Delegate's Conference Report

72nd 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 72nd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (2022)
- 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

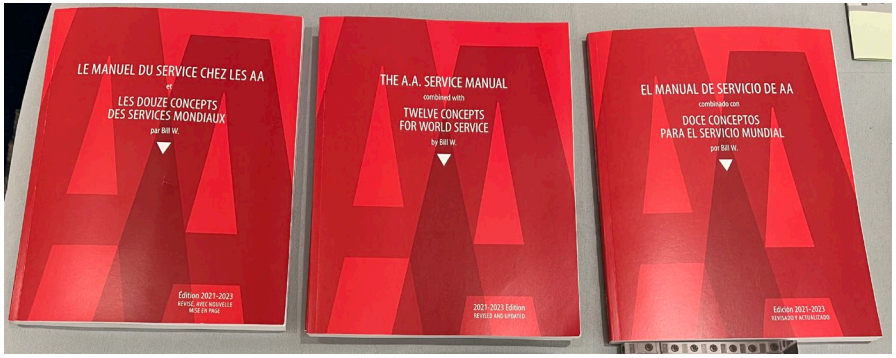
- Reflect "what I saw, heard, and felt"
- Report back on Conference proceedings and outcomes
- Compare Area 59's group conscience as shared at our Pre-Conference Sharing Session with Conference actions and considerations
- Answer your questions

What I Saw, Heard, and Felt

72nd General Service Conference

April 24-30, 2022 – Brooklyn, NY

What I saw... Participating in-person!

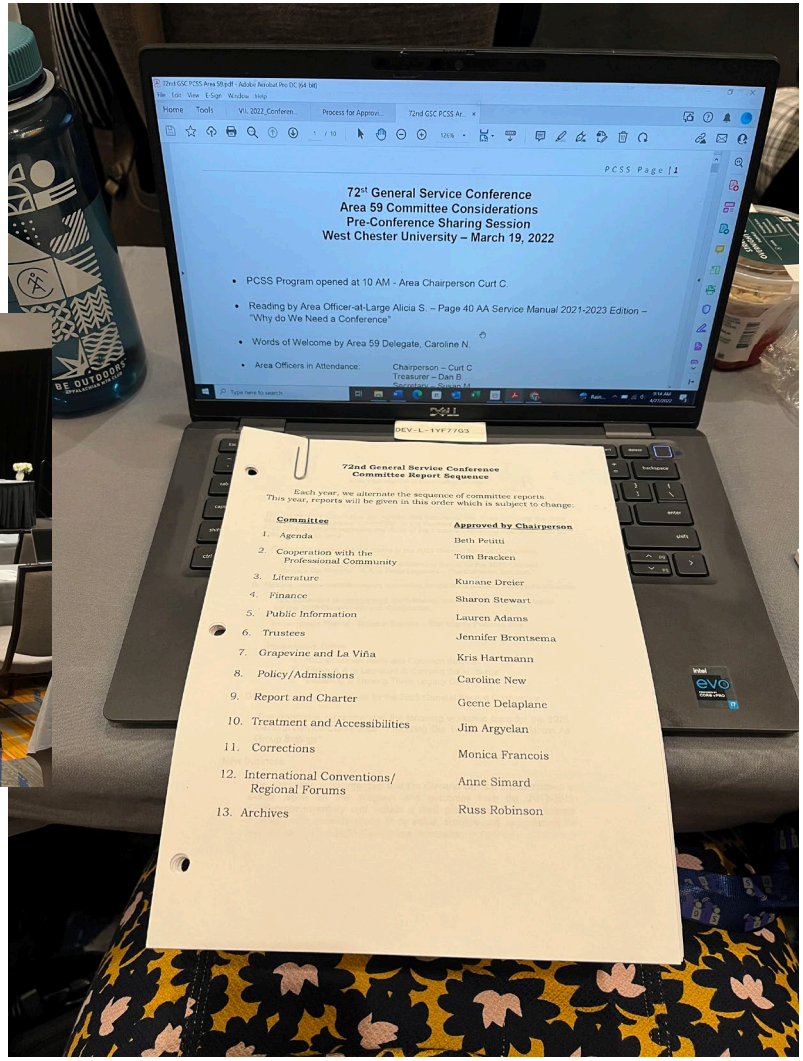


Policy/Admissions Committee + Literature + Junior's Cheesecake + Brooklyn Bridge

P

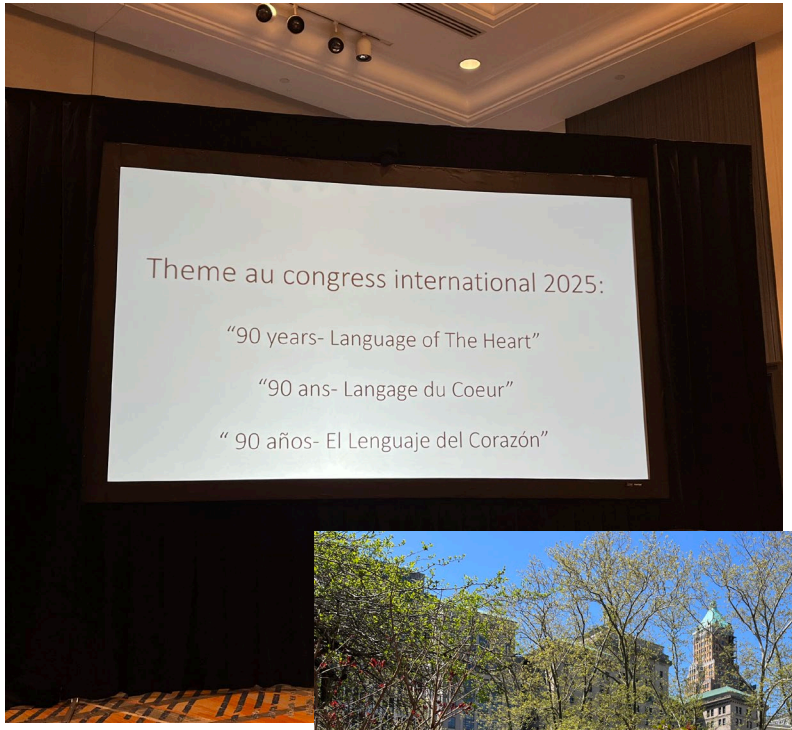
72nd ANNUAL
General Service Conference
B

