

72nd General Service Conference

Pre-Conference Presentation by:

Ruth R., Delegate – Area 14, Panel 71
And other current and past
Area 14 panel members



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Agenda Items

- **Where do they come from?**
- **Are they factual or opinions?**
- **How do I get an item on the Agenda for next year?**

1. Agenda items can be submitted from an individual member, a Group, a District or an Area—or any faction of any of those. Once submitted, they go to the Conference Coordinators desk. They acknowledge it and forward it to the appropriate Trustees Committee/Publications/AAWS/Chair of the GSB/AAGV Board for them to evaluate in order narrow down the number of Proposed items to the Final Agenda Items. If the proposal does not rise to the level of a Conference Action, the topic could be presented as a discussion, presentation or workshop. There is no one size fits all approach.
2. Many items are submitted because a member has a strong opinion on a particular issue. But the background information they provide goes a long way towards establishing if the Item is based solely on opinion, or if it is based on facts/precedence/history.
3. To submit an item for the following year's Conference, you would fill out the Submission Form
 1. Submit a clear and concisely worded motion
 2. What problem does this proposed item address?
 3. What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc)
 4. Provide background information that describes and supports the

reasoning for the proposal. List background materials included with the proposal.

5. What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved.
6. Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Questions?

Please jot down your questions for Q & A at the end of presentation. You can also email questions, input, or requests for handouts to:

delegate@aanorthflorida.org

Equitable Distribution of Workload

What the heck is that???

Before we start, we want to make sure that everyone knows what this is. AKA the EDW, it was recommended, and passed with substantial unanimity, at the 71st General Service Conference last year. The goal was to distribute Agenda Items a bit more evenly between the conference committees, so that no one committee was totally overwhelmed. We currently only have 6 hours at Conference to meet in committee to discuss Agenda Items. Since we always have a preponderance of Literature items, this results in that committee having to forward Agenda Items to the next year, because they just can't get to them. On the other hand, there are also committees with only a few Agenda Items and they are sometimes left with lots of time on their hands. This year, 12

Literature items were distributed to other committees with fewer items, in order to take some of the load off Literature. So you will see them grouped with Literature items today, but with a reference to the original committee with the original Agenda Item letter for that committee

Review Workbooks and Kits

- C.P.C. Kit and Workbook
- Corrections Kit and Workbook
- Self-Support Pamphlet
- A.A. Grapevine Workbook
- Archives Workbook
- AA Step Workbook
- Public Information Kit and Workbook
- Treatment Kit and Workbook
- Accessibilities Kit and Workbook
- Literature Workbook

These are reviewed every year. Sometimes deletions or additions are recommended..

Agenda

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Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2023 General Service Conference
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2023 General Service Conference
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2023 General Service Conference

Information Only

These items appear every year. You will find suggested ideas for each category in the background material. If your Group feels strongly about any of these, let your Delegate know so they can share that information. Remember you can submit ideas for future General Service Conferences. Want some ideas on themes for workshops? Look no further than these lists in the background material. They are great sources for workshop topics.

This year's theme is "AA Comes Of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service"

Agenda

D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2021 Evaluation Summary.

E. Discuss progress report on Conference improvement

Information Only

D. This section shows the attendees' answers to the survey given after the 71st General Service Conference. It also addresses the upcoming 72nd GSC survey, where they've added questions regarding the Equitable Distribution of Workload trial for the attendees this year.

E. This item occurs every year and is a continuing effort to improve the General Service Conference process. This year, the subcommittee addressed a perennial complaint by some delegates regarding there not being enough committee time to discuss Agenda items. They also discussed alternating between face to face and virtual conferences in the future.



Cooperation With The Professional Community

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Cooperation with the Professional Community

- A. Review progress report on LinkedIn Account

- B. Review suggested revisions for the draft pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community”

Delegate Needs to Know?

A. Nothing, Information only.

B. What do you think of the revisions?

- A. In 2021 the 71st GSC recommended that a “dynamic” LinkedIn page be implemented to provide current and relevant content about AA to professionals in accordance with AA principles and Traditions and that a progress report on the effectiveness be brought back in 2022. In Q4 we had 1600 followers, 585 unique visitors and 1587 total page views.

- B. There are quite a few proposed changes to this pamphlet—too many to run through today. We suggest that you review the draft in the CPC background information. Hyperlinks to AA’s Online Intergroup Directory, a state-by-state link to AA’s central offices, Grapevine, La Viña and pamphlets for professionals have been included, amongst other changes.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

C. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlets for the mental health professionals

Delegate Needs to Know? Do you like the direction the new pamphlet is going?

A focus group of Mental Health Professionals (both alcoholics and non-alcoholics) was formed to advise on what should be included in this pamphlet. They discussed 3 questions:

- 1) What are the barriers to referring or providing information to your clients about AA?
- 2) What clear AA message should be given to professionals and what should the ongoing message be?
- 3) What do you tell your peers about AA?

A report based on the findings of the focus group was sent to publishing for them to review prior to writing the pamphlet.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

- D. Consider creating a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. committees reach as many doctors as possible.

