

Delegate's Conference Report

71st General Service Conference

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About this report

- This report was created by Caroline N., Delegate, Area 59, Panel 71 for members and groups in Eastern Pennsylvania to learn about the 71st General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (2021)
- The Final Conference Report is released by the General Service Office annually and copies will be available to members. The Final Conference Report is the official version and any discrepancies in this report would be errors.
- Please do not post this report on social media. Thank you!

Objectives

- Reflect “what I saw, heard, and felt”
- Report back on Conference proceedings and outcomes
- Compare Area 59’s group conscience as shared at our Pre-Conference Sharing Session with Conference actions
- Answer your questions

What I Saw, Heard, and Felt

71st General Service Conference

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change
2021: Les AA à une époque de changement
2021: A.A en una época de cambio



April 18-24, 2021 – Virtual Conference

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change
2021: Les AA à une époque de changement
2021: A.A en una época de cambio



What I saw... Participating from home

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change
2021: Les AA à une époque de changement
2021: A.A en una época de cambio



NERD Footwear Photo and the Thrive Kit

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change
2021: Les AA à une époque de changement
2021: A.A en una época de cambio



71st General Service Conference Report

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change
2021: Les AA à une époque de changement
2021: A.A en una época de cambio



NERD Animal Support Team

Who Makes Up the Conference?



- The 71st Conference was comprised of 132 voting members.
- Conference members included 21 trustees, 93 delegates, staff from the General Service Office, Grapevine, A.A. World Services Corporate Board non-trustee directors, A.A. Grapevine non-trustee directors, and General Service Board chairs emeriti.

Data on Area Delegates

	<u>Years</u>
Average Age	54
Oldest	74
Youngest	34
Average Length of Sobriety	27
Longest Sobriety	45
Shortest Sobriety	8
Average Length of Service	24
Longest Service	42
Shortest Service	6



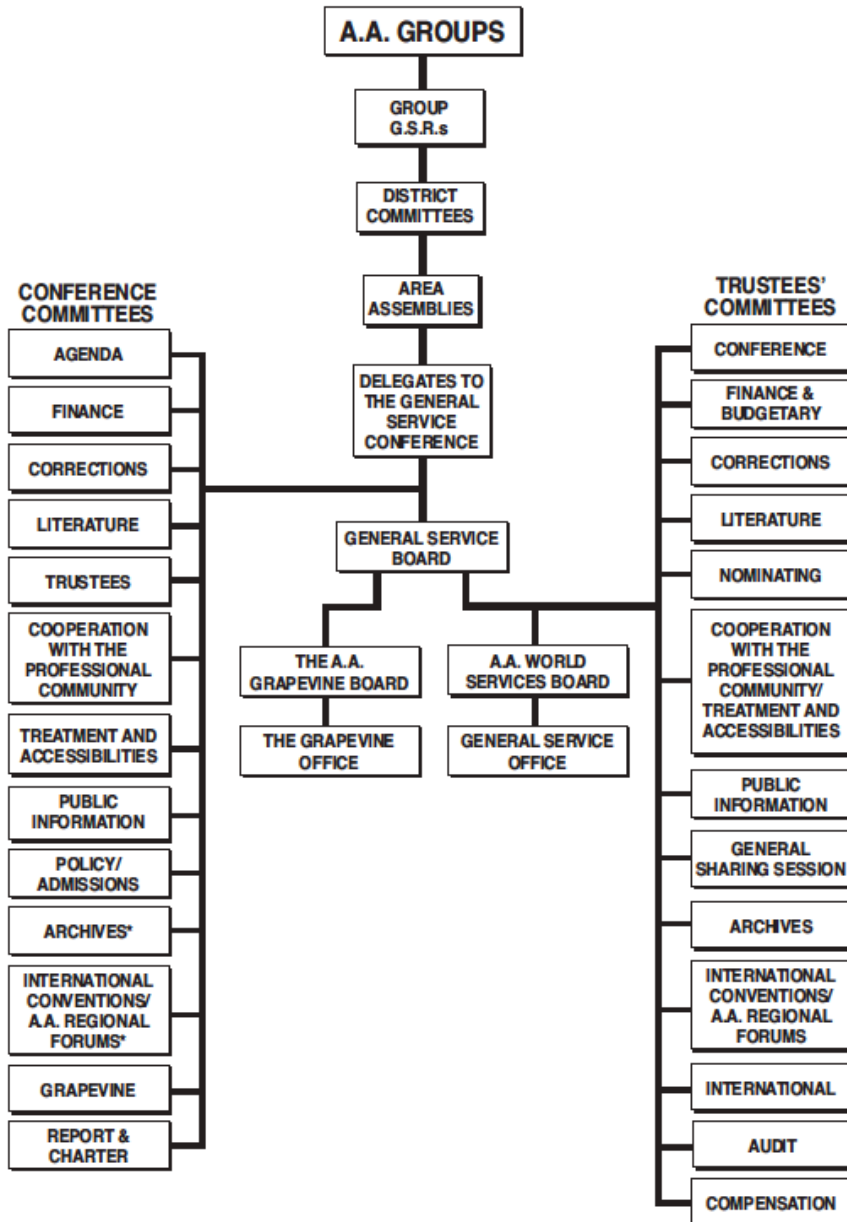
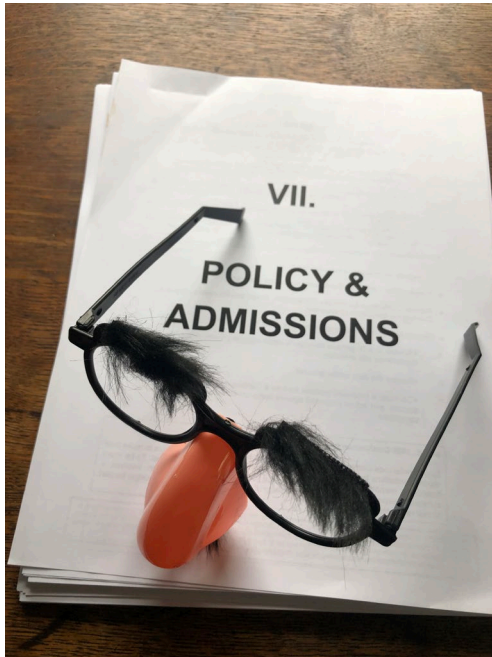
Committee System