J


72st General Service Conference
Area 59 Committee Considerations
Pre-Conference Sharing Session
West Chester University – March 19, 2022
PCSS Program opened at 10 AM - Area Chairperson Curt C.
Reading by Area Officer-at-Large Alicia S. – Page 40 AA Service Manual 2021-2023 Edition – "Why do We Need a Conference"
Words of Welcome by Area 59 Delegate, Caroline N.
Area Officers in Attendance:
Chairperson – Curt C
Treasurer – Dan B
72nd General Service Conference
Committee Report Sequence
Each year, we alternate the sequence of committee reports. This year, reports will be given in this order which is subject to change:
Committee
Approved by Chairperson
1. Agenda
Beth Petitti
2. Cooperation with the Professional Community
Tom Bracken
3. Literature
Kunane Dreier
4. Finance
Sharon Stewart
5. Public Information
Lauren Adams
6. Trustees
Jennifer Brontsema
7. Grapevine and La Viña
Kris Hartmann
8. Policy/Admissions
Caroline New
9. Report and Charter
Geene Delaplane
10. Treatment and Accessibilities
Jim Argyelan
11. Corrections
Monica Francois
12. International Conventions/ Regional Forums
Anne Simard
13. Archives
Russ Robinson

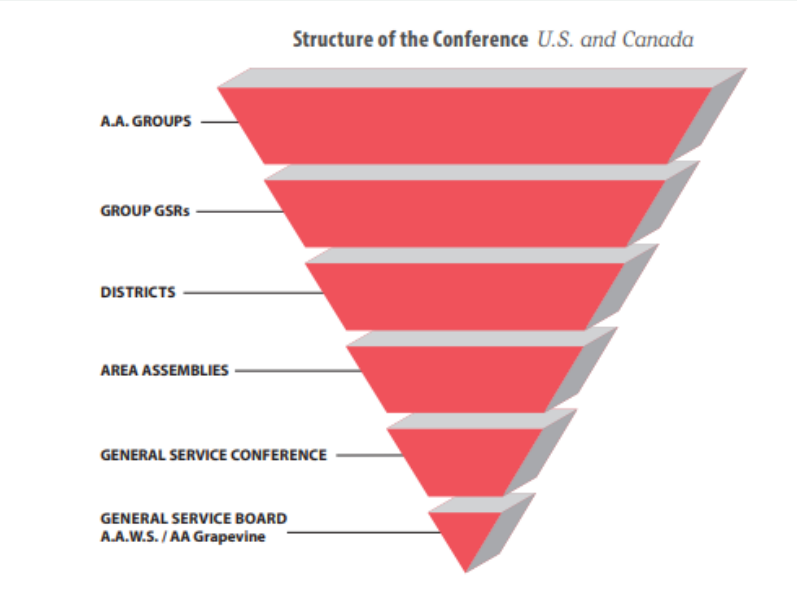
What I heard...

BADASS

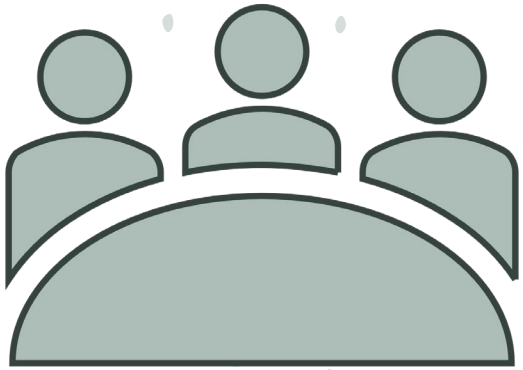

Theme au congress international 2025:
“90 years- Language of The Heart”
“90 ans- Langage du Coeur”
“ 90 años- El Lenguaje del Corazón”

What I felt...

Who Makes Up the Conference?



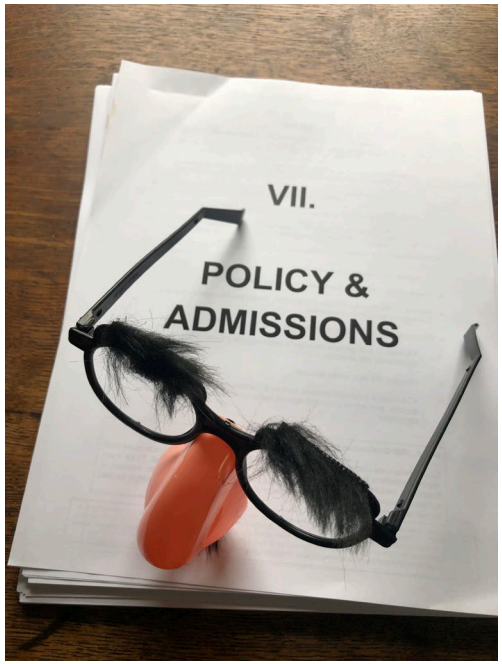
- The 72nd Conference was comprised of 133 voting members at the time of roll call.
- Conference members included 21 trustees, 93 delegates, staff from the General Service Office and Grapevine, plus A.A. World Services non-trustee directors, and A.A. Grapevine non-trustee directors.