Delegate Needs to Know? Do you think a new Pamphlet is needed?

The submitter feels that CPC is not getting engagement from most local doctors and that when CPC reaches out, it's to organizations, rather than individual doctors. This proposed pamphlet would help members to have conversations with their doctors—suggesting what you could say to them and what questions you could ask them. There would also be space for one to write local contact information.

Corrections

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Corrections

B. Reconsider use of the term “person in custody” in AA literature

(At the 71st General Service Conference in 2021, it was recommended to change the language in our AA literature from “inmate” and “convict” to “person in custody”)

Delegate Needs to Know? Do you think the terminology to describe incarcerated members should be changed again?

According to the submitter, “Person in Custody” is not used in Canada’s judicial system so they may not be used to that term. They feel that in all literature directed to professionals, it’s ok to refer to them as convicts or inmates.

They also advocated referring to them as “Inside AA Members” in literature that is not directed to professionals. The submitter feels that this would be more respectful and encourages inclusiveness.

Finance

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Finance

A. Review Self-Support Packet

FV-19 A cardboard sleeve containing several service pieces, including our Self Support pamphlet, The AA Group Treasurer pamphlet and the Self Support Card.

Delegate Needs to Know? Do you think these changes are needed?

The Self Support Subcommittee noted that the language used on the various pieces of literature included in the Self Support Packet was inconsistent and sometimes incorrect, referring to contributions going to General Service Office when it should say the General Service Board. The sub-committee further recommended that we should consider updating the images in the materials to reflect current contributions from the US and Canada.

Please refer to the background information to see all the pieces included in this packet and to help your group decide whether or not they think we should update them.



Grapevine and La Viña



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Grapevine and La Viña

B. Review progress report on Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts

(Grapevine—alcoholicsanonymous_gv)
(La Viña – alcoholicosanonimos_lv)

Delegate Needs to Know? This is informational only.

B. Grapevine Instagram has 6,243 followers as of 2/23/22. As of Feb 1st they've posted 395 times since their launch on 7/7/21. They post a daily quote, new book announcements, inspirational quotes, new magazines and other items. La Vina has 687 followers as of 2/23/22 and has posted 252 times during that same time frame. The goal is to help members stay connected to Grapevine and LaVina and to AA as a whole. In addition, they hope to attract those who might benefit by learning more about AA, by aiming for attraction rather than promotion. Posts are kept anonymous. They've currently reach over 132,000 people in the 90 days preceding the background material coming out. During that same time, there's been an 8.21% growth rate. The vast majority of followers are in the US. The largest age group of followers are those 45-54 years old, with 56.71% of followers being female and 33.91% male. 9.38% are unidentified. For LaVina the largest age group is 35 to 44 with males outnumbering females 55% to 35% with 10% unidentified.

Grapevine and La Viña

C. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2023

Best of Dear Grapevine—Previously published letters which were printed in the letters section, Dear Grapevine

Book For Newcomers—Previously published stories by AA members sharing helpful tools and suggestions during their first year in sobriety

Best Of La Viña II– Spanish speaking AA members share their experience, strength and hope, from the pages of La Viña

Prayer & Meditation-- Previously published stories by Spanish speaking AA members sharing about the many ways they practice Step 11(possibly including some translated stories from the GV version).

Delegate Needs to Know? This is informational only

All of these soft cover books will be between 120-200 pages. The projected unit cost is \$2.50 each for a print run of 10,000, and will be sold for \$11.50.

The eBook versions will cost approximately \$2,000 for the project and will sell for \$9.99.

Grapevine and La Viña

D. Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our AA fellowship

After its passage, the Grapevine Board received a number of correspondences regarding the change—some favorable, some unfavorable and some requesting additional information. Both those in favor and those against cite our Traditions as the reason. As a result, the Director of the Grapevine submitted this agenda item, asking “How do we, as a Fellowship, move forward in love and unity?”

Delegate Needs to Know? How does your Group think we can move forward in love and unity?

Timeline leading up to the change:

12/18—AAGV Board received a request to revise the AA Preamble

1/19—AAGV Board took no action, noting the then current process being undertaken by the Trustee’s Literature Committee and AAWS to look at the language in all AA literature. AAGV forwarded a request that the Preamble be included in this broader review

9/19—additional requests were received by AAGV to degenderize the Preamble. The AAGV board requested that the previous request to the Trustees Committee on Literature to review this matter be rescinded.

12/19—AAGVB had roundtable discussion regarding the many requests to change the Preamble and as a result, decided to send the requests to the 70th

General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine for further discussion.

