

# 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

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

Matt K., Area 11 (Panel 71) Delegate



- Take a pause...
- Reflect...
- How has A.A. impacted your life?

Area 11 Spring Assembly  
May 22, 2022

- PLEASE WRITE DOWN  
YOUR QUESTIONS
- This presentation will be made  
available

# WELCOME FIRST TIME ATTENDEES

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!  
SERIOUSLY!

We begin with overview of G.S.C.  
Service Structure

# Plug for 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

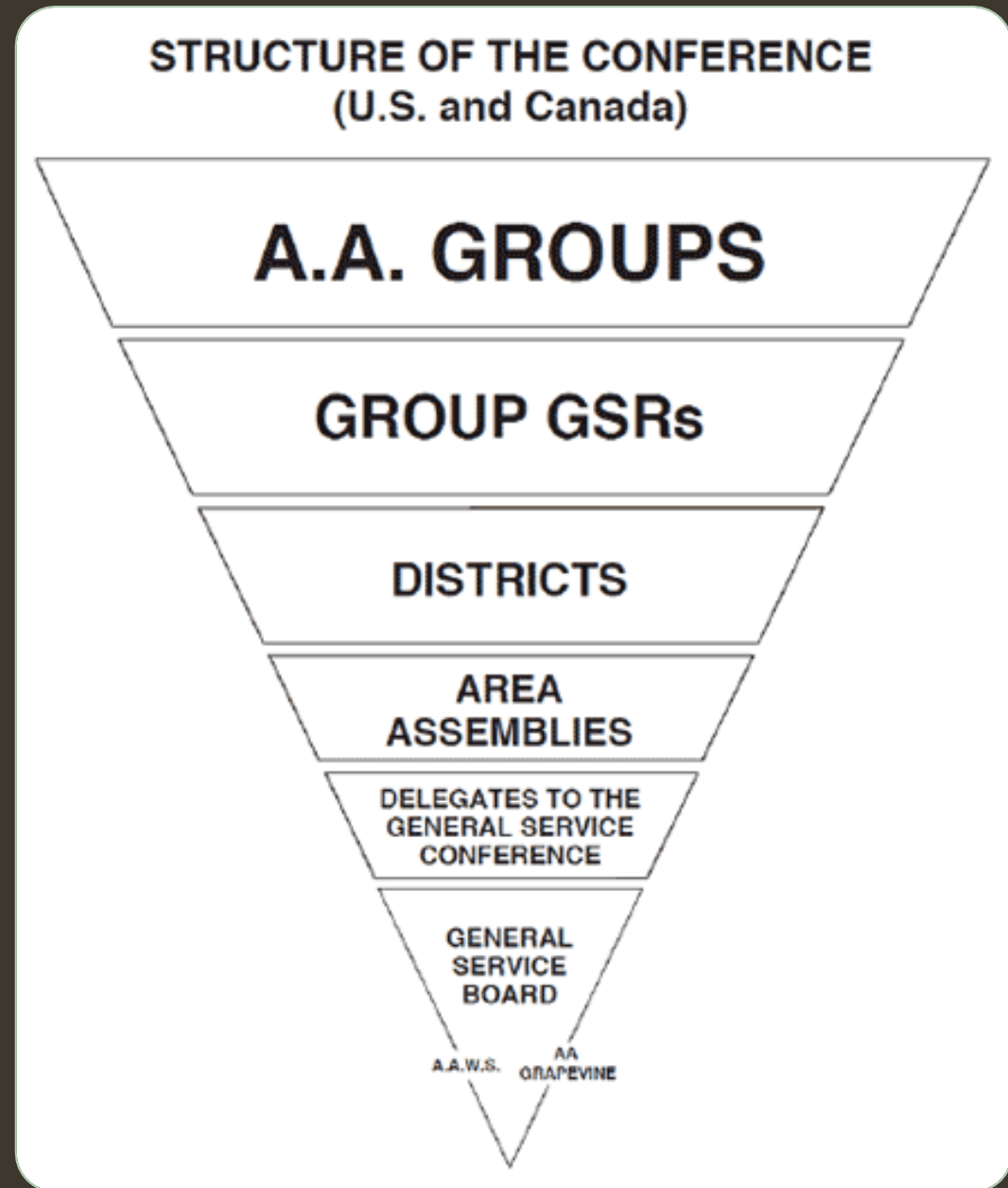
- 1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.**
- 2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole 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. purpose 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 Conference Structure

A.A. Service Manual (2021-2023), page 86 :

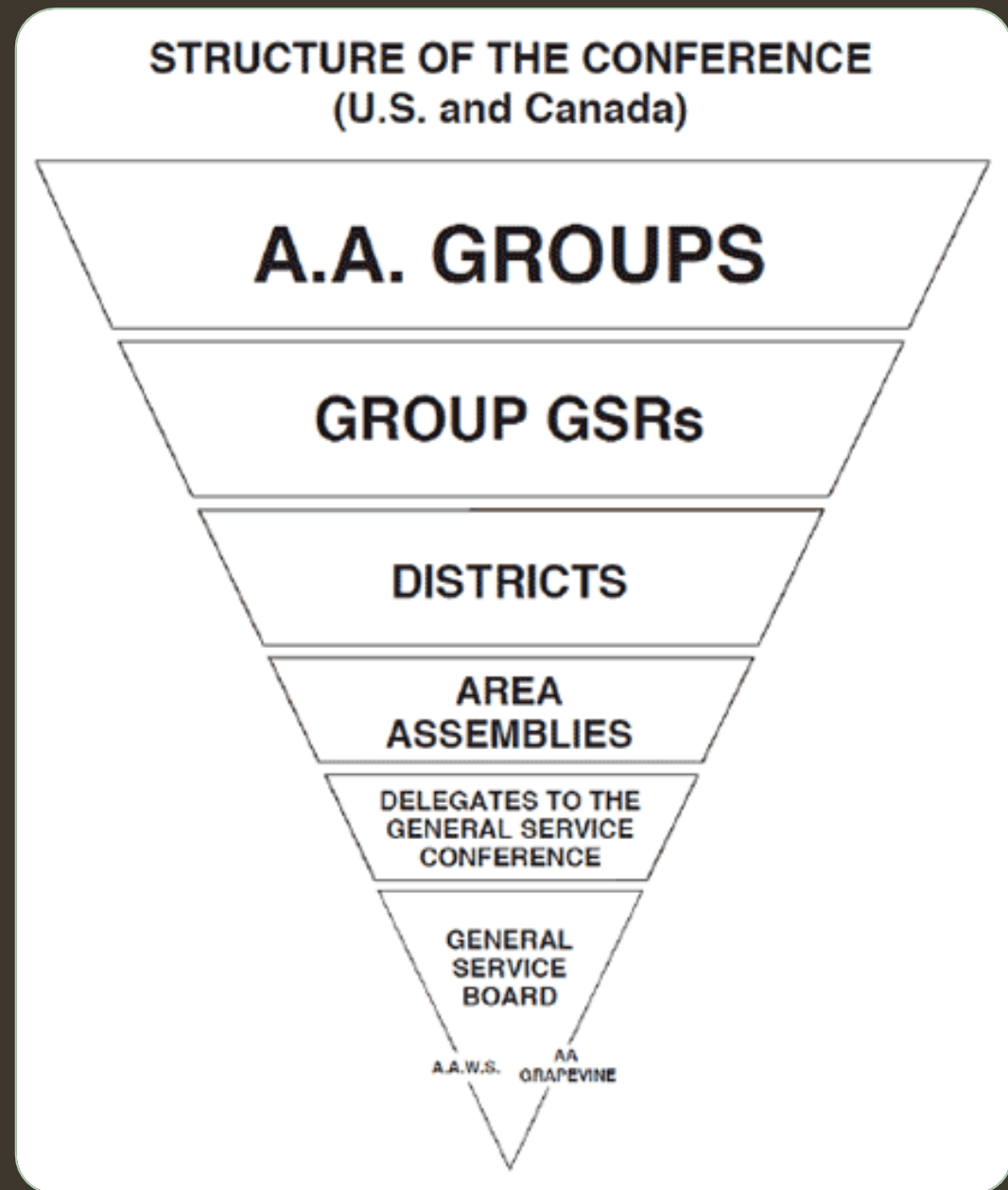
“The General Service Conference; this can mean either the structure involving committee members, GSRs and delegates in an area, or the annual meeting of Conference delegates each spring in New York.”

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# A.A. Groups

Where it all begins...

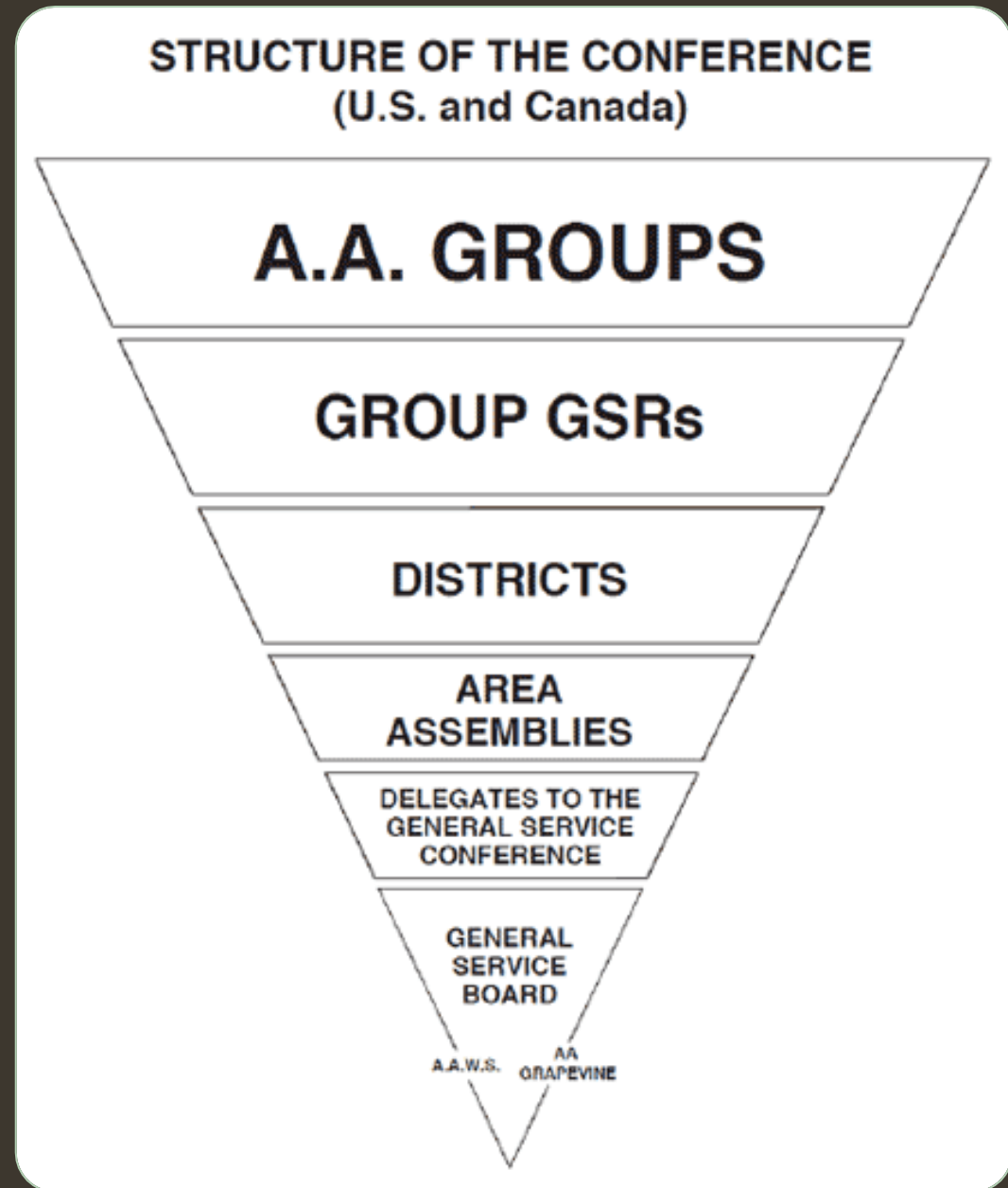


# General Service Representatives (G.S.R.s)

A.A. Service Manual (2021-2023), page 7:

“The G.S.R. is the link between the group and ‘A.A. as a whole.’”

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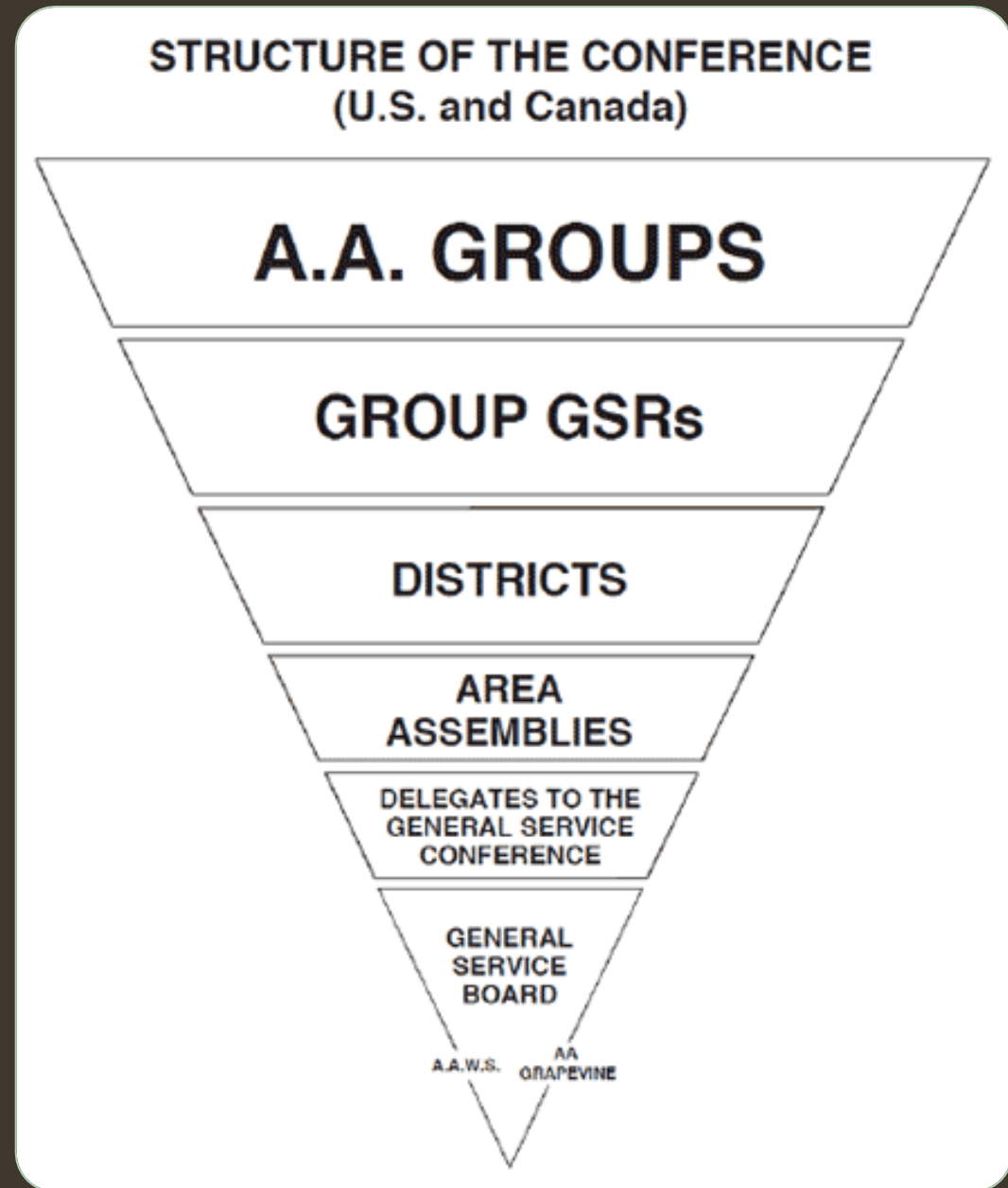


# Districts

A.A. Service Manual (2021-2023), page 86:

Districts are “division[s] within an area, represented by [district] committee member(s) [DCMs].”

