General Service Conference...?

A floor action

Jokes aside: what is a floor action?

- Floor actions, simply stated:
 - A recommendation coming from the floor, asking the Conference to consider a recommendation
 - There is a special procedure pertaining to Floor Actions

Floor Actions Resulting in Advisory Actions

- This floor actions was considered and passed with substantial unanimity:
 - 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.

Floor Actions Resulting in Advisory Actions

- These floor actions were considered and passed with substantial unanimity
 - 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.
 - 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.”

Floor Actions Resulting in Advisory Actions

NOTE: At this point, the Conference had approved two different versions of the Preamble. This left open the question about which version prevails (whether chronological order meant the second one prevailed or if there were two versions). This led to the final floor action as follows.

- **The Preamble revision replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.**

[This was the version that ultimately prevailed.]

Floor Actions Not Resulting in Advisory Actions

- This floor action was withdrawn:
 - Edits to the chapters "To Wives," "The Family Afterward" and "To Employers" (pages 104-149) in the book Alcoholics Anonymous will be allowed, but the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion" (pages xi-xxxii), "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is.
- The Conference declined to consider this floor action:
 - 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 A.A. principles.

**This does not add up!
There were over 100
agenda items total
going into the
Conference!
What happened to
the rest of them?**

The remainder did not result in Committee Recommendations to the full General Service Conference voting body and therefore the Conference did not vote on those. Simply stated: many of these agenda items were addressed as committee considerations (i.e., non-binding suggestions forwarding to the corresponding Trustees' Committee to look into) and some resulted in no action.

Committee Considerations Highlights

- Suggested changes to Committee Workbooks and/or kits, including Corrections, Treatment, Accessibilities, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Suggestions regarding providing digital formats of literature, including service workbooks
- Suggestions to replace the term “special needs” with accessibilities throughout all A.A. literature
- Suggestion to update accessibilities-related literature to make references to intellectual and learning disabilities
- Suggestions related to progress reports of pamphlets that are currently undergoing revision or production, including.
- Public Information suggested placing the 2021 A.A. Membership Survey on hold for now
- Public Information suggested the creation of a “how to” PowerPoint for presenting at Non-A.A. meetings
- Public Information suggested editorial changes to “Understanding Anonymity” pamphlet to reflect modern technology

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

- Agenda Committee:
 - Suggested improvements with preparing Delegates for the Conference process including video or other demonstrates of “How the Conference Operates” and more guidance for the Conference Committee Chairpersons.
 - The Committee noted improvements made to the Conference schedule and new technology used (i.e., Board Video Reports) and suggested exploring the feasibility of quarterly video reports from the three corporate boards to be distributed to Conference Members.
 - The committee considered a proposal suggesting the inclusion of additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on G.S.C. agenda items and took no action. The committee would like to challenge all area delegates to consider innovative ways to encourage local members to participate in the Conference process.

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

- Archives Committee: The committee reviewed the report on “Proposed Book on A.A. History” and took no action. The committee noted that the scope of the project is too large for one volume, and that a single volume may not sufficiently cover the expanse of A.A.’s history from 1955 to present. The committee also noted that A.A.’s worldwide Fellowship is ethnically, and culturally diverse and such a book might unintentionally leave out some portions of the Fellowship that are today under-reported. It was also noted that the scope and purpose of the Archives is to collect and preserve materials relevant to the history of the Fellowship and expending resources on a history book at this time would not be a prudent use of archives resources. The committee also noted that several works on various aspects of A.A.’s history have been published by historians utilizing primary resources, including those available in the G.S.O. Archives.
- Grapevine/La Vina: The committee requested that the Grapevine Board gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship related to the topic of gender-neutral language options for the A.A. Preamble and bring back the results to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

○ Literature:

- The committee considered a request to audit the first 164 pages of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, for necessary revisions and took no action. The committee agreed that the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous* should remain unchanged.
- The committee suggested that the development of workbooks to help study the program of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as reflected in the most current edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be considered and that a feasibility report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

- Finance:

- The committee suggested updating "The A.A. Group Treasurer" and the AA Guidelines on Finance service materials to include information on how to financially support the AA Grapevine with the following language:

Question: Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine?