1/20—Forwarded to the 70th 2020 GSC Committee on Grapevine as Agenda Items D and E, both reflecting changing “men and women” to “people”

4/20—No action was taken on Item D, On item E, the Grapevine Committee requested that the AAGV Board consider developing examples of generalized language options and to report back with draft versions at the 71st GSC in 2021

6/20—Board reviewed the consideration of the 70th GSC and asked management to develop some ideas regarding the Preamble item

7/20— Amid reports that groups were already changing the Preamble language, Senior Editor Jon W asked for board members to forward language and ideas to him

9/20—Board requested several options to be brought to Oct board meeting

10/20—Jon W presented suggest changes to the Preamble to serve as background to the 71st Conf committee on AAGV and LV

1/21—Board finalized the background and forwarded to the Conf Committee on GV and LV

4/21— Item E under GV and LV “Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the AA Preamble. The committee took no action, stating that they felt they needed more information to make a decision. They further requested that the GV Board gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship regarding gender neutral language options for the AA Preamble. Later in the Conference, the Floor Actions occurred.

Literature

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Literature

Pamphlets and progress reports to review:

The 12 Steps Illustrated
The 12 Concepts Illustrated
A.A.'s Three Legacies
Too Young?
Young People and A.A.
A.A. for the Black and
African-American Alcoholic
Q & A on Sponsorship
A.A. for the Native North American

Living Sober
Q & A on Sponsorship
12 Traditions Illustrated
Is A.A. For You
Is there an Alcoholic In Your Life
Frequently Asked Questions
About A.A.
This is A.A.

Delegate Needs to Know? This is informational only

This slide merely lists some pamphlets and progress reports the Literature Committee will be reviewing during the Conference. Delegates who aren't assigned to Literature will have no input into these unless that Committee forwards them as a recommended Advisory Action.

Literature

P. Review progress report regarding strategy to make current literature accessible in all possible formats.

Braille

Large Print

American Sign Language

Staple-less

Audio

eBook

Video

Podcasts

Screen Reader Technologies

Delegate Needs to Know? This is informational only

- a. Braille items have now been converted to the current standard of Unified English Braille in a lay-flat binding. If you have ever seen someone reading Braille, they run their fingertips across the pages, making a lay flat binding very important.
- b. Large print books are the most requested formats for the past decade. A plan is in place to redesign pamphlets, books and booklets to conform with accepted large format standards.
- c. American Sign Language—videos have been updated to reflect changes in the ASL vernacular, with new translations to the Big Book and 12 & 12 already released and available to watch for free on aa.org. There is an expressed need for Spanish Sign Language versions of our literature so we will probably see that soon.
- d. Staple-less pamphlets have been requested by Corrections, CPC, Treatment, and Accessibilities, resulting in 9 pieces of literature slated for staple less production this year.
- e. Audiobooks—Responding to a surge in requests the last couple of years, there are 9 Audiobooks available to be listened to for free on aa.org—Big Book, 12 and 12 and Living Sober, each in English, Spanish and French. Next up is the Daily Reflections in all 3 languages as well.
- f. Our eBook publishing program is moving forward with nearly all of our books and booklets available in EPub3 format. Next up is “Our Great Responsibility:

A Selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks 1951-1970.”

- g. New Videos on Your GSO, Grapevine and the Service Structure and Regional Forums are now available on aa.org as well as video Public Service Announcements (both animated and live action)
- h. Podcasts—AAWS and AAGV are collaborating on podcasts and short take, “snackable” and accessible formats.
- i. Screen reader friendly measures being taken include visual image “alt tags”, format considerations, font sizes and other designs for members who have low vision and use screen readers.

So that's just some of the ways that we are trying to make sure our literature and message is accessible to all who need us.

Literature

K. Review Progress Report regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (4th edition) into plain and simple language.
(AKA Easy English or Easy to Read English)

Delegate Needs to Know? How does your Group feel about an Easy Read, Accessible, Big Book?

The Trustees Literature Committee received 11 Proposed Agenda Items (PAI) for the 72nd General Service Conference pertaining to translation of the book Alcoholic Anonymous into plain and simple language. While the TLC “took no action” on these proposals, they forwarded them to the Tools To Access the Big Book (or TABB) Subcommittee for review. 8 of the 11 PAIs requested that the translation be discontinued, rescinded or to stop the development of a draft version. Of note in these proposals were concerns regarding political intentions, eradication of God, and removal of all gendered language.

The Subcommittee has affirmed that the goal of the project was described to the prospective translation companies as “the final work product must be accessible to readers at a fifth-grade reading level. The translation as a whole must capture the welcoming and inclusive spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous and inspire a sense of belonging and hope in the alcoholic seeking help”.

Literature

“We never apologize to anyone for depending upon our Creator. We can laugh at those who think that spirituality is the way of weakness. Paradoxically, it is the way of strength. The verdict of the ages is that faith means courage.” (P. 68)

translated to

“And we are not ashamed of relying on God, or of needing God. We know that our faith and trust isn’t a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength. Faith is a kind of courage, just as trusting God is a kind of courage.”

Delegate Needs to Know? How does your Group feel about an Easy Read, Accessible, Big Book?

Literature

“And it means, of course, that we are going to talk about God. Here difficulty arises with agnostics” (P 45)

translated to

“It also means that we are going to talk about God. If you aren’t sure that God exists—in other words, if you are an agnostic—this may worry you”

“Frothy emotional appeal seldom suffices” (The Dr’s Opinion, P. XXVII)

translated to

“Begging these people to stop drinking never helps”

Delegate Needs to Know? How does your Group feel about an Easy Read, Accessible, Big Book?