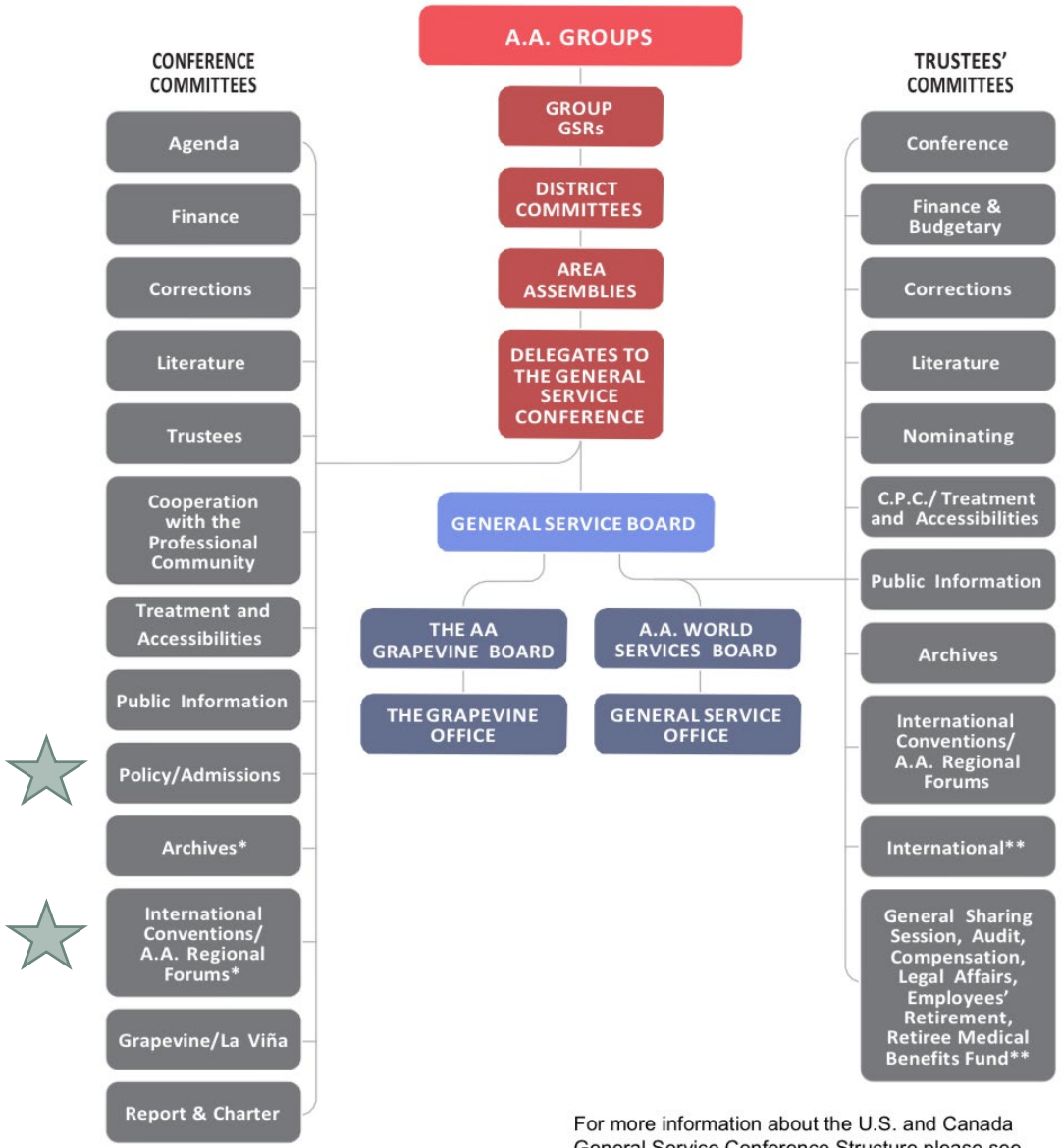
Committee System

General Service operates on the "committee system."

- Agenda items received by the annual deadline are referred to Trustees Committees then forwarded to Conference Committees
- The Conference Committees:
  - Read background material for agenda items
  - Review past Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations
  - Hear formal reports from staff and Trustees Committees
  - In our meetings, the first half of the week: Discuss items in detail then take a vote; make recommendations, committee considerations, or take no action; elect a chair for the following year

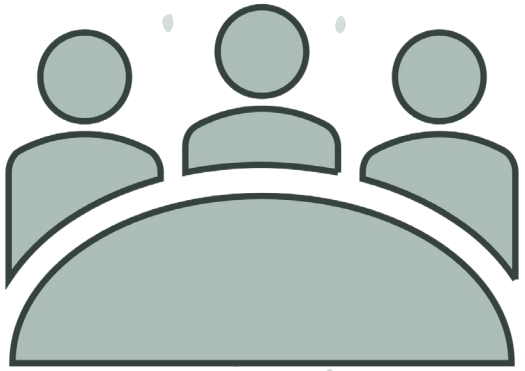


THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE *U.S. and Canada*



* Secondary committee
** No corresponding Conference committee

For more information about the U.S. and Canada General Service Conference Structure please see *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service (BM-31).*



Reports and Discussion Sessions

- In the second half of the week, each committee chair reports the committee's recommendations and considerations to the entire Conference
- All Conference members then have the opportunity to ask questions about the considerations, then 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