General Service operates on the “committee system”

- Agenda items are referred to Trustees and Conference Committees
- The Conference Committees:
 - Read their Agenda background (1,487 pages total – an all-time record was set in 2021!)
 - Review past Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations
 - Hear formal reports from staff and Trustees Committees
 - Discuss items in detail
 - Make recommendations, additional committee considerations, or take no action
 - Elect a chair for the following year



The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)



Reports and Discussion Sessions



- The chair reports the committee recommendations and considerations to the entire Conference
- All Conference members then have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the recommendations before they are voted on
- Committee recommendations that are approved are forwarded to the Board for final approval then become Conference Advisory Actions

Agenda Items 2009-2021

2009-2021 Agenda Items per Conference Committee														
	Average	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Agenda	4.0	10	7	5	6	10	4	6	4	3	5	6	4	4
Archives	1.8	2	2	2	4	3	2	1	2	4	2	1	2	2
C.P.C.	3.1	4	4	3	5	7	5	1	3	4	4	7	1	3
Corrections	2.8	3	1	3	2	4	3	3	3	5	4	3	6	4
Finance	3.5	9	4	4	2	9	5	5	2	3	6	5	6	3
Grapevine and La Viña	4.7	6	8	4	7	11	3	9	8	4	5	7	4	3
I.C./Regional Forums	2.1	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	4	2	2	3	3
Literature	7.7	37	26	16	21	13	9	7	9	6	7	9	9	10
Policy/Admissions	5.1	10	7	7	7	13	5	4	6	7	4	9	5	6
Public Information	8.5	10	15	11	11	12	9	11	11	9	11	9	13	14
Report and Charter	7.9	5	5	3	9	8	9	11	9	11	10	10	12	14
Treatment/Acc	3.4	4	5	7	6	5	3	2	3	6	4	5	5	5
Trustees	5.4	8	6	7	8	10	7	7	5	7	6	6	6	8
Average Items Per Committee	4.61	8.46	7.15	5.77	7.00	8.31	5.08	5.31	5.23	5.62	5.38	6.08	5.85	6.08
Total Agenda Items*		110	93	75	91	108	66	69	68	73	70	79	76	79