The subcommittee hopes that sharing this information will address some of the concerns expressed by the submitters of these 8 PAIs.

It’s possible that we will see a floor action regarding this Proposed item.

Literature

L. Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide/workbooks for AA.

Delegate Needs to Know? This is informational only

Here's a bit of trivia for you—what Area submitted the Proposed Agenda Item in October 2018 which eventually led to this Advisory Action? Our very own Joyce C submitted it on behalf of a teacher in District 7 for the 69th General Service Conference and it finally became part of an Advisory Action to make the Big Book more accessible in 2021.

These study guides, or workbooks will not be designed to replace or supplant the current basic text, Alcoholics Anonymous. Instead, this content would be designed to introduce those who have a hard time accessing or understanding our message in its current form, to our program of recovery.

1. The workbook format would contain brief introductions, sharing on each principle and questions to prompt self-examination and/or work with a sponsor. An example would be “Reaching for Personal Freedom”, Al-Anon’s workbook for steps, traditions, and concepts.
2. A Study Guide format would contain in depth chapters on each step, tradition, and concept, with sharing and questions at the end of each. An example of this would be the Pathways to Recovery study guides.

Literature

R. Discuss changes to the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as directed by the 71st General Service Conference

Delegate Needs to Know? How does your Group feel about these changes?

This is regarding changes made to the 12 & 12 by the 71st Conference.

- a. On Page 117 the words “mate of the opposite sex” were replaced by the word “partner”
- b. Page 66 the sentence "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health." was replaced with "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."
- c. Finally, Advisory Action 23 recommended including “The Long Form of each Tradition at the end of each essay for that Tradition.”

GSO received 40 requests to reverse or rescind some of these changes. The submitters of those proposed agenda items cited the following reasons:

- 1995 Advisory Action which states there can be no changes to Bill’s writings
- These changes create a “slippery slope” that may lead to future changes
- Covid prevented fully informed group conscience—Groups may not have been aware of proposed changes due to Covid
- These changes are based on outside issues, not in keeping with Tradition 10.

Of those 40 Proposed Agenda Items received, all were against changing the 12 & 12, but only 1 mentioned adding the long form of the Traditions at the end of each essay. They were all directed against the first two changes. As written, this agenda item is only asking the Literature Committee to discuss these changes.

It's possible that a recommendation may come to the Conference from the Committee or as a Floor Action.

Literature (assigned to Finance)

B. Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

“ While the language in this text may seem dated, please remember that Bill W wrote in the language and custom of his times. Bill was very tolerant of different individuals and members. All alcoholics, were and are now welcomed cordially into AA. Were Bill to write this book today, it may be worded differently in some places. Society may change, but the basic spiritual principles of *Alcoholics Anonymous* are classic and eternal. We hope that this book continues to broaden and deepen the understanding of the Twelve Steps as written in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.”

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group think we should add a historical disclaimer to the front of the 12 & 12?

The Submitter feels that small changes to the book can change the meaning of the text as originally written. He feels that we should stop being creative and possibly politically correct to meet the needs of the newcomer. We should maintain the program of AA “as it was originally written and to give future fellows AA the same chance we were given”

Literature (assigned to Finance)

C. Consider request that all proposed changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes.

Delegate Needs to Know? How does your Group feel about making changes to the 12 & 12 via footnotes?

Motion: "To maintain the integrity and historical accuracy of the publication Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, we move that all proposed changes be handled in footnotes rather than in a revision of the actual text.

This submitter is disturbed at the prospect of revisions to our literature. She feels it sets a dangerous precedent for changes to what she considers sacred texts in the fellowship of AA and that suppressing its outdated expressions negates the growth that has taken place in us as a fellowship.

Literature (assigned to Corrections)

- C. Consider requests to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*

- D. Discuss request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with AA's primary purpose in mind.

Delegate Needs to Know? C. Does your Group want to limit changes to the Big Book to only the stories in the back? D. Does your Group feel that changes to AA literature are sometimes made too quickly and not aligned with our primary purpose?

- C. Submitter proposes affirmation of the 1995 Advisory Action "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, The Preface, The Forewords, "the Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is"

The submitter's actual motion was "Keep the first 164 pages of the Big Book as well as all the Appendices, the Medical Opinion, Doctor's Opinion, and the Religious opinion the same. Do not change any of the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous* except for updating stories"

- D. This proposal was submitted by a member who believes the pandemic and difficulties in their area distributing agenda information allowed changes that were not represented by their Area's group conscience and that unity would be created by not allowing changes during a situation such as the Pandemic. They offer no concrete plan how to define "slowly". They seem to think that there were changes to the Big Book during the pandemic.

Literature

Big Books Under Review

- 4th Edition Spanish Big Book
- 5th Edition Big Book

Delegate Needs to Know? This is Information only

Both of these new editions were approved to move forward last year. We will just receive an update on the progress to date.