Conference Proceedings and Outcomes

72nd General Service Conference

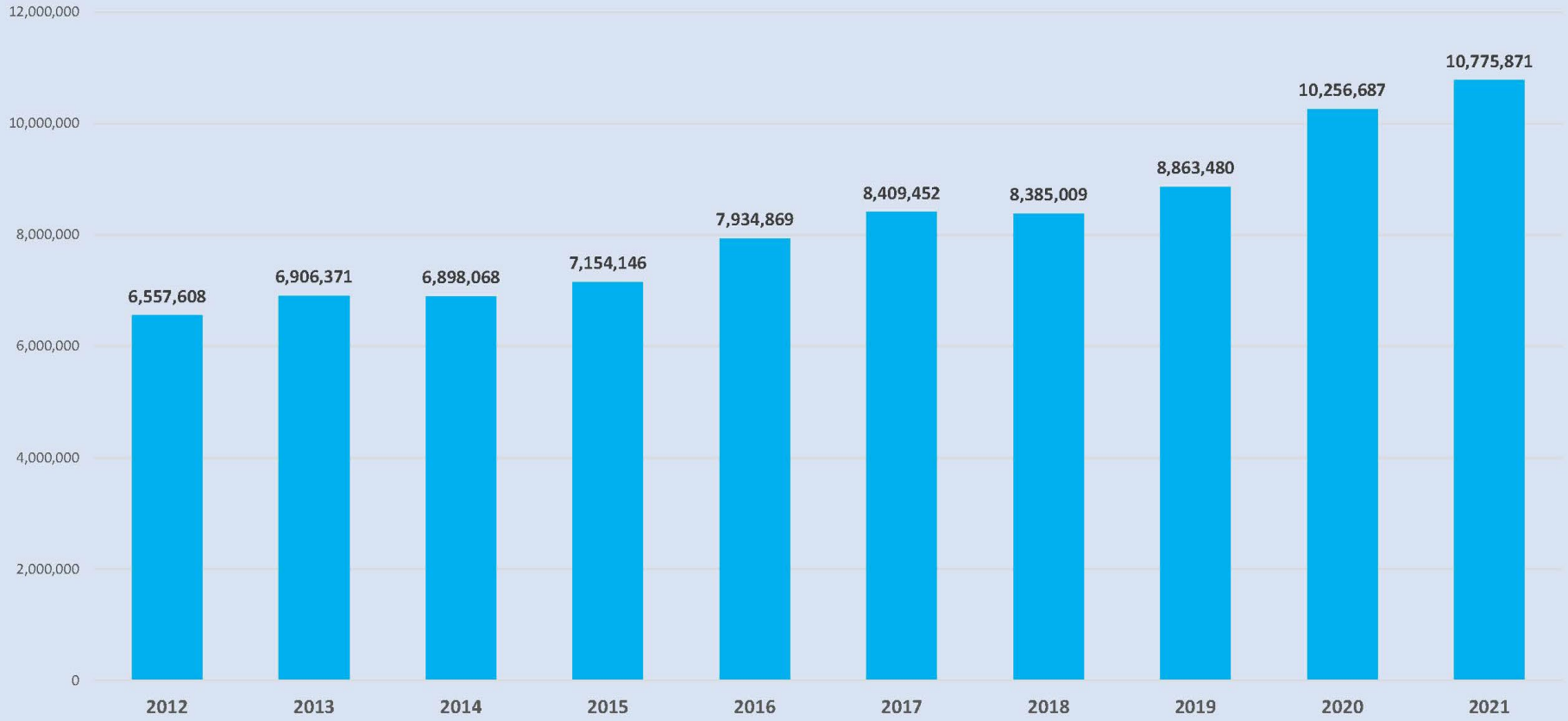
Board Report Highlights

- GSB: New GM, new Treasurer and creation of Financial Advisory Body; two subcommittees formed:
  - Process for Development of Criteria, Design, and Initiation of the next GSO Location Study (aka Location Plus)
  - Trustees' Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the General Service Structure
- AAWS: new website, reduced shipping charges/mixed-title discounts, safety material, employment of Canadian citizens
- AAGV: Instagram account, podcast, aagrapevine.org access

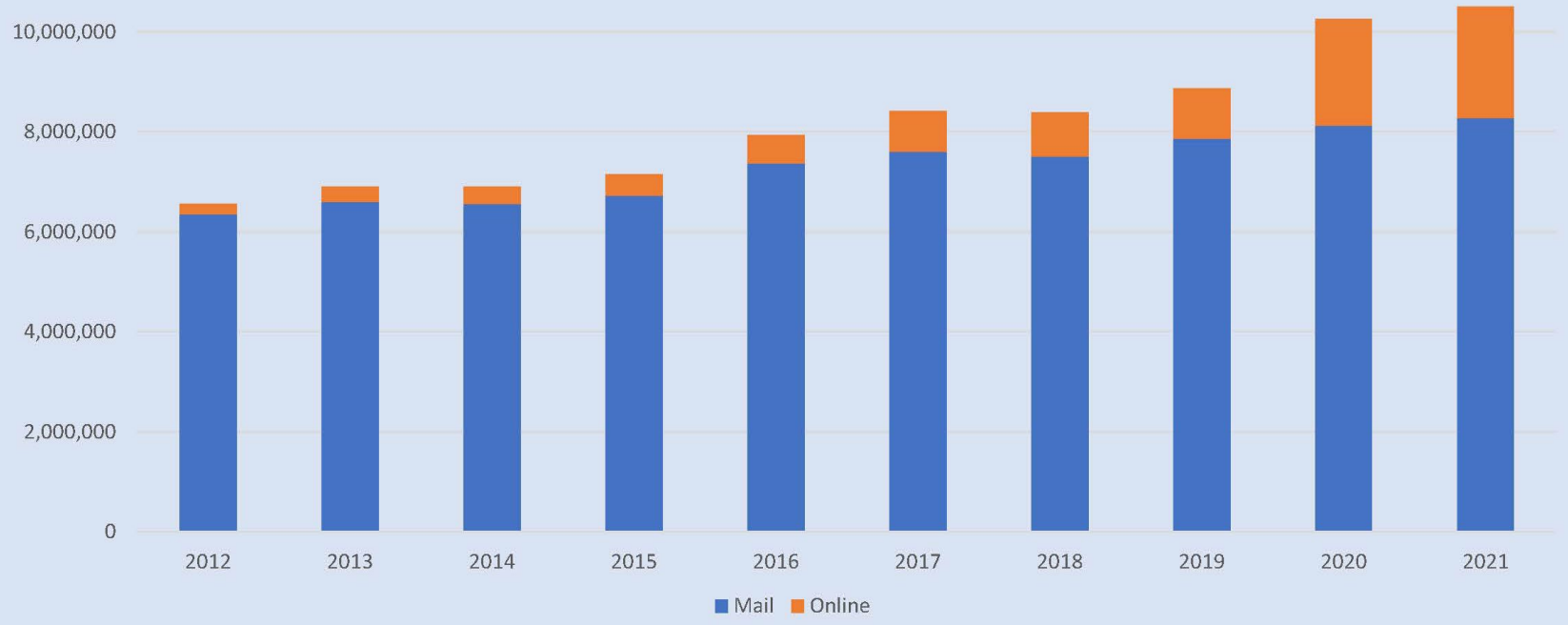
2021 Financial Highlights

- 7th Tradition: $10.78 million set another record, up 5.07% from $10.26 million in 2020
- 30 “extraordinary” contributions from A.A. entities totaling $570,413 (5.3% of total amount contributed) as a result of restricted local service activities during COVID
- Self-Support: covered 70.5% of operating expense and 142.0% of services
- AAWS publishing gross profits: $6.30 million down 4.3% from $6.85 million in 2020

