

# BIG THINGS HAPPENING IN A.A. AS A WHOLE! 2022 G.S.C. HIGHLIGHTS!

## What's this all about?

The annual General Service Conference meeting is a week-long A.A. business meeting, which usually takes place in New York. Voting members include an Area Delegate from each of the 93 Areas throughout the U.S./Canada structure, Trustees (of the General Service Board), Non-Trustee Directors (of A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.), as well as some General Service Office and Grapevine/La Viña Staff. Issues affecting A.A. as a whole throughout the U.S. and Canada structure are discussed and voted on. The 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference happened in April of 2022.

## Highlights from the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference (U.S./Canada)—Partial and Paraphrased

- Material on safety and A.A. will be added to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and to the *Living Sober* booklet.
- A video animation (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain) of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” will be adapted and produced by the Publishing Department (for the U.S./Canada structure)—with a draft or progress report to be brought back to next year’s Conference.
- An updated version of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” was approved.
- The pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” will have language added to it stating: “It is suggested that when A.A.s gather as A.A.s or as an A.A. group on social media pages and other similar platforms that these pages are set to “private” rather than “public.” The pamphlet will also have language added about virtual A.A. meetings.
- The triennial A.A. membership survey, which has not been produced since 2014, will be planned for 2022. You can find the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey on aa.org if you would like to see an example.
- Edits to be made to pamphlets: “This is A.A.,” “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.,” “Is A.A. for You?,” and “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?”
- General Service Conference background material will be made available to Conference members simultaneously in English, French and Spanish.
- The Trustees’ Literature Committee will revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” to update the stories to represent greater diversity, with either a draft pamphlet or progress report to be reviewed in 2023.
- Last year’s General Service Conference (in 2021) recommended to develop a 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the English Big Book. This will not modify the first 164 pages, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” nor “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare.” Development of the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition is underway! This is a multi-year process. Call for stories! Submission deadline is October 31, 2022. Email 5BBSTory@aa.org.
- The development of a 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Spanish Big Book is also underway! Call for stories! Submission deadline is December 15, 2022. Email 4LGHistorias@aa.org.
- An update to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” is underway! Call for stories! Submission deadline is October 31, 2022. Email pamphletstories@aa.org.
- The theme for the 2023 General Service Conference: “A.A.’s Three Legacies—Our Common Solution.”
- Last year’s General Service Conference (2021) recommended to create a draft translation of the English Big Book into plain and simple language. This project continues, with a draft or progress report to be reviewed in 2023.
- Last year’s General Service Conference (in 2021) recommended that online groups be able to register with the General Service Office, being listed in their preferred geographic District and Area (with the default location being that of the group’s primary contact). Last year’s Conference (in 2021) also recommended that the General Service Board form an Ad Hoc Committee to explore future possibilities for virtual groups to participate. This Ad Hoc Committee has begun its work. In the one year since April of 2021, more than 700 virtual groups have since registered with the General Service Office (as of April 2022). The General Service Board Ad Hoc Committee will continue to explore various possibilities of inclusion and looks forward to more feedback from the membership.
- A progress report on outcomes of the 2013-2015 General Service Conference inventory, along with a draft plan for a future General Service Conference inventory with consideration of its value, timeline and approach, be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Agenda for review.
- 2025 International Convention (Vancouver, BC –7/3/25-7/6/25) Theme: “90 Years--Language of the Heart.”
- Sharing to continue about closing prayer options (i.e., whether or not use the Lord’s Prayer) for closing the Big Meetings at International Conventions.

Your Area 11 Delegate reported on many other features of the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference—presentations, workshops, participation challenges at the Conference due to COVID-19 cases, Board reports, financial highlights and more. Visit [www.ct-aa.org](http://www.ct-aa.org), go to the “A.A. Members” section, and look for “Delegate’s Reports” for more information.