Answer: No. AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals.

Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work. To support the Grapevine and La Viña magazine contact: www.aagrapevine.org (212) 870-3018 AA Grapevine 475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-3018

- The committee discussed Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less" and took no action. The committee shared experience on the varying practices within the Fellowship regarding literature sales and agreed that a change to Concept XII, Warranty Two was not necessary.

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

- International Conventions/Regional Forums:

- The committee had a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer and the understanding that although the prayer is part of the history of A.A. and is widely used and supported in some areas, it could make some members feel excluded and support the perception of A.A. as a religious organization. The committee also discussed possible options to the Lord's Prayer including, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.

The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision. The committee requested that the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention by use of a survey 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 2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

○ Policy and Admissions

- The committee considered a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair and took no action. The committee noted that processes such as calling for a point of order are available, and that guidance related to handling appeals is provided in the Twelve Concepts.
- The committee reviewed the “Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material” and agreed that great progress has been made. Noting that we are consistently under budget, the committee encouraged use of the full budget if it could mean the translated background would be available earlier. The committee encouraged gathering shared experience from the Fellowship on the five questions at the end of the report. The committee agreed that making Conference background more concise would serve the Fellowship as a whole.

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

- Report and Charter

- The committee discussed the General Service Conference Final Report. The committee noted the decline in the distribution of print copies and, while aware of the need to make the print version accessible, encouraged the use of the digital anonymity-protected version and suggested the Conference coordinator note these points in pre-Conference documents.
- As part of its discussion on A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.), the committee noted the value of “A.A. Near You,” a searchable local resource on www.aa.org. The committee also agreed on the importance of G.S.O. updating and continuing to make available the print and digital listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada (Item F-25) and requested that it be added to the G.S.R. and D.C.M. kits, and the A.A. Group Handbook.

Committee Consideration Highlights (Continued)

○ Trustees

- The committee agreed that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also agreed that A.A.'s service structure is equally valuable.

The committee appreciated the extensive additional input provided by the interim general manager of G.S.O. and the chair of the A.A.W.S. Board. The committee noted that the General Service Board and A.A.W.S. board have a good understanding on finances and organizational strategy and expressed appreciation for the progress being made related to bringing modern communication formats and financial reporting to the General Service Office.

The committee also discussed the authority delegated to the General Service Board and legal responsibilities involving communication, financial prudence, and transparency. The committee noted that several major decisions previously made by the General Service Board and corporate affiliate, A.A.W.S., Inc., were not fully or promptly reported out to the Fellowship. The committee recognized that the lack of providing clear, comprehensible answers in a timely manner has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue.

**The preceding
slides on
Committee
Considerations
were
HIGHLIGHTS**

Feel free to review all subsequent slides for the full list of Additional Committee Considerations. There were 89 Committee Considerations total!

Corrections Committee Considerations

○ Committee Considerations

- The committee requested that the trustees' Corrections Committee review the language used in Corrections materials for Corrections professionals and explore the need for developing different language to refer to "persons in custody."
- The committee received a report from the A.A.W.S. publishing director with several viable options that had been identified to make A.A. literature in digital formats available for alcoholics in correctional settings. The committee requested that the trustees' Corrections Committee develop a service piece that will explain the digital distribution terminology to local committees who are carrying the message behind the walls, including step by step guidance on using digital materials in local correction settings.
- The committee recognized the Correction assignment's ongoing efforts to collect shared experience from members who participate in Corrections work – currently available upon request. The committee requested that the trustees' Corrections Committee actively pursue the exploration of thread-based forums and new communication models that would allow members and committees carrying the message behind the walls to access and provide shared experience. The committee requests that a progress report be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee on Corrections.
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and asked the secretary to forward a list of changes to the trustees' Corrections Committee including using current language, correspondence samples, literature, links to A.A.W.S. Inc. and AA Grapevine digital platforms, and videos from the G.S.O. website. The committee also requested that the existing stock of Corrections Workbooks and Kits be retired once updates are completed.
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and asked the secretary to forward a list of changes to the trustees' Corrections Committee including using current language, correspondence samples, literature, links to A.A.W.S. Inc. and AA Grapevine digital platforms, and videos from the G.S.O. website. The committee also requested that the existing stock of Corrections Workbooks and Kits be retired once updates are completed.