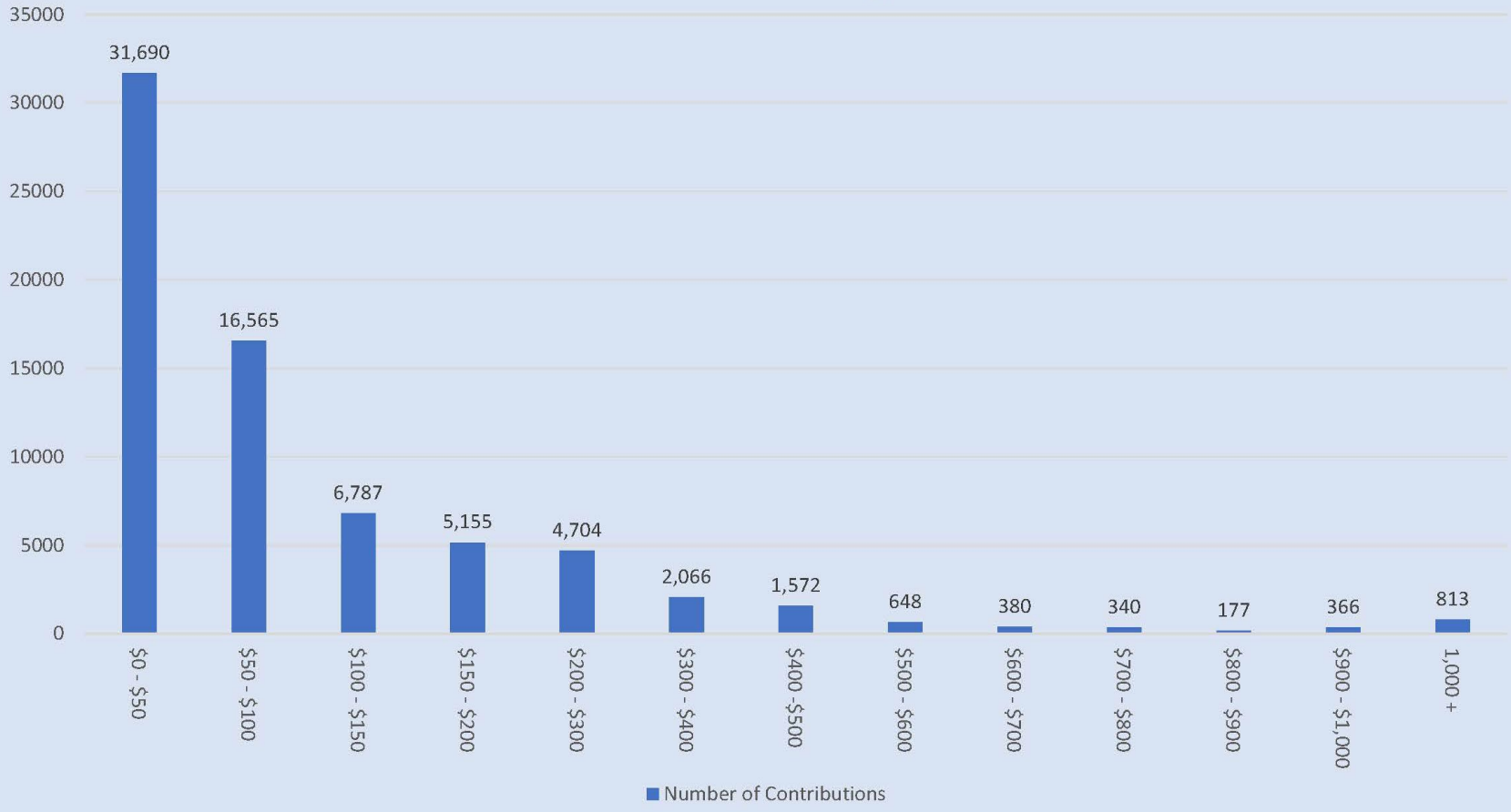
7th Tradition Self-Support 2012 – 2021



Growth of Online Contributions 2012 – 2021



2021 Contributions by Dollar Value



$6.06 Challenge

June 6, 2022

June 6, 2022

Presentation: Online Groups

72nd General Service Conference

Highlights

- Trustees' Ad Hoc Committee is focusing on 2021 Advisory Action 32: **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.**
- As of April 2022 – There are over 700 active virtual groups; 450 have GSRs and 140 have Alternate GSRs.
- More shared experience is needed from the Fellowship.

Elections

72nd General Service Conference

Regional Trustees

- 72nd GSC elected Eastern Canada Regional Trustee: **Joyce S.** A83 Eastern Ontario
- 72nd GSC Elected Pacific Regional Trustee: **Reilly K.** A58 Oregon

Conference Committee on Agenda

Committee recommendations that became Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- The theme for the 2023 General Service Conference be: **"A.A.'s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution."**
- The presentation theme and topics for the 2023 General Service Conference be:

  Theme: "General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm"

  1. Our Common Perils and Common Solution

  2. Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message

  3. Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture
- The workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference be: **"Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings."**
- 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.

Conference Committee on Literature

Committee recommendations that became Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

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

1. In the section "For the person wanting to be a sponsor" (p. 14) under the heading "What does a sponsor do and not do?":

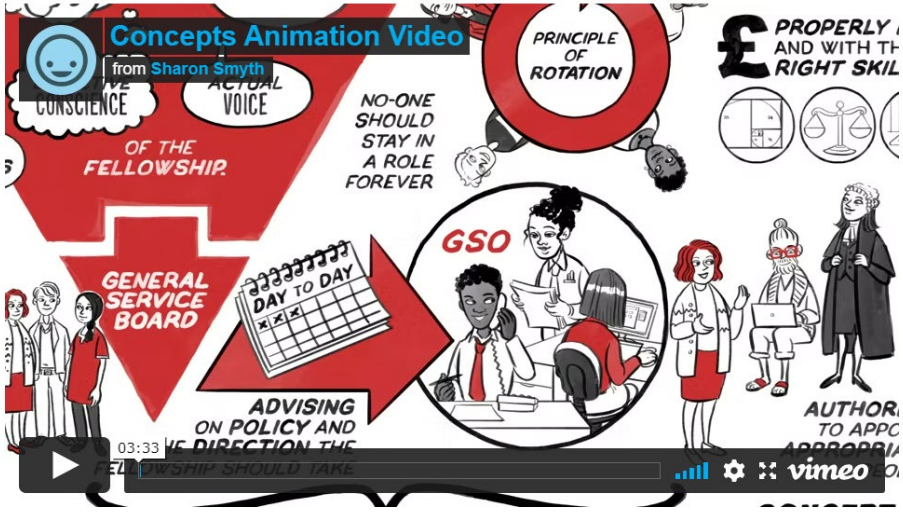
- **Stresses the importance of A.A. being a safe place for all members and encourages members to become familiar with service material available from the General Service Office such as "Safety in A.A. – Our Common Welfare.”**