Literature

S. Consider an update of the book *Experience Strength and Hope*

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group feel there should be an update to this book?

Experience, Strength and Hope is an anthology of all the stories that have been removed each time a new edition of the Big Book is printed. When a new Edition is printed, there will be stories removed to make room for stories from more recent members. The submitter suggests that all stories dropped from the fourth edition of Big Book be added to this book. So this is just a suggestion that when the 5th Edition is printed, the stories that are removed from the 4th Edition should be added to this anthology.

Literature (assigned to Policy / Admissions)

F. Consider requests to restore a paragraph in the story “Freedom from Bondage” in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*

“...or so it seemed. I looked around me at people who seemed happy and tried to analyze their happiness, and it seemed to me that without exception these people had something or somebody they loved very much. I didn’t have the courage to love; I was not even sure I had the capacity. Fear of rejection and its ensuing pain were not to be risked, and I turned away from myself once more for the answer, this time to the drinks I had always refused before, and in alcohol I found a false courage. I wasn’t afraid of anything or anybody after I learned about drinking, for it seemed right from the beginning that with liquor I could always retire to my little private world where nobody could get at me or hurt me.”

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group feel this paragraph should be reinstated?

It was changed to read “...or so it seemed. I wasn’t afraid of anything or anybody”

The submitter feels that this is a very impactful paragraph and that to remove it causes the story to lose context and meaning

A large portion of this paragraph was eliminated based on paging needs of publishing, to avoid an overhang of one sentence on a page by itself. To produce a 4th Edition with the same page count as the 3rd edition, multiple stories had to be edited in a similar manner, including some that carried forward from the second to third editions. In 2003, it was proposed that the paragraphs be restored, but the then GSO Director of Publishing felt that the edits were very logical, careful, respectful, and were made by professionals, so he recommended to the Conference Committee on Literature that the text remain as is. As a result the committee took no action on that proposal.

Literature (assigned to Policy / Admissions)

G. Consider Request to revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship

....that the pamphlet be retitled to include Service Sponsorship

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group feel that Service Sponsorship should be added to this pamphlet?

This Proposed Agenda item was originally submitted to the 69th GSC. At that time, the Trustee’s Literature Committee chose not to forward the item to the Conference Committee on Literature stating that there was no expressed need from the Fellowship. The item was submitted again and was forwarded to the 72nd Conference. Since the item was originally submitted, a section on service sponsorship was added to the new AA Service Manual. They believe that a revised pamphlet might reach people who are not yet in General Service, and consequently do not own a Service Manual.

Literature (assigned to Report and Charter)

D. Consider a request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole”

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

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

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

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group think we need the GSR Preamble in this pamphlet?

The submitter believes

1. This document is a clear-cut directive to GSRs regarding their responsibility
2. Adding to the pamphlet provides consistency and unity across AA as a whole
3. Would affirm Conference approval when read and if this item passes.

Literature (assigned to Report and Charter)

- E. Consider request that the chapter titled “The Doctor’s Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition

Delegate Needs to Know? Should the Dr’s Opinion be returned to page 1?

The Doctor’s Opinion was moved from page one to the Roman Numerals when the 2nd Edition was published. Data suggests that the average reader doesn’t read the Preface and Forewords. Instead, they start on page 1. When they do so, they miss the only medical explanation of the disease that’s presented in the Big Book. The submitters believe that “readers will be validated with a sense of surety, freedom and well being in learning that alcoholism is a disease and not a moral failing.”

Literature (assigned to Treatment)

F. Consider request to revise the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five

G. Consider request to revise text in the chapter “Getting plenty of rest” in the booklet Living Sober

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group think “The AA Group” and Living Sober should be revised as stated?

F. The idea of a “spiritual entity” is not mentioned until page 31 in the Group Pamphlet, and then only in relationship to safety. The submitter believes that including the long form of the fifth tradition here will provide a clearer picture that an A.A. Group is, as suggested by our Traditions, a spiritual entity.

G. This essay states “No one ever died of lack of sleep” The submitter believes this statement is misleading and false, that it implies sleep is not important and there is no consequence to a lack of sleep. This could affect serious medical conditions members may have. “As AA reminds us, we should avoid getting too hungry, angry, lonely or tired, because we tend to misconstrue signals and think being tired means being thirsty. Sleep is a healthy part of well being and we shouldn’t discount its importance”

Literature (assigned to Trustees)

F. Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group

From: Mindful that **holding office** is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our **officers** with care?

To: Mindful that **trusted service** is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our **trusted servants** with care?

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group think this text should be revised?

No background was provided on this one.

Literature (assigned to Trustees)

- G. Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You Are Different?” to include stories reflecting greater diversity

Delegate Needs to Know? Does your Group think this pamphlet should be revised?

Submitted by an individual from the Yukon Territory. This pamphlet was just updated in 2018, but the submitter feels it does not cover all aspects of the different populations in our Canada/US structure, due to multicultural population of immigrants from Asia, the middle east, indigenous people from both US and Canada, and others.

