April 2022

NOTE: These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 72nd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 72nd General Service Conference:

FLOOR ACTIONS

It was recommended that:

1. 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.

2. 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 72nd General Service Conference related to the survey questions about Racial and Ethnic Background, and Employment Status.

AGENDA

It was recommended that:

3. The theme for the 2023 General Service Conference be: "A.A.'s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution."

4. The presentation theme and topics for the 2023 General Service Conference be:

   Presentation Theme: "General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm"
   Presentation Topics:
   1. "Our Common Perils and Common Solution"
   2. "Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message"
   3. "Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture"

5. The workshop topic for the 2023 General Service Conference be: “Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings.”

6. 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.

ARCHIVES*

No recommendations

*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

No recommendations.

CORRECTIONS

No recommendations.

FINANCE

No recommendations.

GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA

No recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS*

No recommendations.

*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

LITERATURE

It was recommended that:

7. 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 the common welfare.

8. 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.”

9. 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.

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

11. 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.

12. The updated pamphlet “Is A.A. for You?” be approved.

13. The updated pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?” be approved.

14. The updated pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” be approved.

15. The updated pamphlet “This Is A.A.” be approved.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

It was recommended that:

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

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

18. 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.

19. The committee 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.

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

21. The committee recommended that two persons from A.A. in Brazil, Maria do Carmo Angelin Inojosa Zanré and Ana Elisa Limeira, Board of Trustees “Class B,” and one person from A.A. in Argentina, a trustee, be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference as observers. (Note: This item was passed pre-Conference using the Conference Polling process.)

PUBLIC INFORMATION

It was recommended that:

22. 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.”

23. 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.

24. The outdated “A.A. Fact File” be retired.

25. 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 and looking for work
__Unemployed, not currently looking for work
__Student
__Retired
__Homemaker

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

26. 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.

REPORT AND CHARTER

It was recommended that:

27. 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.*)

28. 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.)

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

It was recommended that:

29. 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.

TRUSTEES

It was recommended that:

30. The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 30, 2022, following presentation at the 2022 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees	Class B Trustees
Molly Anderson	Cathi Clark
Linda Chezem, J.D.	Jimmy Dean
Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.	Josh Eggleston
Hon Kerry Meyer	Francis Gilroy
Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM	Tom Hoban
Andie Moss	Reilly Kalles
Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA	Deborah Koltai
	Trish LaNauze
	Mike Lewis
	Paz Preciado
	Marita Hagen Rhinehart
	Joyce Saunders
	Irma Van De Bon-Nicol
	Carolyn Walsh

31. The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 30, 2022, following presentation at the 2022 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson:	Linda Chezem, J.D.
First Vice-Chairperson:	Jimmy Dean
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Francis Gilroy
Treasurer:	Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA
Secretary:	Cathi Clark
Assistant Treasurer:	Paul Konigstein*

Assistant Secretary: Jeff Wine*

**G.S.O. employees*

32. The following slate of directors 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:

Cathi Clark	Carolyn Walsh
Vera Farrell	John Weis
Deborah Koltai	Bob Wilcox*
Clinton MacKenzie	Jeff Wine*
Irma Van De Bon-Nicol	

**G.S.O. employees*

33. The following slate of directors 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:

Molly Anderson	Coree Hogan
Chris Cavanaugh*	Mike Lewis
Josh Eggleston	Paz Preciado
Cindy French	David Steward
Tom Hoban	

**AA Grapevine employee*

34. 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.

35. 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.