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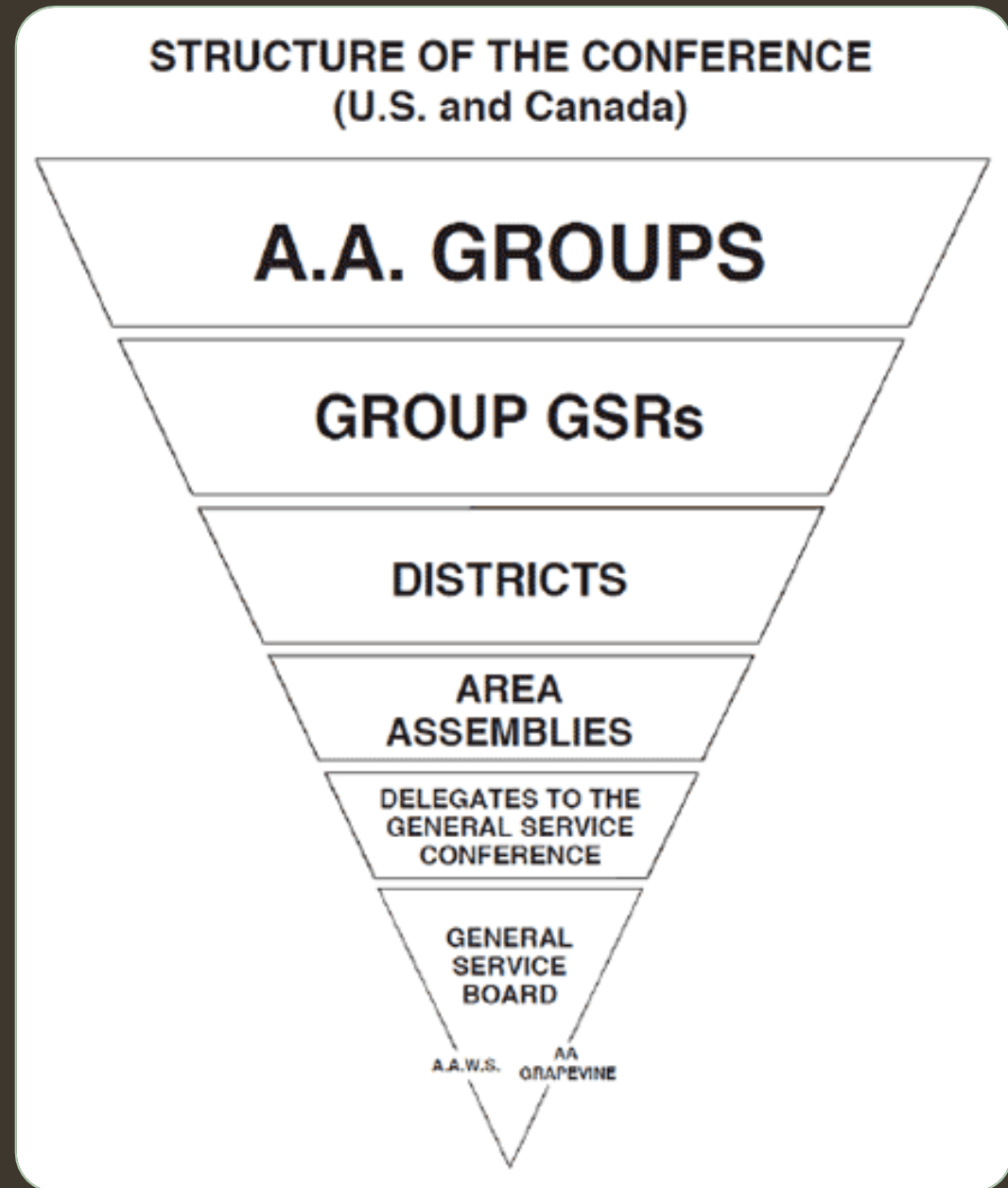
# Area Assemblies

93 Areas in the U.S./Canada

Area 11 is (most of)  
Connecticut

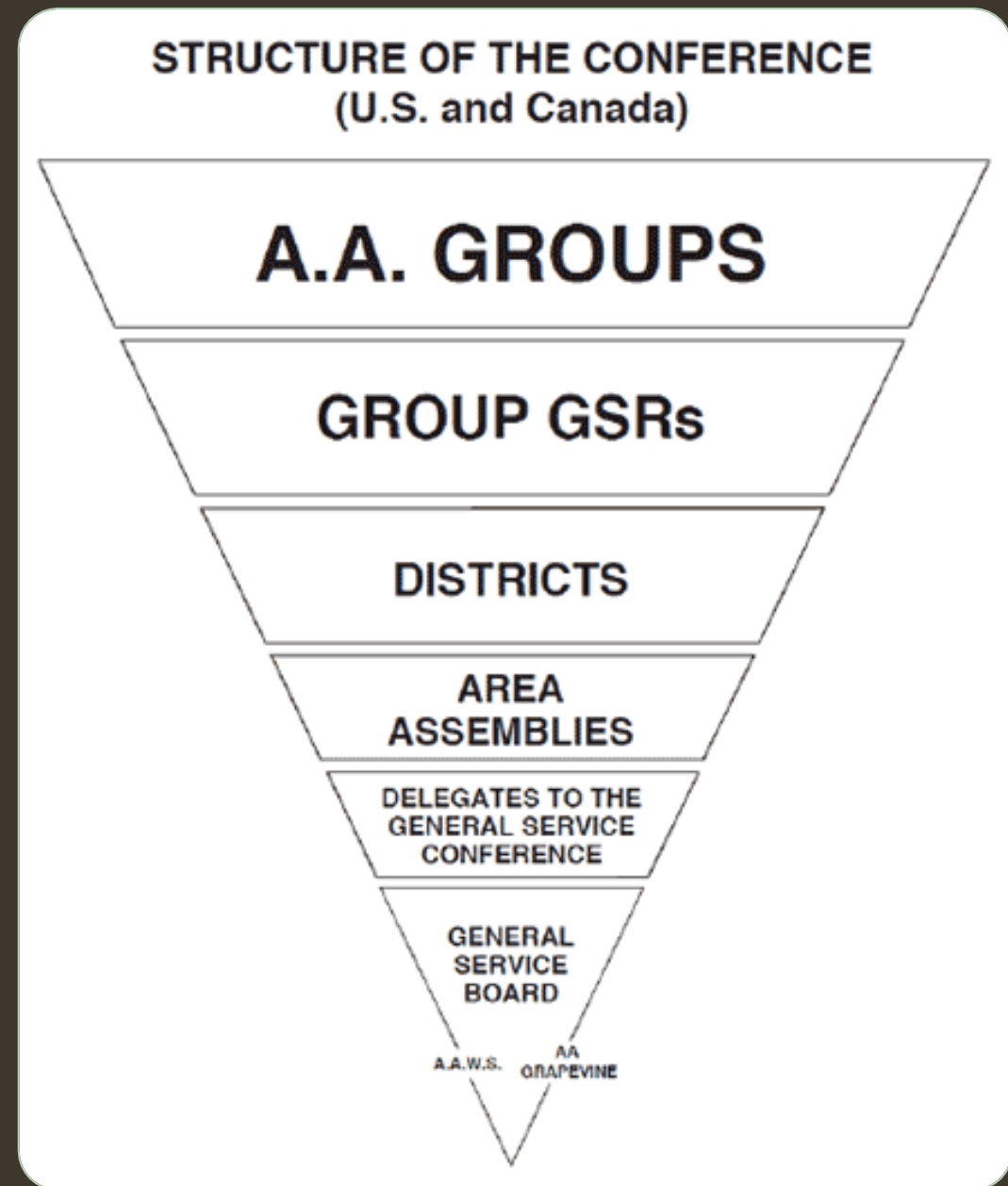
Assemblies:

- Elect a Delegate
- Discuss General Service Conference items
- (Among many other functions)



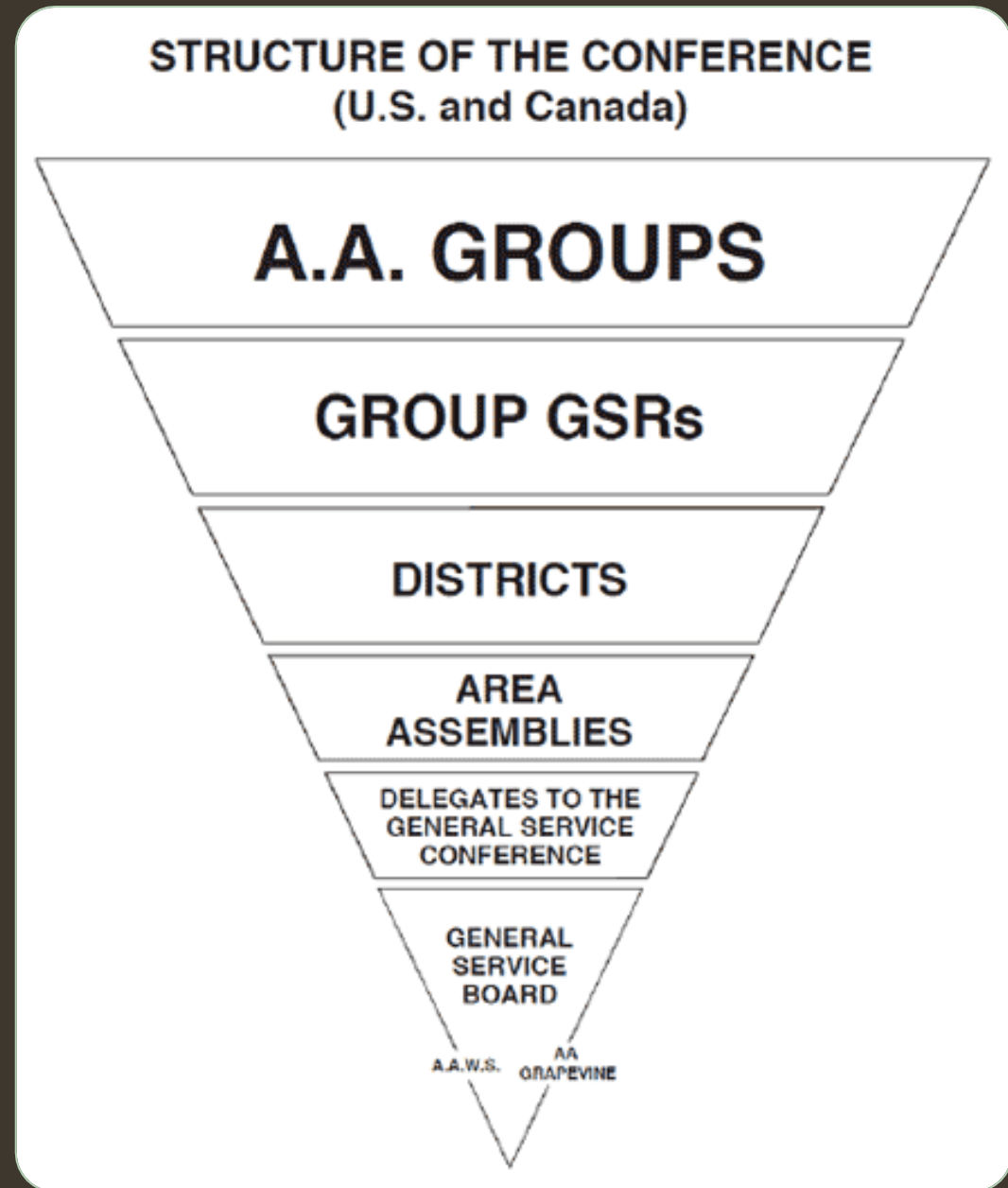
# Delegates to the General Service Conference

- First General Service Conference in 1951 (experimental)
- A.A. came of age in 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)