Conference Proceedings and Outcomes

71st General Service Conference

Board Report Highlights

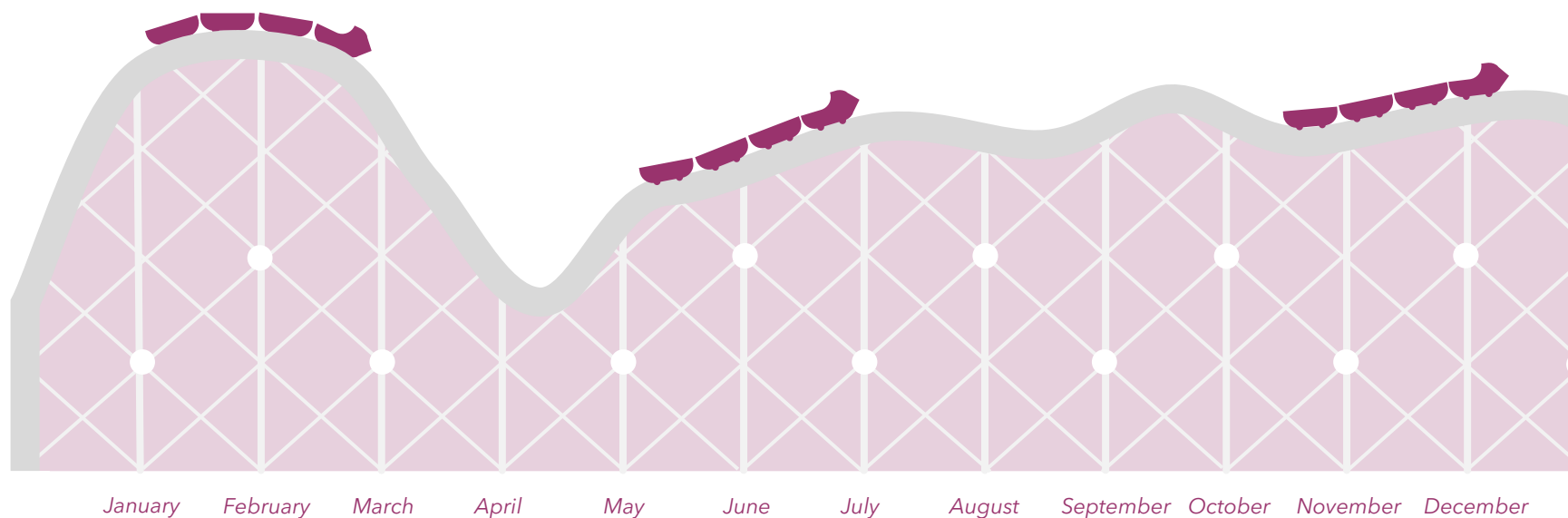
- AAWS continues the search for a new General Manager
- The Grapevine continues the search for a new Publisher
- GSO return to work in the physical office