2. In the section “for groups planning sponsorship activity” (p.23), under the heading “How does sponsorship help a group?” add a fourth paragraph:

- **Sponsorship can also help a group to create a welcoming and secure environment. Safety is an issue affecting all members and it is important for groups to remain accessible to all who are seeking recovery. Sponsorship can help keep the group focused on the common welfare.**

- 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**

- 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. [To view, click here: https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/About-AA/12-Concepts]

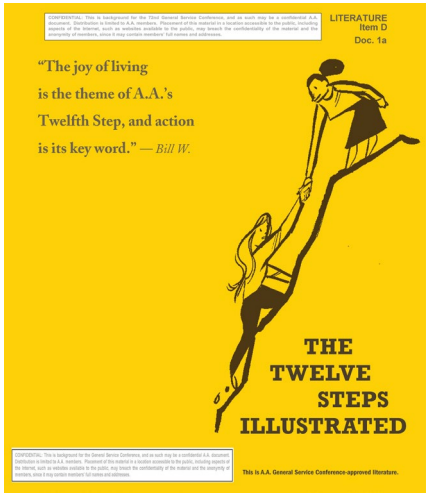


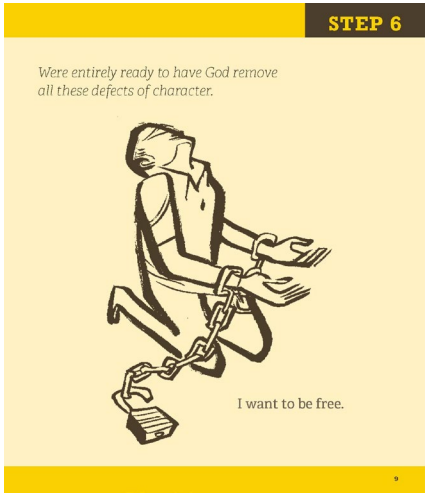
The 12 Concepts Video

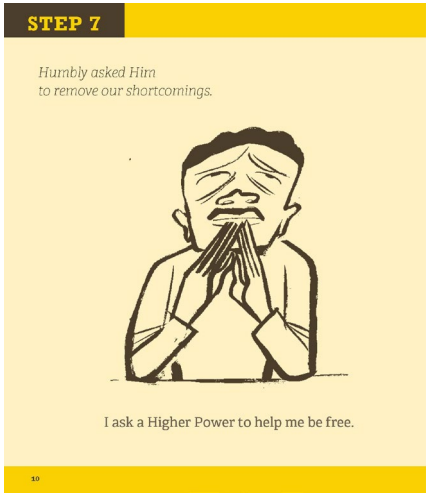
- The draft of the pamphlet **“Young People and A.A.”** be approved.
- The pamphlet **“Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be updated** with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustrations and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The updated pamphlet **“Is A.A. for You?”** be approved.
- The updated pamphlet **“Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?”** be approved.
- The updated pamphlet **“Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”** be approved.
- The updated pamphlet **“This Is A.A.”** be approved.

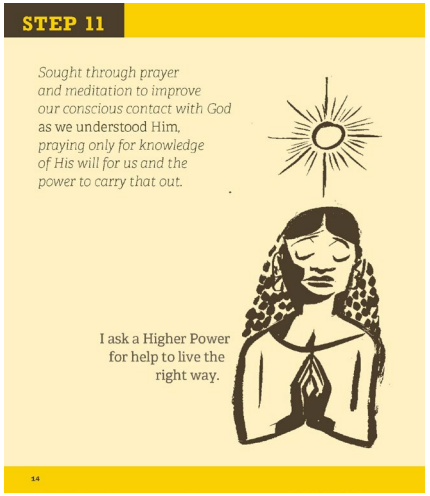
Floor Action

- 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. [Sample pages below.]









Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

Committee recommendations that became Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- **Rio D., alternate delegate, Area 79 British Columbia/Yukon Territory**, be seated as a Conference member at the 72nd General Service Conference because Bob K., Panel 71 delegate for Area 79 is unable to attend.
- **Christopher M., alternate delegate, Area 47 Central New York**, be seated as a Conference member at the 72nd General Service Conference because Todd D., Panel 71 delegate for Area 47 is unable to attend.

- The committee recommended that two persons from A.A. in **Brazil**, Maria Z. and Ana Elisa L., Board of Trustees "Class B," and one person from A.A. in **Argentina**, a trustee, be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference as observers. (Note: This item was passed pre-Conference using the Conference Polling process.)
- 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.

- 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.

- The compilation of all Conference committee background be made available **simultaneously** in English, French and Spanish.
- [Initially recommended as: “The compilation of all Conference committee background be made available **annually on or before February 15** in English, French and Spanish.” Amended as shown, above.]

Conference Committee on Public Information

Committee recommendations that became Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- The following revisions be made to the pamphlet **"Understanding Anonymity."** The question and answer that currently reads:

  Anonymity in the digital age

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

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

Be changed to:

Anonymity in the digital age

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

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

It is suggested that when A.A.s gather as A.A.s or as an A.A. group on social media pages and other similar platforms that these pages are set to "private" rather than "public."

- 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.

- The outdated **"A.A. Fact File"** be retired.
- 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? _____

Floor Action

- 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. [Concerns and suggested edits shown with underlining and strikethroughs on the next slide.]

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

__Asian

__Black, African American, African diasporic, or of African descent

__Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

__Native American, Alaska Native, ~~First Nations,~~ or Indigenous [First Nations are included within Indigenous]

__Pacific Islander or Hawaiian Native

__White, Caucasian, or European American

__Prefer to describe_____

18. What is your employment status now? (Check ~~one only~~ all that apply)

__Employed full time

__Employed part time

__Unemployed and looking for work

__Unemployed, not currently looking for work

__Student

__Retired

__~~Homemaker~~ [Consider removing as "Unemployed, not currently looking for work" could apply]

__Disabled, unable to work

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

- 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.

Conference Committee on Report & Charter

Committee recommendations that became Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

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

- 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.)

Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

Committee recommendations that became Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that:

- The **Long Form of Tradition Five** be added to the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" on page 12 in the section "What is an A.A. Group?" at its next printing. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.)

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 30, 2022 following presentation at the 2022 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 30, 2022 following presentation at the 2022 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 30, 2022 following presentation at the 2022 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 30, 2022 following presentation at the 2022 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.

Our chairs will be:

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

The AAWS Board Chair is: **Deborah K.**

The AA Grapevine Board Chair is: **Mike L.**

- 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.
- 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.)

Committee Considerations

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

CPC – Item C.

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

- The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals and expressed their appreciation. The committee noted that utilizing a focus group was a useful approach to explore and identify the needs of mental health professionals when they are addressing the suffering alcoholic. The committee asked that the staff secretary forward a memo with additional suggestions to the trustees' C.P.C./T.A. committee. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee Recommendation PASSED

CPC – Item D.

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

- The committee considered a request to create a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. committees reach as many doctors as possible and took no action, noting that many healthcare professionals may lack the time to meet with C.P.C. committees and that health care systems differ in the U.S. and Canada. The committee suggested that service material could be developed for A.A. members on how to speak with their own healthcare provider about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee Recommendation PASSED

Corrections – Item B.

Reconsider use of the term "person in custody" in A.A. literature.

- The committee discussed the request to reconsider use of the term "person in custody" in A.A. literature and took no action. The committee affirmed the need for language that is inclusive and non-stigmatizing, as expressed by the 71st General Service Conference. The committee also discussed that implementation of the advisory action was already in place and that it would be premature at this time to reconsider the action.

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

Corrections – Item C.

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

- The committee discussed the request to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and took no action. While the committee discussed the concerns expressed by the Fellowship, the committee noted that we operate on a system of trust and checks and balances and agreed that A.A.'s Twelve Concepts adequately provide guidance to our trusted servants to make decisions that reflect the informed group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Corrections.)

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: All in attendance discussed this item, with sharing in favor and opposed; after much discussion, we voted and 2/3 were in favor of limiting changes, 1/3 opposed

Corrections – Item D.

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

- The committee discussed the request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.'s primary purpose in mind and took no action. The committee agreed the cadence and role of the annual General Service Conference already provides the appropriate guidance. The committee also noted that through Concept Four, "The Right of Participation," all members of Alcoholics Anonymous are invited to participate in the year-long process of the General Service Conference. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Corrections.)

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee could not reach substantial unanimity so offered additional consideration and expressed desire to have a better understanding of what this means, what the implications would be

Finance – Item B.

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

- The committee discussed the agenda item "Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and took no action. The committee agreed that the current introduction in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions already addresses concerns regarding the language in the book. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Finance.)

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

Finance – Item C.

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

- The committee discussed the agenda item "Consider request that all proposed changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes" and took no action. The committee agreed that they did not want to mandate a specific format for possible changes to a future Conference. The committee noted that future proposals for changes should be considered by the group conscience of each 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 Finance.)

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

Grapevine – Item D.

Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our A.A. Fellowship.

- The committee discussed the wide-ranging impact the AA Preamble change has had on the Fellowship. The committee felt that after careful consideration of Fellowship feedback, it would be premature to quantify the impact when many A.A. members are still either uninformed or ambivalent about the change. The committee emphasized that at every level of our Conference process there is a reciprocal responsibility of all A.A. members and trusted servants, of participation and communication, to embrace the guiding principles of trust and transparency.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: All in attendance discussed this item, with sharing in favor and opposed; after much discussion, we voted and 2/3 were in favor of Preamble change, 1/3 opposed

Literature – Item J.

Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended continuing with the development, PASSED

Literature – Item K.

Review progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: All in attendance discussed this item, with sharing in favor and opposed; after much discussion, we voted and 3/4 were in favor of moving forward, 1/4 opposed

Literature – Item M.

Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: No one shared on this item, we voted and all but 3 members were in favor of moving ahead with the development of a Fifth Edition

Literature – Item R.

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

- The committee discussed the changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* resulting from advisory actions of the 71st General Service Conference and took no action. The committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: All in attendance discussed this item, with sharing in favor and opposed; we voted and 2/3 were in favor of changes, 1/3 opposed

Policy/Admissions – Item D.

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

- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the General Service Conference between meetings and looks forward to development of the process.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended moving forward with the development of the process using virtual meeting technologies

Policy/Admissions – Item E.

Discuss Equitable Distribution of Workload process.

- The committee reviewed the progress report from the Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution of Workload regarding year one of the three-year pilot. The committee noted that the plan allowed fifty more Delegates to participate more equitably in the Conference Committee process and appreciated the spiritual aspect of that accomplishment. The committee also noted the workflow, communication, and scoring tool challenges documented in the report, as well as the significant challenges to areas and to the group conscience process caused by moving up the deadline for submitting proposed agenda items to September 15. The committee hopes that whatever can be done to address these challenges will be done over the next two years of the pilot.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended to continue the process, PASSED

Policy/Admissions – Item F.

Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story "Freedom from Bondage" in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

- The committee recommended that the paragraph in the story "Freedom from Bondage" which was removed due to pagination issues from the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be restored in all future printings and publications in which the story is included.
- The Conference voted against this, so this recommendation did not result in a Conference Advisory Action.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended the paragraph be restored, PASSED

Policy/Admissions – Item G.

Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship.

- The committee considered the request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship and took no action. The committee felt that the topic of service sponsorship is already addressed well in the current version of the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" and in the current *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services*. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.)

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended the pamphlet be revised to reflect shared experience, PASSED

Public Information – Item 1.

Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 trustees' Public Information Committee feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms and requested that further research be conducted. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.
    - Committee members would like to see additional research comparing paid versus donated media value ads and the effectiveness of these different approaches.
    - Include research on Canadian streaming platforms to better understand PSA regulations and the specific streaming platforms found within Canada.
    - Focus on obtaining A.A. member feedback from various age groups on the desire from the Fellowship to embark on A.A. paid placement ads on streaming platforms.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended moving forward with research to address how each of our Traditions might be affected by placing PSA videos on streaming platforms, PASSED

Public Information – Item K.

Review request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.