# Three Corporate Boards

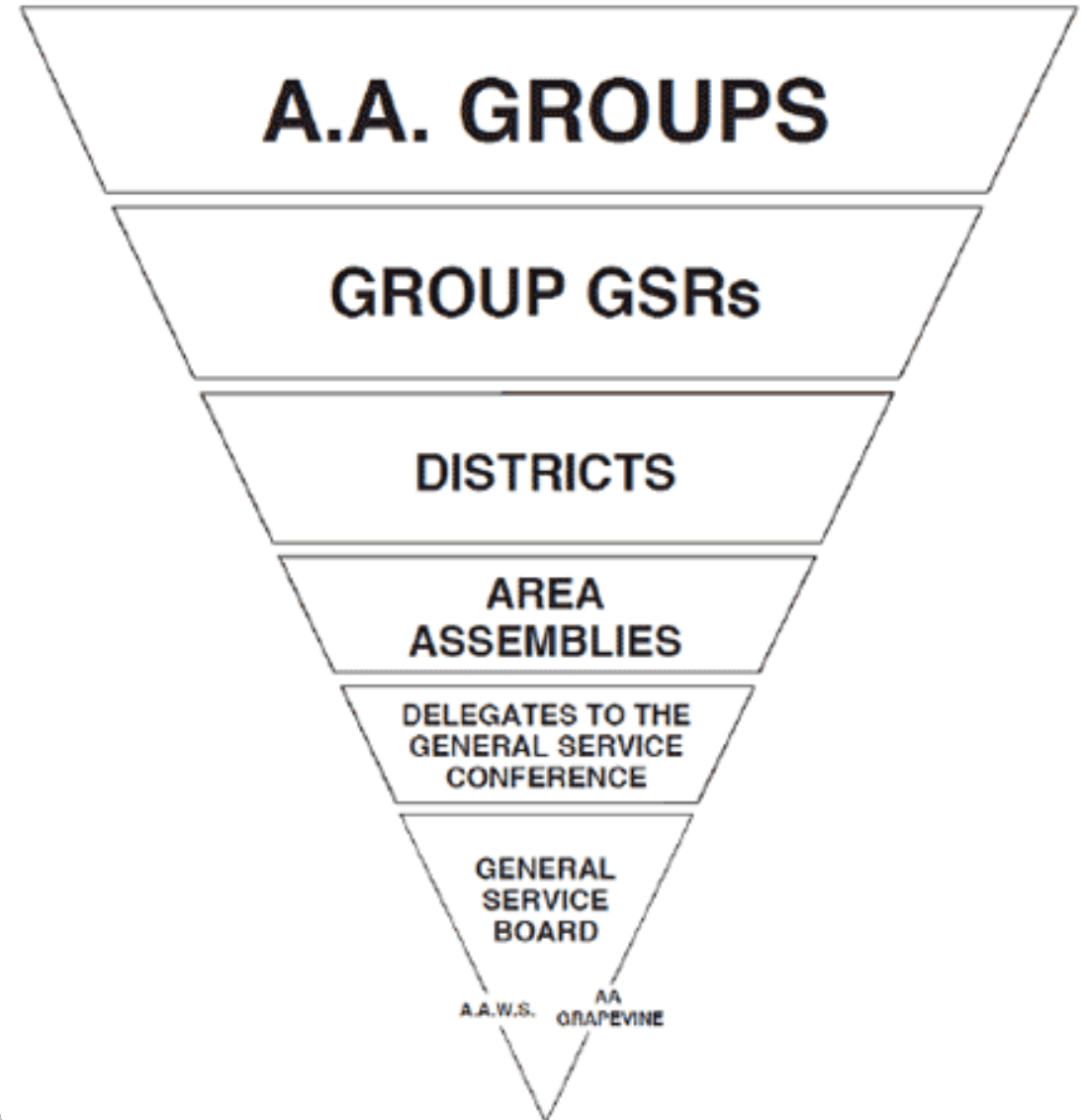
- General Service Board
  - A.A. World Service, Inc. (affiliate)
    - AAWS Publishing
    - Services (GSO)
  - A.A. Grapevine, Inc. (affiliate)
    - A.A. Grapevine/La Vina office and publishing



# What is happening NOW?

- This report (now) is all about the **annual General Service Conference meeting**
- Taking place during an **Area Assembly**

## STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



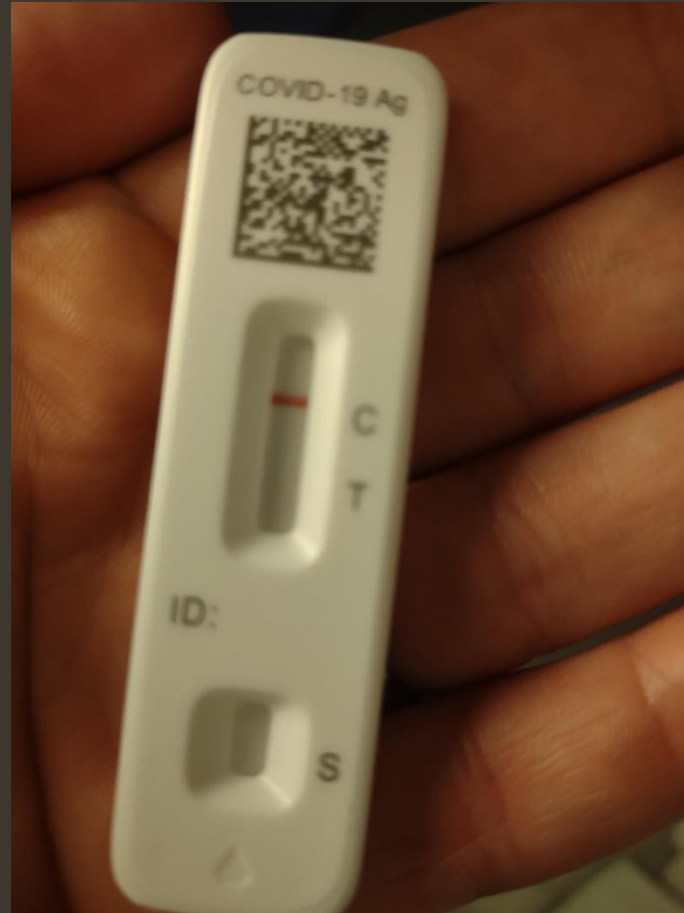
# 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

- April 24<sup>th</sup>  
through  
April 30<sup>th</sup>  
2022

Brooklyn  
NY



# Area 11 Delegate Negative COVID-19 Test Before the General Service Conference



How many U.S./Canada General Service Conferences have happened so far—to date?



How many U.S./Canada General Service  
Conferences have happened so far—to date?

72

## What does “Panel 72” mean?

- Panel 72 = the 72<sup>nd</sup> 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)
  - 2022-1950=72 (this year is panel 72)

Service Conference



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72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
General Service Confer



2022  
Comes of Age 2.0:  
ied in Love and Service

**72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
General Service Conference**



**2022**

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

**Le mouvement des AA devient adulte 2.0 :  
Unifiés dans l'amour et le service**

**AA llega a su mayoría de edad 2.0:  
Unificados en Amor y Servicio**



Where in New York City did A.A. co-founder Bill W. and Lois W. live?

Where in New York City did A.A. co-founder Bill W. and Lois W. live?

- Brooklyn
  - 182 Clinton Street





# General Service Conference

- Week-long A.A. business meeting
- 93 Delegates from each of the 93 Areas in the U.S./Canada
- Additional voting members (Trustees of the General Service Board, Non-Trustee Directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc., and Staff from the G.S.O. and G.V./L.V.)
- Some non-voting observers typically attend
- Agenda items come from many sources
- Collective conscience

# From the 2021- 2023 A.A. Service Manual

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permission from  
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Inc.

## Appendix U

### ▼ APPENDIX U: THE PATH FOR AN IDEA TO BECOME AN AGENDA ITEM

1	An idea, suggestion, question, concern or subject comes from an A.A. member, GSR, DCM, area committee member, delegate, trustee, or G.S.O./GV staff, and may be shared or discussed at the group, district and area assembly and sent to the...	Conference Coordinator G.S.O.
2	The idea is reviewed by the G.S.O./GV Staff and forwarded to the...	Appropriate Trustees' Committee
3	which then may refer the matter to the...	Appropriate Conference Committee
4	which meets during the General Service Conference week and makes <b>recommendations</b> that are presented in the Committee Report to the...	General Service Conference
5	If a Conference Committee recommendation is approved, after full floor discussion, it becomes a... <b>Conference Advisory Action</b> , which becomes binding when approved by the...	General Service Board

*Note: This chart provides a broad overview of the process.*

# Area 11 Assemblies and the General Service Conference

## 2022 Area 11 Assemblies (VERY IMPORTANT)

- April 3, 2022 → Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly
- May 22, 2022 → Area 11 Spring Assembly (or “Post-Conference Assembly”)
- November 6, 2022 → Area 11 Fall Assembly (we elect our next Delegate, candidate for Northeast Regional Trustee [if any], and slate of Area 11 Officers)

# Area 11 Delegate Conference Preparation

- Reviewing background material on all agenda items
- Committee meetings online prior to the Conference
- Preparing the Alternate Delegate (just in case)
- Most importantly, Pre-Conference Assembly Process!!!!

# Pre-Conference Assembly and Concept 3

- 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 C11 (Concept 3 essay) of 2021-2023 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...
  - “The group’s elected general service representative, or GSR, is tasked with... making sure the group’s conscience is... part of the delegate’s **thinking** at the Conference.”  
*–Reprinted from page 4 of the 2021-2023 version of the A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.*
- Your Area Delegate worked very hard to gather your group’s **thinking**...

# Conference Committees

## PRIMARY COMMITTEES

- **Agenda\*\* (Your current Delegate on 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

## Secondary Committees

- Archives
- International Conventions/Regional Forums

# Equitable Distribution of Workload

Subcommittee formed on the Trustees' Committee of the General Service Conference

First year of a 3-year "Equitable Distribution of Workload" Plan Among Committees

Earlier submission deadline for agenda items

New submission form

"Shifting" among Committees

# The Committee Process

- (Mostly) Random Assignment → Your current Delegate was assigned to **Agenda**
- Review Agenda Items Pertaining to Committee
- Three Options for Each Agenda Item
  - Take No Action
  - Recommendation (generally becomes an “advisory action” if it passes with 2/3 on the Conference floor)
  - Committee Consideration (a “suggestion” for the corresponding Trustees’ Committee)



# Committee Activities Before the Conference Week

## Relatively New Practice

- Conference Committees meet ahead of time (online) with the Chairperson of corresponding Trustees Committee
- Conference Committee housekeeping meetings (online)
- The Policy and Admissions Committee makes recommendations regarding requests for observers (and all Conference members are polled via email)
  - The committee recommended that two persons from A.A. in Brazil, Board of Trustees “Class B,” and one person from A.A. in Argentina, a trustee, be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference as observers.
    - Passed via email poll ahead of time

# Friday 4/22/22

- Checked in early at the hotel
- Visited Clinton Street
- Went on a walk with a G.S.O. Staff member
- Prepared further
  - Reviewed Pre-Conference Assembly notes, Board Reports, etc.



# Saturday 4/23

- “1728 Meeting” (12x12x12=1728)
  - Started in 1992 to help Class A Trustees learn our principles (12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts)
    - Class A Trustees are non-alcoholic
  - Discussed Concept 3 (balance between ultimate authority and delegated authority)
  - Discussed Tradition 4 (autonomy with consultation)
  - Sharing: last year’s Conference inspired a lot of people to learn the Concepts

If I want to read co-founder Bill W.'s Essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service, where can I find those?

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- A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en\\_bm-31\\_3.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf)

<https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Service-Manual-12-Concepts>

AVAILABLE ON AUDIO ON AA.ORG TOO!

- Twelve Concepts for World Service

<https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Twelve-Concepts>

# Saturday 4/23

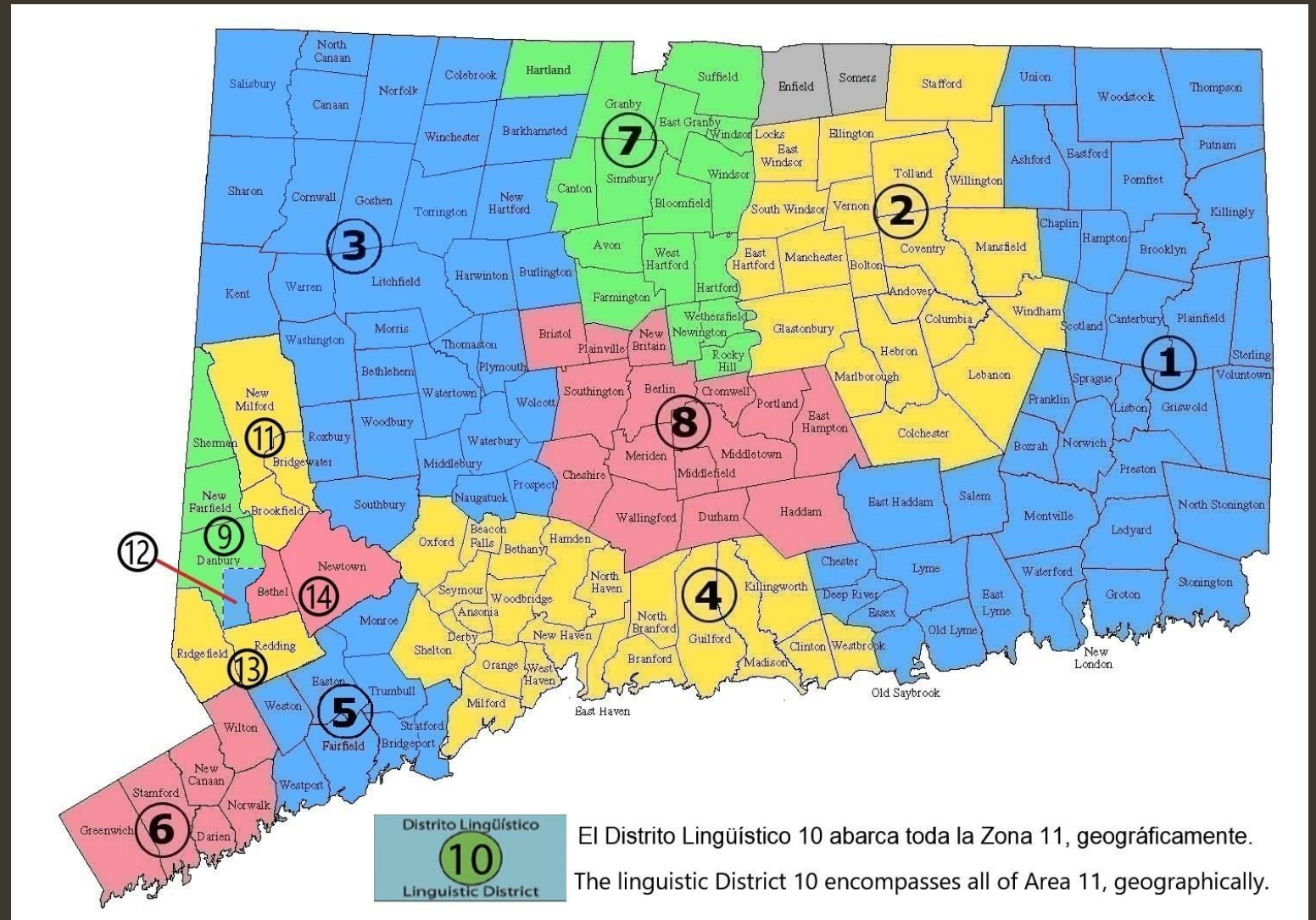
- Remote Communities Meeting
  - North/South Connection (July 16<sup>th</sup> Special Forum -- Online)
    - [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/North\\_South\\_Connection\\_Flyer\\_EN\\_4.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/North_South_Connection_Flyer_EN_4.pdf)
    - Send videos from your home group to [northsouthconnection@aa.org](mailto:northsouthconnection@aa.org)
  - Sharing on Geographic Remote Communities
    - Many tools (Grapevine, online materials, etc.)
    - Heard story about Area 82 (spoke with Area 81 Delegate)
      - “Barracks” with internet

In addition to geographic Districts, there are Linguistic Districts. How many Linguistic Districts are in Area 11 (Connecticut)?