Treatment and Accessibilities (Committee Considerations)

○ Committee Considerations

- 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.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces and made the following suggestions:
 - Move forward with the production of audio files ensuring appropriate sound quality for distribution on digital platforms.
 - 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.
 - Develop a questionnaire to be used for future audio military interviews that include topics such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), injuries, and barriers that sober alcoholics on active military duty face in getting sober
 - Seek the help of the Fellowship in reaching out to possible candidates for the audio military interviews.
 - Utilize higher quality equipment professional services to record and oversee the production of the audio military interviews to improve sound and visual design quality.
 - Utilize graphics such as the “Blue People” banner, alternate backgrounds and soundtracks to enhance the audio and visual design of the audio files presentations.

Treatment and Accessibilities (Committee Considerations Continued)

- Committee Considerations (Continued)
 - The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee.
 - The committee reviewed the Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee.
 - The committee agreed to the concept of developing digital versions of workbooks and other service material and suggested having an opt-in choice to receive electronic versus print versions.
 - The committee suggested updating the A.A. Guidelines on Accessibilities to include references to intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties.
 - The committee requested ongoing reviews and revision of materials to replace the term “special needs” with “accessibilities” across all A.A. literature, including service material.
 - The committee was provided an update on the Remote Communities guidelines and look forward to a draft version.

Public Information Committee Considerations

○ Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2020 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee report on the Google Ads performance and requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee encouraged G.S.O. to develop an annual project calendar relating to Google Ads.

The committee also supported suggestions provided to them from a report from the G.S.O. senior digital communications analyst and Public Information A.C.M. Suggestions include:

Creation of more and diverse content. (This is a dynamic environment; a plan of monthly changes is the best use of the tool.)

Create 2 new ad sets with different conversion goals and similar language.

Consider setting half the new ads to clicks and half to conversions for comparison.

Create one new campaign with multiple ad sets for the professional community.

Improve use of the keyword planner and add appropriate keywords in a regular cadence.

Public Information Committee Considerations (Continued)

- Committee Considerations (Continued)
 - The committee reviewed and accepted the report on the status of the 2021 draft Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed support for the vision and architecture. The committee noted the new architecture is in keeping with today's communications standards and requested that the full plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information and that the full plan be available to all Conference members to distribute to their areas. The committee also suggested that the content of the CMP be expanded to include a deeper understanding of targeted audiences within A.A. relating to all genders and reaching potential members.
 - The committee reviewed and accepted the 2020 report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements." The committee found the current Conference-approved PSAs to be relevant and useful.

Public Information Committee Considerations (Continued)

○ Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the trustees' Public Information Committee "Survey Methodology Working Group on the Triennial A.A. Membership Survey" report. The committee reviewed and accepted the report and felt satisfied that the current methodology sampling of the survey is sound.

The committee also discussed the suggestion that 2021 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted and took no action. The committee expressed concerns on the timing of the survey being distributed to the Fellowship considering the status of many groups, attendance, and possible interrupted local communications relating to the distribution of the questionnaire.

The committee also expressed concerns about the A.A. Membership Survey in pamphlet form being used as an "outward" facing Public Information pamphlet to inform the public, professionals, and potential members about A.A. and believes that the function of the data collected might be better used to inform Twelfth Step efforts for groups and service committees rather than a Public Information tool.

The committee suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee:

- Conduct a more in-depth review of the content, language, and function in the questionnaire;

- Discuss the function and target audience of the pamphlet;

- Produce a training video for delegates and G.S.R.s on data collection, purpose and methods to enhance consistency and engagement.