2020 - A.A. in a Time of Change

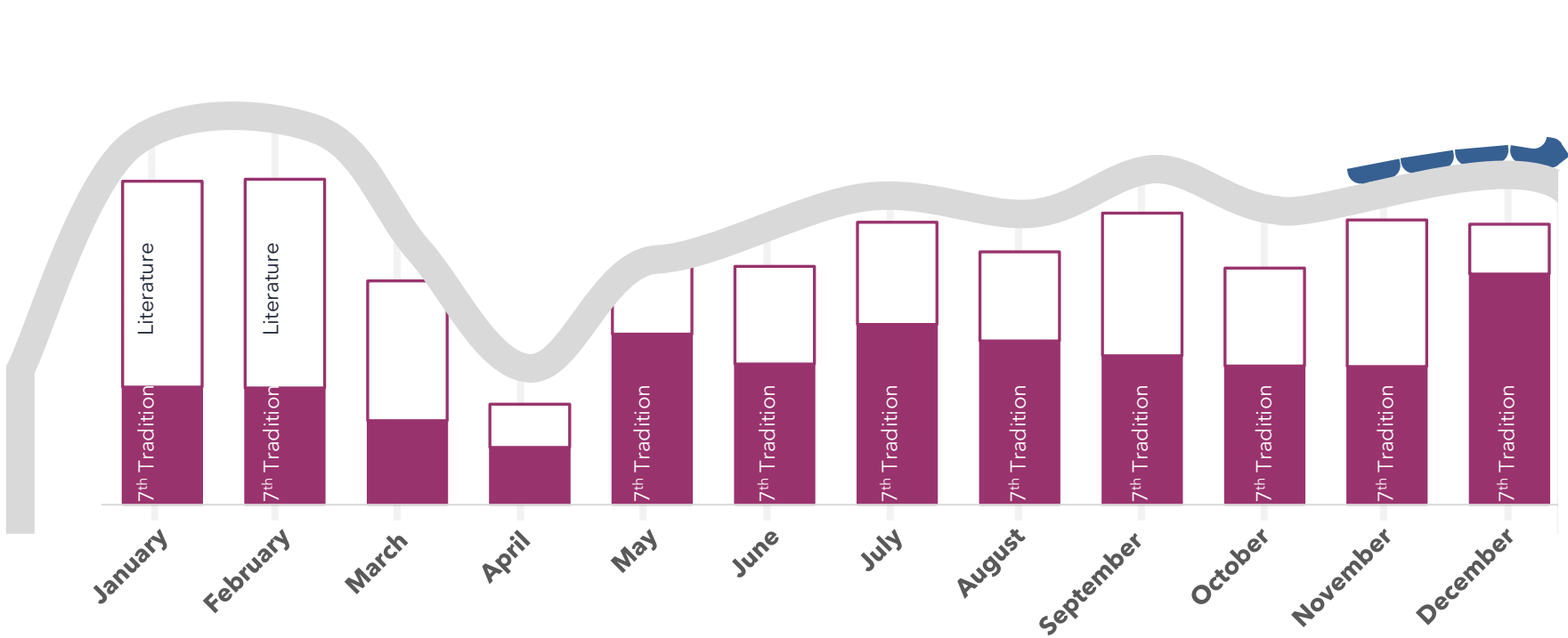
Brace for impact

Disappointment, Loss, Fear

Resilience & Hope



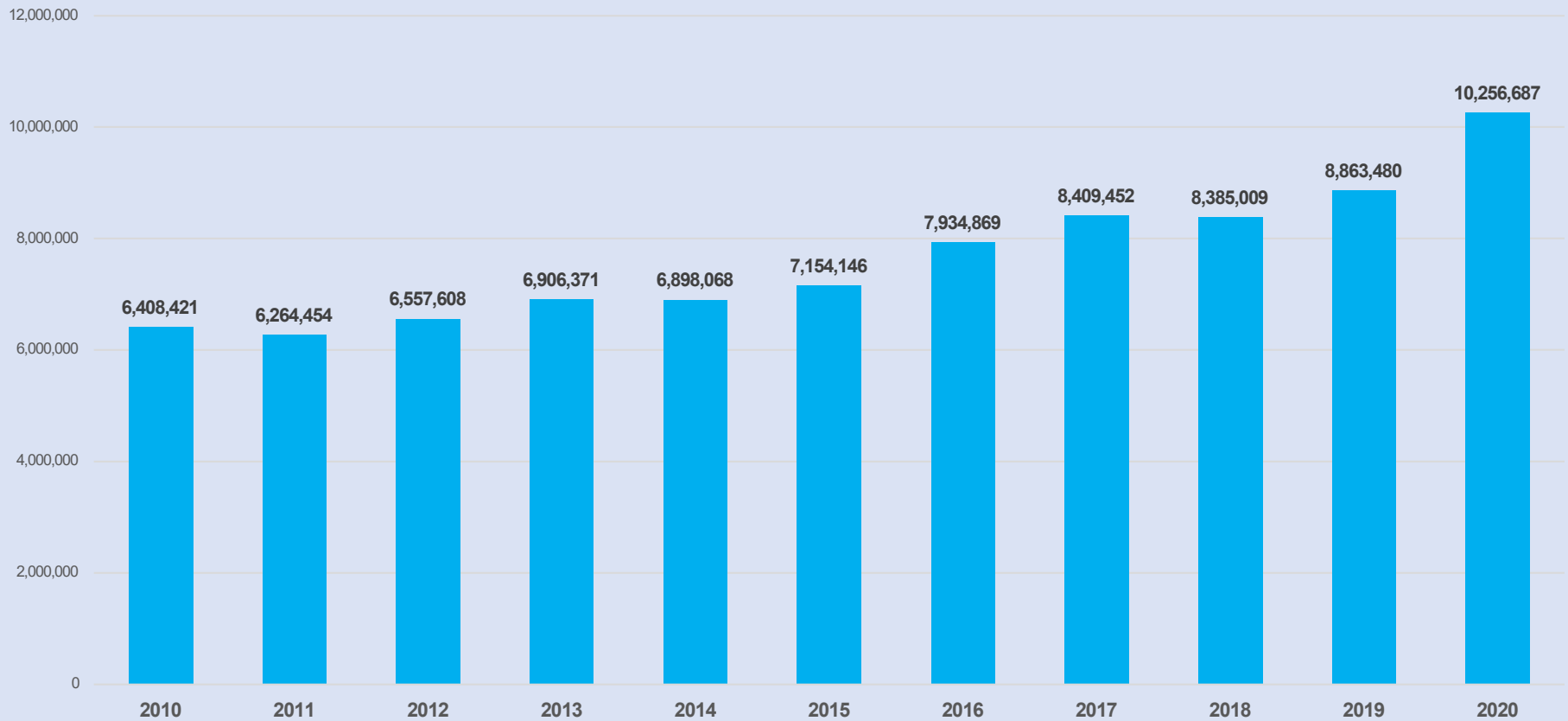
2020 - A.A. in a Time of Change



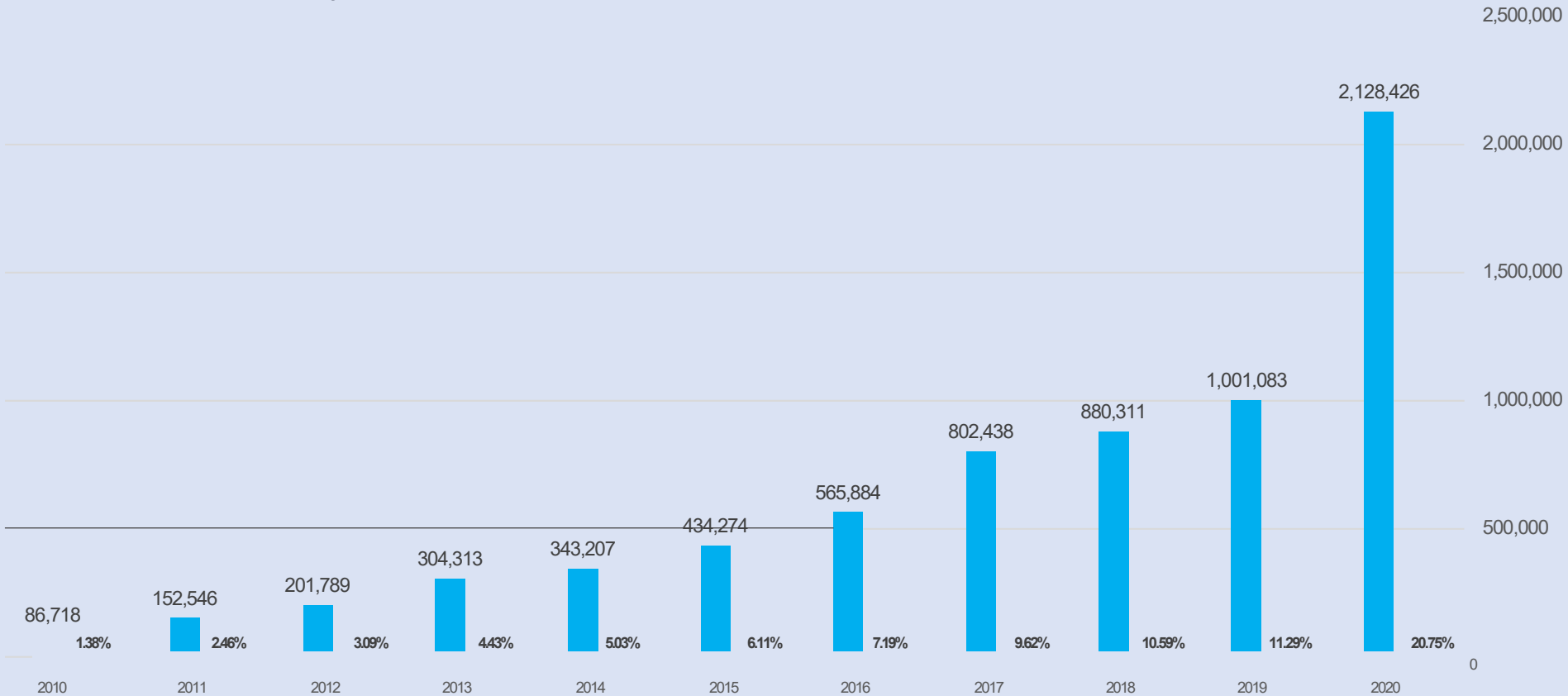
2020 Financial Highlights

- 7th Tradition: \$10.26 million set another record, up 15.80% from \$8.86 million in 2019
- Self-Support: covered 94.9% of cost of services compared to 69.8% in 2019
- AAWS publishing gross profits: \$6.58 million down 29.70% from \$9.36 million in 2019
- Service costs down