There is no additional background information on this item



Policy/Admissions

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Policy / Admissions

- A. Review G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.

- D. Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the G.S.C. between meetings.

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

A. The 71st General Service Conference recommended that this report contain more details on specific sites and agreed that the goal should be for an overall reduction of costs as well as the cost and convenience of transportation to the property. For 2022 and 2023 we are contracted to have the Conference at the Brooklyn Marriott instead of the Crowne Plaza in Times Square. They are now looking to contract for 2024. The contenders are this year's hotel, the Crowne Plaza, the Hyatt Regency NYC and the Princeton CT Marriott. I've heard many ask about why they don't move the site out of the NY area since costs there are higher than average. Our current Conference charter does state that the Conference will meet in NYC unless otherwise agreed upon.

D. It was also recommended that the Trustees General Service Conference Committee enable real time discussion and debate, allowing broader participation and greater efficiency. The Committee acknowledged that efforts on this undertaking were paused due to multiple reasons, among them, the Equitable Distribution of Workload, the sheer number of Proposed Agenda Item submissions, combined with staff availability due to the pandemic related office closure, staff shortages and the then current remote work environment. Since there was only one poll since the last GSC, they used the old method of polling. They will revisit this after the 72nd GSC.

Policy / Admissions

E. Review Report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

As previously discussed, the Equitable Distribution of Workload is a 3 year trial process to more evenly distribute the workload of the committees at the Conference which have a very heavy workload, by distributing items between other committees which don't receive as many proposed agenda items. A scoring tool is used to evaluate agenda items to enable this redistribution. I'm sure many of you have noticed the preponderance of Literature items—year after year. This has caused a very lopsided workload for the folks on that Committee.

The amount of extra work required evaluating all agenda items for committee assignment, combined with the advanced timeline required for items to be ready for the Jan Board weekend, resulted in the date for submission of proposed agenda items to be moved forward to September from December this past year. As a result, the deadline was scheduled prior to most Areas meeting at their Fall Assembly, which possibly reduced the opportunity to discuss items at the Area level prior to submission. Do we see this as problematic for going forward? When all was said and done, this year's end result was the redistribution of 12 Literature items among other committees with smaller workloads.



Public Information

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Public Information

- A. Review the 2022 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan
- B. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):
 - 1. Review the distribution and tracking information for two PSAs
 - i. “Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built A Wall”
 - ii. “Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party”
 - 2. Review the 2021 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs”

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

- A. The 2021 committee supported this plan and noted the new architecture is in line with today’s communication standards. They also suggested that the content of the CMP be expanded to reflect a broader interest in reaching targeted audiences within A.A. relating to all genders and all potential members. Working groups focusing on this project include website, social media, AAWS LinkedIn, the meeting guide app, tv and radio PSA , podcasts and others. Recommendations for support of Google Ads campaigns and the AAWS YouTube Channel suggest best practices for utilizing grant money and reaching the still suffering alcoholic. This is reviewed every year and additional information is provided in the background material.
- B. An advisory action from the 71st GSC requested that 1 to 2 PSAs be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$60,000. Those two PSAs have had approximately 8,000 English TV airings and 3,400 Spanish TV airings in 2021.

Public Information

- C. Review a progress report and the G.S.O. Podcast Plan
- D. Review report on “YouTube Performance”
- E. Review report on “Google Ads Performance”
- F. Review report on “Meeting Guide Performance”

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

C. GSO podcast, not to be confused with the GV podcast. The pilot episode is about virtual AA – getting and staying sober, step work, etc, featuring a gal who got sober virtually and her sponsor. There’s a link to listen to it in the background. Check it out when you’re reading the background info. The 2022 budget for the podcast project is \$15,000.

D. There are currently 109 AAWS videos posted publicly to YouTube, in English, Spanish and French. As of Dec 31, 2021, we had over 6500 subscribers with 31,515 views for a total watch time of 1100 hours.

E. We are currently running two ad campaigns, one we call “Find Meeting” and the other is “Get Help”. Find Meeting gets far greater attention consistently. All of the analytics are in the background, if you are interested.

F. The App team launched the 4th major upgrade since App Development was handed off. The latest release included features requested by users, such as filtering a search by “online” or “in person” or to be able to set the distance to search by.

Public Information

- G. Review the “2021 Fourth Quarter Report on A.A.W.S. Board Oversight of G.S.O’s AA Website”
- H. Review report on “AAGV/La Vina Website, Marketing and Podcast”
- I. Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

G. Report back on the launch of the new website, very early issues were cited and reworked where possible. Other feedback suggests additional consideration and adjustments to be made going forward.

H. This report tracked traffic and performance, monitored queries (top being for a sobriety calculator) and e-Commerce for the site and the store along with where and how the podcast was listened to.

As of Jan 16, 22 16 episodes with 38k plus downloads, 46% on Apple, 27% Grapevine site and 9% Spotify. And did you know that if you have an Alexa device at home, or the Alexa App on your phone, you can just say “Alexa, play the Grapevine Podcast” and she will? Pretty cool, huh?