Public Information Committee Considerations (Continued)

- Committee Considerations:
 - The committee discussed service materials and resources for Public Information committees and suggested that a PowerPoint be developed for the purpose of providing shared experience on “how to” present about A.A. at non-A.A. events.
 - The committee discussed the trustees’ Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets. The committee encouraged the trustees’ Public Information Committee to continue their review of the P.I. pamphlets/service materials and requested that a comprehensive report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information including suggestions and input related to which P.I. pamphlets/materials may need revision, editorial updates, new formats or possible retirement to make room for improved public information messaging tools.
 - The committee requested that G.S.O. Publishing conduct editorial updates to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” to reflect current technology terminologies and service resources.
 - The committee discussed the content and format of the P.I. Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the memo regarding recent A.A.W.S. Board discussions on the possible development of an A.A. service app and new digital PDF version of the workbook. The committee encourages G.S.O. to move away from a “print-first” approach to publishing so that service material and resources on aa.org might be updated more quickly and efficiently with the most up to date resources for local committees

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Considerations

○ Committee Considerations

○ The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

- That the digital C.P.C. Kit be available in a format that is easily accessible on all digital devices, including desktop, laptops, tablets, and smartphones.
- Improve the organization on the digital C.P.C. Kit content page, so it can be easily navigated and include links to all items available digitally.
- That a QR code connecting to the “For Professionals” page on the aa.org website be added to all appropriate materials in the C.P.C. Kit.
- Create a tabletop display with a QR code connecting to the “For Professionals” page on the aa.org website for use at C.P.C. exhibits.
- Develop a virtual C.P.C. exhibit
- Update the language to service material in the C.P.C. Kit including the Workbook, C.P.C. PowerPoint presentation, and A.A. Guidelines to reflect current ways to find A.A., references to professionals, and how C.P.C. efforts are implemented in today’s environment.

Agenda Committee Considerations

- The committee discussed the 2020 and 2021 “Reports on the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Conference Agenda Process Including Sharing from the Conference Committee Chairs” and two years of the annual survey responses from Conference committee chairs on the effectiveness of the ongoing communication between the trustees' committee chair or corporate board chair and their corresponding Conference committee chair. The committee noted the value of recent improvements to the Conference agenda process. The committee also suggested the following:
 - The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider a survey suggestion to create a workbook or guideline about the role of a Conference committee chair and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees' General Service Conference Committee.
 - That the trustees' General Service Conference Committee explore the feasibility of the three chairs of the corporate boards creating snapshot anonymity-protected videos after each quarterly board weekend, like the prerecorded board videos completed for the recent virtual General Service Conferences. These videos could include current project updates and provide details that are synchronized with but enhance the quarterly reporting that is distributed and reported out by regional trustees to delegates. Regional trustees and delegates could share such videos locally providing enhanced communication up and down the service structure.
 - The committee agreed and requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider new ways, such as creating short videos, demonstrations, or visual workflows, to communicate the information in the opening session that describes how the Conference operates and floor actions so that all Conference members may understand them and effectively participate in the annual meeting.

Agenda Committee Considerations Continued

- The committee reviewed the 2019 and 2020 General Service Conference evaluation form and process and made the following suggestions:
 - That each question on the evaluation have an open comment section.
 - That a survey like the September 2020 Conference Improvements survey be continued annually.
- The committee reviewed the summary reports of the 2019 and 2020 General Service Conference evaluations. The committee noted several repeated comments and suggested the following:
 - Explore the feasibility of the translated Conference background being completed sooner than the current Advisory Action deadline of the first week of March (French and Spanish).
 - Consider a year-over-year statistical and comparative analysis of each evaluation category.
- The committee discussed a proposed change to the General Service Conference schedule and the method of sharing on agenda items and took no action. The proposal suggested allowing for the Conference committees to hear opinions or ideas from their areas on agenda items from delegates who are not members of the committee. The committee strongly believed we should trust the committee system and felt that the proposal did not provide benefits warranting a change.
- The committee considered a proposal suggesting the inclusion of additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on G.S.C. agenda items and took no action. The committee would like to challenge all area delegates to consider innovative ways to encourage local members to participate in the Conference process.
- The committee reviewed survey results on the 2019 January conference call that provides committee members a voice in evaluating the trustee and corporate board disposition decisions on proposed agenda items. The committee requested that this sharing be gathered annually and forwarded to the Conference Committee on Agenda. The committee asked the trustees' General Service Conference Committee to act on a survey request to include more background material on all proposed agenda items discussed at this meeting.