# Linguistic Districts in Area 11 (CT)

- One Linguistic District → District 10



How many Linguistic Districts are there in New Mexico (Area 46)?

# Linguistic Districts in New Mexico (Area 46)

- Two Linguistic Districts

Puerto Rico (Area 77) has begun discussing the formation of a Linguistic District. What language is spoken at the linguistic groups in Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico (Area 77) has begun discussing the formation of a linguistic District. What is spoken at the linguistic groups in Puerto Rico?

- The English-speaking groups are the linguistic groups in Puerto Rico

# Saturday 4/23

- Remote Communities Meeting (Continued)
  - Linguistic Remote Communities
    - New Mexico Delegate (many languages in New Mexico); Navajo Big Book a big deal
    - Building Trust
    - Linguistic District hosted an Assembly before the pandemic
  - Cultural Remote Communities
    - Digital Disparity
      - Delegate shared about judging online before the pandemic
      - Knows a GSR that had a fire/lost internet and everything
      - Spotty internet in rural communities (had to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> provider for Conference last year)
      - “Us” and “them” → need Unity
  - Local Translations
    - Native American, First Nations and Indigenous Languages (samples on next slide)
    - Translations can happen at the local level first
    - Items found in Office; no “expressed need”... but maybe the need gets unexpressed. Are we asking?

## "Ta'n telukwek" "How it works"

Awisu nemi'kit wen mu' kisa'tcekek ta'n menaqaj kisi majulkatk nutawti'nen. Ta'nik mu kisi npisulti'k. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover, nekmowk na ta'n mu wetnu'kwalsi'ksip kisi kaqi ika'lsik wla tel naqmasiaq elukwatmu'k. Jiumuk aqq are people who cannot or will not give themselves in this simple formula, usually men and e'pitjik ta'n puki'ksipukwa'lsultijik. Mu na wla'taqnuow nekmowk, lpa na teli women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. They are not at fault; they seem to have wskwijinuis wen. Ejeia'tu'tij mu' nestun'tik menaqaj aqq mu kisite'tmi'tik koqaja'taqatinew. Ma' kisi born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty. Their tetapua'taqati'k. Tujiw app eymu'tijik, elt, ta'nik kesnukutijik, mu' koqaji ankita'sik kisa kapaqsita'sit. chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, na'sik katu pukwel'kik kisi mpisulititaq pasik katu nuta'q wen tetpaqi aknimsin. but many of them recover if they have the capacity to be honest.

Ta'n nika' aknutmu'k kekna'tekek ta'n i'tlo'lti'ksip, ta'n kis tliipia'ti'k, aqq ta'n telo'lti'k nika'. Kisi ta'sin Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you decided menueken wla ala'tuek, licisk ta'n pasik teli amasek pasik katu msnna, kiskatpi kisi apoqmasin. you want what we have, willing to go to any length to get it--then you are ready to certain steps.

Eymu'tijik inqateskatipnik. Telta'sipnik kisi we'jitatay naji naqmasiaq telqatimk. Na'sik mu we'jitu'tikek. At some of those we balked. We thought we could find an easier, softer way. But we could not. Meluijoqo etamulek mikita'sultik aqq muk menata'w lpa weji pqtamkiaq. Eymu'tijik wetnukalsijik kisi With all the earnestness at our command, we beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start, some of us tried to siawi klo'tminew ta'n amskwes i'tlita'sip, na'sik mu tami pejita'qsipnik, mu'sogo naqmi'tij tliita'sultinew. hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.

Mikwite'te'n, weskutmu'k puktewijk--kime'k, me'kiknaq aqq wiswiknemuksi'kw! Mu'i'knuk apoqmasuti, Remember that we deal with alcohol-- cunning, baffling, powerful! Without help, ma kisa'taqatiwk. Nasik eyk na't wen ajiknat ---- ma NEKM NISKAM. Ajipjuloq we'jiaew NEKM nika'. It is too much for us. But there is ONE who has all Power;--that ONE is God. May you find Him now!

Aqita'teken ma tami ika'wun. Kaqanulti'kip kisi kewaska'tinew. Elita'suatu'kip Niskam ikaluksinew aqq maliamuksinew, aqq muk ali naqiteskasiv. Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the naming point. We asked for his protection and care with complete abandon.

Wla etek majukwatmnej, ika'tasikisip kwlamun kisi mpisitew wen.  
Here are the steps we took, which are suggested us a program of recovery.

How It Works, Part I  
Micmac

## The 12 Traditions: Newtiska'q jel tapu'kl i'tla'taqiti'ki:

1. Turnk miamuj mawitaykw, mita nepisij wen wejiaq mawi apoqmatulti'kw.  
Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. Unity.

2. Wjit wla teli mawitamk, eyk newkte'jit alsusit, Niskam kesaluksi'k, ekinua'lsit wla eymu'k.  
For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Ta'nik nikana'luksi'kik pasik lukewinu'k; mu' nekmowk wen alsususik.  
Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

3. Namsit nuta't wen kisi nasa'sin AA, na ktu'punpen.  
The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

4. E'tasiw mawitamk, nekmowk nujeyatultitaq, pasik mu natala'tu'tij teli mawia'tijik, kisma AA. teli msiki'k.  
Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

5. E'tasiw etli mawio'ltimk weskunmi'tij newkte'j ta'n telukutijik- siawatunew wla klusuaqn wjit ta'n me' wikpet aqq ta'n me' askeyaj teli wikpet.  
Each group has but one primary purpose- to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

6. Msit A.A. etli mawio'ltijik ma' elam apoqnuuaq, kisma apankitalsewaq, kisma emkwatu'katun A.A. wtuisnm ta'n pasik wenl kisma koqoey se'kk tleyawik, kwlamun ma' An A.A. group ought never endorse, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems su'fewey, kisma maqamikew, asite'tminew wena'luksinew ta'n namsit pasik ketu tli lukuti'kip. of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7. E'tasiw A.A. mawiejik miamuj maliamsultijik, muk wksua'tunew se'kk wejiaq koqoey.  
Every A.A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions.

8. A.A. miamuj pa pisu' elukutijik, pasik katu ta'n tett etek lukwaqnuuow kisi wsaalataq ta'nik mawi kelu'sijik lukewinu'k.  
Alcoholics Anonymous should forever remain non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

9. AA ma' elam awsami nujo'tasinuk katu kisi ltitisnu ta'nik nujeyuksi'kik miamuj pa menaqaj maliama'tijik ta'nik elukewa'tijik.  
A.A., as such, ought never to be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

10. AA mu etektnuk ta'mi se'kk kisi tlewistun; pasik katu AA wtuisun ma' elam kisi wiaqa'tasinuk ta'n tett msit wenik weja'matuitijik.  
Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

11. Wla mawio'mi telpukwik wenik wulaptminew, mu ta'n teli seya'tasik, kwlamun ma' wen kisi kjiu'ksin ta'mi se'k ewikasik, nutumk re'tioiktuk, kisma nemitumk telpisniktuk.  
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. Ma' wen weji nenuksik, kjiqamijinaq wejitasiki telsutasiki, mikwimuksi'k ika'tunew kplutaqn tumk, mu ta'n tekimiksit wen.  
Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Micmac  
12 Traditions

# Workshops/Presentations/Sharing Sessions Throughout

- “Delegates Only” Meetings
- Presentations
  - “How do A.A.s go to any lengths to recover, unify, and serve?”; “Going Beyond Fear;” “How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere”
- Workshops
  - Your Third Legacy
  - The Warranties—Our Promise to the Future (Nearly Two Hours)
    - Discussion, vote and substantial unanimity (when possible); take the time!
    - Open the door for people in the future: what an invitation looks like may change over time
    - Interesting discussion on outside book sales and how times have changed
    - Class A Trustee Sister Judith: Important to not only express ourselves, but to LISTEN
    - Delegate from Puerto Rico reminded us: what we do at this Conference is for those yet to come
      - Example: 1967 Advisory Action about making A.A. more attractive to Young People
- “What’s On Your Mind” Sharing Sessions
  - Opportunity for local experience/sharing from Areas: (story about remote communities/Hawaii experience—reaching out to chiefs; fellowship response to last year’s G.S.C.; one Area had their linguistic district fall off the map when things went virtual)
  - Powerful sharing from G.S.O. staff members—i.e., one share about inclusivity and another share about workload (wishing could do more)



# Delegate Data

- Average Age: 57
- Oldest: 80
- **Youngest: 35**
- Average Length of Sobriety: 22
- Longest Sobriety: 43
- Shortest Sobriety: 8
- Average Length of Service: 17
- Longest Service: 37
- Shortest Service: 6

# Sunday 4/24

- Opening Session
- Your Third Legacy Workshop
  - Your Area 11 Delegate Presented/Moderated by Craig W. (What are the odds!?)
    - Talked about people pleasing and needing to ask hard questions
    - Conference Charter
    - Article 8 of Current Conference Charter: Concurrent Rotation
      - Referring to G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, and Delegates: “Unless otherwise directed by the Conference, these terms of office **shall all be concurrent** and of two years’ duration each.”
- Lunch (by Region)
- How the Conference Operates (see next slide)

# How the Conference Operates

Generally speaking, the General Service Conference follows *Robert's Rules of Order*, and proceeds on an informal basis as possible consistent with the rights of all concerned. It is important to remember that the purpose of rules of order is to make it easier for the Conference to conduct its business; rules exist to allow the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the Fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience. Over the years the Conference has adopted some exceptions to *Robert's Rules*, which help it to proceed more closely in accord with the spirit of A.A. Tradition.

## Conference Quorum

A Conference quorum — two-thirds of all registered members — is required to conduct Conference business.

## Committee System

To the extent possible, important matters to come before the Conference will be handled via the "Committee system." This assures that a large number of questions can be dealt with during Conference week. Members are encouraged to trust the process. Each Committee has considered carefully the items before it and presents its recommendations to the Conference as a whole for acceptance or rejection. Recommendations of Conference committees are automatically motions that have been made and seconded. Members are asked to refrain from spontaneously amending the work of the Committee; there are no "friendly" amendments under Robert's Rules.

## Substantial Unanimity

All matters of policy (Conference Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity, that is, a two-thirds majority. Any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or motions that might result in such an action, also require a two-thirds majority. Because the number of members present in the hall during the week of Conference varies from time to time, the phrase "two-thirds majority" is taken to mean two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, as long as the total vote constitutes a Conference quorum.

## Minority Opinion

After each vote on a matter of policy, the side which did not prevail will always be given an opportunity to speak to their position. If the motion passes with two-thirds vote, the minority may speak. If the motion receives a majority vote, but fails to pass for lack of a two-thirds vote, the majority may speak.

Remember that saving "minority opinions" for after the vote, when there is no rebuttal, is a time-waster, for it can force the Conference body to reconsider a question that might well have been decided the first time around if it had been thoroughly examined from all sides.

## General Rules of Debate and Voting

(Agreed to at the beginning of each Conference)

- People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and address their comments to the chair.
- Each person may speak for two (2) minutes.
- No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time.
- Full discussion of a recommendation should take place before each vote.
- Everyone is entitled to express his or her opinion. However, if your perspective has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to go to the mike and say it again.
- Our experience is that premature actions such as amend-

ing motions early in the discussion or hastily calling the question can divert attention from the subject at hand, confusing and/or delaying Conference business.

## Motions Made During Conference

When making a motion, come to the microphone and address the chair. There are various types of motions we use to help reach an informed group conscience. The specific rules governing each are on the next page.

## Tabling a Motion

Tabling a motion postpones discussion to a later time during the same Conference.

## Motion to Recommit

The motion to recommit returns a motion or proposal to the respective trustees' committee or appropriate corporate board for further consideration. A motion to recommit must be seconded, is debatable and can be amended.

## Calling the Question

Calling the question brings debate to a halt while Conference members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate.

## Reconsideration

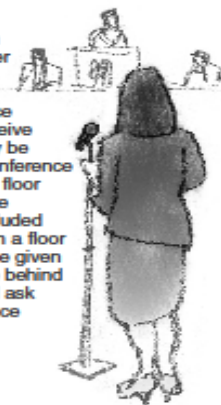
A motion to reconsider a vote may be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side, but it can be seconded by anyone. If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and cons, is resumed.

## Floor Actions

It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor, but any matter which falls within the scope of a Conference committee ought first go through that Conference committee, so that the topic may receive due consideration. Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order. 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.

## Declining to Consider a Floor Action

A motion to decline to consider a floor action is made without comment.



# Summary of Conference Procedures

## Remember:

- Motions must be made in order at the microphone.
- Address motions to the chair.

	MOTION	Requires a "Second"?	Is Debatable?	Vote Required for Approval	Minority Voice Heard?
<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	Presented in the committee report.	Automatically seconded	YES	Two-thirds	YES
<b>Amending a Motion</b>	A motion on the floor is owned by the entire Conference body, no longer by the Committee which recommended it.  The committee is not asked to vote on the motion to amend; any motion to amend a main motion depends on the approval of the Conference.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
<b>Tabling a Motion</b>	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Simple Majority	NO
<b>Moving to Recommit</b>	Made without comment.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	NO
<b>Calling the Question</b>	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO
<b>Reconsidering a Vote</b>	May only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side.  No action may be reconsidered twice.	YES  May be seconded by either side.	NO	Simple Majority	NO
<b>Making a Floor Action</b>	Made without comment.  Introduced any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions.  Is submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
<b>Declining to Consider a Floor Action</b>	Made without comment.  May be made after the maker of a floor action is provided time to state the rationale for it.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO

## Sunday 4/24

- Presentation: A.A. International
  - International Desk at G.S.O.
    - Flooded with emails
    - In touch with Argentina, Iran, Germany, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda, and Ukraine—to name a few!
    - A lot of inquiries involve members looking for contacts
    - Enormous requests internationally for pamphlets pertaining to alcoholic women
      - Grateful for updated pamphlet “Women in A.A.” and new “Hispanic Women in A.A.” pamphlet

# Sunday 4/24

- Presentation: A.A. International (Continued)
  - Trustee at Large (U.S.) → REDELA
    - Zonal Meeting of the Americas
    - First hybrid event; Trustees at Large were able to participate remotely
    - Technology allows more frequent meetings
    - One country has been having weekly meetings projected into all the hospitals throughout the country
    - REDELA has begun having discussions about a self-supporting REDELA fund
  - Trustee at Large (Canada) → A.A. Around the World
    - 60 General Service Structures throughout the world
    - 123,000+ Groups in the world
    - Online events create more possibilities
    - Online General Service Conference in the U.S./Canada has had ripple effect internationally (showing it is possible)
    - How do you keep a home group together when the few members are struggling to maintain sobriety?
    - When communicating with other service structures, important to stay mindful of cultural customs
    - Story: someone in Alaska rode a snow mobile 500 miles into Anchorage to find the Area Delegate to get help

**ESTIMATES OF A.A. GROUPS AND MEMBERS  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021 <sup>1</sup>**

	Groups	Members
<i>United States</i>	64,541	1,350,415
<i>Canada</i>	5,074	86,036
<b>Sub-Total <sup>2</sup> :</b>	<b>69,615</b>	<b>1,436,451</b>
<i>Correctional Facilities</i>	1,522	38,299
<i>Loners, Internationalist, Homers</i>	1	208
<b>U.S. &amp; Canada Total:</b>	<b>71,138</b>	<b>1,474,958</b>
<i>Outside U.S. &amp; Canada <sup>3</sup></i>	49,317	492,655
<b>Worldwide Total:</b>	<b>120,455</b>	<b>1,967,613</b>

<sup>1</sup> The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members. The decrease in groups and members is not reflective of the pandemic, it is due to a more accurate database.