7th Tradition Self-Support 2010 – 2020



Growth of Online Contributions 2010 – 2020



Impact of Pandemic on 7th Tradition

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by groups	\$6.0 million	\$6.9 million
Number of groups contributing	24,779	28,180
Percent of groups contributing	34.8%	40.6%
Average group contribution	\$238.95	\$245.94

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by individuals	\$4.3 million	\$1.9 million
Per capita contribution	\$6.81	\$6.09

Trustee-at-Large / U.S. Elections Highlights

- Area 59's candidate selected at EPGSA in November: **Nora J.**

Trustee-at-Large / U.S. Elections Highlights

- Area 59's candidate selected at EPGSA in November: **Nora J.**
- Northeast Region's candidate selected at the 71st General Service Conference in April: **Ken T.**, Area 30, Eastern Massachusetts

Trustee-at-Large / U.S. Elections Highlights

- Area 59's candidate selected at EPGSA in November: **Nora J.**
- Northeast Region's candidate selected at the 71st General Service Conference in April: **Ken T.**, Area 30, Eastern Massachusetts
- Trustee-at-Large / U.S. elected at the 71st General Service Conference in April: **Marita H. R.**, the Pacific Region's candidate from Area 42, Nevada

Conference Committee on Agenda

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- The following theme for the 2022 General Service Conference: **"A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service."**
- The following presentation/discussion topics for the 2022 General Service Conference:
 - 1. How do A.A.s go to any lengths to Recover, Unify, and Serve?**
 - 2. Going Beyond Fear**
 - 3. How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere**
- The following workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference: **The Warranties – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World.**

Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- The goals expressed in the 2018 Advisory Action establishing a **dynamic A.A.W.S. LinkedIn** page be implemented by G.S.O., to provide current and relevant content about A.A. to professionals in accordance with A.A. principles and Traditions; and that a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of implementing these updates on the A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 91 yes, 26 no = 78% = PASSED

- The trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee develop a **pamphlet directed to mental health professionals**. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee Cooperation with the Professional Community.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

- That the updated draft pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved with minor editorial changes and retitled "**Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous.**"

Conference Committee on Corrections

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- Revisions be made to A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls and that the terms “inmate” and “offender” be replaced with “**person in custody.**”

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Conference Committee on Finance

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

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

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

- The following language to **the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”** be revised:

On page 7 after the bulleted section entitled “A.A.’s General Service Office”:

Please note that not all areas, districts, intergroups and central offices follow these divisions of service for institutions work, cooperation with the professional community, public information, etc. Therefore, prior to making contributions in your area, please find out which entity is providing these services and allocate your contributions accordingly.

On page 13 after the pie chart examples and before the question, “Where should I send contributions?”:

Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.

Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

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

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 66 yes, 53 no = 55% = FAILED

Conference Committee on Literature

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- The **“A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format,”** approved by the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board of Directors in January 2020, be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference.

- A **Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed**, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is,” and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 115 yes, 15 no = 88% = PASSED

- Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include **a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.**

- A revision be made to page 117 in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, **replacing the phrase “mate of the opposite sex” with the word “partner”** as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way.

Be revised to read:

Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way.

- The sentence which includes the phrase **“lustful enough to rape”** in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, **be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples** that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

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

Be revised to read:

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

- The **pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated** to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The existing version of the **pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” not be retired.**
- The **draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved** with the working title, “Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- The **Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition** in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.

- A **Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed**, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The **pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” be revised** by omitting the text on page 17 “...including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served,” as follows:

The line on page 17 currently reads:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served.”

Be revised to read:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses.”

- The paragraph containing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex on page 12 in the **pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised** as follows:

The paragraph on page 12 currently reads:

In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”

Be revised to read:

A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided whenever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and sponsee. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”

- The draft **pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.** be approved.
- A draft version of the book, ***Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, be translated into plain and simple language** and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 48 yes, 70 no = 41% = FAILED

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- **Krishna M.V.**, general chairperson of the General Service Board of A.A. India, be admitted to the 71st General Service Conference as an **observer**.
(Note: This agenda item was approved using the Conference Polling process.)