Archives Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and made the following suggestions regarding the section “Guidelines for Collecting Oral Histories”:
 - Include text offering suggestions on ways to conduct ASL interviews with deaf members to offer a greater diversity of sharing.
 - In the sub-section “Sample Interview Questions,” add sample questions relating to “vision for the future.”
- The committee reviewed the report on “Proposed Book on A.A. History” and took no action. The committee noted that the scope of the project is too large for one volume, and that a single volume may not sufficiently cover the expanse of A.A.’s history from 1955 to present. The committee also noted that A.A.’s worldwide Fellowship is ethnically, and culturally diverse and such a book might unintentionally leave out some portions of the Fellowship that are today under-reported. It was also noted that the scope and purpose of the Archives is to collect and preserve materials relevant to the history of the Fellowship and expending resources on a history book at this time would not be a prudent use of archives resources. The committee also noted that several works on various aspects of A.A.’s history have been published by historians utilizing primary resources, including those available in the G.S.O. Archives.

Finance Committee Considerations

- The committee suggested that any updates made to the pie charts in the pamphlet, "Where Money and Spirituality Mix" be reflected on all similar Service Materials.
- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member and took no action. The committee noted that the maximum annual contribution was increased in 2018 and agreed the amount is appropriate as it stands.
- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and took no action. The committee noted that the maximum annual bequest was increased in 2019 and agreed the amount is appropriate as it stands.
- The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and took no action. The committee noted that there was a need to maintain self-support with Conference costs; however, due to the pandemic, the committee agreed that it would be appropriate to leave the amount as it stands.
- The committee reviewed a request to reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Advisory Action stating "G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group" and took no action. The committee noted that practices regarding clubs varied throughout the Fellowship, and that there was no widely expressed need to reconsider or change the 1972 Advisory Action.
- The committee had a robust discussion on the mechanization of group contributions in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" and took no action.

Finance Committee Considerations Continued

- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and took no action. The committee agreed that the material contained in the Self-Support packet was relevant and current.
- The committee discussed Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of “selling of our books at cost or less” and took no action. The committee shared experience on the varying practices within the Fellowship regarding literature sales and agreed that a change to Concept XII, Warranty Two was not necessary.
- The committee reviewed the “Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report” and took no action. The committee had a wide-ranging discussion and concluded that Google Grants is a discount provided to all non-profit organizations and is not in violation of the Seventh Tradition.
- The committee suggested updating "The A.A. Group Treasurer" and the AA Guidelines on Finance service materials to include information on how to financially support the AA Grapevine with the following language:

Question: Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine?

Answer: No. AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work. To support the Grapevine and La Viña magazine contact: www.aagrapevine.org (212) 870-3018 AA Grapevine 475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-3018

Grapevine/La Vina Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the progress report on the AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and suggested adding additional information on ways to use AA Grapevine resources as Twelfth Step tools, availability of books, pricing, ways Canadian members can more easily participate, and new multimedia platforms.
- The committee reviewed the AA Grapevine Fellowship Survey and summary with appreciation and acknowledged the actions that the Grapevine Board and staff have taken as a result of the findings.
- The committee considered a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message and took no action. The committee recognized the AA Grapevine workbook and other materials include information on how Grapevine and La Viña can be used to carry the message.
- The committee considered gender-neutral language options for possible changes to the A.A. Preamble and took no action. The committee felt they needed more information to make a decision.
- The committee requested that the Grapevine Board gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship related to the topic of gender-neutral language options for the A.A. Preamble and bring back the results to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.
- The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that AA Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2022 or later:
 1. AA's Twelve Concepts (working title). Previously published stories from the pages of Grapevine by A.A. members about their various experiences with the Twelve Concepts.
 2. The Home Group II (working title). Previously published stories by A.A. members about their experiences with their home groups, including stories about A.A. groups that do not meet in person. Possibly a 30th Anniversary edition of the original AA Grapevine Home Group book.

International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee Considerations

- The committee had a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer and the understanding that although the prayer is part of the history of A.A. and is widely used and supported in some areas, it could make some members feel excluded and support the perception of A.A. as a religious organization. The committee also discussed possible options to the Lord's Prayer including, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.