<sup>2</sup> In April of 2021, at the 71st General Service Conference, it was recommended that the U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings." We currently have 309 Virtual Groups in the U.S. and Canada listed with the G.S.O.

<sup>3</sup> We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, including 66 autonomous general service offices beyond the U.S./Canada. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year's figures.

**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	12,986	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	533,500	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	2021	1,967,613	120,455
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 66 autonomous G.S.O.s beyond the U.S./Canada. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year's figures. The decrease in groups and members is not reflective of the pandemic, it is due to a more accurate database.

# Sunday 4/24

- Joint meeting (Conference Agenda Committee met with Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference)
  - Important to ask hard questions (confronted with people-pleasing again)
  - Interesting point raised by Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee (Honorable Christine C.):
    - We have such intensive Archives in A.A. showing us our history
      - However, sometimes it is difficult to discern WHY we began a new practice
- Sunday Banquet/Open A.A. Meeting
  - Your Area 11 Delegate had the opportunity to lead the A.A. meeting
  - (Function of the Alternate Agenda Committee Chairperson)
  - Amazing experience sitting up there; Area Delegates can make very passionate speakers
  - One Conference member had a loss that morning; still chose to be at Conference

72<sup>nd</sup>  
General  
Service  
Conference

Electronic  
Voting  
Device





# Some Additional Memorable Experiences Up to this Point

- One Area Delegate had been someone's guest at the opening Dinner/A.A. meeting while still drinking 20 years earlier; now back at the Conference as an Area Delegate
- Concept 4 ("Right of Participation")—everyone sits together (Area Delegates, Trustees, Non-Trustee Directors, G.S.O. and Grapevine/La Vina Staff) → All equals → all "delegates"
- Interesting to recognize people that I saw at last year's Conference, which was held entirely online
- Amazed at how hard the G.S.O. staff work and with how knowledgeable they are
- Understanding and remembering why I was there—serving A.A.
- A.A. is big and there is vast experience
- Texting my Alternate Delegate at Roll Call and saying "you are off the hook," but having prepared her to be ready to step in right up to last possible moment
- Sponsorship during Conference week

Gift Basket  
Delivered by  
Area 11  
Alternate  
Treasurer  
  
(Conference  
Dinner Guest)



# Monday 4/25

- AGENDA COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE (Part I)

Your Area 11 Panel 71 Delegate was assigned to the Agenda Committee

- Theme for 2023 General Service Conference

→ A.A.'s Three Legacies: Our Common Solution (Advisory Action)

- 2023 Presentation

→ Presentation Theme: General Service—Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm (Advisory Action)

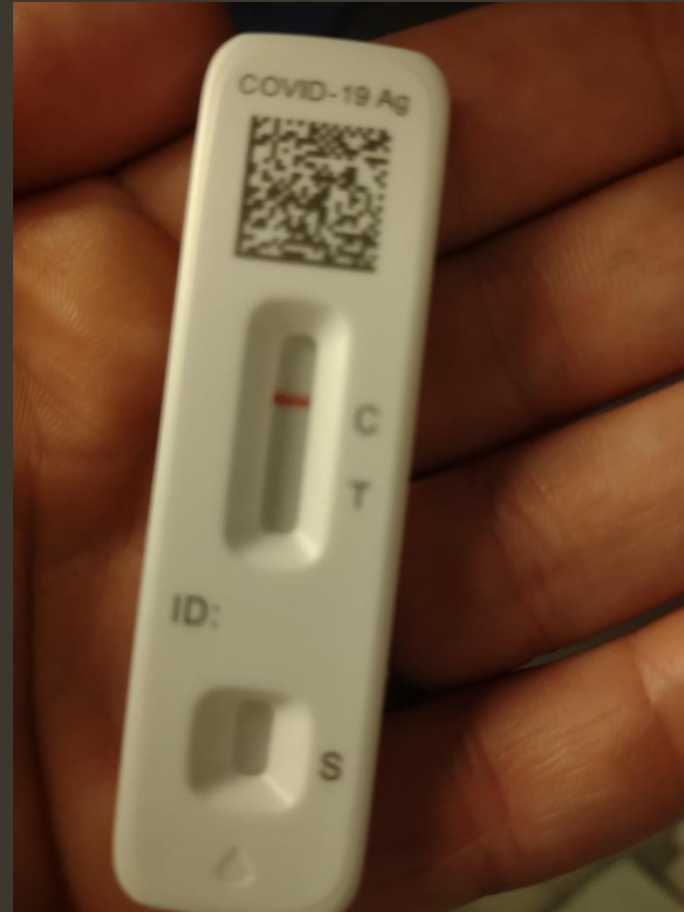
1. Our Common Perils and Common Solution
2. Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message
3. Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture

- 2023 Workshop Topic:

→ Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings (Advisory Action)

# Positive Covid Cases at the Conference— Area 11 Delegate Tested Negative Again

- On Monday 4/25, it was announced that there were two individuals (non-Conference members) who were present at the General Service Conference who tested positive for Covid-19
- One of them was in the Agenda Committee meeting room (with your Area 11 Delegate)
- Your Area 11 Delegate took a test later that day and was negative for Covid-19.



# Monday 4/25

- General Service Board Report
  - Full report will be in the Final Conference Report (to be digitally distributed in the Fall)
  - Highlights
    - Service during the pandemic presents challenges with carrying the message while maintaining unity
    - Two New Ad Hoc Committees
      - Process for Development of Criteria, Design, and Initiation of the next GSO Location Study (Location Plus)
      - Trustees' Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the General Service Structure
    - Receives regular reports from A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine/La Vina
    - Trustees Committees—15 total (see pp. 57-60 of the 2021-2023 A.A. Service Manual)
      - Subcommittees

## Question

- True or False:  
All literature produced by A.A. World Services, Inc. is considered “Conference-Approved” Literature?

# Question

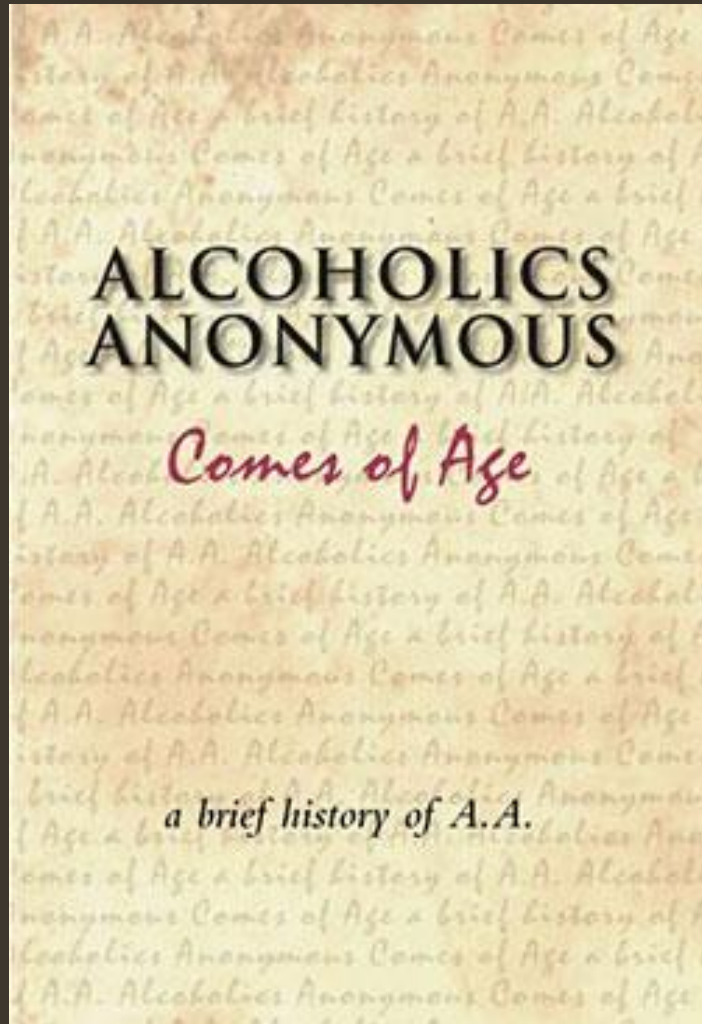
- True or False:  
All literature produced by A.A. World Services, Inc. is considered “Conference-Approved” Literature?
- False.
- A.A. World Services, Inc. also produced “Service Pieces,” which are not “Conference Approved.”  
For an explanation on A.A. literature, what “Conference-approved” means and more, check out [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/SMF-29\\_en\\_0322.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/SMF-29_en_0322.pdf)
- Not all A.A. literature is “Conference-Approved” literature

# Monday 4/25

- A.A. World Services Board Report
  - Full report will be in the Final Conference Report (to be digitally distributed in the Fall)
  - Highlights
    - Reduced Shipping Charges (successfully implemented)
    - New Website Release ([www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) got quite the update!)
    - New and Improved Corrections Correspondence Service
    - Member Services Department (June 2021)
    - Online Regional Forums (included thousands of first-time attendees)
    - Increased Use of Technology (Meeting Guide/YouTube Channel/ Google for Non-Profits, etc.)
    - Human Resources Worker resigned; A.A.W.S. and G.V./L.V. board members participating in interview process
    - Safety Service Material Updated Again
    - Discussions on alcoholicsanonymous.com have periodically occurred to determine the best approach to distinguish aa.org from this other entity
    - Discussions of ways to employ Canadian citizens at the G.S.O.
    - Fellowship Connection
      - Read-only access for Area Delegates and DCMs
      - Increased training of Area Registrars on Data Stewardship/helps with resources at the G.S.O.



In 2021, there were 764,641 English Big Books sold. How many copies of the book A.A. Comes of Age in English were sold in 2021?



In 2021, there were 764,641 English Big Books sold.  
How many copies of the book A.A. Comes of Age  
(English) were sold in 2021?

- In 2021, 764,641 copies of the English Big Book were sold.
- In 2021, only 7,436 copies of A.A. Comes of Age (English) were sold.

# Fun Fact

- 41 cassettes were sold by A.A. World Services, Inc. in 2021

# Monday 4/25

- A.A. Grapevine/La Vina Board Report
  - Full report will be in the Final Conference Report (to be digitally distributed in the Fall)
  - Highlights
    - Increased use of technology
      - In 2017 Grapevine asked seated Delegates at the General Service Conference what it might look like if Grapevine had: (1) a podcast; (2) a blog; (3) a social media presence; (4) a revamped aagrapevine.org website; (5) more audio and video content; and (6) increased share-ability
      - Had a goal to bring this to life in time for 2020 International Convention, which was cancelled
      - Shortly thereafter, aagrapevine.org went from below 40,000 visitors a month to over 200,000 a month at its peak
      - Grapevine Podcast
      - Grapevine Instagram (from 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Advisory Action)→ over 6,900+ followers (and growing)
      - YouTube Channel Content
      - Imagine how it could look if local Area, District, and Group Grapevine Reps was able to focus more on collecting content (of various formats) to then submit to the Grapevine, if resources permitted

# Monday 4/25 G.S.B. Finance Presentation

**\*\*Full report to be included in Final Conference Report\*\***

## **2021 Highlights**

- External Audit: “Clean” opinion
- G.S.B. Accounting Surplus of \$1.7M and Cash Surplus of \$53,000
  - Build up of Publications Inventory, which will create cash when sold [322,000]
  - 2021 contributions deposited in 2022 creates cash in 2022 [322,000]
  - G.S.B. Transfer to Reserve Fund in 2021 [250,000]
  - Payment of Deferred Social Security Tax is greater than expensed in 2020 and used cash in 2021 [278,000]
  - Amount owed from Grapevine for shared services purchased in 2021 will create cash in 2022
  - Surplus resulting in 700K+ more than budget due to contributions of 10.7 million versus budget of 10M, savings in key expense categories [775,000], yet higher printing and distribution costs of literature (-542,000)
- Contributions
  - 10.7M in 2021—a new record (it was 10.3M in 2020 and 8.9M in 2019)
  - In 2022, online contributions account for 23% of the total. (In 2012, online contributions accounted for 3%)

# Monday 4/25 G.S.B. Finance Presentation (Cont.)

## 2021 Highlights (Continued)

- Favorable Grapevine/La Vina Results
  - While paid PRINT subscriptions decreased by 11%, ONLINE/MOBILE subscriptions INCREASED by 73%
  - La Vina circulation decreased by 12% (versus a 37% decrease in 2020)
  - Total loss of \$113,000 (versus a loss of \$299,000 in 2020)
- Literature Sales
  - Big drop. Contribution growth has only partially offset the loss from decreased literature sales.
  - Combined gross profit and contributions are running at least \$1M below 2019 levels
- Reserve Fund
  - In 2020 the Reserve Fund was drawn down by \$4M.
  - This was initially due to the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention. Much of that loss was ultimately covered by insurance. However, by that time, literature sales dropped (as explained above). Contributions have offset part of this loss, but not entirely.
  - The General Service Board and the Trustees Finance Committee are taking a cautious approach
    - Transfer of \$250K in 2021
    - Desire not to put more in the reserve than can be truly be afforded
    - Target range is 9 to 12 months; currently at 7.84 months
- 2022 Budget
  - 2022 budget includes a deficit of 1.35M to be funded from 2021 surplus

# Question

- In A.A., individual members take personal inventories. Many Groups, Districts, Areas, etc. also have experience with taking an inventory.
- When was the last time the General Service Conference took a formal inventory?

When was the last time the General Service Conference took a formal inventory?

A.A. General Service Conference  
Inventory

*Compendium 2013–2015*



# Tuesday 4/26 – Agenda Committee Experience Part II

- Committee reviewed surveys from the 2021 G.S.C. and the survey format for the 2022 and made no official recommendations, although the committee secretary noted some suggestions.
- New Business (That's an option, by the way! Committees can raise New Business!)
  - The committee recommended that the General Service Board develop a status report on the progress and outcomes from the 2013-2015 Conference inventory and include a draft plan for another Conference inventory with considerations of its value, timeline and approach to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Agenda.
- Additional Committee Consideration:
  - The committee expressed appreciation for the special Board presentation related to the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada service structure at the 72nd General Service Conference. The committee agreed that a sharing session with more time for a broader range of perspectives from among Conference members would be helpful.