- The trustees' General Service Conference Committee **develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies**, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 104 yes, 7 no, 1 abstain = 93% = PASSED

- The **Equitable Distribution of Workload Process**, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 trustees' General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Note: The annual deadline for agenda item proposals has moved from December 15 to September 15.

- The **U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups** and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings."
- The General Service Board **form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups** in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Discussion Only

Conference Committee on Public Information

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- In keeping with the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates,” **the video PSA utilizing full face actors “Party” (working title) be approved** with the following revisions: That the voiceover “scratch tracks” be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production.
- In keeping with the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates,” **the video PSA utilizing full face actors “Wall” (working title) be approved** with the following revisions: That the voiceover “scratch tracks” be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production.

- In addition to the work of local committees, one to two **PSAs be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$60,000**, and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- A **feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms** including, but not limited to, Netflix, Hulu and YouTube be conducted and that a report on the research be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- **Podcasts providing sharing within the Fellowship and information about A.A. to the public be produced and distributed** by G.S.O. in cooperation with the Grapevine Office. The committee requested that a progress report on the development and implementation of podcasts be forwarded to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee noted that podcasts would serve as a new format to produce **"service material"** to communicate on topics with similar sharing that can be found in *Box 4-5-9, About AA*, aa.org, and sharing from AA Grapevine and La Viña.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION that the proposal asks more questions than it answers

- The trustees' Public Information Committee **revise the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings"** to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to diverse public audiences in non-A.A. settings and include a section on media training/press interviews, and that a draft or progress report on the revision be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 103 yes, 19 no, 1 abstain = 84% = PASSED

- The trustees' Public Information Committee **revise the flyer "A Message to Teenagers"** to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to young people. In addition to revisions to language in the twelve questions and updated graphics, the committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee provide suggestions on what the best format would be to present information contained in the flyer.

Conference Committee on Report & Charter

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- The compilation and printing of the **A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be discontinued.**
- The revised manuscript distributed to all Conference members in April 2021 with the inclusion of the Original Conference Charter be approved as the **2021-2023 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service.***

- A revision be made to paragraph one, the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, found in the Appendices of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, which currently reads:

Purpose: *The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.*

Be amended to read:

Purpose: *The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.*

- A **new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments,”** and that it contain an **updated version of the Concept XI essay** that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION that the original essay remain and be followed by a new updated version (no vote required)

Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

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

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 105 yes, 3 no = 97% = PASSED

Conference Committee on Trustees

Committee recommendations that became
Conference Advisory Actions

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 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.
- 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 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.
- The slate of **directors** be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the **A.A. World Services Corporate Board** on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.
- The slate of **directors** be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the **A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board** on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.

Unlike last year, there was no drama with the Conference's review of the Board's "proposed" Trustees and Boards of Directors of AAWS and AAGV:

The General Service Board Chair is: **Linda Chezem, JD**

The AAWS Board Chair is: **Jimmy D.**

The AA Grapevine Board Chair is: **Josh E.**

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

Committee recommendation that did not
become Conference Advisory Action

Item B.

- That the procedure for floor actions which is currently as follows:

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action. A motion to decline to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment
- Requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Requires a two-thirds majority

Be changed to:

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference consider the floor action. A motion to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment
- Requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Requires a simple majority

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 94 yes, 13 no = 88% = PASSED

Committee Considerations

Selected committee considerations
based on items considered at the Area
59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session

Agenda – Item J.

- The committee considered a proposal suggesting the inclusion of additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on G.S.C. agenda items and **took no action**. The committee would like to challenge all area delegates to consider innovative ways to encourage local members to participate in the Conference process.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Corrections – Item B.

- The committee received a report from the A.A.W.S. publishing director with several viable options that had been identified to make A.A. literature in digital formats available for alcoholics in correctional settings. The committee requested that the trustees' Corrections Committee **develop a service piece** that will explain the digital distribution terminology to local committees who are carrying the message behind the walls, including step by step guidance on using digital materials in local correction settings.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Finance – Item A.2.

- The committee had a robust discussion on the mechanization of group contributions in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and **took no action.**

**Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee
TOOK NO ACTION**

Finance – Item C.

- The committee reviewed a request to reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Advisory Action stating “G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group” and **took no action**. The committee noted that practices regarding clubs varied throughout the Fellowship, and that there was no widely expressed need to reconsider or change the 1972 Advisory Action.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Finance – Item D.