I. This considers passive and active ad placement, where and when, for how long and how often these ads would run. Results and budget considerations are discussed in the background as well. We all know that not everyone watches regular TV anymore and consequently may not see our PSAs, since they watch streaming platforms like HULU, Netflix and others.

Public Information

J. Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials:

1. Consider suggestion to revise the flyer “A.A. at a Glance”
2. Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings”
3. Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity”
4. Consider request to retire and replace the “A.A. Fact File”

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

Forwarded to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information from the Trustees Committee on Public Information.

1. The first one, AA At A Glance, was created in 1954. They have suggested editorial edits and a new look.
2. When looking at the pamphlet, Speaking at Non AA Meetings, they saw a need for revision and additional information added for media and press interaction. The background material cites specific examples of current language vs. suggested language.
3. The committee thought that Understanding Anonymity needs an update to reflect current technology concerns
4. The 72nd will see a suggested replacement for The AA Fact File, and it can be found in the background material (note A.A. Fact file is conference approved but the replacement is considered service material)

Public Information

- K. Review request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media
- L. Review report on development and distribution ideas for the ‘A.A. Triennial Membership Survey’

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

K. Consideration from 2020 has developed into a request to gather feedback from the membership via a survey. Reworking is expected but the current draft is included in the background material.

L. We have not had a membership survey since 2014. Gender identity has been the largest challenge. A study was undertaken, and changes were recommended to questions 2, 3 and 4, about gender, race and ethnicity. Two additional questions have been added for on- line meeting participation evaluation. A copy of the 2014 survey, the study report and the current suggested survey may be found in the background material.

Would your group like to see the survey revived so that we have a better understanding of who comprises AA today?

Report and Charter

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Report and Charter

- A. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*
- B. Review *The A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition*
- C. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments”

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

- A. You can view the final report digitally or check with Ruth to see if she has any hard copies left.
- B. Who’s seen the new Service Manual? Isn’t it great? How do you like the changes? The size? The color? Please give me your feedback so that can be passed on to that committee.
- C. This progress report was requested in Advisory Action #44 from the 71st General Service Conference. The Publishing Department has concerns regarding the possibility that carrying out this Advisory Action will “fundamentally alter the basic editorial framework” of the Service Manual. Consequently, they’ve provided 3 sample versions of actions that they feel would be within the intent of the committee, while maintaining the integrity of book along with a 4th sample of the proposed Amendment section from the Advisory Action. The Publishing Department is seeking further guidance from the Report and Charter Committee regarding which approach to take when moving forward. Once determined, that format will be implemented for the 2024-2026 edition of the Service Manual.



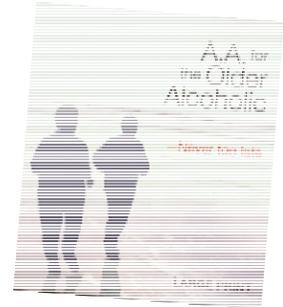
Treatment and Accessibilities

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Treatment and Accessibilities

- A. Review progress report on pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic”
- B. Review progress report on military audio interviews
- C. Discuss draft version of A.A. Guidelines for remote communities



Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

- A. Of 42 stories submitted for the update, 7 have been chosen to be considered for the update to the pamphlet. They will then review those 7, plus the stories submitted for the update in 2019 as well as stories from the Sept 2014 and August 2021 issues of GV, along with stories that are in the existing version of the pamphlet. In Jan, the Trustees CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee reviewed and discussed the first round of 84 stories and selected 23. Those will be narrowed down to 12 to be sent to the Conference Committee for feedback.
- B. In Dec, two consultants with relevant military experience, one from Canada and one from the US, were selected to work with the committee to develop a questionnaire for the interviews, create a standard road map between the US and Canada, seek contacts from several military branches, and to develop a project plan.
- C. The Trustees committee met in Jan and discussed these Guidelines, suggesting several edits regarding appropriate language and removing two quotes under the Spanish Speaking Women in AA section. Those edits were then sent in a memo to Publishing as well as to the Conference Committee since it's new service material.

Trustees

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Trustees

- A. Review Resumes for candidates for
 - 1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee
 - 2. Pacific Regional Trustee
- B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc
- C. Review slate of directors for AAWS, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors for AA Grapevine, Inc.

Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

Only the delegates will get the resumes of the candidates for these positions. Each delegate will give a 2 minute presentation of that Area's candidate. We have no input since our region or the US are neither having elections this year.

Each Board slate of officers will be presented – the Conference does not “approve”, they are offered the opportunity to “disapprove”

Trustees

- E. Discuss the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards

Delegate Needs to Know? Nothing, informational only

When there was a motion brought to remove and re-organize the board, it was realized there was no procedure in place to accomplish this. In 2018 a proposal was brought to develop a process, and the work continues. There was a need to change a voting process in the Charter that delayed work, and at the 70th GSC, Report and Charter brought that change to be approved. Now the reorganization continues. It is a complex plan and spelled out in the background material, if you have an interest.