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

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

# Tuesday 4/26 – G.S.B. Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure

- Two Advisory Actions from LAST YEAR’S General Service Conference (2021—the 71<sup>st</sup> G.S.C.)
  - It was recommended that:
    - (1) 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”
    - (2) 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
- Committee Work So Far
  - Includes: Meeting with the Working Group, Meeting with the Online Intergroup of AA (OIAA), Consulting Other 12 Step Fellowships, Consulting Other Countries/Service Structures, Reviewing Submissions to the G.S.C.
- Note: there currently exists an Application for Additional Delegate Area Form
- First order of business: The “New” New Group Form:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en\\_newgroup.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_newgroup.pdf)
- Challenges: Experience Gathered from Working Group
  - Listing Groups in Districts and Areas that the office has not yet been able to communicate with and are still learning
  - Listing non-geographic Groups in geographic Districts
  - International Groups wanting to list with the U.S./Canada structure
  - International members wanting to be a G.S.R. in the U.S./Canada

# G.S.B. Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure (Cont.)

- OIAA
  - Service Committees (12<sup>th</sup> Step Committee, Public Information, Website, etc.)
  - Does not provide voice in the U.S./Canada Conference Structure
- Other 12 Step Fellowships
  - Al-Anon Formed an Electronic Area (640 Groups)
  - Overeaters Anonymous has a Virtual Region (since 2018)
- International Experience
  - Ireland has integrated
  - Argentina is looking at ways to integrate
  - Groups are seeking to part of the structure in Brazil

# G.S.B. Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure (Cont.)

- What We Have
  - G.S.O.'s database has more than **700** active “virtual” groups in the U.S./Canada Structure
    - 450 have a G.S.R.; 140 have an Alternate G.S.R. in addition to a G.S.R.
  - Virtual is defined as online and phone groups
  - 300 groups in the database need to be contacted regarding their preferred District/Area
- What We Know
  - Currently, the **highest** number of groups in any given Area is **2,300**
  - Currently, the **lowest** number of groups in any given Area is **159**
  - The **average** number of groups per Area is currently **765**
  - G.S.O. Group Services Desk reports consistent increase of these Groups since the 2021 G.S.C.
- What The Ad Hoc Committee Needs
  - Shared experience from local Areas (Area Delegate hopes to arrange for more sharing)
    - How are local Areas/Districts doing with the inclusion of virtual groups?
    - What are the wishes and needs of the virtual groups themselves?
- Reviewed Submissions (not forwarded)

# G.S.B. Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure (Cont.)

- There were 6 Proposed Agenda Items Submitted to the 72<sup>nd</sup> (2022) General Service Conference pertaining to online or virtual groups
- These Proposed Items were not reviewed by the Conference but were reviewed and presented on by this Ad Hoc Committee
- One of the submissions was sent in by your Area 11 Delegate last Fall:  
“Consider creating a virtual Area for virtual groups in the United States/Canada General Service Conference structure.” Excerpts from the submission were included in the Ad Hoc Committee’s Presentation.”

## Excerpts:

- Hypothetical Scenario 1: A virtual group consists entirely of A.A. members in Connecticut. If the group decides to be listed as a group in Nebraska, even though all of its members live in Connecticut, the 71<sup>st</sup> G.S.C. Advisory Action indicates that this group would be listed in Nebraska.
- Hypothetical Scenario 2: A virtual group consists of seven A.A. members—six from Connecticut and one from Tennessee. The group makes no preference about which District in Area 11 (Connecticut) to join. The one member from Tennessee serves as the group’s primary contact and registers the group with the G.S.O. The group is now registered in Tennessee because the address of the group’s primary contact serves as the default location.
- Hypothetical Scenario 3: A virtual group has existed for many years and has thirty members in thirty different Areas. Which District or Area should they join?

# Online/Telephone Group Discussion (Cont.)

- Inclusion of online and telephone groups raises many questions
  - How does a new Area usually form?
  - How does a new Area form when it is not separating from an already-existing Area?
  - How do various international service structures differ from the U.S./Canada service structure?
  - What is the value of being registered with the General Service Office as a group and why do group records matter?
  - How does an Intergroup/Central Office differ from an Area?
  - What are the different reasons members belonged to online or telephone groups prior to the Covid-19 pandemic?
  - Should geographic Areas form electronic Districts for online and telephone groups, covering the whole span of the Area—similar to linguistic Districts—or is this approach only preferred by some groups?
  - What are some of the ways that different Areas are autonomous in how they are structured, and how might that be relevant for a virtual Area?
  - **What exactly makes an A.A. group an A.A. group, anyway?”**

# Online/Telephone Group Discussion (Cont.)

- What Your Area 11 Delegate knew as of Tuesday (4/26/22)  
[Note: some of this information was learned by your Area 11 Delegate from the Ad Hoc Committee Presentation... and some of this information was learned through some additional research and through informal discussions before the Conference.]
  - There is not a one-size-fits all online or telephone group
  - Not all online or telephone groups want the same thing
  - There are online/telephone groups that want to belong to geographic Districts and Areas
    - Some geographic Districts/Areas are prepared and equipped to welcome this and some are not
  - There are online/telephone groups that want to form a non-geographic District within a Geographic Area
    - Two virtual Districts have been formed—one in Area 48 and one in Area 72
  - There are online/telephone groups want to form one or more non-geographic Areas
  - There are over 700 online and/or telephone groups registered with the G.S.O.
  - This number is consistently growing since the 2021 General Service Conference
  - The average Area has 735 groups
- What Your Area 11 Delegate Began Thinking at this Point
  - Started thinking about submitting a floor action...

WHAT IS A  
FLOOR ACTION????



What is a Floor Action?

- It is what happens when someone starts breakdancing at the General Service Conference

- The previous slide was just a joke—don't worry. Unfortunately, there was no breakdancing...
- Simply put: any Conference member may submit a floor action as a way to discuss a piece of business that would not otherwise be discussed and voted on by the Conference that year.
- “It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor, but any matter which falls within the scope of a Conference committee ought first go through that Conference committee, so that the topic may receive due consideration. Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order. 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.”—From “How the Conference Operates
- Your Area 11 Delegate considered submitting a floor action pertaining to creating an Area for online/telephone groups—but waited to see the Policy & Admissions Report first.

# Virtual Groups in Area 11

- At least 20 virtual groups in Area 11 registered with G.S.O. so far—with more pending—as of this presentation
- Area 11 Delegate hopes to reach out gather sharing from all of them soon
  - How are things going?
  - Successes and challenges with being included in the service structure
  - Preferences/wishes regarding additional potential inclusion opportunities
- In the spirit of Tradition 4 (group autonomy except when affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole), wide consultation is ideal before becoming committed to any particular approach locally

## 4/27 Wednesday

- Committee Reports and Discussions!
- Voting!
- Agenda Committee was up first
  - All recommendations (as mentioned on previous slides) from the Agenda Committee passed with substantial unanimity



# Wednesday 4/27 – Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) Committee

- No Recommendations
- Full List of Additional Committee Considerations will be provided following this presentation (and will be included in the Final Conference Reports in the Fall)
- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List and Paraphrased))
  - \*\*This item came out of Area 11 (Connecticut)\*\*
  - The Committee reviewed a progress report on the pamphlet geared towards Mental Health Professionals (an item that came out of Area 11), made some additional suggestions, and requested that either another progress report or a draft pamphlet be brought back to next year's Conference.
  - The committee also discussed a comprehensive approach in exploring and optimizing digital resources, including the use of videos, QR codes, and other methods in reaching professionals.

# Question

- There is a particular method of voting used to elect Area Delegates—as well as Regional Trustees (and Trustees-at-Large)—among other service positions. This method requires a candidate to achieve 2/3 (rather than simple majority), involves multiple rounds of voting, and will eventually result in the top two candidates going into the hat (with a name being pulled out of the hat) if no candidate reaches substantial unanimity after 5 rounds of voting.
- What is this election procedure called?

# Question

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- What is this election procedure called?

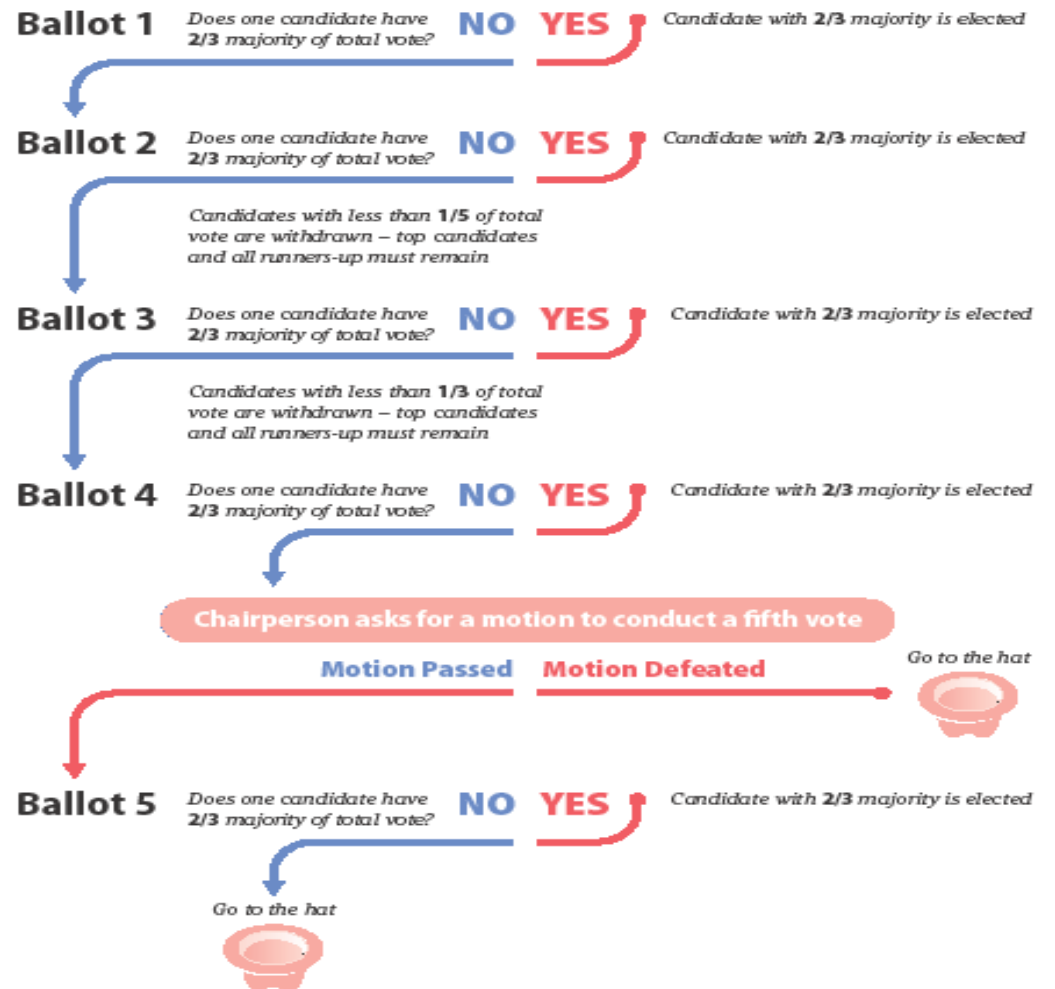
## • THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE

# Third Legacy Procedure

----->  
Found on page 111 of  
the 2021-2023 A.A.  
Service Manual

We will use this at  
our Fall Assembly on  
November 6<sup>th</sup>  
-We will elect our  
next Delegate and  
Area Officers  
-We will elect our  
Area's nominee for  
Northeast Regional  
Trustee (if any)

## THE THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE





# Question

- When calculating  $2/3$  (in a Third Legacy Procedure Election, or when voting on a recommendation at the General Service Conference), how do you handle it if  $2/3$  of the total number of voting members participating in the vote is a decimal?  
For example: let's say you have 134 voting members...  $2/3$  of 134 is 89.33333333.  
**WHAT NUMBER DO YOU NEED TO REACH  $2/3$  IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?**

# Question

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For example: let's say you have 134 voting members...  $2/3$  of 134 is 89.33333333.  
**WHAT NUMBER DO YOU NEED TO REACH  $2/3$  IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?**
- Answer: in the event that you have a decimal, you always **round up to the next full number**.
  - 1997 Conference Advisory Action (Conference Committee on Trustees)
    - In the election of regional or at-large trustees, when the number to determine  $1/5$ ,  $1/3$ , or  $2/3$  is a fraction, the next higher whole number will be used.
  - 1998 Conference Advisory Action (Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions)
    - When calculating the number of votes to determine substantial unanimity or a  $2/3$  majority on the Conference floor, when the number is a fraction, the next higher whole number will be used.

# Trustee Elections

- Observed Election of Eastern Canada Regional Trustee and Pacific Regional Trustee
  - All Conference members can observe → but members voting in the election in a roped off area
  - Resumes made available ahead of time
  - Areas present their candidate for two minutes
  - Three minutes available for questions after each candidate is presented by their Delegate
  - Third Legacy Procedure Voting
- Eastern Canada Regional Trustee: Joyce S.
- Pacific Regional Trustee: Reilly K.