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

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Grapevine & La Viña – Item C.

- The committee considered a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message and **took no action**. The committee recognized the AA Grapevine workbook and other materials include information on how Grapevine and La Viña can be used to carry the message.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Policy/Admissions – Item C.

- The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee continue to explore a process for a Conference committee to review, discuss, and act on a proposed agenda item [not forwarded to a Conference committee].

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Discussion Only

Policy/Admissions – Item E.

- The committee reviewed the “Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material” and agreed that great progress has been made. Noting that we are consistently under budget, the committee encouraged use of the full budget if it could mean the translated background would be available earlier. The committee encouraged gathering shared experience from the Fellowship on the five questions at the end of the report. The committee agreed that making Conference background more concise would serve the Fellowship as a whole.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee TOOK NO ACTION

Policy/Admissions – Item G.

- The committee considered a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair and **took no action**. The committee noted that processes such as calling for a point of order are available, and that guidance related to handling appeals is provided in the Twelve Concepts.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Discussion Only

Public Information – Item G.2.

- The committee discussed the trustees' Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets. The committee encouraged the trustees' Public Information Committee to continue their review of the P.I. pamphlets/service materials and requested that a comprehensive report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information including suggestions and input related to which P.I. pamphlets/materials may need revision, editorial updates, new formats or possible retirement to make room for improved public information messaging tools.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 118 yes, 6 no = 95% = PASSED

Trustees – Item A.

- The committee reviewed and discussed the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards,” and requested that the trustees’ Nominating Committee consider further review, with specific attention placed on the time frame and procedure for the selection of Regional Trustees. The committee appreciated the details and comprehensive work in the revised plan and made editorial suggestions to mirror the updated Conference Charter. The committee requested that a revised plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Trustees.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 43 yes, 62 no, 1 abstain = 41% = FAILED

Archives – Item B.

- The committee reviewed the report on “Proposed Book on A.A. History” and **took no action**. The committee noted that the scope of the project is too large for one volume, and that a single volume may not sufficiently cover the expanse of A.A.’s history from 1955 to present. The committee also noted that A.A.’s worldwide Fellowship is ethnically, and culturally diverse and such a book might unintentionally leave out some portions of the Fellowship that are today under-reported. It was also noted that the scope and purpose of the Archives is to collect and preserve materials relevant to the history of the Fellowship and expending resources on a history book at this time would not be a prudent use of archives resources. The committee also noted that several works on various aspects of A.A.’s history have been published by historians utilizing primary resources, including those available in the G.S.O. Archives.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: 99 yes, 33 no, 1 abstain = 74% = PASSED

International Conventions / Regional Forums – Item A.

- The committee had a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer and the understanding that although the prayer is part of the history of A.A. and is widely used and supported in some areas, it could make some members feel excluded and support the perception of A.A. as a religious organization. The committee also discussed possible options to the Lord's Prayer including, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.
- The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision. The committee requested that the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention by use of a survey through multiple communication platforms (e.g., *Box 4-5-9*, AA Grapevine/La Viña, etc.); and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Discussion Only

International Conventions / Regional Forums – Item B.

The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:

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

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Discussion Only

Floor Actions

Recommendations that did not come out of
committee that became Conference
Advisory Actions

The Conference considered three “floor actions” (recommendations made as the original agenda item did not come out of committee) on the Preamble.

Based upon these, on May 12, 2021 the Grapevine Board changed the Preamble to read, **“Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who...”**

The July 2021 issues of Grapevine and La Viña will introduce the revised Preamble to the Fellowship.

- The **pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American”** be **updated** to include language that is both respectful and inclusive of all Indigenous peoples as well as add fresh stories and updating inaccuracies contained in the current pamphlet and that a draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change
2021: Les AA à une époque de changement
2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Questions?

*Save the
Dates*

- **June 13:** Area Quarterly Meeting

*Please visit **www.area59aa.org** for details and to see the full calendar!*

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change
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Thank you for
your recovery,
unity, and
service!



Signing the digital conference banner

Save the Dates

- **June 4-6:** Virtual Northeast Regional Forum
- **June 12:** Mini-Assembly II / Delegate's Conference Report
- **June 13:** Area Quarterly Meeting
- **September 12:** Area Quarterly Meeting
- **October 17:** Area Inventory
- **November 12-14:** 64th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly and Convention

Please visit www.area59aa.org for details and to learn more about additional events!