The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision. The committee requested that the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention by use of a survey 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 2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:
 - Consider using the meeting guide app to further convey Regional Forum information.
 - Continue using videoconferencing technology to broadcast portions of future in-person forum programs allowing members who may not have resources or time to travel to participate.
 - Ensure future host regions are well informed about dates, locations, programs, and ways the local membership can participate.
 - Extend outreach materials to invite the Spanish-speaking and LGBTQ communities to attend Regional Forums.
 - Conduct at least one presentation or workshop in Spanish and/or French at each Regional Forum.

Literature Committee Considerations

- Regarding the “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format,” the committee noted the usefulness and relevancy of video formats of existing literature, especially items that are basic and addressing the broader aspects of A.A. The committee also noted the importance of a prioritized list of possible print to video projects being presented to the Conference for selection of projects to reflect the expressed need of the Fellowship.
- The committee expressed appreciation for the tentative plans outlined by the trustees’ Literature Committee to foster expedience with moving forward on revision of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.” The committee noted the importance of involving members of the community from the intended primary audience of the pamphlet in the development of the pamphlet, including providing input for a title that is respectful and inclusive of members throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- The committee noted that the draft updated version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” pending its approval, is well-suited for an introduction to the Traditions, and the existing version is helpful for more in-depth consideration of the Traditions.
- The committee considered a request to revise the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, by adding text from the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group... Where It All Begins,” in an appendix and took no action. The committee agreed that the pamphlet content stands alone, and it is not necessary to add it to *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- The committee considered a request to audit the first 164 pages of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, for necessary revisions and took no action. The committee agreed that the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous* should remain unchanged.
- The committee reviewed a request to add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, at the time it is published and took no action. The committee noted that at the time of the development of a Fifth Edition book, the foreword would be written to reflect pertinent information at that time.

Literature Committee Considerations

- The committee considered the request to add a subtitle, “How Not to Take the First Drink,” to the booklet, Living Sober, and took no action. The committee noted that the current title is effective.
 - The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
 - The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” and requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Literature Committee.
 - The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the meeting of the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
 - The committee accepted the 2019 and 2020 matrices of A.A. recovery literature. The committee suggested that the annual literature matrix be included as background along with a G.S.O. Publishing Workflow description and draft updates to A.A. Conference-approved literature for the agenda item related to “A.A. World Services, Inc., Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current.”
- The committee expressed appreciation for the trustees’ Literature Committee and A.A.W.S. Board continuing their efforts to outline and define the process by which updates are reviewed and approved per this policy. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed the draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in the booklet, Living Sober, and the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” The committee noted that additional consideration of the accessibility of the language is needed. The committee requested that an updated draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Literature Committee Considerations Continued

- The committee reviewed the draft update of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." The committee expressed appreciation for the project being deferred to 2021 due to overall budget constraints and the potential video production expenses as part of the update to this item. The committee also expressed appreciation for the pamphlet's format in terms of how the shared experience, strength and hope is presented.

The committee provided additional suggestions to foster a greater diversity of stories and images of members and requested that an updated draft pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed the draft of the new pamphlet on A.A.'s Three Legacies. The committee expressed appreciation for the direction of the pamphlet development to date. The committee noted concern about the length of the pamphlet, the need for more relatable and accessible language, and perhaps reducing the extent to which Bill W.'s writings and A.A. history are included in its content.

The committee suggested additional revisions be considered and that an updated draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee considered if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.

The committee suggested that the development of workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, as reflected in the most current edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be considered and that a feasibility report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee considered the request to revise the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins," to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five. The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee considered the request to revise text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins." The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee considered the request to update the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American." The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Literature Committee Considerations Continued