# True or False

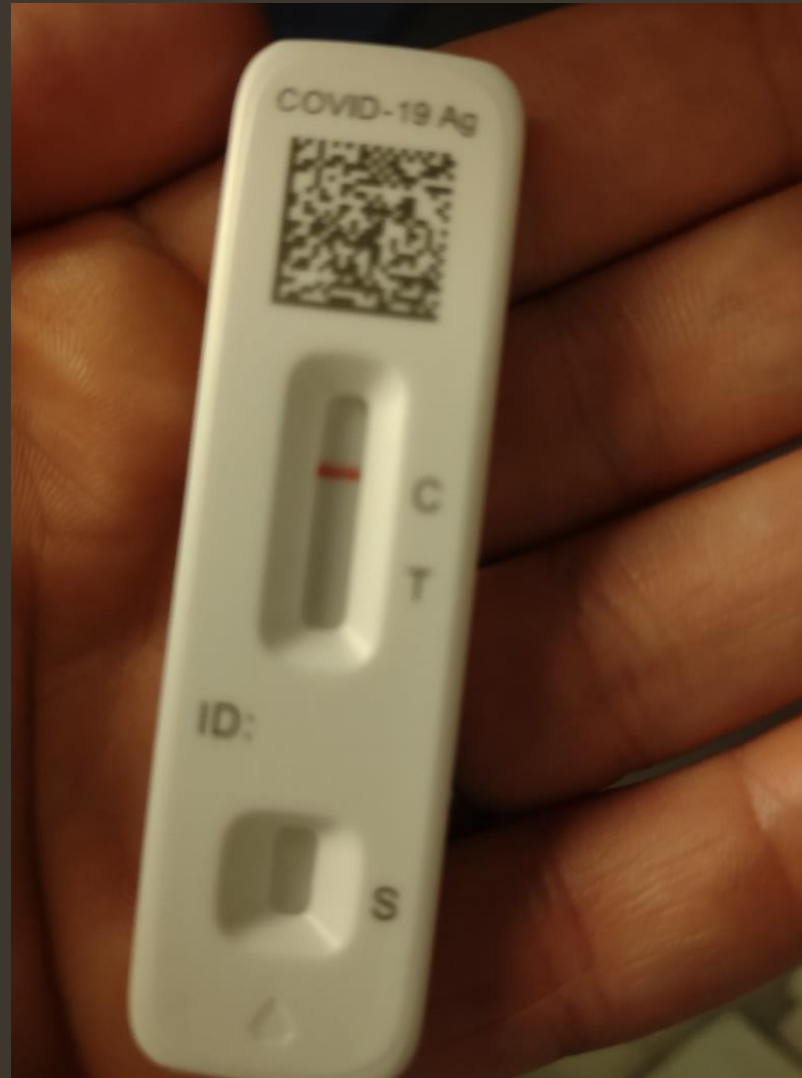
- True or False:  
In order to make yourself available to be Northeast Regional Trustee, you must have first served as a Delegate?

# True or False

- True or False:  
In order to make yourself available to be Northeast Regional Trustee, you must have first served as a Delegate?
- False. Many candidates for Regional Trustee are Past Delegates, however this is not a requirement.

More positive Covid cases (non-Conference members) were announced on Wednesday 4/27/22

Your Area 11 Delegate took another Covid test on Wednesday 4/27/22 and was negative



# Literature Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:

The pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised to add the following text regarding safety and A.A.:

1. In the section "For the person wanting to be a sponsor" (p. 14) under the heading "What does a sponsor do and not do?": Stresses the importance of A.A. being a safe place for all members and encourages members to become familiar with service material available from the General Service Office such as "Safety in A.A. – Our Common Welfare.”
2. In the section “for groups planning sponsorship activity” (p.23), under the heading “How does sponsorship help a group?” add a fourth paragraph: Sponsorship can also help a group to create a welcoming and secure environment. Safety is an issue affecting all members and it is important for groups to remain accessible to all who are seeking recovery. Sponsorship can help keep the group focused on common welfare.

- It was recommended that:

The booklet Living Sober be revised to add the following paragraph regarding safety and A.A. in chapter 29, page 76:  
“Of course, A.A. is a reflection of the larger society around us and problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. But by keeping the focus on our common welfare and primary purpose, groups can help provide a safe and secure environment for all their members.”

- It was recommended that:

The video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain) be adapted and produced by the Publishing Department. The committee requested a progress report or rough cut be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

- It was recommended that:

- The draft of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be approved.”

# Literature Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:

The pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustrations and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

- It was recommended that:

- The updated pamphlet “As A.A. for You?” be approved.
- The updated pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?” be approved.
- The updated pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” be approved.
- The updated pamphlet “This is A.A.” be approved



# Literature Recommendations That Did **NOT** Pass

- It was recommended that:

The draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” be approved with minor editorial revisions.

**DID NOT PASS**

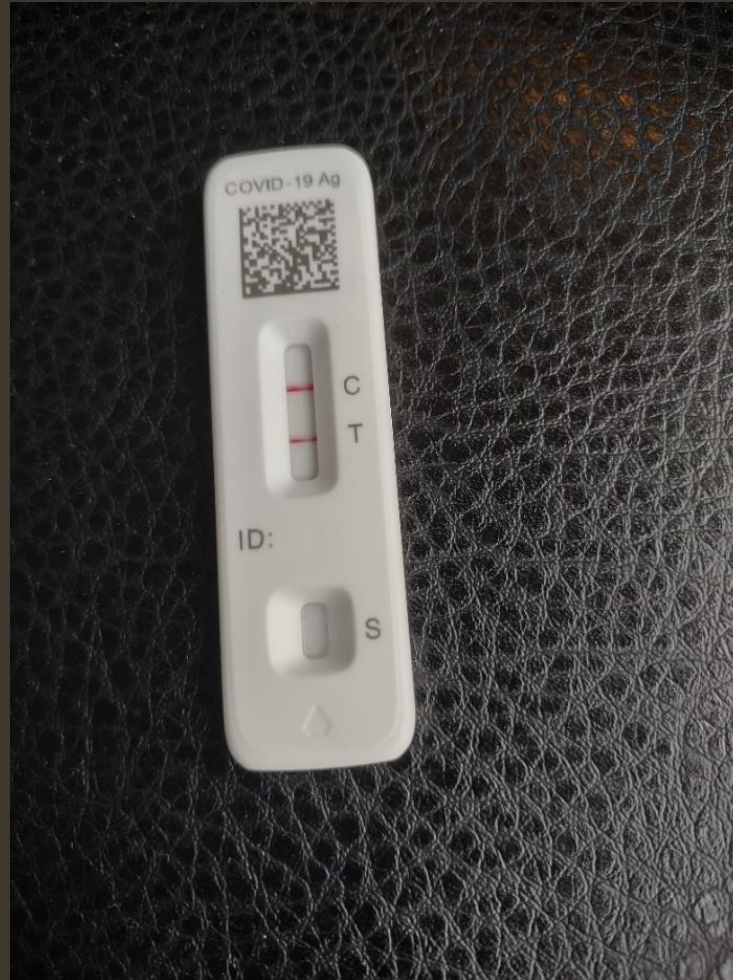
- It was recommended that:

That a second volume of the book Experience, Strength and Hope be developed with the stories dropped from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and that a progress report be brought to the Conference Committee on Literature once development of the publication is in progress.

**DID NOT PASS**

# Your Area 11 Delegate Tested Positive for COVID-19

- Your Area 11 Delegate become very ill on the night of Wednesday 4/27 into the morning of Thursday 4/28— tested positive 4/28 for COVID-19





# Area 11 Delegate's Experience for Remainder of the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference (4/28, 4/29, and 4/30)

- Challenges and successes with quarantine
- Challenges and successes with continuing to remain a part of the Conference Process
  - Reached out to 72<sup>nd</sup> G.S.C. Policy and Admissions Committee Chair
  - Advocated for a way to participate remotely from hotel room
  - Audio/observation only—no ability to vote or otherwise participate from my room
  - Persistence→ was able to submit a floor action from my hotel room (with help from another Delegate)
  - Got patched in for a two-minute “farewell;” used this opportunity to speak to concern about G.S.O. bus trip
- Aftermath (including more positive cases)
- Spiritual Takeaways/Positives
  - Gratitude for fellow Conference members reaching out to me
  - More lessons on the importance of not people-pleasing and of being willing to speak up
  - Helped others that tested positive after me
  - Disappointment over contingency planning/preparation→ a big lesson in acceptance (especially floor action)
  - Area 11 Delegate sent a Memo to the three Board Chairs, GM, Conference Coordinator, and all 72<sup>nd</sup> G.S.C. (for the future—not about me)

# Literature Committee Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations

- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations of the Literature Committee will be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports in the Fall)
- Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List and Paraphrased):
  - We can expect either progress reports or drafts for several pamphlet updates next year, including “Too Young?”, “A.A. for the Native North American,” and “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
    - Call for stories: “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic”
  - Fifth Edition of the English Big Book is underway (takes multiple years)
    - Call for stories: 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the English Big Book
  - Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book is underway (takes multiple years)
    - Call for stories: 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Spanish Big Book

# Literature Committee Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Continued)

- Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations Continued (Partial List & Paraphrased):
  - **\*\*Heavily Discussed at the Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly**  
As far the English Big Book translation into plain and simple language continues—either a progress report (progress to continue) or a draft will be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
  - As far as requests for workbooks and study guides to accompany the Big Book and the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the committee noted a need for additional information. The committee requested that the Trustees' Literature Committee provide further information regarding the purpose of such proposals and examples of what such guides might look like (for exploration).
  - **\*\*Heavily Discussed at Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly**  
Regarding the changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as a result of the 71<sup>st</sup> (2021) General Service Conference, the committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level.

# Finance Committee

- No Recommendations/Advisory Actions
- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations of the Finance Committee will be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports in the Fall)
- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List & Paraphrased)
  - The committee requested that the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee review the service materials and the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" to clarify that although contributions are sent to the General Service Office, contributions are made to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee asked that an update report or draft pamphlet reflecting the changes be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Finance for review.
  - (Equitable Distribution of Workload Item). The committee discussed a request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and took action, noting that the current introduction addresses language concerns.
  - The committee discussed a request that proposed changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes and took no action. The committee did not want to mandate a specific format for possible future Conference actions, noting that future changes should be considered by the group conscience of each Conference.
    - [No Conference is binding on future Conferences.]

# Public Information Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
  - The following revisions be made to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.”

The question and answer that currently reads:

Anonymity in the digital age

Q. I maintain an Internet website and a personal page on a social media site. I also belong to an online meeting. At what level should I protect my anonymity on the Internet?

A. Publicly accessible aspects of the Internet such as websites featuring text, graphics, audio, and video can be considered the same as publishing or broadcasting. Unless password-protected, a website requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film. Simply put, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos.

Be changed to:

Anonymity in the digital age

Q. I maintain a website and social media pages. At what level should I protect my anonymity on the Internet?

A. Publicly accessible aspects of the Internet such as websites featuring text, graphics, audio, and video can be considered the same as publishing or broadcasting. Unless password-protected, a website requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film/video. Simply put, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos. 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.”

## Understanding Anonymity



*“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”*

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.



# Public Information Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:
  - The following text be added to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity”:

Q. Are virtual A.A. meetings considered “Public”?

A. These online gatherings are not streamed to the general public; however, information about the meeting is provided to A.A. members, potential members, and the general public similar to in-person meetings.

While some members feel comfortable using their full names and faces other members feel it is more aligned with Tradition 11 to use only their first name and last initial or turning their camera off. For safety purposes some groups have provided helpful reminders in their group format that picture-taking or screen shots are not in keeping with anonymity principles.

- It was recommended that:
  - The outdated “A.A. Fact File” be retired.

## Understanding Anonymity



*“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”*

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

A.A. FACT FILE

There is a Public Information piece known as the triennial A.A. Membership Survey. What year was the last one?

There is a Public Information piece known as the triennial A.A. Membership Survey. What year was the last one done?

2014



# Public Information Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that

The format changes, two new questions and six changed questions on a 2022 membership survey questionnaire be approved.

## New Questions

12. Have you attended an A.A. meeting virtually (online or by phone) (if yes, answer question 12b)

12b. Do you prefer virtual meetings or in-person meetings?

- In-person
- Virtual
- Both equally

13. What attributes do you prefer or need in meetings you attend?  
 accessibility (such as no stairs, or served by public transportation)  
 held in a particular language (please list language)  
 other members similar to me (please describe how)  
 additional characteristics (please describe)

## Changed questions

14. What is your age? \_\_\_years

15. Which of these best describes you?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer to describe

16. Relationship status

- Single, never married
- Married, or Life Partner
- Divorced
- Separated
- Widowed
- Prefer to describe ( )

17. Racial and ethnic background (Check all that apply)

- Asian
- Black, or African American
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Native American, Alaska Native, First Nations, or Indigenous
- Pacific Islander or Hawaiian Native
- White, Caucasian, or European American
- Prefer to Describe \_\_\_\_\_

18. What is your employment status now (Check one only)

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Unemployed, not currently looking for work
- Student
- Retired
- Homemaker

19. If you are employed, what is your job? \_\_\_\_\_

ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS

2014  
MEMBERSHIP  
SURVEY



This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

# Public Information Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:

After a thorough review of the professional survey methodologist report detailing actions to perform a sound membership survey, a 2022 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted with a budgeted cost not to exceed \$20,000. The process will include mailing, digital back-end response and analysis, creation of message and distribution, including a “How to video” for groups/members.

ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS

2014  
MEMBERSHIP  
SURVEY



This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

# Public Information Additional Committee Considerations

- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations of the Public Information Committee to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)
- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List and Paraphrased):
  - Committee appreciates the work the Trustees Public Information Committee on the Comprehensive Media Plan (with some suggestions for improvement noted)
  - Suggested updating the A.A. World Services YouTube Channel more regularly and adding more Spanish content
  - The committee encouraged developing an annual project calendar relating to Google Ads. The committee noted that the office should continuously optimize the Google Ads campaigns based on standard best practices in keeping with A.A. Traditions focusing on target audiences utilizing A.A. literature we currently have and that may be developed.
  - Noticed the improvement to aa.org, while suggesting search engine optimization
  - (Grapevine has a podcast)—Overall positive response to the Grapevine podcast—however, it was noted that the hosts may consider attraction to all members, potential members, or professionals and to consider the full intended audience regarding diversity, attraction, and belonging.
  - The committee appreciated the research on paid placement of PSAs on streaming platforms, encouraged further research by the Trustees Committee on Public Information, and to bring a progress report to next year's Conference.
  - Reviewed the progress report on the G.S.O. podcast plan and suggested moving forward, using the Grapevine podcast while focusing on different topics in order to avoid competition with the Grapevine podcast. Suggested entrusting the G.S.O. to manage the podcast's creation and adherence to A.A. principles.

# Public Information Highlights from Additional Committee Considerations (Cont.)

- Continued (Partial List and Paraphrased)
  - Additional revisions were suggested for the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings,” asking that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to next year’s Conference.
  - Suggested further revision to “A.A. at a Glance,” such as modernizing the look, removing the phrase “hopeless drunks” to focus more on the solution, and updating the self-support language (to remove any reference to a certain dollar amount).  
\*\*Note: it is good to remember that there is a difference between an inward-facing pamphlet and an outward-facing pamphlet
- **\*\*Heavily Discussed at the Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly**
  - The committee considered the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media by reviewing a draft survey developed to gather shared experience from the Fellowship. The committee requested the trustees’ Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on distributing the survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population, and obtain results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

# Conference Committee on Trustees

- It was recommended that:

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

Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Trustees.

- It was recommended that:

The "Suggested Procedure to Reorganize the General Service Board and the boards of A.A.W.S., Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc." be approved as one acceptable pathway to a whole or partial reorganization of the Boards, understanding that, as provided by the Conference Charter, the final process will be determined by whichever General Service Conference might be considering reorganization.