International Convention/ Regional Forums

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International Conventions/ Regional Forums

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

Delegate Needs to Know? How would your Group like to see the Big Meetings close?

The Committee has requested more feedback from the fellowship. There will be a survey for the 2025 International, that will include a question regarding this topic.

For your Group to consider:

- What ideas do you or your Group have for closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention?
- Is closing with a prayer inclusive, considering the diversity of our Fellowship?
- Since it's International, do we want to have a closing that is considered appropriate for all the countries involved?
- Should we survey the Fellowship to see how they feel?
- Should we close with The Responsibility Statement?
- How about The Unity Pledge?
- Does closing with the Lords Prayer support the perception that AA is a religious organization?

Ruth needs to know if you or your Group feel strongly about any specific way to close the Big Meetings.

International Conventions/ Regional Forums

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

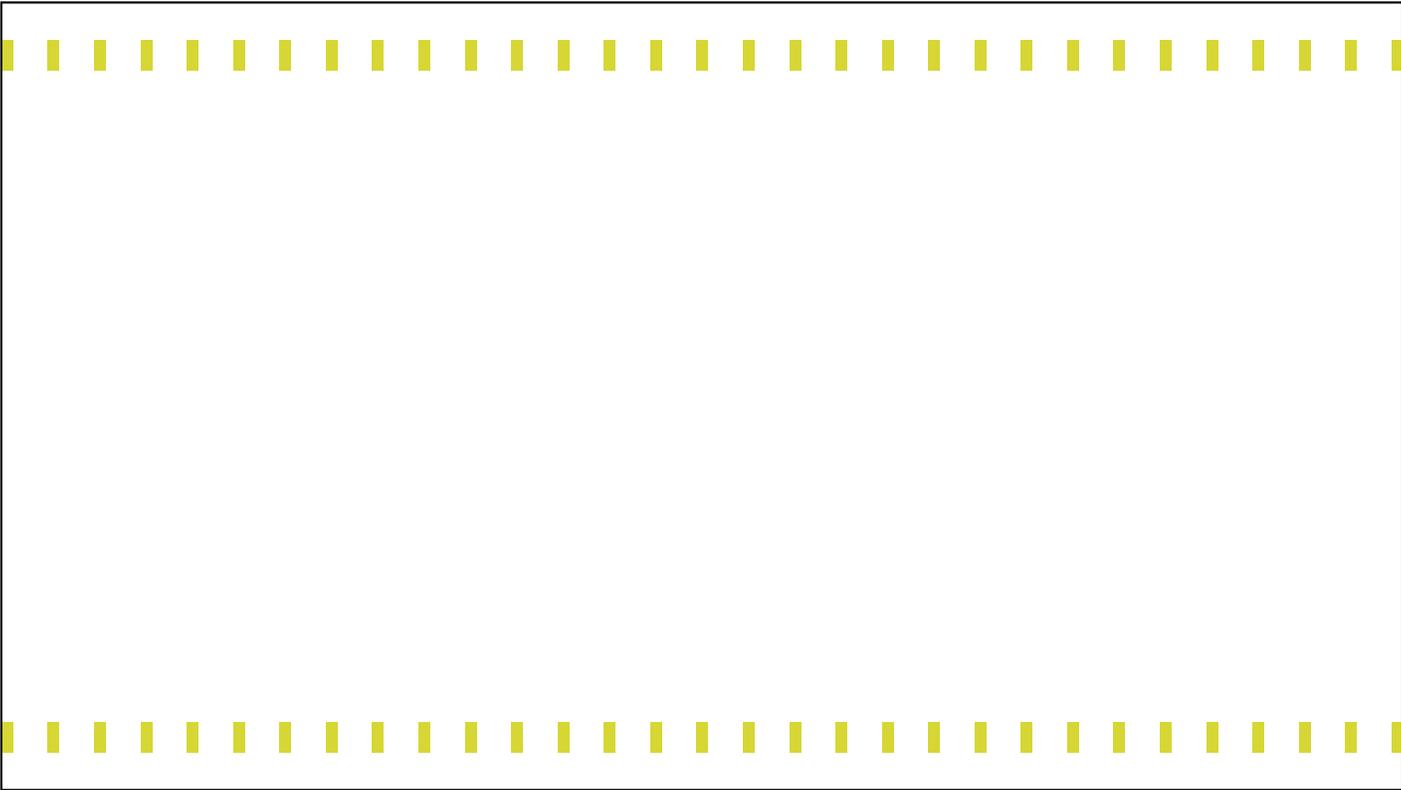
Delegate Needs to Know? Information only

This is discussed regularly.

Here are some questions to use to provide feedback:

- If you've gone to a Regional Forum, what was the impetus for you to attend?
- Should we move to Hybrid format to encourage remote attendance?
- How do we involve more members?
- Do you feel the forums are marketed well?
- Have you ever heard of the Regional Forums?

Let Ruth know of any feedback you receive from your Groups or any thoughts you have regarding the Forums.





Delegate Area 14 Panel 71
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