- The committee considered the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media by reviewing a draft survey developed to gather shared experience from the Fellowship. The committee requested the trustees' Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on distributing the survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population, and obtain results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee offered additional consideration and wanted more information on cost, survey methodology, and what the medium would be

Report and Charter – Item D.

Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole."

- The committee discussed the request to include the G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole" and took no action. The committee agreed that the GSR pamphlet adequately describes the role and purpose of a G.S.R. The committee agreed that this statement is better left to local group autonomy. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.)

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended to include G.S.R. preamble, PASSED

Report and Charter – Item E.

Consider requests that the chapter titled "The Doctor's Opinion" be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

- The committee discussed the request that the chapter titled "The Doctor's Opinion" be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and took no action. The committee noted that Bill W. was involved in the repagination of Alcoholics Anonymous for the second edition. It was also noted that such a change would impact other pieces of A.A. literature that reference pages in the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee added that they did not recognize a strong "spiritual need" to revert to the original pagination. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.)

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

Treatment and Accessibilities – Item A.

Review progress report on pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."

- The committee discussed and accepted a progress report on the development of a revision to the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic." The committee requested that the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee keep the following suggestions in mind:
    - Include stories of only those who found recovery from the age of 60 years or older.
    - Form a working group to help gather sharing from A.A. members who found recovery after age 60.
    - Consider who is the target audience.
    - Conduct a broader call out for stories through multiple distribution methods.
    - Include stories of senior alcoholics with health issues, are hard of hearing, are immigrants, and have experience in finding recovery or barriers to online meetings.
    - Consider a new format for the pamphlet that is more accessible, noting that the current foldable format is challenging to open and navigate pages for those who may have dexterity challenges.
- The committee also provided additional notes on gaps in the stories to the committee secretary to be forwarded to the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee.
- The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended continuing with the development of this pamphlet, PASSED

Treatment and Accessibilities – Item B.

Review progress report on military audio interviews.

- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on military audio interviews and suggested that the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:
  - Reach out to military senior leadership.
  - Seek interviews from members in various military/armed forces branches.
  - Consider broader distribution channels, through diverse communication methods such as AA Grapevine, La Viña, WhatsApp, and Loners Internationalists Meeting (LIM).
  - Distribute a questionnaire to interviewees for the audio-military project.
  - The military consultants on the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee develop a project plan that will include reporting to the entire trustee committee.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee recommended continuing with this project, PASSED

Treatment and Accessibilities – Item C.

Discuss draft version of A.A. Guidelines for remote communities.

- The committee discussed the draft version of the A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities and offered the following suggestions:
  - The committee encourages G.S.O. Publishing to continue to maintain the most current cultural terminologies.
  - Remove the names from the sharing in the guidelines (though currently anonymity protected; highlight the message rather than the name).
  - Remove the section "Three Challenges" and replace it with the title "Challenges in carrying the message to underserved populations" and include broader sharing with culturally sensitive language.
  - Remove the current sharing on sponsorship from the section "Spanish-Speaking Women in A.A. Remote Community" and include sharing that positively highlights the importance of sponsorship.
  - Also include in the section "Spanish-Speaking Women in A.A. Remote Community" information on special-interest meetings/groups, like what is shared in the Conference-approved pamphlets "Hispanic Women in A.A." and "Women and A.A."
  - Expand the section and title on online group/meeting resources to include a broader cross-section of digital sharing and resources.
  - The committee asked that the staff secretary to revise the service piece and looks forward to it being made available to Remote Committees once the updates have been made.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee offered additional considerations, including changing "dark districts" to "inactive districts" and references to Indigenous people

Trustees – Item F.

Consider revising test highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

- The committee considered a request to revisit highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" and took no action. The committee appreciated the discussion about the role and attitude of humility of trusted servants. They acknowledged that the phrases "holding office" and "officer" are used in several sections of the pamphlet, and have equivalent meaning to being a trusted servant. It was also noted that groups are free to adapt the inventory questions to suit their needs. (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.)

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee offered additional consideration to proceed, but deprioritize due to cost factors

International Conventions / Regional Forums – Item B.

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

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:
  - Consider options to the title "Regional Forum" utilizing more current language.
  - Continue utilizing digital communication options; however, also continue non-digital options to ensure full accessibility and participation by members who may not have access to technology.

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session: Committee offered additional considerations to have a pre-Regional Forum or mock Forum to continue with a virtual option, to include resources and outreach to intergroups and YPAAs, and to hold local forums like multi-district workshops

Floor Actions

Declined to consider

The Conference declined to consider, so these were not discussed:

- To not translate the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts in the plain language translation that is being developed.
- Impose a one-year moratorium on any new agenda items received through September 15, 2022 to be saved for 74th GSC.
- Create non-geographic Area(s) for online groups.
- Add G.S.R. Preamble to G.S.R. pamphlet.
- Evaluate process of developing Conference background material.
- Rescind Advisory Actions from 2021 resulting in revisions to *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

Floor Action

1995 Advisory Action

- It was recommended that: **The 1995 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices remain as is.**
- Motion to decline to consider FAILED, so debate followed.
- This floor action was brought forward by Delegate from Area 53 (SE Ohio) in response to the committee considerations from Corrections, that the committee took no action on the request to limit changes to the Big Book and suggested that Appendices III and V be modified.
- Last year, we passed two Advisory Actions, #16 ("keeping in mind the 1995 action") and #17 ("pending its development, we make changes to two of the Appendices"), as we agreed the first 164 pages should not be touched, but the Appendices need to be looked at from time to time as medical, religious, and other advancements are made.

- Motion to amend: **The first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," and "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" remain as is.** Seconded so discussion began.
- This would align with Advisory Action #17 passed last year.
- Vote on amendment FAILED.
- Debate continued on original recommendation.
- Motion to call the question, PASSED. Vote on original recommendation, FAILED. Minority opinion heard. Motion to reconsider, PASSED. Debate continued on original recommendation.

- Motion to amend: **The 1995 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed that 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.** Seconded, so discussion began. This would correct an inaccuracy in the original floor action so the wording is identical to 1995's Advisory Action. Amendment failed.
- Debate on original recommendation continued.
- Motion to call the question.
- Vote on original recommendation (cannot be considered again and no minority opinion can be heard), FAILED.

Questions?

Please email questions to delegate@area59aa.org.

Thank you for your recovery, unity, and service!