- It was recommended that:

The[...] slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 30, 2022, following presentation at the 2022 General Service Conference for disapproval if any  
(See full advisory actions for list of names)

- It was recommended that:

The[...] slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 30, 2022, following presentation at the 2022 General service Conference for disapproval if any  
(See full advisory actions for list of names)

- It was recommended that:

The [...] slate of directed be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board on April 30, 2022, following presentation at the 2022 General Service Conference for disapproval if any  
(See full advisory actions for list of names)

- It was recommended that:

The [...] slate of directed be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board on April 30, 2022, following presentation at the 2022 General Service Conference for disapproval if any  
(See full advisory actions for list of names)



# Conference Committee on Trustees

- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations of the Conference Committee on Trustees to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)
- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial list/Paraphrased)
  - (Equitable Distribution of Workload Item.) The committee reviewed the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?” and requested that the trustees’ Literature Committee begin to look at the accuracy and effectiveness of direct translation practices, resulting in an ineffective vehicle to presenting an authentic and culturally relevant message to linguistic communities.
  - The committee also requested that AA Grapevine consider using “Do You Think You're Different?” as a recurring theme. This would allow for the presentation of a diverse group of current voices finding a common identification.
  - The report of the trustees’ Nominating Committee noted they had begun discussion of thread-based forums and that more discussion is needed. The Conference committee had a discussion on thread-based forums which could allow better communication throughout the Conference structure and is forwarding a summary of their suggestions to the trustees’ Nominating Committee.

# Grapevine/La Vina

- No recommendations/advisory actions
- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations of the Grapevine/La Vina Committee to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)
- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List & Paraphrased):
  - The committee reviewed the progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts and requested a progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.
  - The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2023 or later:
    - Best of Dear Grapevine (working title)
    - Book for Newcomers (working title)
    - Best of La Viña II (working title) (La Viña book)
    - Prayer & Meditation (working title) (La Viña Book)
  - The committee discussed the impact of the Preamble change from the previous year and noted it is premature to quantify such impact as there are many members that are uninformed or ambivalent about the change. The committee emphasized that at every level of our Conference process there is a reciprocal responsibility of all A.A. members and trusted servants, of participation and communication, to embrace the guiding principles of trust and transparency

# Policy and Admissions Advisory Actions

- (Before Conference, using email polling) It was recommended that:

Two persons from A.A. in Brazil, Maria Z. and Ana Elisa L., Board of Trustees “Class B,” and one person from A.A. in Argentina, a trustee, be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference as observers.

- (Start of Conference) It was recommended that:

- Rio D., alternate delegate, Area 79 British Columbia/Yukon Territory, be seated as a Conference member at the 72nd General Service Conference because Bob K., Panel 71 delegate for Area 79 is unable to attend.

- Christopher M., alternate delegate, Area 47 Central New York, be seated as a Conference member at the 72nd General Service Conference because Todd D., Panel 71 delegate for Area 47 is unable to attend.

- It was recommended that:

**The compilation of all Conference committee background be made available simultaneously in English, French and Spanish**

**\*Big discussion\***

# Policy and Admissions Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:

The “Process for Approving Observers to the Conference” be changed. The revised process would allow the Policy/Admissions committee to approve routine admissions from structures outside the U.S. and Canada without having to poll the full Conference. As with the current process, the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee and then the General Service Board would first need to approve the request prior to forwarding it to the Policy/Admissions Committee for their action.

- It was recommended that:

The Scope of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions which currently reads:

Admissions function: Is responsible for reviewing all requests for admissions to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.

Be revised to read:

Admissions function: Is responsible for reviewing all requests for admissions to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference; and for approving routine requests for admissions from A.A. service structures outside of the U.S./Canada service structure to observe the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.

And that the following be added to the Procedure of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

Procedure

1. To approve routine requests from qualified representatives of other A.A. service structures to observe the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.

# Policy and Admissions Recommendations that Did Not Pass

- It was recommended that:
  - The paragraph in the story “Freedom from Bondage” which was removed due to pagination issues from the fourth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous be restored in all future printings and publications in which the story is included.
  - (Note this was on this committee’s agenda due to the Equitable Distribution of Workload)

Did **NOT** Pass

# Policy and Admissions

- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)
- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List & Paraphrased)
  - The committee noted that the Equitable Distribution of Workload allows for more equitable participation in the committee process. The committee also noted the workflow, communication, and scoring tool challenges, as well as the significant challenges to areas and to the group conscience process caused by moving up the deadline for submitting proposed agenda items to September 15. The committee hopes that whatever can be done to address these challenges will be done over the next two years of the pilot.
  - The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the General Service Conference between meetings and looks forward to development of the process.
  - **\*\*Heavily Discussed at Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly** (Equitable Distribution of Workload Items). The committee considered the request to revise the pamphlet “**Questions and Answers on Sponsorship**” to **reflect shared experience on service sponsorship and took no action**. The committee felt that the topic of service sponsorship is already addressed well in the current version of the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and in the current A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services.

# Report and Charter Advisory Actions

- It was recommended that:

Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of The A.A. Service Manual be revised to correct inaccuracies and to provide clarity and consistency on the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine and A.A. World Services, Inc. (Note: Because 2023 is a printing year these changes would be reviewed by the A.A.W.S. Board, AA Grapevine Board and the General Service Board prior to being brought to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter. This process is in keeping with the 2018 advisory action regarding review of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service.)

- It was recommended that:

Items 5 and 6 that relate to Regional Directories be removed from the Scope of the Report and Charter Composition, Scope and Procedure. (Note: Regional Directories are no longer being produced.)

# Report and Charter Additional Committee Considerations

- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)
- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List & Paraphrased)
  - **\*\*Heavily Discussed at the Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly**  
The committee discussed the request that the chapter titled “The Doctor’s Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous and took no action. The committee noted that Bill W. was involved in the repagination of Alcoholics Anonymous for the second edition. It was also noted that such a change would impact other pieces of A.A. literature that reference pages in the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee added that they did not recognize a strong “spiritual need” to revert to the original pagination. (Equitable distribution of workload item.)
  - The committee discussed the request to include the GSR preamble in the pamphlet “GSR: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole” and took no action. The committee agreed that the GSR pamphlet adequately describes the role and purpose of a GSR. The committee agreed that this statement is better left to local group autonomy. (Equitable distribution of workload item.)
  - The committee discussed General Service Conference reports and noted: (a) appreciation for digital distribution, (b) Delegates should be encouraged to give reports in innovative and creative ways (utilizing technology, such as an anonymity-protected video), (c) Fellowship Connection can be used as a tool (Thank You letter with a link to Final Report)



# Report and Charter Additional Committee Considerations (Continued)

- More Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List and Paraphrased)
  - The committee reaffirmed the 2021 advisory action that “A new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled ‘Amendments,’ and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees.” The committee requested that the staff secretary work with A.A.W.S. Publishing on a draft update of the section to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
  - The committee requested the print listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada (Item F-25) be retired, in light of the cost. Cooperation with local service structures along with data stewardship can help accomplish the same goals.
  - The committee requested that the A.A.W.S. Board research the need for and feasibility of a translation of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service into ASL and asks that a report be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. In addition, the committee encourages local areas, districts, and Intergroups/Central Offices to make ASL interpretation and service opportunities more accessible to the Deaf community
  - The committee noted that The A.A. Service Manual can be utilized for all individuals involved in the General Service structure. The text is not limited to new people in service or only GSRs. Class A trustees, appointed committee members, non-trustee directors and other roles in general service should be able to draw upon the experience shared in specific chapters

# Treatment and Accessibilities

- Advisory Action

- It was recommended that:

The Long Form of Tradition Five be added to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” on page 12 in the section “What is an A.A. Group?” at its next printing.

Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

- Additional Committee Considerations

- Full list of Additional Committee Considerations to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)

- Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List and Paraphrased)

- Reviewed progress report on “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” pamphlet update; made some suggestions; asked for draft or progress report to be brought back to next year’s Conference
- Reviewed progress report for military audio interview project and made a number of suggestions
- Provided suggested revisions for draft service piece “A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities”
- Suggested adding information on A.A. members with service animals in the Accessibilities Workbook
- The committee considered a request to remove the sentence “Nobody has ever died of lack of sleep” in the section “Getting plenty of rest” in the booklet Living Sober and took no action. The committee noted that the section includes this comment later in the chapter: “If the condition persists, it may be advisable to check with a good physician who understands alcoholism well.”

# Corrections

- No Advisory Actions
- Additional Committee Considerations
  - Full list of Additional Committee Considerations to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)
  - Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List and Paraphrased)
    - **\*\*Heavily Discussed at the Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly**  
The committee discussed the request to reconsider use of the term “person in custody” in A.A. literature and took no action. The committee affirmed the need for language that is inclusive and non-stigmatizing, as expressed by the 71st General Service Conference. The committee also discussed that implementation of the advisory action was already in place and that it would be premature at this time to reconsider the action.
    - The committee noted the increased use of online A.A meetings in correctional facilities and suggested that G.S.O. staff gather shared experience regarding online meetings in correctional facilities for addition to the Corrections Workbook
    - The committee discussed the request to limit changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous and took no action. While the committee discussed the concerns expressed by the Fellowship, the committee noted that we operate on a system of trust and checks and balances, and agreed that A.A.’s Twelve Concepts adequately provide guidance to our trusted servants to make decisions that reflect the informed group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole.
    - The committee suggested that during the development of the 5th Edition Big Book the trustees’ Literature Committee consider including a reference in the section of Appendices III and IV that additional information is available on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)
    - The committee discussed the request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.’s primary purpose in mind and took no action. The committee agreed the cadence and role of the annual General Service Conference already provides the appropriate guidance. The committee also noted that through Concept Four, “The Right of Participation,” all members of Alcoholics Anonymous are invited to participate in the year-long process of the General Service Conference

# International Conventions/Regional Forums

- The 2025 International Convention will be in Vancouver, BC (July 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2025)  
Theme: “90 Years-Language of the Heart”
- Letter sent to Areas asking not to schedule any local events the same weekend
- Heads up: the Northeast Regional Forum will be June 2-4, 2023 (Boston)
- No advisory actions
- Additional Committee Considerations
  - Full list of Additional Committee Considerations to be provided following this presentation (and will be contained in full in the Final Conference Reports)
  - Some Noteworthy Additional Committee Considerations (Partial List and Paraphrased)
    - Regarding whether or not to close the Big Meetings at the International Convention with the Lord’s Prayer as one of the optional closings, it sounds like we can expect a call for more discussion on this soon
    - As far as attracting first-time attendees to Regional Forums, the committee noted a couple of suggestions:
      - Use both digital and non-digital options for accessibility
      - Consider retitling “Regional Forums,” utilizing different language  
(Thought provoking... what we title things... can we think of a better name for the “Spring Assembly?”)

# Archives Committee

- No recommendations/advisory actions
- Committee Consideration:
  - The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and expressed satisfaction with the content. The committee also received a verbal report on some of the revisions and updates to the draft workbook, including:
    - New shared experiences and a new subsection from local archivists on specific topics pertaining to archival work;
    - Revised Guidelines for Collecting Oral Histories to include text offering suggestions on ways to conduct ASL interviews with members in the Deaf community to offer a wider diversity of sharing;
    - Replaced gender-specific language throughout the workbook;
    - Updated Archives policies; and other minor editorial updates.

# Floor Actions

- Floor Action #1

It was recommended that:

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

Declined to be considered (and thus it did not pass).

- Floor Action #2

It was recommended that:

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

Considered, discussed, and passed.

- Floor Action #3

It was recommended that:

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

Considered, discussed, and passed.

- Floor Action #4

It was recommended that:

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

Declined to be considered (and thus it did not pass).

# Floor Action # 5

- Submitted by Area 11 Delegate

It was recommended that:

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

While this was considered and discussed, it did not pass when it came to a vote.

# Floor Actions (Continued)

- Floor Action #6

It was recommended that:

That the [...] GSR Preamble [included in the 72<sup>nd</sup> G.S.C. background material] be added to the pamphlet “Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”

Declined to be considered (and thus it did not pass)

- Floor Action #7

It was recommended that:

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

While this was considered and discussed, it did not pass when it came to a vote.

- Floor Action #8

It was recommended that:

The Advisory Actions from Panel 71 [...] [pertaining to the changes] in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be returned to the original text.

Declined to be considered (and thus it did not pass)



# Floor Actions (Continued)

- Floor Action #9

It was recommended that:

The 1995 Conference Advisory Action be affirmed that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.

While this was considered and discussed, it did not pass when it came to a vote.

# Publishing Highlights: “Innovations in attraction, inclusion and accessibility” —David R. (AAWS Publishing Director)

Full report to be contained in Final Conference Report (available digitally in the Fall).  
Here are some Highlights:

- Increased efforts for digital and online access
  - In addition to print
- Enhanced Ebook Digital Distribution
  - Available on ebook platforms where ebook readers in the U.S./Canada are accustomed to finding digital literature (38 major ebook platforms)
  - 41% increase of eBook and audiobook distribution in 2021
  - More availability in correctional facilities
- Translations
  - Including ASL Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (see A.A.W.S. YouTube Channel)
  - Usually starts at the local level
  - Trying to streamline the translation and licensing process
- Audio and video formats of A.A. material
- Staple-less pamphlets (due to requests from Corrections and CPC/Treatment/Accessibilities)

# After Conference Business Finished: Farewell Talks and Bus Trip to G.S.O.

- Rotating Delegates (Friday 4/29)
  - Another Opportunity for Courage
    - Area 11 Delegate called in for farewell; spoke up about looking out for employees, importance of Conference being a year-round process & importance of helping our local Areas
- Rotating Trustees (Saturday 4/30)
- Bus Trip to G.S.O. (Saturday 4/30)
- Area 11 Delegate remained quarantined in hotel until 5/3

## Summary Highlights from the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

- 1-Page Highlights Sheet available
- Happy to visit Districts and answer questions/provide a short synopsis

**“THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION! I AM GOING TO GET RESENTFUL! WHERE CAN I FIND MORE?”**

**DO NOT WORRY! THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF INFORMATION THAT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU!**

Full list of Advisory Actions, Additional Committee Considerations and the like to be posted on our Area 11 website. Visit [www.ct-aa.org](http://www.ct-aa.org), click “A.A.” Members,” and then click “Delegates Reports.” This also includes a 1-page Highlights summary.

Thanks to our Web Committee!

# THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY

- IT HAS BEEN REAL SO FAR!
- Grateful to CONTINUE serving as your Delegate through December! Please use this service position as a resource! The General Service Conference is a year-round process.
- We elect our next Area Delegate for a two-year term at the Fall Assembly in November, along with Regional Trustee Candidate (if any), and Area 11 Officers. Details from the Fall Assembly to come from your Area 11 Chairperson.
- Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Respectfully,  
Matt K.  
Area 11 Panel 71 Delegate