- The committee considered the review of G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy for the pamphlets, “Is A.A. for You?” “Is there an Alcoholic in Your Life?” “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.,” and “This is A.A.” The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees’ Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the items to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee considered the 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 noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees’ Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee considered the request to revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” by expanding the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitling the pamphlet to include service sponsorship. The committee agreed that these revisions might be helpful. The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees’ Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection. The committee agreed with the overall goal of a reduction or containment of total Conference costs, the suitability of sleeping rooms and meeting rooms, and an improvement in the convenience and cost of transportation to and from airports. The committee requested that that future reports include more details on specific sites considered.
- The committee reviewed the dates for the 2025 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee selected the following dates for the 75th General Service Conference in order of preference: May 4 – May 10, 2025; April 27 – May 3, 2025; May 11 – May 17, 2025. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates are the best choices because they do not conflict with any significant holidays. The committee requested that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 75th General Service Conference as soon as the dates are finalized by G.S.O. management.
- The committee considered a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair and took no action. The committee noted that processes such as calling for a point of order are available, and that guidance related to handling appeals is provided in the Twelve Concepts.
- The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider revising the "Process for Approving Observers to the Conference" to enable the Policy and Admissions Committee to approve routine requests for admission from General Service structures outside the U.S. and Canada without requiring a Conference Advisory Action.
- The committee reviewed the "Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material" and agreed that great progress has been made. Noting that we are consistently under budget, the committee encouraged use of the full budget if it could mean the translated background would be available earlier. The committee encouraged gathering shared experience from the Fellowship on the five questions at the end of the report. The committee agreed that making Conference background more concise would serve the Fellowship as a whole.

Policy/Admissions Committee Considerations Continued

- The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Committee Assignment Application implemented for the 2020 Committee Selection process. The committee agreed the app provided absolute randomization while saving time and reducing human error. The committee looks forward to its continued evolution.
- The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee continue to explore a process for a Conference committee to review, discuss, and act on a proposed agenda item.

Report and Charter Committee Considerations

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of the 2021 General Service Conference Final Report.
- The committee discussed the General Service Conference Final Report. The committee noted the decline in the distribution of print copies and, while aware of the need to make the print version accessible, encouraged the use of the digital anonymity-protected version and suggested the Conference coordinator note these points in pre-Conference documents.
- As part of its discussion on A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.), the committee noted the value of “A.A. Near You,” a searchable local resource on www.aa.org. The committee also agreed on the importance of G.S.O. updating and continuing to make available the print and digital listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada (Item F-25) and requested that it be added to the G.S.R. and D.C.M. kits, and the A.A. Group Handbook.

Trustees Committee Considerations

- The committee agreed that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also agreed that A.A.'s service structure is equally valuable.

The committee appreciated the extensive additional input provided by the interim general manager of G.S.O. and the chair of the A.A.W.S. Board. The committee noted that the General Service Board and A.A.W.S. board have a good understanding on finances and organizational strategy and expressed appreciation for the progress being made related to bringing modern communication formats and financial reporting to the General Service Office.

The committee also discussed the authority delegated to the General Service Board and legal responsibilities involving communication, financial prudence, and transparency. The committee noted that several major decisions previously made by the General Service Board and corporate affiliate, A.A.W.S., Inc., were not fully or promptly reported out to the Fellowship. The committee recognized that the lack of providing clear, comprehensible answers in a timely manner has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue.

- The committee reviewed the resumes, and approved as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the East Central region, Southeast region, and trustee-at-Large/U.S.
- The committee encourages the General Service Board to actively pursue the exploration of thread-based forums and new communication models to improve communication between the General Service Board and the Fellowship.
- The committee reviewed the status report provided by the chair of the General Service Board in response to a committee consideration from the 2020 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding amending the Bylaws of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Article III, Directors regarding proposed new member trustees. The committee noted the ideas from the author about changing the relationship of the three corporations to each other and to the Conference.
- The committee reviewed and discussed the revised "Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards," and requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee consider further review, with specific attention placed on the time frame and procedure for the selection of Regional Trustees.

The committee appreciated the details and comprehensive work in the revised plan and made editorial suggestions to mirror the updated Conference Charter. The committee requested that a revised plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Trustees.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AA!

Thank you for laughter, tears, and occasional terror... and the opportunity to grow and learn

I could not have done this without guidance and support:

- My Sponsor
- Area 11's current Alternate Delegate and Fellow Area 11 Officers
- My Wife (and her solid footing in Al-Anon)